

NEVADA

THE MAGAZINE OF THE REAL WEST

FEBRUARY 1991 ■ \$2.75

**Sixty Years
of Gaming**



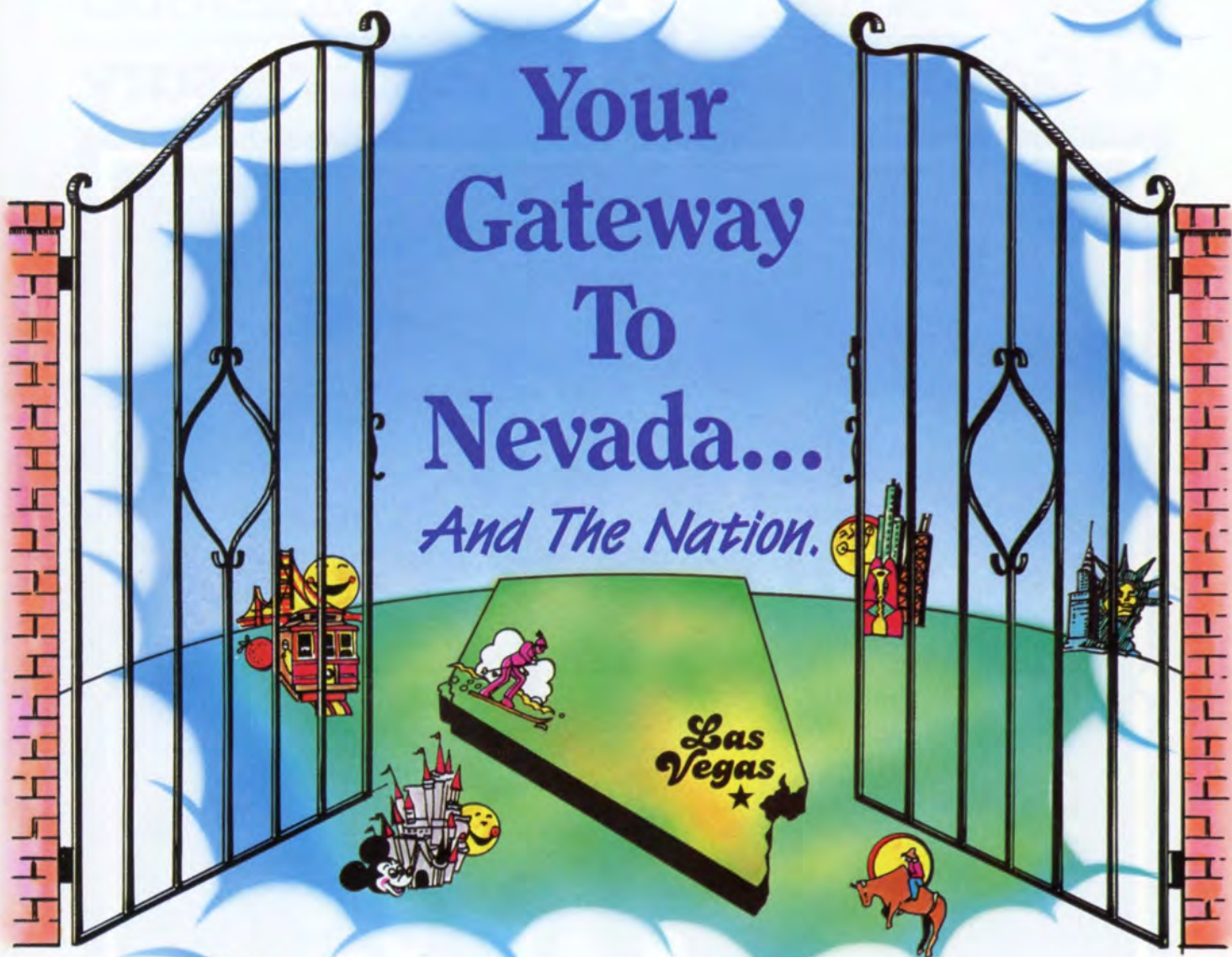
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Anniversary**



*El Rancho Vegas
Dancers, 1949*

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Cover:
The 1949 lineup of the George Moro Dancers at El Rancho Vegas. Photo courtesy of the Las Vegas News Bureau

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PUBLISHER'S
NOTE

Betting on Nevada

Babe Ruth was getting ready for spring training on the golf course. Herbert Hoover was president. The Depression was deepening.

The year was 1931, and Nevada was about to embark on a great experiment—legalized, "wide-open" gambling. Most forms of gambling had been outlawed in the state for two decades, but casinos flourished in Las Vegas, Reno, and other towns just as Prohibition, which still was in force, hadn't put an end to John Barleycorn. In a remarkable, forward-thinking mood, the Nevada Legislature of 1931 approved both a wide-open gambling bill and a six-week divorce law.

"The opposition to these measures was only nominal," an editorial in Reno's *Nevada State Journal* stated, noting that the laws were to be "a means of stimulating business."

Today, as we celebrate 60 years of legalized gambling in Nevada, we know that gaming didn't just stimulate business. It also created a whole new tourist industry, supplanted mining and agriculture as the foundation of Nevada's economy, and served as a model for other states' ventures into gaming.

In 1946, the first year the state levied a gaming tax, casinos grossed about \$24.5 million. In 1990 the gross gaming revenues were 200 times that amount—\$4.9 billion. Nevada's showing this past year also outpaced the take on the other coast. During the same quarter that Atlantic City grossed \$884.2 million (with a net loss of \$1.2 million), Nevada casinos raked in half again as much, or \$1.32 billion.

An increasing portion of the state's revenue comes from slot machines. In 1974 slots brought in only 31 percent of gross gaming revenues; table and other games accounted for the rest. But that changed in the late '70s, when dollar machines, and then video poker and

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In a remarkable,
forward-thinking mood,
the Nevada
Legislature of 1931
approved both a
gambling bill and a
six-week divorce law

Megabucks, shot slot earnings up to 60.43 percent for 1990. Some gaming people mark the change by calling the early '70s "B.D.M."—Before the Dollar Machine.

Gaming is by far the state's biggest source of tax money. Gross gaming revenues are taxed at 6.25 percent, and last year that put \$379.5 million in the state's general fund, which was about 44 percent of the total. It has been said that because of gaming Nevadans are the second-lowest taxed residents in the country, New Hampshire's citizens being the lowest.

Analysts say that gaming is responsible, directly or indirectly, for three out of every five jobs in Nevada. In Las Vegas, the Excalibur alone employs more than 4,000 people.

Since 1969, when the legislature approved corporate ownership of casinos, the industry's image has become increasingly polished.

"Gambling is now a respected industry," Bill Eadington, gaming expert and economics professor at the University of Nevada, Reno, told the UNR alumni magazine, *Silver & Blue*. "The original crime issue of gambling has declined because the industry in Nevada became sophisticated, honest, and above-board."

This sophistication also is reflected in Nevada's halls of higher learning. The College of Hotel Administration at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas has earned a national reputation. Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village has a popular hotel program. At UNR, Eadington is director of the Institute for the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming. Established a year ago, the institute coordinates courses, speakers, and studies of the gaming industry.

If not always an industry, gambling has been a Nevada pastime for centuries. Paiutes, for example, have long

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After the discovery of gold and silver on the Comstock and the creation of Nevada Territory in 1861, legislators banned all forms of wagering, but the law was generally ignored. After statehood in 1864 the gambling debate resumed until 1869, when pro-gaming lawmakers prevailed and passed a law allowing licensed establishments.

Fifty years later, temperance forces gained the upper hand. In 1909 the Women's Civic League and other anti-gaming groups lobbied the legislature

hard. To the dismay of Nevada's gamblers, the insurgents had bet correctly and gambling again became illegal in 1910.

The anti-gambling law was tough to enforce, however. Later, card games were allowed—"social games played only for drinks and cigars. . .or for prizes of a value not to exceed two dollars" but even the finest Cuban tobacco had little appeal for gamblers used to playing for *real* stakes. Games moved into back rooms. By the Depression, many of the games had moved into front rooms thanks to tolerant officials and voters.

Businessman

Thomas H. Carroll said the legislature could make Nevada 'the playground of the United States.'

In 1931 the state's leaders believed Nevada was ready to return to wide-open gambling. Assemblyman Phil Tobin of rural Humboldt County did the honors in the legislature, submitting the landmark gambling bill. His colleagues agreed with him, and so voted.

Governor Fred Balzar had promised to approve the gambling and six-week divorce bills. The former railroad conductor from Hawthorne signed them into law on March 19, 1931. In announcing his action, Balzar's understated public comment was "Yes, I've signed them both."

The impact wasn't felt overnight. It took about two nights.

Saturday March 21, was the big evening in Reno as crowds of locals, Californians, and out-of-state reporters jammed the Bank Club, which had done a hasty remodeling, and other establishments. In Las Vegas, the downtown club operators got ready to go legal, and within the year clubs like the Meadows and the Pair-O-Dice were opened on the outskirts of town.

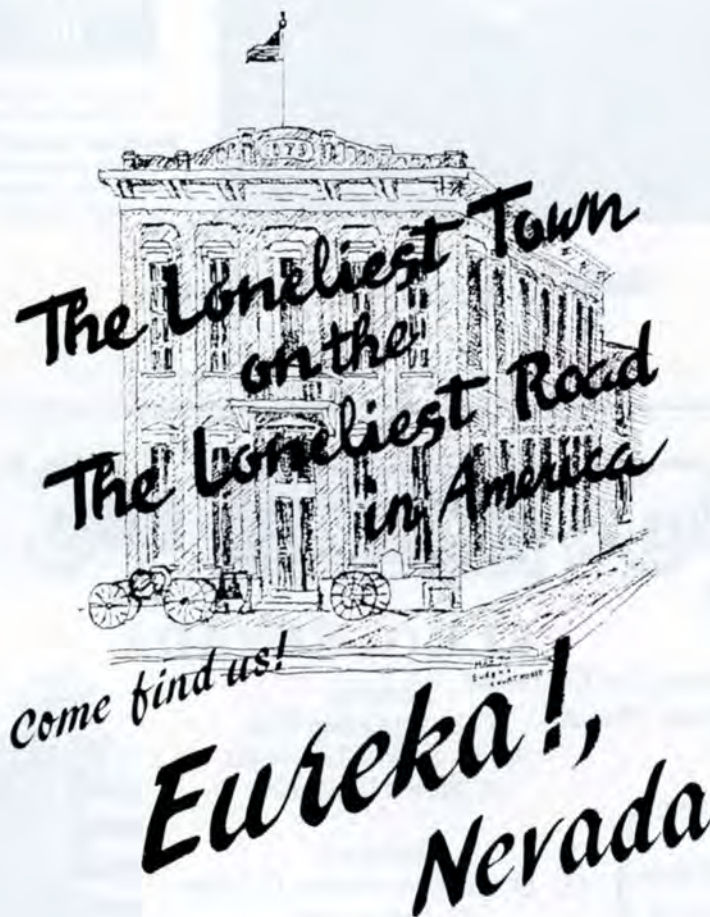
While sheriffs around the state tried to get license forms printed, club owners rushed to open their doors, licensed or not.

In 1931, temperance groups still had power around the country, and Prohibition was still in effect. But Nevada's citizens were agreeing to at least a trial of "legalized liberality," as the *Nevada State Journal* called it.

Some gambling supporters looked beyond the quick buck. Before the law's passage Las Vegas businessman Thomas H. Carroll declared that the legislature could make Nevada "the playground of the United States." Legalized gambling, he said, would give Nevada "the biggest, richest, and most prosperous asset it can ever hope to have, and that is the 'tourist industry'"

Gambling, a vestige of Nevada's frontier past, would be the future.

And so it was. □



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NEVADA

THE MAGAZINE OF THE REAL WEST

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1931

60 Years of Gaming:

This spring Nevada gaming celebrates its diamond anniversary. In 60 spectacular years Nevada gamers have taken the state's old back-room clubs—some requiring customers to pass inspection at peepholes—and turned them into resorts that have captured the world's imagination.

Since "wide-open" gambling was legalized in 1931 Nevada's hotels and casinos have been rich in history and memorable images—Hollywood celebrities on loan, crap games floating in swimming pools, theme resorts towering above the desert.

Following is a photographic celebration, decade by decade, of Nevada gaming's evolution.



The Bank Club's "Model in Red" graced its 1938 calendar. When gaming was legalized in 1931, the Reno club was instantly remodeled to handle the crowds.

1991

Diamonds & Clubs



An early Las Vegas Strip landmark across from the El Rancho, the Club Bingo was razed in the early '50s to make way for the Sahara Hotel.

'30s

Nevada took a chance on gambling after Assemblyman Phil Tobin of Humboldt

County introduced a "wide-open" gambling bill in the 1931 legislature. The Winnemucca cowboy later said he didn't know much about gambling "but I felt that if we legalized it, the tax revenue would be beneficial to the state."



Above: In the '30s Reno's Bank Club was the state's most famous casino and a refuge for most-wanted like Baby Face Nelson. Top: Western attire was de rigueur when Las Vegas' motto was "Still a Frontier Town."

Middle right: The Apache, site of today's Horseshoe, was a hot spot in downtown Vegas. Right: Governor Fred Balzar (center) joins Death Valley Scotty (left) and Will Rogers at a Nevada rodeo. Balzar, known as Friendly Fred, signed the wide-open gambling and six-week divorce bills into law on March 19, 1931.



World War II, the Strip, Bugsy Siegel's Flamingo Hotel, and the postwar travel boom brought sudden energy to Nevada gaming. Meanwhile, a number of prominent names in gaming emerged—like Boyd, Houssels, Gaughan, and Binion in the south and Harrah, Smith, and Gross in the north.

'40s



Above: El Rancho Vegas led the parade of hotels to the Strip. Middle left: Reno's casino row. Top: Vegas publicity shots often involved entertainers, patrons, and pools. Top right: El Rancho visitors include comedian Joe E. Lewis, owner Beldon Katleman, stripper Lili St. Cyr, and Eleanor Roosevelt. Right: Signs of the time in Reno's Douglas Alley.

'50s

The quiet '50s were anything but in gaming. As the industry grew, charges of mob ties did also. The state enacted tougher regulations and created the autonomous state Gaming

Control Board and Gaming Commission in 1959. While nuclear testing was in the news, Las Vegas mushroomed past Reno as a population and gambling center.

At Lake Tahoe, casinos like Harvey's Wagon Wheel Saloon and Gambling Hall gained popularity by leaps. The lake's once rustic retreats would soon attract their own big share of customers.



Above: Harvey Gross offers new wheels at Harvey's Wagon Wheel. Top left: The Stardust put Strip architecture into orbit in 1958. Top right: Esther Williams, who swam to fame in the '40s, later appeared at the Sahara. Right: News services reported that above-ground nuclear tests at the Nevada Test Site 70 miles northwest of Vegas sometimes swayed highrises but didn't distract players a bit.



Nevada gaming discovered a new identity thanks in part to the reclusive Howard Hughes.



A frequent Las Vegas visitor in his playboy days, Hughes moved into the Desert Inn in 1966 and proceeded to buy half a dozen hotels and casinos. Other big events: the openings of Caesars Palace in 1966 and Circus Circus in 1968.



Left: From his Desert Inn hideaway, Howard Hughes ushered in a new era of corporate gaming. **Far left:** The filming of *The Misfits* in 1960 brought Reno much publicity. Counterclockwise from bottom are: Montgomery Clift, Marilyn Monroe, Clark Gable, director John Huston, Eli Wallach, writer Arthur Miller, and producer Frank Taylor. **Middle left:** *Misfits* stars stayed at the Mapes, Reno's first skyscraper. **Top:** This floating game at the Sands was a classic

photo opportunity. **Above:** Rat Pack members Peter Lawford, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., and Joey Bishop (from left) packed the Sands in '60 while filming *Ocean's 11*.

'70s

Corporate gaming characterized the growth of the '70s, with arrivals like the

MGM Grands in Las Vegas in 1973 and Reno in 1978. There also emerged a new force—the slot machine. In 1975, when gross gaming revenues hit \$1.18 billion, table games brought in more than twice as much as slots. By the end of the decade slots were bringing in 40 percent—and their share was rising.



Above: The tradition of Las Vegas stage spectacles continued with the "Folies Bergere" at the Tropicana and "Lido de Paris" at the Stardust.

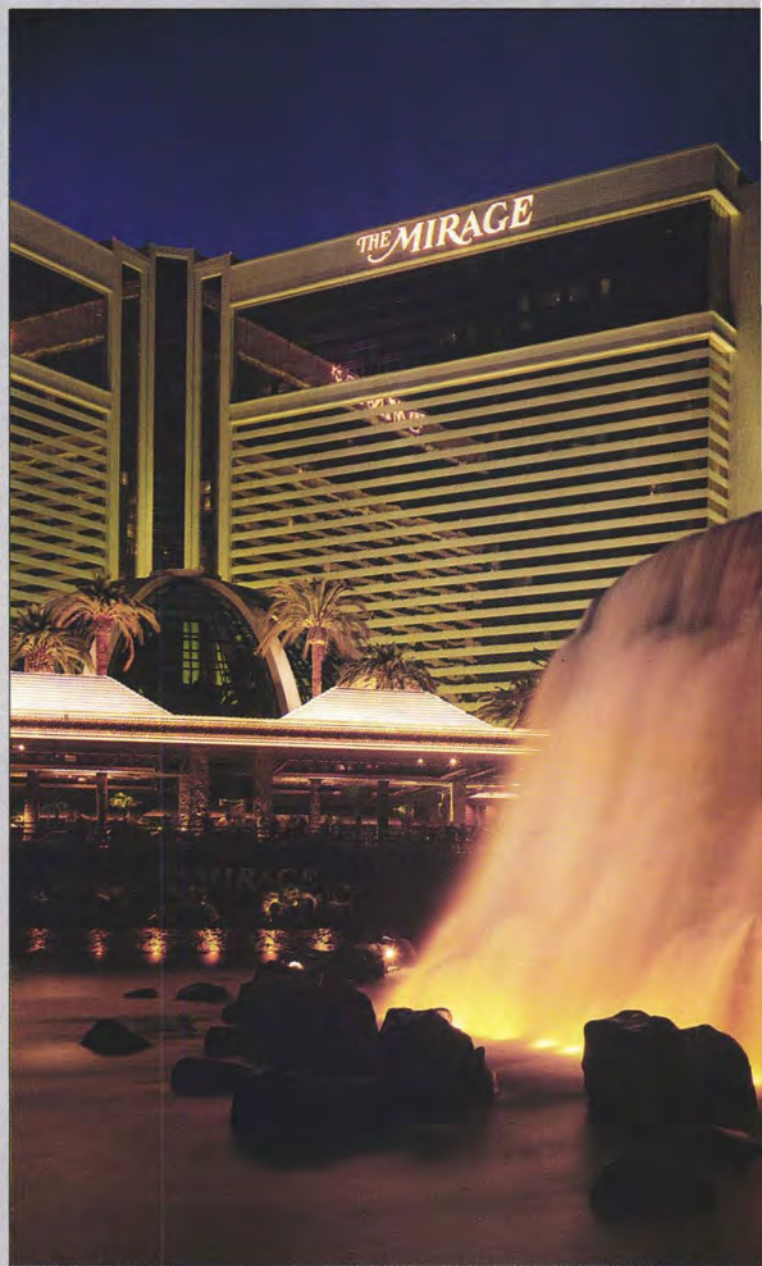
The MGMs later wowed 'em with "Jubilee!" and "Hello Hollywood, Hello." Top: The World Series of Poker at Binion's Horseshoe drew top-ranked Texas hold 'em players and began the casino tournament craze. Right: Sammy Davis Jr. and Bill Harrah were mutual admirers. Davis once said of the Reno gaming mogul, "To say that Bill was very bright would be a misstatement. Bill was brilliant."





Reno bustled in the first half of the decade, and Las Vegas boomed in the second half as the state passed one million in population. Slots passed table games as revenue producers in 1983. Gaming was growing at or near the state line at Jean, Mesquite, Wendover, Jackpot, and the original border towns, Tahoe's Stateline and Crystal Bay. Meanwhile, Laughlin became a 10-casino town seemingly overnight.

'80s



Left: The dollar slot was truly king after Megabucks, developed by International Game Technology, created multimillion-dollar jackpots. Top: River Rick welcomes tourists to the booming river town of Laughlin. Above: Giant Las Vegas resorts like The Mirage heralded a thematic trend.



The Reno Arch stands in the middle of the downtown action.

Beyond the Bright Lights

A look into the green felt crystal ball:
What's in the cards for gaming.
By Phil Hevener

Buck Rogers or Flash Gordon would appreciate what's happening to the casino business. It has gone high tech, sweeping into the Space Age with the greatest of streamlined ease. And there is much more to come, because as the multibillion-dollar gaming industry zips toward the 21st century and beyond, it has become something of a mirror for the computerized, electronic, gizmo-enhanced age in which we live.

The pioneers—politicians and gamblers alike—who planted the seeds of Nevada's number-one industry could

The year-old Mirage and other brilliantly lit Strip hotels are part of the big picture in Las Vegas.





The Excalibur's medieval ways take visitors back to the Middle Ages—and gaming into the future.

not have imagined what would result.

Legal gaming was approved by the state legislature in 1931, but it was more than a decade before a single casino won as much as \$1 million in a year. There are now about 170 casinos in Nevada winning more than \$1 million annually, and the momentum increases. The money won by all casinos more than doubled between 1980 and 1990, soaring from \$2.377 billion to \$5.084 billion.

The changes in Nevada's social and business landscape are equally eye-opening. In the 1930s Reno was the state's gaming capital with its downtown crowd of old-time gambling dens. During and after World War II casino operators at both ends of the state be-

gan to expand while pondering revolutionary questions such as whether or not to hire women dealers.

As the 1950s dawned, Las Vegas gaming was largely in the hands of, uh, entrepreneurs from jurisdictions where gambling was of more interest to the vice squad than the chamber of commerce. Howard Hughes was still years away from becoming more than an occasional visitor.

In 1970 corporate gaming was still in its infancy. Slot machines were an afterthought for most gamblers, and the largest hotels on the Las Vegas Strip did not have more than a thousand rooms. It was a long way from towering giants such as the 4,000-room Excalibur, the 3,200-room Las Vegas

Hilton, and the 3,000-room Mirage, not to mention Kirk Kerkorian's colossus in the making, a 5,000-room MGM Grand hotel and theme park on the Strip.

The pace of casino growth in northern Nevada has been not quite as feverish over the last 20 to 40 years, but community leaders in Reno and Tahoe did not generally share the interest of their Las Vegas counterparts in pinning hopes for growth on a near total commitment to gaming. Nothing much has changed, and there is little to suggest a serious altering of this attitude in the foreseeable future.

So what is the general direction of the path to be followed by Nevada and its number-one industry as other states discover the economic benefits of care-

fully regulated legal gaming?

At least one thing is clear: All the numbers associated with gaming and its relationship with the Silver State will continue growing. This includes everything from casino revenues to the number of jobs based on gaming. Nevada was among the leading states in creating jobs over the last decade, just as our population was also among the fastest growing. More of the same appears likely even though future growth will be guided by environmental factors, as air and water quality continue to rank among major concerns.

Gaming's growth will be influenced by several key factors, according to a number of business leaders. These factors include a high level of electronics and computerization techniques, the demand for a greater variety of leisure-time activities, and governments' need for both new tax money and economic redevelopment tools.

Last, but far from least, is the increasing respect given gaming as a legitimate revenue producer. Gaming will come to appear not so much as a big leap into something untried as a reasonable next step.

There is another possibility. Any of these factors could also encourage federal strategists to further regulate gaming—or to tap into it as a means of helping ease the financial problems of the U.S. Treasury.

Most of these factors did not exist 10 years ago when Nevada celebrated its 50th anniversary of legalized gaming. Atlantic City's first resorts were only a couple of years old. Legal casinos seemed uniquely Nevada then, just as the business environment seemed far less complicated. A number of so-called experts incorrectly assumed casino-style gaming would quickly spread throughout the U.S. There was also a widespread belief that Nevada would never be quite the same as a destination resort.

All right, so they did manage to bat .500.

Gaming did not quickly spread anywhere. Countless pro-gaming measures crashed in flames, so to speak. On the other hand, Nevada was thrown into an unprecedented growth that was not noticeably affected even by the increasing number of lotteries in states such as California.

What does this say? Possibly that there is no substitute for a destination resort backed by solid planning.

Caesars World Chairman Henry Gluck contends that Nevada resorts must become more things to as many

What would you
think of
communications
systems between
machines
that enable a casino
to suddenly
tell players
there will be
a contest for the next
two hours?

people as possible. All the best surveys, he says, show an increasing number of women in the work place who influence decisions about vacation destinations. A proposed non-gaming Caesars resort south of Las Vegas and a shopping complex at Caesars Palace designed to compete with the best in the world are both examples of the Gluck strategy for a widened appeal.

Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino President Dennis Gomes anticipates more theme hotels and theme parks as a part of future gaming expansion. "There is only so much you can do with a pure gaming format," he says, "and even now we are far past the point where simply having a casino is enough to promise success."

Circus Circus Chairman of the Board William Bennett says the medieval theme behind his company's new Excalibur resort may provide the basis for expansion beyond Nevada. If casino gaming continues to be approved elsewhere, he concedes, "I could maybe see a dozen or so Excaliburs around the country."

Yes, all this is possible, but Bennett says the reality of planning is that it is sometimes all anyone can do to peer a mere two weeks or so into the future.

One projection, though, seems easy enough. Some of the most dramatic changes of the next decade or two will almost certainly involve electronic gaming. Universal Sales Director Gary Harris says steady advances in slot monitoring and player tracking will help casinos hold player interest.

"What would you think," Harris

wonders aloud, "of communications systems between machines that enable a casino to suddenly tell players there will be a contest on every dollar machine in the casino for the next two hours? Or how about suddenly announcing a poker machine contest and maybe even a prize for the player who loses the most money? Casinos could advertise gambling specials the way they now advertise food specials."

It's clear that cashless gaming by means of credit cards is just a matter of time. The inter-casino links that have evolved since the introduction of Megabucks in 1986 by International Game Technology could become national and even international. If national security secrets can be transmitted by satellite, why can't slot jackpots be activated the same way? The same high-tech tools will also help increase the importance of race and sports books as revenue producers for all casinos.

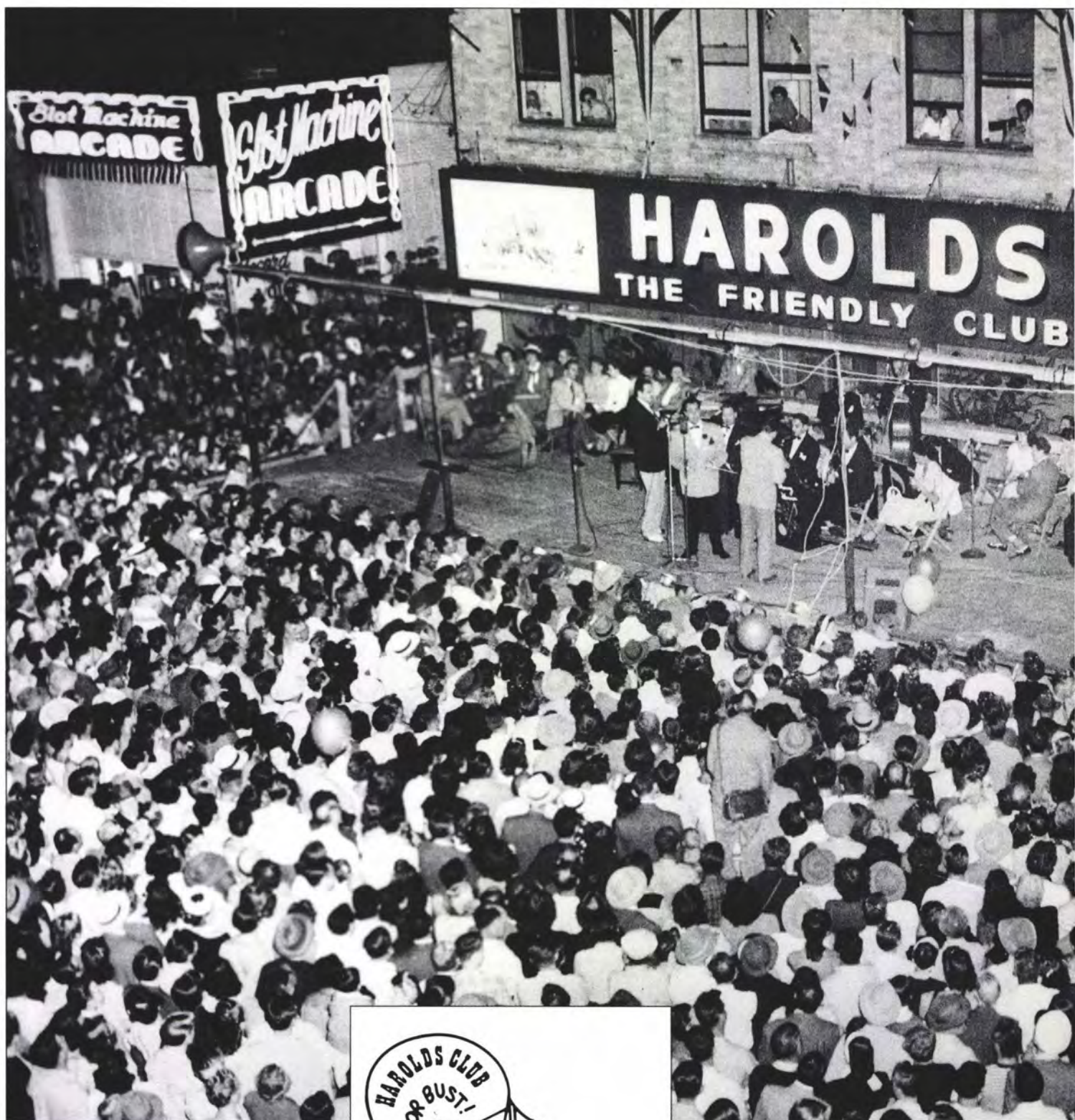
"We will see technology become increasingly more important to gaming," agrees Harrah's President Phil Satre. "New systems will provide more information about our guests so we can treat them more individually."

Satre says gaming industry leaders must be on guard against scandals of the sort that could cause a public backlash, but others argue that government accustomed to the tax revenues legal gaming provides would not be able to give it up. A far more likely possibility is that a continued tightening of tax laws could force resort executives to re-examine marketing strategies. And as the marketing of Nevada becomes increasingly global, world economic changes will continue to be monitored—just as they are now.

This suggests a future with more big "entertainment centers" in which casinos are just one of the options available. These leaders conclude that the future may involve efforts to tie gaming into as many entertainment options as possible—everything from improved electronic gaming concepts to state-of-the-art showrooms with productions closer to something out of Disney World than anything traditionally associated with Las Vegas, Reno, or Tahoe.

But take away the growing number of high-tech tools and toys and leisure options, and Nevada's gaming-oriented tourism industry will continue to rest on nothing more or less than it ever has—satisfying travelers in search of a good time. □

Phil Hevener is a gaming columnist for the Las Vegas Sun.



Pappy Smith's strategies startled the gaming world, but they worked. He called his family's joint "The Friendly Club," staged concerts and other popular events, and brought gambling's image out of the smoke and into the fresh air (above). The Harolds logo (left) was known around the world.



The Grand Pappy of Gaming



Former carnival man Pappy Smith found the way to gamblers' hearts and pocketbooks while he made gambling history in Reno.

By Buddy Frank

Raymond I. "Pappy" Smith was the greatest casino operator who ever lived. At least that's the opinion of Jo Schellin, who used to deal blackjack for the man who put Harolds Club, and Nevada, on the map. "I've never heard of this in any other casino," she says, "but he made all of us, every single employee, feel like we were part of the family."

Schellin spent 33 years dealing blackjack at



Pappy (right) ran Harolds as general manager while his sons Raymond A. (left) and Harold (center) were the owners.

Harolds Club in Reno, and she regrets that there's a whole generation of Nevada residents and visitors who have never heard of Smith or know that Harolds was once the most famous gambling house in the world.

She's not alone. A citizens group recently urged Reno officials to name a downtown park after Smith. In this age in which images of casino executives are more likely to be hung in effigy than praised, there are literally hundreds of former employees, friends, and customers who would be willing to nominate Pappy for sainthood.

Twenty-three years after his death in 1967, it is easier to examine Smith's career and put it in a more earthly perspective. Still, even by current standards Pappy Smith may indeed have been the greatest casino operator who ever lived, and there remains no doubt that he was a genuine one-of-a-kind.

Outfitted in a set of brightly-colored, hand-painted suspenders divided by a beaded Indian necktie, he'd approach a blackjack table at random, request the cards, and ask the dealer to step aside. "I'm going to double your bets, you poor bastards," he'd announce to the

◆

Dealers were given
booklets full
of 'patter' or
conversation to make
customers feel at home.
Classes on the
games were held for
players. The doors
were open 24 hours.

◆

players. Young Mary Casey was shocked. Casey has been dealing 21 at Harolds Club now for more than 40 years, but back then, in postwar Reno, she'd never heard such language in public. "He'd double their bets, then keep dealing cards until he went broke first," she recalls. "Then he'd hand me the deck and say, 'Pay the poor bastards.'" Obscenities and all, the customers loved it and flocked to his club.

Newspaper photographers appreci-

ated Pappy's nose for publicity. One of his memorable photo ideas was the "mice dice" game he launched in 1936. He would let a horde of white mice loose on a craps table; the mice, replacing the dice, determined the outcome by darting into numbered holes. Customers howled with laughter and shouted, "House mouse!" or "Loaded mice!" when the outcome went against them. Whether the house won or lost was beside the point. Smith hit the jackpot with hundreds of wire service photos of his mice scurrying over stacks of silver dollars on a Harold Club craps table.

During his years on Virginia Street, casino gambling was changing from a novelty to a major business in Nevada, and Pappy Smith was the driving force behind the change.

He began Harolds Club in 1935 with what his son Harold—the club's namesake—described as "one long room 25 by 125 feet in a block close enough to the railroad tracks to be almost Skid Row. Our cubbyhole was jammed in between two Bingo parlors under a walkup hotel."

Twenty years later there wasn't a

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man or woman in the U.S. who didn't know about that "cubbyhole." Many made the journey with a sign on their car windshield that proudly proclaimed, "Harolds Club or Bust."

His two sons, Harold, Sr. and Raymond A., owned the casino in those early years, but it was Pappy who ran it and made it famous. He used a hard-work ethic and years of carnival skills to help transform Harolds, and all of Nevada gaming, into a multi-million-dollar business.

The elder Smith was raised on a farm in Vermont, where county fairs and their midways held an attraction that

was to shape his destiny. Plagued by asthma that was irritated by farm life, he left Vermont at age 14 and worked odd jobs until he joined the carnival circuit as a midway barker.

Later he opened his own wheel of fortune-type game called a jackknife spindle. It was on the midway that Smith learned the basics of his future trade. Carny games were legendary for cheating, but Smith discovered that if he set up an honest game between rigged ones, he'd invariably attract a larger crowd and a bigger take. Thus was forged his often quoted credo, "You have to send out winners to get players."

Decades before
other executives
discovered aerobics
Smith religiously
found a volunteer
among his
female employees
for his
daily session
of 'office dancing.'

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He found success on the California midways of Venice, San Francisco, and Santa Cruz for more than a decade until the Depression started slowing revenues. He also ran a string of card and bingo parlors.

Pappy sent Harold to Reno in hopes of avoiding the new anti-gaming laws in California that were making business difficult. Harold found a dingy bingo parlor on Virginia Street that Pappy agreed was a bargain at \$500. With another \$1,500 set aside as a bankroll, the Smiths opened for business on Harold's birthday, February 23, 1935.

Gaming had been legalized in Nevada four years earlier, and established Reno casinos like the Bank Club were booming. But while the Bank Club flourished, it also had a shady reputation enhanced by such low-lives as George "Baby Face" Nelson, who spent time there between major crimes working as a security guard.

Pappy saw an opportunity. He painted, "Harold's the Friendly Club," over the entrance and opened with the atmosphere of a carnival instead of a smoky gaming den.

The mood was always festive. He staged Big Band concerts in the street, parades with covered wagons and silver-saddled horses, and even searchlights panning the evening sky.

Pappy was to tell Harold early in his son's career, "These people are here for fun, and you're here to work." Dealers were given booklets full of "patter" or conversation to make customers feel at home. Classes on the games were held for players. The doors were open 24 hours. The casino advertised in newspapers.

Most of those early Smith policies are now standard operating procedure in the industry, but each was unheard of until Pappy blazed the trail.

Perhaps his most controversial move was allowing women to work as dealers. After watching his daughter-in-law Dorothy deal cards, he hired the state's first female dealers.

Pappy had killed two birds with one stone. He soon had a wealth of female customers (most with husbands in tow), and he enjoyed a monopoly on a whole new pool of talented labor. Despite the policy's immediate success at Harolds, it was years before his competitors followed his lead. Meanwhile, the Smiths made the first of their many millions.

Other Smith firsts soon followed: a high-rise casino, escalators, air conditioning, credit offices, dealer schools, scholarships, giant jackpots, public fireworks, child care, abolishing shills, closed-circuit TV screenings, and national advertising.

He even was ahead of his time when it came to exercise. It wasn't unusual for someone to enter Pappy's office and find him dancing with his secretary or a payroll clerk. Decades before other executives discovered aerobics Smith religiously found a volunteer every day for his 20-minute session of "office



One of Pappy's most radical moves was to hire women dealers. It took awhile for the competition to accept the idea—and catch up.

dancing."

In making his club famous, Smith's genius was in his P.T. Barnum-like talent for publicity and promotion. Seeking to spread the word about the club's women dealers, he brought an elephant

into the casino to help a female dealer spin the Big Six wheel. Thirty years before John Ascuaga's Nugget or Circus Circus re-created the idea, the resulting photo was the first of many inspired by Pappy that ended up in



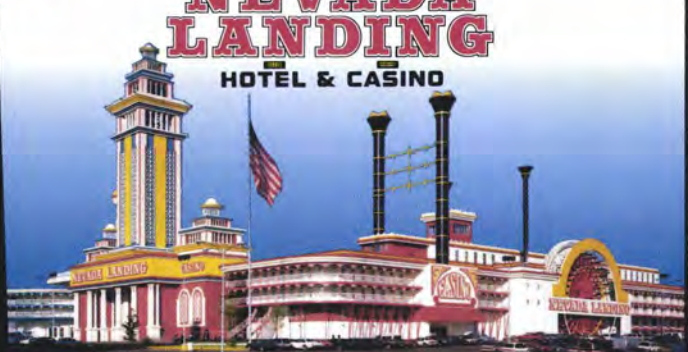
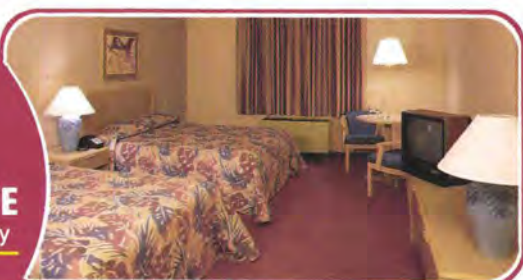
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The Roaring Camp Wagon Train, led by the Silver Dollar Buick, toured the country to promote the club and its gun collection. The billboard campaign (right) once numbered 2,300 signs and reached global proportions.



Life, *Look*, *Saturday Evening Post*, and newspapers across the country.

An unforgettable billboard campaign also helped make Harolds Club the world's best known casino by the late 1940s. Borrowing a slogan he first saw on Pike's Peak, Smith worked with Reno advertising man Tom Wilson to plaster the phrase "Harolds Club or Bust" around the world—literally.

Defying conventional wisdom, Smith

had the billboards placed on secondary routes instead of main highways. "He made sure that none of his signs blocked a scenic location," Smith's long-time marketing director, Roy Powers, recalls. "His thinking was that by being on back roads and on the side of barns and outbuildings, Harolds Club would be looked at as a friendly casino that was tailored to the common man instead of the big city gamblers."

The strategy worked so well that people were soon writing Harolds Club, begging that a sign be placed on their road or barn. Powers says, "During the Korean War years we had so many requests for boards that we had them mass manufactured in advance and left a place for a mileage figure saying so many miles to Harolds Club. The only thing that Mr. Smith asked was that the servicemen take a picture of the com-

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Mary Casey, who still works at Harolds, laughs when she recalls, 'People would see Mr. Smith coming and actually empty their pockets on the table. Pappy knew they were doing it, but he still doubled their bets.'

◆

pleted board and send it to Harolds Club."

As a result, hundreds of makeshift signs were erected from Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands to Khe Sanh in South Vietnam. There was a sign on Normandy Beach, one in Antarctica, one set by spelunkers at the bottom of Carlsbad Cavern, a marker placed in the Himalayas by climbers, and even one punched into the ice by crew members of a nuclear submarine that surfaced at the North Pole.

At the campaign's peak there were 2,300 official signs and thousands more placed by fans. "We had two crews working full time, one west of the Mississippi and one east, just to maintain the boards," Powers says.

While his ad men were practicing promotion on a global scale, Pappy did the same on a more personal level. There was his habit of doubling players' blackjack bets and then hitting a winning hand until the house went bust. It's a practice that state gaming control officials have long since outlawed, but it made Pappy a legend among Reno players. Mary Casey, who still works at Harolds, laughs when she recalls, "People would see Mr. Smith coming and actually empty their pockets on the table. Pappy knew they were doing it, but he still doubled their bets."

While he sent out legions of these instant winners, Pappy also treated losers with respect. He'd often buy an unlucky gambler a bus ticket home. He placed signs throughout the casino urging customers, "Don't wager more than you can afford to lose." His competitors thought such signs were heresy, but Pappy, himself a devout non-gambler and non-drinker, insisted on

them. He even made fun of the point by helping to create the "man in the barrel." This advertising cartoon pictured an English gentleman known as Percy in a top hat and stockings, wearing only a barrel with suspenders, saying, "You may lose your pants, but you'll have a barrel of fun at Harolds Club."

Smith's generosity extended beyond the pits. He gave college scholarships to Nevada high school graduates. He paid off the mortgages for Reno's YMCA and YWCA, donated the land for the Elks Club, led the early fight against polio in Nevada by buying dozens of respirators and iron lungs, rebuilt a church in Battle Mountain destroyed by wind, and even financed the formation of the Nevada Air National Guard after World War II.

Pappy also supported Nevada's small-town newspapers. Hawthorne newspaperman Jack McCloskey has recalled that "during the war, everything was rationed, and the merchants just weren't advertising because they didn't have anything to sell." Almost as a subsidy, Smith ran hundreds of ads calling for support for everything from the Red Cross to war bonds. According to McCloskey, "it was only because of him that we survived."

Another Smith-led campaign was the widening of narrow, two-lane U.S. 40 over the Sierra that separated the gamblers in California from the casino in Reno. Working with the Reno Chamber of Commerce, he organized the effort and placed signs along the road urging motorists to write their Congressmen.

He also indulged his personal passions. Since his parents had lived through the Civil War, Smith had a fascination with firearms of the period. When a fellow gambler, Ray Stagg, fell on hard times, Smith was quick to help out by purchasing Stagg's collection of 2,000 guns, rifles, and Western memorabilia for \$35,000 in cash. Pappy then proudly displayed the items in the Roaring Camp Room Museum inside Harolds Club. Today the collection is valued at over \$2 million and remains one of the largest firearms displays in the world.

To promote the museum, Smith built a truck in the shape of a covered wagon and had a station wagon adorned with tooled leather, a set of steer horns, and more than 400 silver dollars. Teamed with a few silver-saddled horses, he sent this caravan on a nationwide tour with his friend Stagg behind the wheel of the "Silver Dollar Buick." In many small Midwestern towns, the arrival of



Pappy used a roulette table as a desk while he tallied the day's winnings.

the Roaring Camp Wagon Train was as big an event as the county fair.

Such stunts filled the void created by federal regulations that prohibited gaming ads in interstate publications.

Hidden behind his standard facade of brightly colored suspenders, loud tie, and impish grin, Pappy's business skills were often underestimated. In fact, he was the first in the gaming industry to use such techniques as market research, traffic flow studies, customer tracking, and complex cost accounting. After his death in 1967 at the age of 80, the *Las Vegas Sun* said, "Pappy ran Harolds Club like it was an adjunct to General Motors" and "the techniques he applied to the business of separating gamblers from their money were basically those of a department store owner."

His devotion to business did not always win him praise. "I want to see him attend just one funeral or appear at one Christmas dinner without discussing business," lamented his son Harold.

Still, Pappy's place in history will probably have little to do with his money.

He knew his business, but most of all he knew—and liked—people. During his funeral, Father Thomas Wright eulogized, "We know Mr. Smith loved life. He had a joy in it and a mode of living it so thoroughly that we know Pappy loved living. He is probably smiling at these long faces today ... saying it's just good publicity for the club." □

Buddy Frank of Reno is director of marketing for the Fitzgeralds Group, which includes Harolds Club, and a past contributor to Nevada.

Paving the Way to Paradise

When Thomas Hull, Bugsy Siegel, and other visionaries began building resorts south of downtown Las Vegas, they created America's first 'casino suburb'—the Strip.

By Eugene P. Moehring



Bugsy, a stand-up guy, had a dream.

During World War II, Las Vegas began its shift from city to metropolis. In the late 1930s, boosted by the construction of Hoover Dam and a growing tourist economy, the area had reached a population of about 10,000. It remained dominated by the railroad, which had created the town in 1905.

The war brought the Basic Magnesium defense plant in Henderson, the air field and gunnery school that later became Nellis Air Force Base, and other stimulants to the local economy. But nothing foretold the future of southern Nevada so well as the beginnings of the Las Vegas Strip.

*In this excerpt from his book, *Resort City in the Sunbelt: Las Vegas, 1930-1970*, historian Eugene P. Moehring tells how the Strip began on an isolated, wind-swept stretch of desert on U.S. 91, the Los Angeles Highway.*

By the time of Pearl Harbor, not only was the Las Vegas area in the midst of a defense boom, but the casino sector of the localeconomy was also undergoing a dramatic expansion. To some extent, these events antedated the war. Even before the world conflict flooded Las Vegas with soldiers and defense workers who permanently revived the fledgling gaming industry, events in Los Angeles presaged a new era. For two decades (and especially during the administration of Mayor Frank Shaw), prostitution and gambling had flourished in the City of the Angels. Gamblers like Tony Cornero, Guy McAfee, and others ran their operations with little police interference until the election of reform Mayor Fletcher Bowron in 1938. Once in power, Bowron declared war on the city's illegal



The Pair-O-Dice Club, located in Paradise on Highway 91, was a '30s nightspot on the site of today's Frontier Hotel.

brothels, closing many of them down. Illegal casinos were the next target.

As the moral crusade intensified in Los Angeles, police Captain Guy McAfee, a vice squad commander and longtime operator, was forced to resign or face prosecution on gambling charges. Pressured out of southern California, McAfee and other gamblers migrated to Las Vegas in 1938 where their expertise in casino management was welcomed.

McAfee invested immediately, purchasing the Pair-O-Dice Club (renamed the 91-Club) on the Los Angeles Highway. He moved to Las Vegas permanently in 1939 to run his roadhouse south of town. In fact, it was McAfee who first referred to the four-mile strip of Highway 91 south of town as "the Strip"—a reference to the Sunset Strip he had so often traveled between

Beverly Hills and Hollywood.

Although casino gambling was legal in the Silver State, the Las Vegas gambling market paled in comparison to southern California's. But World War II encouraged the industry's growth in Las Vegas. By 1942, the war had inundated the town with soldiers and defense workers, encouraging McAfee to expand his interests to downtown and purchase the Pioneer Club.

The success of McAfee and others ultimately lured more California gamblers to town. Tony Cornero, who earlier had operated The Meadows in Las Vegas and then the *SS Rex* gambling ship off Santa Monica, returned to open the Rex Club in Las Vegas, while San Diego gambler Wilbur Clark (future builder of the Desert Inn) opened his Monte Carlo Club downtown just as the war ended. By 1945, Fremont Street

was ablaze in neon with the Boulder, Pioneer, Frontier, Monte Carlo, El Cortez, and Las Vegas clubs, supplemented by a variety of smaller enterprises.

While Fremont Street glittered as the gambling hub of wartime Las Vegas, another casino area developed slowly. South of town on lonely Highway 91, a few clubs like the Pair-O-Dice (the area was named Paradise) sprang up in the 1930s, catering to tourists who preferred less congested spots to play and park their cars. For several years city fathers, dazzled by their own surging revenues on Fremont Street, ignored the few small roadhouses on Highway 91. City commissioners, like most residents, customers, and even club owners, did not foresee the events to come.

But in 1940, California hotelman Thomas Hull launched a movement



Built by hotelier Thomas Hull (top left), El Rancho Vegas combined a casino and a resort while pioneering the Strip.

which would transform the town. Prior to his arrival in Las Vegas, Hull had made and lost several fortunes in various hotel ventures. In the early 1930s he had operated several California hotels, including the Bellevue in San Francisco and the Mayfair in Los Angeles. Substantial profits from the latter enabled him to bid for the coveted Hollywood Roosevelt—an acquisition which proved elusive. The Roosevelt's owner, financier Lou Lurie, would not sell the property to Hull, but agreed to let him operate it on a lease agreement. By the late 1930s, Hull's success in Hollywood funded his dream of building his own hotel chain. Adopting a motif reminiscent of old Mexico, Hull first opened the El Rancho Fresno and later the El Rancho Sacramento.

Hull's interest in Las Vegas was sparked by land developer Robert Griffith and car dealer James Cashman. Convinced that Las Vegas needed both the presence and capital of a California hotel chain, the two contacted Hull (who was on a business trip in nearby

Bakersfield) and invited him to Las Vegas in early 1940. Within weeks of his stay, Hull decided to build a resort in southern Nevada. World War II played a major role in his decision. As early as January 1939, southern California's economy had begun to roar thanks to Allied orders for planes and munitions. Thousands of defense workers not only contributed to California's tourism but to southern Nevada's as well. Hull recognized that Hitler's blitz of western Europe was a potential bonanza for the Golden State's defense industry and therefore to Las Vegas' gambling economy. Moreover, the entrepreneurial Hull longed to supplement his hotel balance sheets with the added profits from casino gambling.

To everyone's amazement, Hull agreed to build a resort, but not in Las Vegas proper! Anxious to avoid Las Vegas' higher taxes while also securing spacious ground at low cost, Hull bought a tract on the southwest corner of Highway 91 and San Francisco Street

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Anxious to avoid Las Vegas' higher taxes while also securing spacious ground, Hull bought a tract on the southwest corner of Highway 91 and San Francisco Street a few feet south of the city line.

◆

(today Sahara Avenue) a few feet south of the city line. He then commissioned the Los Angeles architecture firm of McAllister and McAllister to design a sprawling, ranchlike complex built in Spanish mission style. Boasting a rustic



Zsa Zsa Gabor with Beldon Katleman.

interior, the main building housed a casino, restaurant, Opera House Showroom, and several shops. Low-rise bungalow and cottage buildings radiated outward from the main structure. A large pool and lush gardens contributed further to the El Rancho's reputation as Las Vegas' first "resort hotel."

The gala opening was April 3, 1941. Visionaries like *Review-Journal* editor Al Cahlan immediately grasped the event's significance. Noting that "for many years Las Vegas has bemoaned the absence of high type resort hotels and the wealthy class of people such would draw to us," Cahlan rejoiced that "now the ice is broken." Observing further that the El Rancho was not only the town's first swank hotel but also the first in a chain, Cahlan predicted that "through the close cooperation of the Hull system with the great hotel systems of the east, an even more widely spreading field of favorable publicity is opened to us."

Entertainment in those first years consisted of a lively production show

Photo: UNLV Library, Frank Watts Collection (top right inset)

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starring Frank Fay and the "El Rancho Starlets," a chorus line of scantily clad dancers from California. Backed by the Garwood Van Orchestra, this show and others played to large audiences for many years. In fact, wartime business was so good that Hull added 60 more rooms, years ahead of schedule.

Unfortunately, managerial problems plagued the resort, resulting in a constant turnover of staff. Personality conflicts and administrative squabbles vanquished 13 managers in the first three years alone. In 1942, Hull sold the trouble-plagued resort, which then changed owners several more times

before falling into the hands of Beldon Katleman in 1947. Faced with stiff opposition from the Last Frontier and Flamingo, Katleman immediately began upgrading the property.

The renovation was a master stroke which restored the El Rancho's original charm. For the next decade celebrities once again patronized the resort (Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward were even married there in 1958), hobnobbing with local dignitaries and guests. Yet, these halcyon days were short-lived. As the 1950s wore on, the El Rancho declined, outshined by its glittering new rivals on the Strip. A disas-

Griffith and Moore, like other investors, surely recognized that the army gunnery school and Basic Magnesium would pour thousands more customers into Las Vegas' gambling saloons.

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Draw Poker Bank

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trous fire in 1960 mercifully closed the resort and it never reopened.

But the El Rancho's significance to the city lived on. Indeed, Hull's bold decision to build south of town inspired development of the Las Vegas Strip, America's first "casino suburb." The El Rancho's early success demonstrated the feasibility of combining casino operations with a large resort hotel. Moreover, Hull convinced hotelmen everywhere that the spacious tracts bordering the Los Angeles Highway were ideal locations to build the mammoth resorts which eventually made the town famous.

The El Rancho began inspiring resort development as early as 1941. Within weeks of Hull's opening on April 3 two southern California investors, Marion Hicks and John Grayson, announced plans to build a \$245,000 hotel downtown. When it opened later in the year, the El Cortez became Fremont Street's first major resort.

The El Rancho also encouraged another man, R.E. Griffith, to build on the Strip. At the time, Griffith's family owned a chain of 475 movie theaters in the South, Midwest, and Southwest. Griffith himself managed the company's Southwest holdings. In 1941, he was returning to Dallas from California with his nephew William J. Moore after securing construction materials for a new theater project in Deming, New Mexico (ironically, Hull also owned a theater in Deming), when he stopped for the night at the El Rancho Vegas. By morning Griffith and Moore, convinced of the town's growth potential, had canceled their plans for Deming.

While the California defense boom had played a major role in Hull's deci-

sion to build the El Rancho a year earlier, Griffith and Moore enjoyed additional incentives. Thanks to the intensification of the war, it was obvious in early 1941 that southern Nevada would also become a major defense zone. Griffith and Moore, like other investors, surely recognized that, once completed, the army gunnery school and Basic Magnesium would pour thousands more customers into Las Vegas' gambling saloons.

With the El Rancho already booming, and Fremont Street lots in high demand, sound business dictated a highway location a bit farther out from Hull's resort. Within weeks, Griffith bought a large parcel of land about a mile south of the El Rancho. Imitating Hull's western motif, Moore, an architect in his own right, designed a hotel showcasing the ultimate in western style. Like the El Rancho, Moore's blueprints featured a large main building housing a casino, showroom, restaurant, and bars. A series of low-rise buildings (with a total of 107 rooms) led away from the main structure. There the similarity ended. Unlike Hull, Moore spared no expense for interior design.

At the Last Frontier's opening in October 1942, visitors gasped at the splendor. The decor was deliberately extravagant, awarding the resort instant notoriety. The main building contained a trophy room lined with large stuffed animals; inside was the Carillo Bar immortalizing the Cisco Kid's famed sidekick, actor Leo Carillo (a frequent patron). The Horn Room and Gay Nineties Bar were illuminated by lighting fixtures shaped in the form of wagon wheels suspended by chains hanging from the ceiling. The main banquet facility, the Ramona Room, seated 600 guests and was supported by expensive flagstones and large wooden beams.

In the guest rooms, cowhorns adorned every bed. Complementing the western atmosphere was a touch of Palm Springs: a sundeck and large pool (everything was larger than the El Rancho) fronted the resort's entrance to attract passing motorists. In addition, the hotel provided guests with horseback and stagecoach rides, pack trips, a showroom seating 600, and parking for 400 cars.

To reinforce the frontier ambience, Moore later added the Last Frontier Village, a small townsite filled with 900 tons of Robert "Doby Doc" Caudill's western artifacts imported from his warehouse in Elko. This collection was

extensive, consisting not only of wagons, antique firearms, bar stools, barber's chairs, and the like, but also big items, including a Chinese "Joss House" (i.e., a place of worship) constructed in the 1860s for workers building the Central Pacific Railroad, full-sized mining trains, and actual jails from Nevada's smaller mining camps. From the beginning, Moore's Frontier Village was a major attraction, drawing thousands of tourists and locals alike who reveled in the trappings of the old West.

By 1951, however, Moore had tired of running the Frontier and wanted to

sell the family property. Preoccupied with his new interest in the downtown El Cortez, Moore sold the Last Frontier in 1951 to Jacob "Jake" Kozloff, a Pennsylvania brewery owner, and the El Rancho's Beldon Katleman. Kozloff, who had learned the casino business from his mentor, Guy McAfee, immediately boosted profits by presenting big-name entertainers such as Liberace and the Will Mastin Trio (featuring Sammy Davis, Jr.). Several years later, in an effort to match new Strip competition, Katleman and Kozloff decided to modernize the resort with a major face-lift and change of name. The so-



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The Last Frontier's pool was a roadside sight in 1945. The hotel's western motif included cowhorns on every bed.

called Hotel New Frontier opened on April 4, 1955. Soon afterwards Katleman and Kozloff, eager to recoup their investment and profit from the property's newly increased value, sold their interests.

Both the El Rancho and Last Frontier appealed to Los Angeles syndicate boss Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel, who first came to Las Vegas in 1941 with associate Moe Sedway as part of the effort by Meyer Lansky and others to install their

own race wire in downtown clubs. From the beginning Siegel was impressed with the casino city and, once back in southern California, dreamed of building a resort even greater than the Beverly Hills Hotel—a resort destined

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Both the El Rancho
and Last Frontier
appealed to
Los Angeles
syndicate boss
Benjamin 'Bugsy'
Siegel, who first came
to Las Vegas in 1941.

to impress the likes of Cecil B. DeMille
and Hollywood society.

Obsessed with this goal, Siegel raised
over \$1 million by 1945 and even re-
ceived Meyer Lansky's approval for
the project. In an unusual move, Siegel
engaged the Del Webb Construction
Company of Phoenix to build his dream
resort. The hotel was to be called the
Flamingo (named either for his mis-
tress, Virginia Hill, or for the birds at
Florida's Hialeah Racetrack).

Yet, despite Siegel's power and de-
termination, there were problems. Due
to the postwar shortage of building
materials, construction was expensive.
Cost overruns were hardly eased by
Siegel's lavish whims (including his
insistence that each room have its own
private sewer line). Ultimately, the
syndicate had to contribute millions
more to finish the enterprise.

Opening night in December 1946
featured Jimmy Durante and a star-
studded audience at a half-finished re-
sort. While the casino, restaurant, and
showroom were in full operation, the
hotel itself was not completed. Siegel's
impatience soon turned to gloom when,
just two weeks later, the casino closed
after suffering heavy losses.

The formal re-opening came in March
1947 (only a few months before Siegel's
assassination). Now fully completed,
the Flamingo was undeniably the most
glamorous hotel in Las Vegas, with 105
lavishly appointed rooms, a health club,
gym, steam rooms, tennis courts, and
facilities for squash, handball, and bad-
minton. In addition, there were stables
for 40 horses, a trapshooting range,
swimming pool, nine-hole golf course,
and assorted shops. Complementing
the magnificent three-story waterfall
in front were acres of beautifully land-
scaped grounds containing Oriental
date palms, rare Spanish cork trees,
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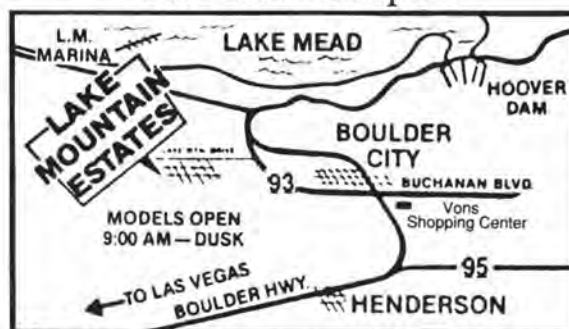
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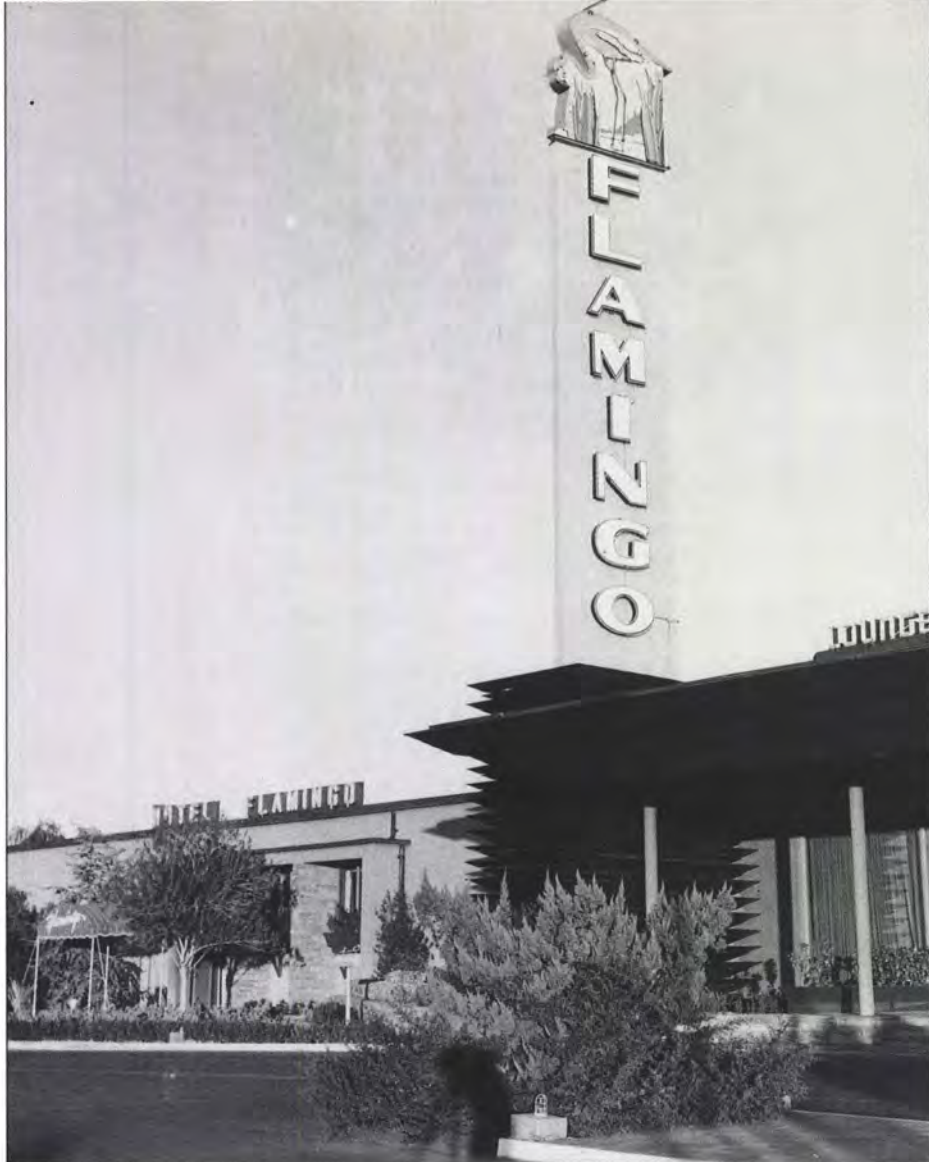
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Flamingo founder Bugsy Siegel had the last laugh in 1972, when his office safe was discovered—empty.

to the pretension, Siegel clad his entire staff in tuxedos.

Perhaps more than anything else, it was Siegel's penchant for extravagance, overspending, and arrogance which put him at odds with some organized crime figures. His death that June disrupted management of the hotel. Shortly after Siegel's murder, Meyer Lansky, Morris Rosen, Gus Greenbaum, and Moe Sedway met with El Rancho owners Sanford Adler and Charles Resnick to induce the latter (who were widely respected by Nevada gaming authorities) to run the Flamingo.

After this agreement fell through in 1947, the syndicate imported the talented Gus Greenbaum from its Phoenix operations to run the resort. Greenbaum, an expert casino manager, turned a \$4 million profit in the first year and the profits continued. During the early 1950s, the farsighted Greenbaum met the challenge from the Thunderbird, Desert Inn, and other new competition by expanding and modernizing the resort. Like Kozloff and other Strip moguls, he willingly spent thousands to attract the era's top headliners, including Nat King Cole, Pearl Bailey, Lena Horne, Ted Lewis, Dean Martin, and Jerry Lewis.

Despite his notorious life, Bugsy Siegel's contribution to Las Vegas was considerable. A decade earlier, only the visionaries had foreseen gambling as the town's major industry. Municipal leaders and even boosters like Al Cahlan had supported the idea of restricting



Downtown Las Vegas also grew up. Later the Union Plaza replaced the old train depot (above, center). The Flamingo (top) had two grand openings.

◆

The Flamingo liberated Las Vegas from the confines of its western heritage and established the pattern for a 'diversity of images' in future resorts like the Desert Inn.

◆

clubs to Fremont Street. Until 1940, area clubs largely resembled the 19th-century saloons and betting parlors which had thrived along San Francisco's Barbary Coast. As late as 1945, these types of clubs dominated downtown Las Vegas; there were no truly elegant casinos on Fremont Street. Furthermore, while some hotels hosted gambling in a room off their lobby, there was no effort to house a casino within a resort hotel until Thomas Hull built the El Rancho.

While elegant in a western sense, the El Rancho and Last Frontier were little more than opulent dude ranches. The crucial event which transformed Las Vegas from a recreational to a full-fledged resort city was Bugsy Siegel's Flamingo Hotel. In a sense, the Flamingo was the turning point because it combined the sophisticated ambience of a Monte Carlo casino with the exotic luxury of a Miami Beach-Caribbean resort. The Flamingo liberated Las Vegas from the confines of its western heritage and established the pattern for a "diversity of images" embodied in future resorts like the Desert Inn, Thunderbird, Dunes, Tropicana, and Stardust. As the historian John Findlay has argued, "on the Strip gaming took place in a distinctly resort setting," where hotel owners, like their Hollywood clients, were skilled at mass producing a mixture of leisure and fantasy. □

Eugene P. Moehring is associate professor and chair of the Department of History at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. This excerpt is taken from the chapter "A City Takes Shape" in his book, Resort City in the Sunbelt: Las Vegas, 1930-1970, published by the University of Nevada Press in 1989. A Nevada Humanities Committee Selection, the 314-page, hardcover book is available for \$26.95 through the University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV 89557 or local bookstores.

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A New Stage for the Stars



Ol' Blue Eyes and the Diceman. Engelbert and the Pointers. The big-ticket entertainers and showgoer tastes are changing in Nevada showrooms.

By Mike Weatherford

The irony was hard to miss for anyone standing at the base of the steps to Bally's Las Vegas Celebrity Room that night in late August. There, in a familiar tuxedo-clad pose, was a blown-up photo of Frank Sinatra, one of many celebrities whose poster-sized likenesses lined the steps like sentinels.

But just a few feet away was the enlarged photo of the evening's main attraction, in all his silver-studded, leather-jacketed glory:

Andrew Dice Clay.

It wasn't just the fashion contrasts in the two images that drove home the recent changes in Las Vegas entertainment.

It wasn't even the people lined up in front of the photos—not graying high-rollers but noisy young revelers chanting, "Dice! Dice! Dice!" and reciting some of their hero's famous "nursery rhymes."

It was more that the entire casino was positively alive with energy that night, and all because of a performer.

A crowd pressed the showroom entrance, hoping for last-minute seats in the filled-beyond-capacity showroom. A few yards away, lounge singer Cook E. Jarr chanted, "You can't touch the Diceman!" to keep those in the queue placated. Inside, a sextet of men in their 20s slid into a front-and-center "king's row" booth moments after the lights dimmed, thanking the showroom captain with a pair of \$50 bills.

During the four days the "shock rock" comedian was in town, local TV stations covered a press conference and morning deejays fielded chatter on the radio. For the first time in a long time, a showroom attraction merited "event" status.

As an event, it may not have been as big as the days when Elvis played the Las Vegas Hilton, his legions journeying to the Strip like pilgrims to Mecca. And certainly not as big as the nights in 1960 when the Rat Pack of Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis, Jr., Joey Bishop, and Peter Lawford hosted their "Summit at the Sands" by night while filming *Ocean's 11* during the day.

"We'd been in Vegas for a week, and still plane, train, and busloads of people were pouring into town, arriving without hotel reservations, sleeping in lobbies, cars, anywhere, hoping to get rooms," Davis recalled in his autobiography, *Yes I Can*.

But certainly Clay's appearance of-



As audiences change, so do the faces in Nevada showrooms.

☆

'We'd been in Vegas
for a week, and still
people were pouring
into town without
hotel reservations,
sleeping in
lobbies, cars,
anywhere,
hoping to get rooms,'
Davis recalled of
the Rat Pack.

☆

that weren't what they used to be: Dean Martin (whose health problems have taken a noticeable toll), Engelbert Humperdinck, Don Rickles, Johnny Mathis, Jerry Lewis, Tony Orlando, and Ray Stevens among them. Even the former "Queen of the Strip," Ann-Margret, won't be returning to any of the Caesars resorts after the end of her much-ballyhooed two-year "come-back" contract ends.

And Frank Sinatra? He's still around, but not at Bally's. Insiders say the hotel's corporate chiefs were more than happy to be free of a contract that paid the legendary crooner \$2 million annually, plus \$70,000 per show. Sinatra signed on at the Riviera, where chairman Meshulam Riklis has no stockholders to answer to. Last summer Sinatra took Riklis' wife, Pia Zadora, on tour as an opening act.

ferred more excitement than a hotel showroom usually generates these days. More typical is a Friday night Tom Jones show where the back row of booths remains empty, even though he's only doing one show that night.

Las Vegas, and Nevada as a whole, are clearly at a crossroads when it comes to entertainment—particularly star policy entertainment—as a new decade begins.

The hotels are struggling to find performers who will fill their showrooms at fees the hotels can live with. The preferred casino customer may still be 40 or older, but a 40-year-old today doesn't have the same tastes as a 40-year-old of 10 years ago.

Recently, some stars who were casino mainstays of the 1970s and '80s faced uncertain futures as they renegotiated contracts for 1991. Several had to face up to crowd counts

If the standbys of the past two decades are starting to lose their luster, who do the hotels want to fill their shoes? Try Anita Baker, Kenny G., Bonnie Raitt, Jimmy Buffett, and Bette Midler.

Who do they end up settling for as regulars? The Pointer Sisters, the Beach Boys, the Four Tops, Liza Minnelli, Julio Iglesias, Diana Ross, and Wayne Newton, all of whom remain dependable draws on the Strip even if they're no longer primary in the minds of the record-buying public.

Entertainment directors must deal with the current realities of pop-music economics. They know that Paul McCartney, Phil Collins, or Neil Diamond aren't likely to stop for a week in a 1,400-seat showroom when they can still draw 18,000 to 40,000 people in an arena or stadium on a single night. Even some of the showroom regulars tend to get an inflated opinion of their value when they hear of Cher's reported \$150,000 per show to perform at The Mirage (fans paid \$82.70 per ticket).

"The showrooms are a tremendous loss leader. None of the three big rooms [Bally's, Caesars, and Hilton] are making money," says Caesars Palace entertainment director Tom Pilkington of those hotels with a star policy. "The pricing is getting difficult because the stars are asking for so much money... It's impossible to have the showroom cover itself."

But some of the performers are frustrated, too. "There are nights when everyone suffers," says Donna Woodward, daughter-in-law and publicist for Tom Jones. Las Vegas' evolution from pure destination resort to convention town means there can be "large amounts of people that dwindle to



The traditional sequined and feathered showgirl is becoming rarer.

nothing" by the end of a performer's week-long stint. "The people are not there. Or they can be there but entertaining themselves with their own convention events," she says.

Las Vegas-based entertainer Paul Anka is disturbed by the city's turn toward a "quasi-Disneyland with gambling" with the family-oriented Excalibur Hotel and developer Kirk Kerkorian's plans for a theme park on the Strip. "For those of us who like the town and feel like we have a future here, we have to be concerned about the direction it's going," Anka says.

Nevada's hotel entertainment buyers, particularly in Las Vegas, also have to face a long-standing stigma: that playing Las Vegas signals the death of a pop star's career.

"It's the record companies and, to a large or equal degree, the artists and managers who feel there is a stigma involved in playing here,

which is ridiculous," says Pilkington.

Those walls are gradually breaking down. It began with country stars—Willie Nelson, Reba McEntire, and the Judds—and comedians such as Jay Leno and Rodney Dangerfield, the biggest names in their respective fields. Pop stars such as Gloria Estefan, Starship, and Lisa Lisa and Cult Jam followed in the past two years.

The most recent coup was bringing the venerable pop ensemble Chicago into Caesars' Tahoe and Las Vegas showrooms after previously restricting their Las Vegas gigs to one-night stands in Caesars' outdoor boxing grandstand and the 7,000-seat Theatre for the Performing Arts attached to the Aladdin Hotel.

"I think there may have been that stigma in the mid-1970s, but not now," says Robert Lamm of Chicago. "I don't

☆

"They used to
tell us
casino audiences
are different,
but we've never
had that kind of
experience,'
Gloria Estefan said.
'We get a lot of
young people.'

☆

think it matters anymore. I don't think your fans care where you play, and I don't think radio or the record retailers care either." He adds, "It would be kind of silly to have that kind of stigma when you have major rock bands touring under the sponsorship of major corporations."

And, although she hasn't been back, Gloria Estefan had similar feelings in the summer of 1988, when the Miami Sound Machine played the Las Vegas Hilton: "They used to tell us casino audiences are different, but we've never had that kind of experience," she said. "We get a lot of young people."

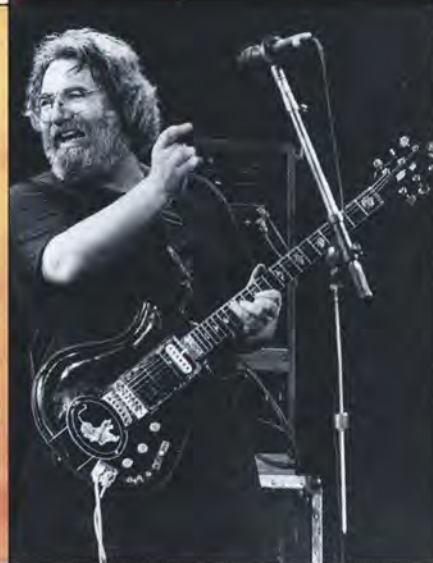
The shift from cabaret performers to more contemporary acts actually began in Reno and Lake Tahoe. Acts such as Santana, Kenny Loggins, the Moody Blues, Hall and Oates, and even the Grateful Dead's Jerry Garcia already have performed in northern Nevada.

Why did it happen there, and not in Las Vegas? The simplest explanation is that all the above acts did play Las Vegas, but in more customary one-night stands at the Aladdin concert hall.

But that doesn't erase the bigger picture: northern Nevada resorts are as well-known for skiing and outdoor recreation as for gambling. Hence, they don't share Vegas' often schlocky image. They also pull a yuppie-oriented tourist crowd from the San Francisco Bay Area, while Las Vegas remains a gathering point for retirees and conventioners.

"The Northern California market is a little younger, more contemporary crowd," says Jim Parsons, spokesman for Caesars Tahoe. "It's been proven the younger, more contemporary acts will get people in their cars to travel."

Another change, one with potentially



Booking the likes of Jerry, Willie, Kenny, and Reba helps fill the house.

☆

The shift from
cabaret performers to
more contemporary
acts began in
Reno and Lake Tahoe
with acts such as
Santana, the Moody
Blues, and even
the Grateful Dead's
Jerry Garcia.

☆

money from the long-standing tradition of receiving tips for improving a customer's seating.

Unhindered by a union contract, Caesars Tahoe converted to a reserved-seating system more than a year ago. Caesars Palace officials in Las Vegas admit they are studying a similar move. The hotels can make the switch, but under the terms of the last Culinary Local 226 agreement must ease the transition by giving the union 10 percent of each ticket until 1992. After that, servers will be guaranteed tips based only on the cost of drinks rather than the entire ticket price.

The two newest hotels in Las Vegas opened their doors with reserved-ticket systems in place. The Mirage's "Siegfried and Roy" and the Excalibur's "King Arthur's Tournament" both sell reserved seats to customers on the day

major impact, is slowly making inroads into Las Vegas after taking hold in northern Nevada and the boomtown of Laughlin: reserved-seat tickets.

"If anything intimidates a Las Vegas visitor, it is the maitred' and captain at the door," says Frank Vignola, director of marketing for the Excalibur.

"The average customer is different than the one 15 years ago. The first question is, 'Where's my ticket?'" agrees Bob Ostrovsky, vice president of human relations for Bally's. "They're so used to pre-bought tickets that they're very confused by the showroom system."

The system is a long-entrenched part of the larger hotels' collective bargaining agreement with the culinary and bartenders union. The showroom maitre d's, captains, and showroom servers are the elite upper tier of a large and powerful union. And they make good

of the performance, with taxes included in the ticket price (in the other shows, built-in gratuities and taxes can raise the advertised price by as much as a third).

The two new shows are prophetic in other ways, as well. Each proves there's a future for the variety revue, a Vegas tradition since they first were imported from France in the late 1950s.

Not counting lounge acts or cabaret shows that cater to smaller audiences with little or no admission fees, revues outnumber full-time "star policy" rooms by 15 to nine in Nevada, but

some are beginning to show their age. While the very mention of the Las Vegas Strip still conjures pictures of gravity-defying showgirls in those impossible feathered headpieces, time and changing tastes have made them more of a novelty. Where you could once see jugglers and acrobats on the Ed Sullivan show, Las Vegas is now the last bastion of variety entertainment.

Different shows fight back in different ways. Some, such as "Jubilee!" at Bally's Las Vegas, resist change altogether and present themselves as the last of their kind. Others try to cop the



Liberace and Elvis jam in 1956.

look of the closest thing to variety today: music videos. The Riviera's "Splash" recently added a number staged to Madonna's "Vogue," and "King Arthur's Tournament" tries to make itself timeless through its historical theme.

But it is "Siegfried and Roy" that will set the pace for the future. The veteran magicians, savvy producer Kenneth Feld, and Mirage chairman Steve Wynn set out to create a show that you had to see when in Las Vegas, and one you have to come to Las Vegas to see.

The entire showroom was custom-built for the magic revue. It's the first new showroom to be built in Las Vegas in more than a decade, and the technical standards make everything else in town pale by comparison. The "stage" is a giant crescent that melts right into the audience. It is covered by a huge dome of computerized lights of the kind popularized by rock 'n' roll tours.

The chance to design not only a show



The entire showroom was custom-built for Siegfried and Roy.

The 'stage' is a giant crescent covered by a huge dome of computerized lights.



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but the auditorium as well helped lure the Tony Award-winning John Napier ("Cats," "Starlight Express") on board as designer and co-director of a show that cost nearly \$30 million.

"The one thing I attempted to avoid was a visible staircase," joked Napier, who was none too impressed with what he referred to as "geriatric" productions found elsewhere on the Strip. "I was very surprised that most of them were so old-fashioned," he said. "I saw things I thought I could do better. If that sounds snobbish, so be it."

The other gamble of "Siegfried and Roy"—making audiences pay a record \$61 per ticket—seems to be paying off



Siegfried and Roy are setting the stage for future extravaganzas.

as well. Crowds line up at the box office daily, while comparative bargains, such as the \$19.95 magic show starring Melinda, "The First Lady of Magic,"

"It's still a big deal," he said. □

Mike Weatherford is an entertainment reporter for the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

It All Began in Elko

Band leader Ted Lewis, tipping his battered silk top hat and singing "Me and My Shadow," brought an electric reaction from the opening-night audience April 26, 1941, at the Commercial Hotel in Elko.

A capacity crowd jammed the Commercial's newly remodeled lounge to see the jazzman and his 25-member revue. Newton H. Crumley, a local entrepreneur, had booked Lewis, thinking he might help business. He was right. After the show customers lingered in the modest casino that included a long bar, a roulette wheel, a couple of 21 tables, a few poker games, and a lunch counter.

So it was in Elko that Ted Lewis and Newt Crumley began big-name entertainment in Nevada. Later in the '40s, the development of the Las Vegas Strip brought stars to southern Nevada's new showrooms, and performers soon were playing Reno and Tahoe. But the curtain rose in Elko.

For the eight-day engagement Lewis received a whopping \$12,000. He liked gambling. When he left Elko, he had spent all he made plus a siz-

able IOU. He agreed to a return engagement to settle the marker.

Crumley signed up more big names to perform in his club, located in the rural Nevada cow country nearly 300 miles east of Reno. He did his best to convince locals that the stars would appear. A poster advertising "The Last of the Red Hot Mamas" clearly stated, "Sophie Tucker in Person." Out-of-staters were skeptical, too. When Paul Whiteman, called "The Greatest Name in American Music," booked Elko, the showbiz newspaper *Variety* headlined, "Whiteman Fixed to Play Stix."

Elko youngsters shared in the excitement since each star's contract with Crumley included a clause that required at least one free performance suitable for children and teenagers.

After World War II, the Stockmen's Hotel also featured headliners. Later Crumley opened the Ranchinn with top-drawer entertainment.

There was keen competition between the Commercial and the Stockmen's, whose billboards displayed a massive bull. One night,



friends of the rival Commercial drove across the entire state and painted the cattle brand of the Commercial's owner on the side of every Stockmen's bull from Utah to California. Tourists missed the joke, but knowledgeable ranchers and residents got a few chuckles on their way to a big night in Elko.—Terry Hickson

Reeling in Paradise

A slot player learns that it takes more than strong-arm tactics when playing in a casino tournament.

By Connie Emerson

The palm trees on the rented backdrop actually seem to be swaying—just like the hips of the four Polynesian dancers. Another palm shades the junction of two buffet tables laden with egg foo yung, sweet and sour ribs, and other island delights. A grass shack shelters pyrex coffee pots. The bartender mixing mai tais and piña coladas at a portable bar is busier than a sunblock salesman on Waikiki.

This indoor paradise is the setting for the kickoff of the Aloha IV Reel Slot Tournament, the annual biggie for slot machine players at the Peppermill Hotel in Reno. Representing nine different states, we gamblers are a mixed bag of fortune seekers. Well, we aren't seeking a fortune, exactly, but we have our sights on the grand prize of \$10,000 in cash and a week for two in Hawaii, not to mention 35 smaller prizes.

We come in all shapes, sizes, ages, and packages. One woman wears an Australian bush jacket and carries a briefcase. Another is dressed in a "me Tarzan, you Jane" sarong with a flower behind her ear. A dapper gentleman from California, home of most competitors, wears a coat and tie. Hardly anyone has changed yet into the passion-purple Hawaiian shirts issued to us at the tournament registration desk.

"You ever played in a tournament here before?" asks a man in limed levis and lots of gold chains. He smiles

From the
conversations swirling
around the room
I gather there are
special secrets to
getting jackpots and
trays full of coins.

broadly, but I have the feeling he's sizing me up as a rival. Another asks, "You feel lucky?"

In fact, with each passing moment I feel less lucky and more and more out of my depth. These people are slot machine fanatics; all I know is that you pull the handle or push the "spin-reels" bar. From the conversations swirling around the room I gather there are special formulas, secrets to getting jackpots and trays full of coins. And I know none of those secrets—yet.

So while a local band known as Ielu Sala and Mai Tai play Hawaiian songs, I circle the convention center/South Seas paradise in search of the secrets of slot machine success.

Lorraine Fox of Roseville, California,

shows me her lucky gambling shirt. Appliqued and embellished with a slot machine, poker chips, cards, and dice, the shirt took her weeks to make. It must work—she won first place in a previous Peppermill tournament.

Tom Flynn of San Ramon shows me the piece of polished pale green jade and lucky rose quartz heart he carries. Sally Masuo of Torrance wears three necklaces when she gambles—one with a gold seven on a chain; the second, a gold heart locket; and the third, a jade elephant.

Sally explains that despite her lucky charms she won't be playing this year. Instead, her husband, Roland, will be. It seems that in the Peppermill's spring tournament Roland came in first; Sally was dead last. Curiously, Roland carries no good-luck tokens.

Soon it's time for the evening's other event—slot practice. We inspect our machines, 20 identical slots standing back-to-back in two rows on the casino's mezzanine. Each machine has a digital readout that tallies the players' points and shows the time remaining. On top, scores are displayed on large michron dot-matrix meters whose numbers change from yellow to red to green.

We go over the payout information. Three jokers are worth 1,000 points, three sevens 500 points, and three fives 125 points. Three single bars are worth 25, mixed bars or two jokers are worth



10, and a single joker, four points. These points, and the speed with which we earn them, will determine the winners.

Our crowd of 71 competitors has been divided into four groups, A, B, C, and D. Each group will play a 20-minute round Saturday morning, another Saturday afternoon, and the final round on Sunday morning. Prizes will be awarded to the players with the highest cumulative scores. There will be a \$50 prize for the highest score in each section during each session, and the player who wins each round will get \$200.

The next morning, wearing our new purple Hawaiian shirts, we gather machineside. The tension is palpable. I, alone, feel relaxed. After all, I'm not playing with my own \$700 entry fee and have signed over any money I might

win to charity.

But, strangely, as my fellow contestants in Section B draw numbers to determine which machines they'll play, my adrenalin starts to kick in.

We gather around the machines for a pre-game briefing from Peppermill slot manager Ken Moberly. Like a general addressing his troops, he reviews the rules of battle.

"You can either pull the handle or push the spin-reels button," Moberly tells us, "but no one ever pulls the handle because it's faster to push the button."

Section A players take their places. The tournament begins.

Spectators crane to see the action from red upholstered seats placed in rows behind the contestants. The players continuously push their spin-reels bars

and are oblivious to everything except the machines in front of them. We pause to shift position or take a drink only when we've hit three sevens or jokers and the machine can't be played while points are being racked up.

"It's not necessary to keep pushing the bars all the time," Moberly says later, "but people worry that they'll miss those seconds between the time points are registering on the meter and the reels are ready to spin again. Also, it's nervous energy."

After five minutes on Machine 18, I realize that playing in a slot tournament is no breeze. As Frank Calafiore of Loomis, California, confides, "You work harder here for your money than at your regular job." My right shoulder is beginning to ache, so I shift position on the stool, taking care to keep jabbing

away at the spin-reels bar. Finally, the 20 minutes is over, and my "pain is gain" score of 5,231 is announced as the highest in Section B.

For the second round I draw Machine 6. During the entire session the player next to me gyrates and moans like someone doing the samba while suffering from cardiac arrest. Despite the distraction I persevere to rack up 5,959 points for Section B high score and, ultimately, top score for the round.

Between rounds some contestants head for the Peppermill's restaurants and bars to take advantage of the tournament package. Besides the luau, welcoming gift (the aloha shirt), and two nights lodging for the player and a guest, the entry fee included meals at the Island Buffet and hotel coffee shop as well as unlimited free drinks.

Other participants go straight to the machines on the casino floor. Sometimes, Moberly says, they have to make a sweep of the casino to collect players for the next round.

A good deal of the fun for the competitors comes from socializing with friends and family. The Bernsteins from Foster City, California, have brought along their 15-year-old twin daughters. Frances Coggins of Vestavia Hills, Alabama, is with her son, daughter-in-

law, and grandson, who live in Sacramento.

Others get together with friends they met at previous tournaments. Char Upson of Maple Valley, Washington, and Pat Bryant, who recently moved to Reno from California, met at a tournament a year ago. "Now Char's my very best friend," says Bryant. "We always do great when we gamble together." During the tournament, Bryant says, she won a "considerable amount" of money between rounds and Upson hit a progressive 25-cent machine for a healthy jackpot.

Not all the competitors do as well. One entrant jokes that he will need lots of luck to make up for the \$1,500 he dropped at the tables the night before. Donna Barnhard of Penticton, British Columbia, is typical of most of the gamblers. "I always set a limit of \$700 or so that I can throw away," she says.

One couple from Oregon doesn't seem to care much about winning or losing. They won a sizable Massachusetts lottery and have to pay taxes each year on the proceeds. "We can deduct our gambling debts from those taxes," she says, "so we enter a lot of tournaments."

Spectators had been less than boisterous during the first two rounds, en-

couraging their favorites with well-modulated cries of "Get those jokers," "We need some gas money, honey," and "Go, go, go." But for the final round, it's standing room only—and the cheers are close to deafening.

My machine is directly in front of a gigantic man whose voice could shatter glass. I get 4,648 points, a ways behind the section winner and 1,500 points behind the round's top score.

Then it's all over, and we finally can rest our weary arms.

Competitors, relatives, and friends gather in the Peppermill's Manzanita Room for a fruit buffet and the awards ceremony. I ask the people I've met what they'll do if they win. "Use the money for more gambling," all but one of them say.

Moberly reads off point totals, the winners' names, and their prizes, starting with the 35th highest score. Each of those placing 11th through 35th receives \$400 in cash.

At this point, more than half of the players begin to relax. Those with cash already in hand are dreaming of the big one they'll hit on the machines downstairs after the awards are over. For those who know their scores are too low, there's always next year.

But for the remaining hopefuls, it's a question of whether they'll place sixth through 10th (and come out a bit ahead with \$750) or win one of the bigger prizes.

Nails are bitten to the quick as the sixth-through 10th-place winners walk up to get their prizes. The fifth-place winner of \$1,400 is announced, then fourth place for \$2,900.

Lorraine Fox and her lucky shirt win \$4,900 for third place. Peter Bayless of San Jose, who had started the third round in 25th place, takes the second prize of \$6,900 with 15,540 points.

As first place is about to be announced, drums roll in my head. I look at my point total scribbled on a piece of paper. It can't be. It is—15,828 points.

I'm speechless. Unbelievably, I've won the tournament.

In accordance with the pre-tournament agreement, my total prize of \$10,300 goes to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and the Hawaii trip has been donated to the "Nite of Stars" of St. Jude's Ranch for Children in Boulder City.

Just call me lucky. □

Connie Emerson is a Reno-based travel writer who, when she's not writing articles, plays "Las Vegas Video Poker" on her computer.

Tourney Tips

1. Remember the gambler's saying, "Worried money never wins." Don't enter a tournament where the entry fee is more than you're willing to lose. Even if you can afford the

fee, it won't be much fun if you worry about it.

2. Don't mix drinking with gambling. There's more than one sad story of the tipsy video poker player who pushed "deal" instead of "stand" when he had a straight flush. It's best to save the partying until after the playing.

3. Be in good physical condition. You can prepare by doing isometrics, water exercises, or whatever it takes to strengthen your shoulders and arms. Bring band-aids for slot-handle blisters.

4. Think comfort. Bring a flat pillow to sit on and comfortable clothes.

5. Bring ear plugs, too. They will eliminate the shrieking and swearing around you during slot tournaments—and help you concentrate.

6. Don't forget to eat or exercise. Eating meals at regular times and taking a walk or a swim in the hotel pool each day will keep you refreshed.—CE



Casino Competitions

A decade ago there were only a few gambling tournaments in Nevada, such as the high-rolling World Series of Poker at Binion's Horseshoe in Las Vegas. Now, nearly every major casino holds regular tournaments for games like slots, video poker, craps, blackjack, and keno.

Caesars Tahoe once hosted a 44-hour slot marathon, but most casino competitions fall in three shorter lengths—mini, single-day, and two-to-three day. Mini-tournaments, held weekly or even daily, cost about \$20 to \$50 to enter.

In some of the longer *buy-in* events, players can buy more chips or slot pulls as play progresses, which can be expensive for those who have trouble setting limits.

In *no-buy-in* tournaments, entry fees are generally higher, but you may spend less in the long run. The entry fee often pays for a complete package, including hotel room, some meals, and extras like gifts and show tickets. Although entry fees can run



as high as \$5,000, typically they are \$500 to \$700. And it's not unusual for half of the participants to win prizes.

So how do the casinos make money? They don't, at least not on the tournaments themselves. What they count on is the money that players spend in the casino when they're not compet-

ing. Also, tournament players are good for business—they're having a good time, and the spirit is contagious.

Check the casino tournaments listed in this issue's *Nevada Events* or contact the special events director at the hotel-casino of your choice.—CE

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Sonny Reizner, king of the over-under, in his office at the Rio.

Betting by the Book

Nevada's sports books are racing into the modern age.

By Howard Stutz

A few years ago Las Vegas oddsmaker Sonny Reizner lamented the demise of the Del Mar Race and Sports Book in North Las Vegas. Like many of the state's more famous sports bettors, Reizner got his start, and made a fortune, at tiny, smoky sports books like the Del Mar, the Rose Bowl, and the Santa Anita—betting parlors that have gone the way of the mechanical slot machine.

Since Nevada's major hotel-casinos began catering to sports players in the late 1970s, sports books have changed in major ways.

Even Reizner has evolved with the times. The sports book he manages and helped design at the Rio Suite Hotel near the Las Vegas Strip is airy, well-lit, and computerized. It covers almost 5,300 square feet.

"Sports books today are set up so the player feels comfortable and can relax in a fun atmosphere," said Reizner, who operated sports books at the

The last of the independent sports books, Leroy's has satellite betting windows in such places as Jackpot, Winnemucca, Mesquite, and Pahrump.

Castaways and Frontier before coming to the Rio.

Satellite and cable television also helped expand race and sports books. On a given Saturday, gamblers can walk

into any sports book, such as those at Caesars Palace, the Flamingo Hilton Reno, or Harrah's Lake Tahoe, and watch up to a half-dozen college football or basketball games at one sitting. On Sundays during the National Football League season, every game is on television. Live broadcasts from Santa Anita, Hialeah, and other race tracks around the country have helped popularize horse betting, too.

In the 1960s, there were only a handful of race and sports books. Today, Nevada has 74 sports books, and 49 also offer wagering on horse racing.

Vic Salerno, who operates the small Leroy's Horse and Sports Place in downtown Las Vegas, has franchised his business through telephone lines and computer hook-ups. The last of the independent sports books, Leroy's has satellite betting windows in such places as Jackpot, Winnemucca, Mesquite, and Pahrump.

"Our average handle now is about



The Las Vegas Hilton's sports book offers a truly big-screen experience (top). The view is good at Caesars, too (bottom).

\$1 million a month," Salerno said of Leroy's, which opened in 1978 and looks every bit like a Damon Runyon betting joint, complete with thick cigarette smoke and characters straight out of "Guys and Dolls."

"We're introducing sports betting to some places that don't have it," Salerno said. "These places have wanted sports betting but either didn't know how to operate a book or didn't want the expense."

Northern Nevada sports books have a different clientele than their counterparts in southern Nevada. Most of the business in the Reno-Lake Tahoe area comes from weekend gamblers or local residents looking to place a bet.

"We maybe have five or six professional sports gamblers up here, nothing like Las Vegas," said Dave Mahoney, sports book manager of Harrah's Lake Tahoe.

Mahoney said books in the Reno-Tahoe area see a multitude of wagers on Northern California sports teams like the San Francisco 49ers and Oakland A's, while the Los Angeles Dodgers and Los Angeles Rams are big in Las Vegas.

The popularity of sports betting is reflected in gaming revenue figures. In fiscal 1989, \$1.3 billion was wagered in



Dave Mahoney checks the action at Harrah's Lake Tahoe.

Nevada sports books on various sporting events. More than \$462 million was bet on horse racing.

However, after taxes and before expenses, sports books kept only 2.79 percent of the handle, or \$37.8 million. Race books fared better, holding 13.24 percent or \$61.2 million.

"From a profit standpoint, sports books don't make a lot of sense," said Michael "Roxy" Roxborough, a Las Vegas oddsmaker and consultant to 35 Nevada sports books. "All things being equal, 500 slot machines make more money than sports books in the course of a year."

Still, they've become a necessary evil in the increased competition between hotel-casinos.

The Las Vegas Hilton, for example, spent about \$17 million on its race and sports facility. Caesars Palace spent more than \$20 million remodeling its book. And The Mirage put a sizable chunk of the resort's \$630 million price tag into its new facility (at least \$400,000 went into TV satellite equipment).

"A hotel-casino is no longer a complete gaming location unless it has one of these facilities," said Jimmy Vaccaro, who manages The Mirage's race and sports book. "Race and sports have become part of the hotel's overall marketing strategy. We have our own customers we cater to. The whole goal is to bring gamblers into the hotel."

The last thing a major casino wants to see is one its big players leave to plop down a sports bet across the street. Even if they're not gambling and they just sit to watch a game, that's all right. The casino bosses just don't want the gambler to walk out the front door.

Today, that's where the bookies come into play.

The inventive Reizner was the first to devise football proposition bets such as the over-unders on total points and other aspects, such as total first downs,

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Thousands of dollars
were wagered
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Super Bowl
on whether or not
the Bears'
William 'the
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would score
a touchdown.
(He did.)

penalties, field goals, and even who will win the coin toss. And customers accepted Reizner's challenges. For instance, thousands of dollars were wagered on the 1986 Chicago-New England Super Bowl on whether or not William "the Refrigerator" Perry would score a touchdown. (He did.)

On the Super Bowl alone, which is the biggest sports betting day in Nevada, Reizner has offered some two dozen different propositions.

"That made the game fun for everybody," Reizner said. "Sports betting is such that you don't see just men in here. Sometimes, the women are better players than the men."

So where does it go from here?

Vaccaro is like all computer-age bookies. A terminal sits on his desk, and with a tap on a keyboard he can tell how much has been wagered on an event and what the book stands to win or lose.

On this particular Saturday, Clemson, a heavy favorite over Georgia Tech, is about to lose outright and cost The Mirage \$20,000. The night before, the book won about \$50,000 on a baseball playoff game.

Vaccaro expects the NCAA championships—especially the first round when all 64 games are televised—to eventually eclipse the Super Bowl in wagering revenues.

"The casinos have so much invested in these places," he said. "They're only going to get bigger and better." □

Howard Stutz is the gaming reporter for the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

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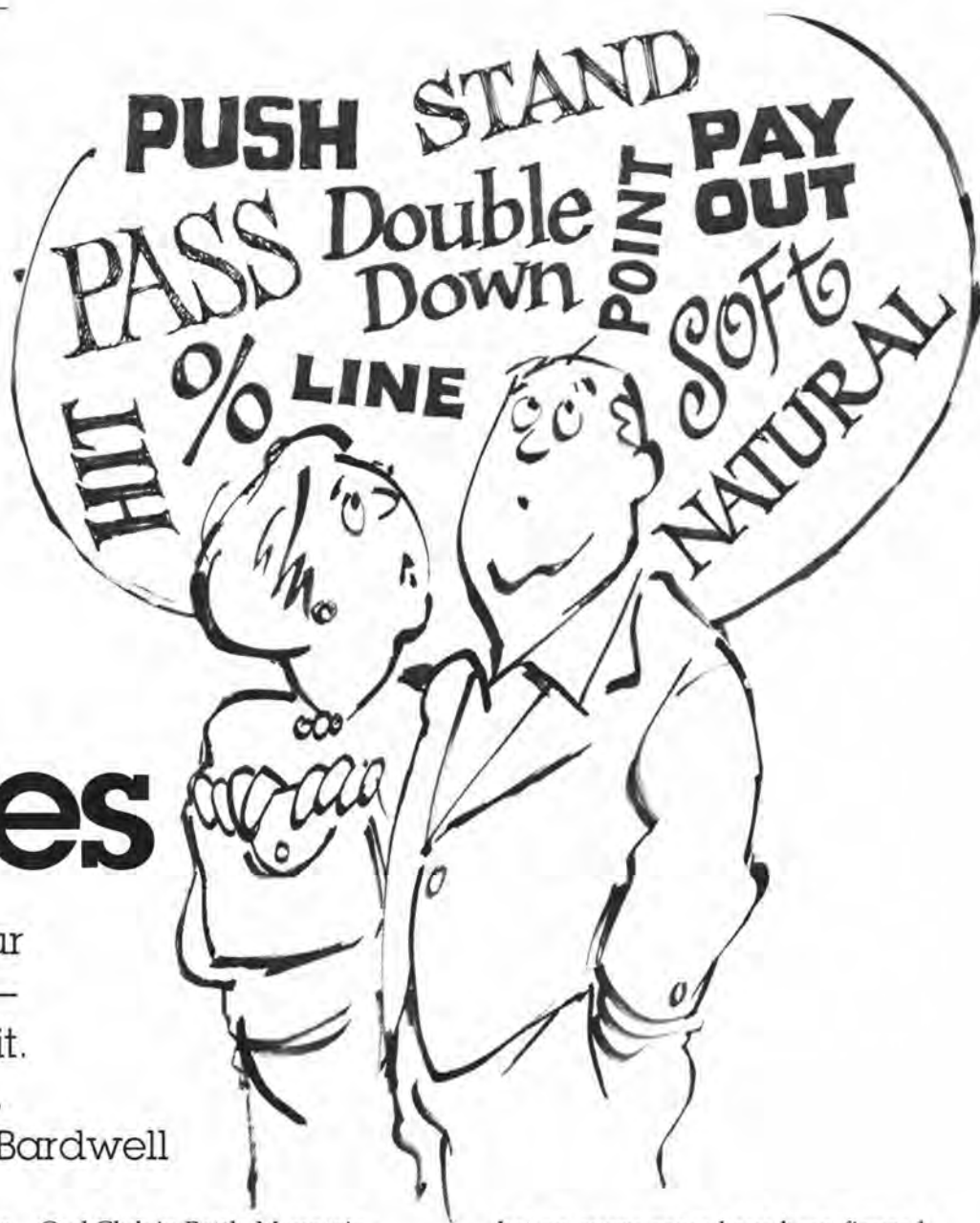
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How to Play the Games



The idea is to use your head and your luck—and have fun doing it.

By Michael Greenan.

Illustrations by John Bardwell

No casinos in the world offer the choices available in Nevada. A betting person can take a shot at 21, craps, roulette, wheel of fortune, baccarat, mini-baccarat, keno, bingo, pai gow, sic bo, pai gow poker, red dog, poker, pan, and other games. Slot machines can be played in all denominations from a penny to \$100, with jackpots from \$5 to \$5 million, and sports books offer bets on everything from how many interceptions will be thrown in the Super Bowl to who will win the Indianapolis 500.

This bounty of sporting propositions is proof that Nevada is, always has been, and always will be the gambling capital of the world. There are more than 300 establishments in Nevada with nonrestricted gaming licenses, from mega-casinos like The Mirage in Las Vegas to mom-and-pops like the

Owl Club in Battle Mountain.

Compare those 300 to the number of casinos in Atlantic City—12. The greater number of clubs means more competition, more choices, and better odds. For instance, a 1990 report from the Nevada Gaming Control Board showed slot players with a 6% better chance of winning in Nevada than in Atlantic City. Players also won an average of 5% more in all Nevada games. Besides looser slots, the difference could be attributed to the state's more liberal customs, such as dealing blackjack with one or two decks instead of the eight-deck shoe you see in Atlantic City; also, all cards are face-up on the boardwalk.

Anyone can enjoy the thrills of gambling without losing the mortgage payment or the kids' tuition. All you need is a basic knowledge of the games' rules and odds and some common sense.

Keep in mind that the odds on every

bet on every game have been figured out by the owners and managers of every casino. And guess what: The odds on each game are in the house's favor. In the long run, the house will win. Despite what all the paperbacks at airport newsstands say, there is no system that can turn a minus expectation into a plus. But if you use your head and your luck, you can minimize losses and maximize winnings—and have fun doing it.

Pit bosses call good gamblers "good money managers." Here are some hints on how to be a good money manager.

(1) Place a limit on the amount you are willing to lose. When you lose more than you can afford, the fun is gone.

(2) Don't place a limit on your winnings. Inexperienced gamblers tend to hold back their betting during lucky streaks, making it impossible for them to win significant amounts of money,

So remember the gambler's cliché: "When you're hot, you're hot. When you're not, you're not." Bad money managers double up when they're losing and tighten up when they're winning. Good money managers do the opposite.

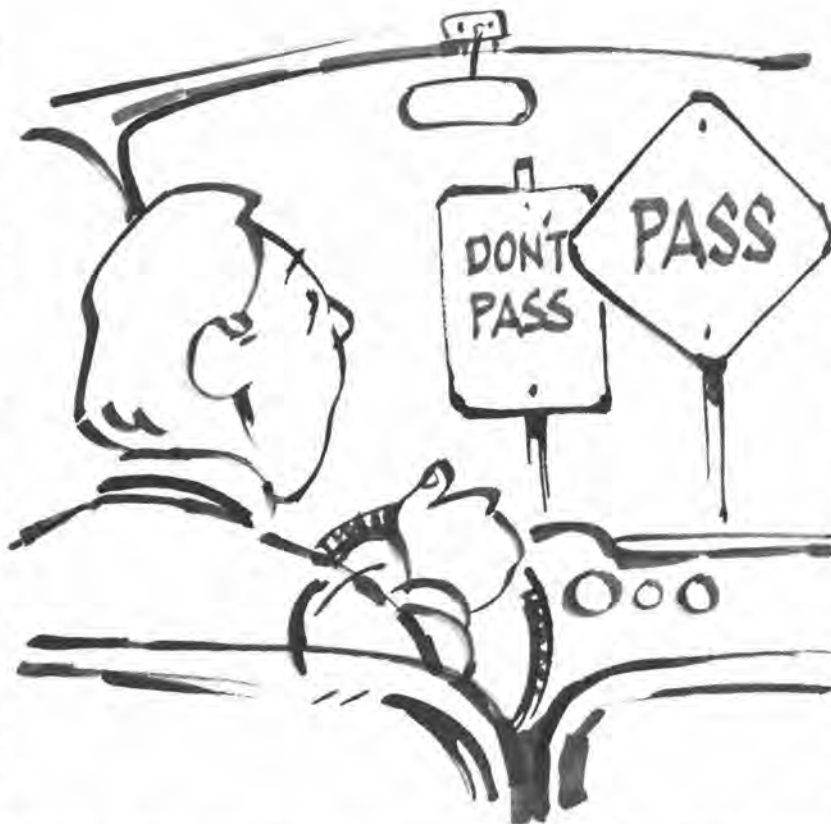
(3) The fewer bets you make, the better off you are. The odds insure that the player will lose in the long run, but this has little or no meaning in the short run. Find that hot streak, bet like mad, and then bail out when your luck turns cold.

(4) Don't make the big bets until you're playing with house money.

(5) Bet the odds, not the "law of averages." Many people, for instance, will watch a roulette game and notice that red has come up five times in a row. They will then assume that the law of averages says that it's more likely that black will come up on the sixth spin of the wheel. That is not true. The odds are exactly the same that red will come up on the sixth spin as they were on each of the five preceding spins. On any individual spin of the wheel or throw of the dice, the odds for any particular number or color to come up are always the same.

BLACKJACK

Twenty-one, or blackjack, is the most popular table game in Nevada for three



good reasons. It is easy to learn, the odds aren't bad, and it is the only game other than poker where the player has some control over his destiny. The fact that it is also one of the most lucrative games for the house shows that most people play 21 poorly.

The object of the game is to beat the dealer's hand without going over 21. Aces count as one or 11, whichever makes the best hand. Face cards count as 10, and all other cards carry their face value.

Today, most casinos deal 21 from shoes, boxes that hold several decks of cards. For the typical player, a shoe makes no real difference. They are used to make it difficult, even impossible, for a card counter to keep track of the number of aces and face cards left in a deck.

Before making a bet, be sure to check the table minimum and maximum. At a traditional 21 table, the dealer gives two cards face down to each of the players, and then one down and one face up to herself. Any player with a *blackjack* (a natural 21) should turn his cards face up. He will be paid one-and-a-half times his bet unless the dealer also has a natural 21, in which case the hand is a *push* (a tie). If the dealer has a natural 21, all the players turn over their cards immediately and—unless they also have naturals—lose their bets.

Otherwise the dealer will then ask each player, beginning on her immediate left (called *first base*), if he wants a hit

(an additional card to get his score closer to 21).

After each player has had a chance to hit or stay, the dealer turns up her hole card. If the dealer has 17 or more, she must stay, although in some casinos the dealer has to hit a *soft* 17 (an ace and a six). If the dealer's cards are less than 17, she hits her hand until the total is 17 or more. If the dealer busts, she pays off all the players still in the game. If she doesn't bust, she turns over each player's cards and pays those with higher hands, takes the bets of those with lower hands, and pushes those who have hands of the same value as hers.

Remember that the object is only to beat the dealer's hand. Surprisingly,

most experts agree on basic 21 strategy, as summarized below:

| Move | You have | Dealer shows |
|-------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| Stand | 17 or more | Anything. |
| Stand | 12 to 16 | Less than 7 but not an ace. |
| Draw | 13 to 16 | 7 or more. |
| Double Down | 10 to 11 | Anything but 10, face card, or ace. |

Nowadays there are lots of variations on traditional 21, so don't be afraid to ask questions.

The house advantage in 21 comes from the fact that the player can bust before the dealer can.

CRAPS

Craps is the most exciting, misunderstood, and potentially profitable game in a casino. If you want to play a game that is fast and fun, play craps.

Pass Line bets are made before the shooter's first roll of the dice—the *come-out* throw. If the shooter throws a 7 or 11 on the come-out, all *Pass Line* bets win. If he throws a 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, or 10, that number becomes the shooter's *point*. Now all *Pass Line* bettors are betting that the shooter will throw his point again before he rolls a 7. If the point is rolled, all *Pass Line* bets are paid even money. If he rolls a 7, all *Pass Line* bets are lost.

Don't Pass Line bets are the opposite.



If the shooter rolls a 7 or 11 on the come-out, Don't Pass Line bets lose; if he rolls a 2 or 3 (but not a 12) on the come-out, Don't Pass Line bets win. It's a stand-off for 12. If the shooter throws a 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, or 10, the Don't Pass bettor is betting that the shooter will throw a 7 before he throws that number again.

Come and *Don't Come* bets are essentially the same as Line bets except they are made after the come-out or after the shooter has a point. When you place a *Come* bet, the next roll of the dice is the come-out as far as you are concerned. If the shooter rolls a 7 or 11, you win; if he rolls a 2, 3, or 12, you lose. If another number comes up, that becomes your point, and you are betting that the shooter will throw that number again before he throws a 7. A *Don't Come* bet works like *Don't Pass*.

These bets can be improved by taking or laying the odds. By *taking the odds* on a *Pass Line* or *Come* bet, you are making an additional bet that the shooter will throw his point or your point before he throws a 7. But the odds bet pays 2 to 1 if the point is 4 or 10, 3 to 2 if the point is 5 or 9, and 6 to 5 if the point is 6 or 8. The odds are excellent; in fact, the casino has no percentage in its favor on these bets since the payouts reflect the actual odds. *Laying the odds* on *Don't Pass* and *Don't Come* bets

works the same way.

Without a doubt, your best craps strategy is to bet the line with *Pass/Don't Pass* and *Come/Don't Come* and take or lay the odds. The house percentage ranges from .7% to 1.4%. All other



bets on the table increase the house percentage considerably, from 5.5% for a field bet to 16.7% for a one-roll bet on number 7.

SLOTS

Slot machines have always been popular because they make few demands on players and have frequent payoffs. However, the new multiple-coin slots, progressives with million-dollar jackpots, video poker, and other new games have made slot-playing more exciting and potentially more profitable for both the house and the player.

How can a slot player find his dream, a "loose" machine? By watching people. Slot managers study the individual performance of every machine in their casinos, and invariably they see that the machines that hold back the most get the least play. The "loose" machines are the ones getting the action. Why are these machines paying out more? Either because they have more

symbols that pay on the reels or because they pay more for winning combinations, or both. It is impossible, however, for a player to determine which machines are going to pay out the most, although you can bet on one

thing: Higher denomination machines pay out more than lower denominations.

Video poker machines are another matter. Poker machines, like all video games, are run by computer programs on chips on boards within the machine. The program constantly shuffles a 52-card deck, and when you put in a coin, it stops shuffling and deals 10 cards—the five you see on the screen and five more for you to draw from.

The odds for a particular hand are the same on every video poker machine in every casino or bar in the state. What determines "looseness" in video poker is the payout schedule—how much the machine pays for winning hands. So look at the payout schedule, and especially for lower hands, on the machine before you start playing.

POKER

Poker rooms are not profit centers for Nevada casinos. The only revenue from poker games comes from the *rake*, a small fee—usually 5% to 10% of the



pot up to \$2 to \$3 per hand—or a half-hour seat rate charged by the house. Casinos offer the game for one very good reason: Poker players are true gamblers, and most of them enjoy craps or 21 almost as much as a hot game of Texas hold 'em.

Antes and limits vary greatly from casino to casino, so be sure you know what they are before you sit down to play. Generally, there are no antes and the limits are lower in Reno than in Las Vegas, where antes are required.

Today the most popular poker games are Texas hold 'em and seven-card stud, but with a little walking around you can still find games of Omaha, Pineapple, Razz, and others.

Some tips on Texas hold 'em: There are seven cards to work with—two dealt face down to each player and five community cards. The first bet is placed after each player receives his first two cards. Then three community cards are dealt face up in the middle of the table, and another round of bets is made (this is called the *flop*). There is another bet after the fourth community card is dealt (the *turn*) and again after the fifth card (the *river*). The player with the best five-card hand using the seven cards available wins.

KENO

Economist Milton Friedman succinctly explained the appeal of keno with the Friedman-Savage Hypothesis, which states, in lay terms, that the probability of winning is very small, the amount to be lost is fairly small, and the amount to be won is relatively large.

Keno is a relaxing, sociable way to gamble. It is not an effective way to win money, however. The house percentage averages more than 25%. For gamblers willing to take a blind-luck shot at winning \$50,000 or for those interested in numerology, it can be fun.

Some of the numbers are fascinating. How many combinations of 20 randomly selected numbers out of 80 are there? About 3,500,000,000,000,000,000. What are your odds of hitting six numbers on a 10-spot ticket? One in 88. How about nine numbers? One in 163,000.



How about hitting 10 out of 10? One in 9,000,000. But what a rush if you hit it! And just think what you could do with all that money.

HOUSE PERCENTAGES

How much do casinos make on the games? The house percentages for baccarat and roulette are clear: They are pure probability games. With 21, craps, keno, and slots, the many variations in rules, payoffs, and player skills make it impossible to determine exact odds.

The games are ranked by approximate house percentages:

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Blackjack | .5-15% |
| Craps | .7-16.7% |
| Baccarat | 1.27% |
| Roulette | 5.26% |
| Slot Machines | 2-50% |
| Wheel | 11-25% |
| Keno | 18-35% |
| Race Track | 18% |
| Local Bookie | 28% |
| State Lotteries | 49% |

Michael Greenan is a Reno writer and a hotel-casino computer consultant. This article was adapted from his "How to Play the Games" in 1981's special "50th Anniversary of Gaming" issue.

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Rollin' With the River

Banking on their Colorado River location, Laughlin boosters have rolled the dice and come up winners.
By Lance W. Evans

Its owners have called the Colorado Belle "the biggest boat built in the desert since Noah's Ark."

If you build it, he [they] will come.

—From Field of Dreams

In some ways, it makes little sense to compare a real gaming town on the banks of the Colorado River with a mythical baseball park set in an Iowa cornfield. Still, when one takes a close look at the explosive growth of the casino town of Laughlin over the past half decade, the vision more resembles the product of Hollywood fantasy than real life.

In the past five years, Laughlin has seen some of the grandest of gamblers' dreams come true. Just 90 miles south of Las Vegas, near the southernmost tip of Nevada, a succession of pleasure

palaces has risen along a hot, sandy stretch of Colorado River shoreline. A place that once was a lure mostly for fishermen has been mythically, magically—and pragmatically—transformed into the state's third most popular gaming spot.

The people and corporations running the hotels in this casino town have rolled the dice and come up winners. In short, Laughlin is an idea whose time has come in such a rapid, colossal manner as to defy the imagination.

For visitors, Laughlin is a place neither of excess nor of abundant choices. Nine of the casinos sit shoulder to shoulder between the twisting, uphill path of Casino Drive and the equally

serpentine course of the Colorado River. Only the Ramada Express is on the non-river side of the street, a glance along which shows that Laughlin is a one-industry town. Few are the restaurants and gift shops not contained within a casino complex, but until now that has made no difference. The casinos have caught and held the public's attention. So far, that's been more than enough to keep the Laughlin dream alive.

◇

Adrian Judkins is a dealer in one of the town's 10 casinos. He's a friendly man with sad brown eyes and a broad grin, two elements that often seem to be in open conflict when he talks. But fa-





cial expressions are not the only source of contradiction surrounding Judkins. When discussing Laughlin, he holds two separate and distinct images.

"Sometimes I think I'm in Camelot—the lights, the people, the action," Judkins says, flipping a cigarette butt to the sidewalk and crushing it under his heel. "Other times," he adds with a shake of his head, "it's like it all could be gone overnight."

Despite Judkins' concerns, Laughlin is hardly going to vanish overnight, but as 1991 begins, the community's future is a question wrapped in a riddle and sandwiched in an enigma. Will the town be able to grow and endure over the long haul, or is it destined to become

just another flash in the American financial pan, a quaint, quizzical memory like so many of Nevada's ghost towns?

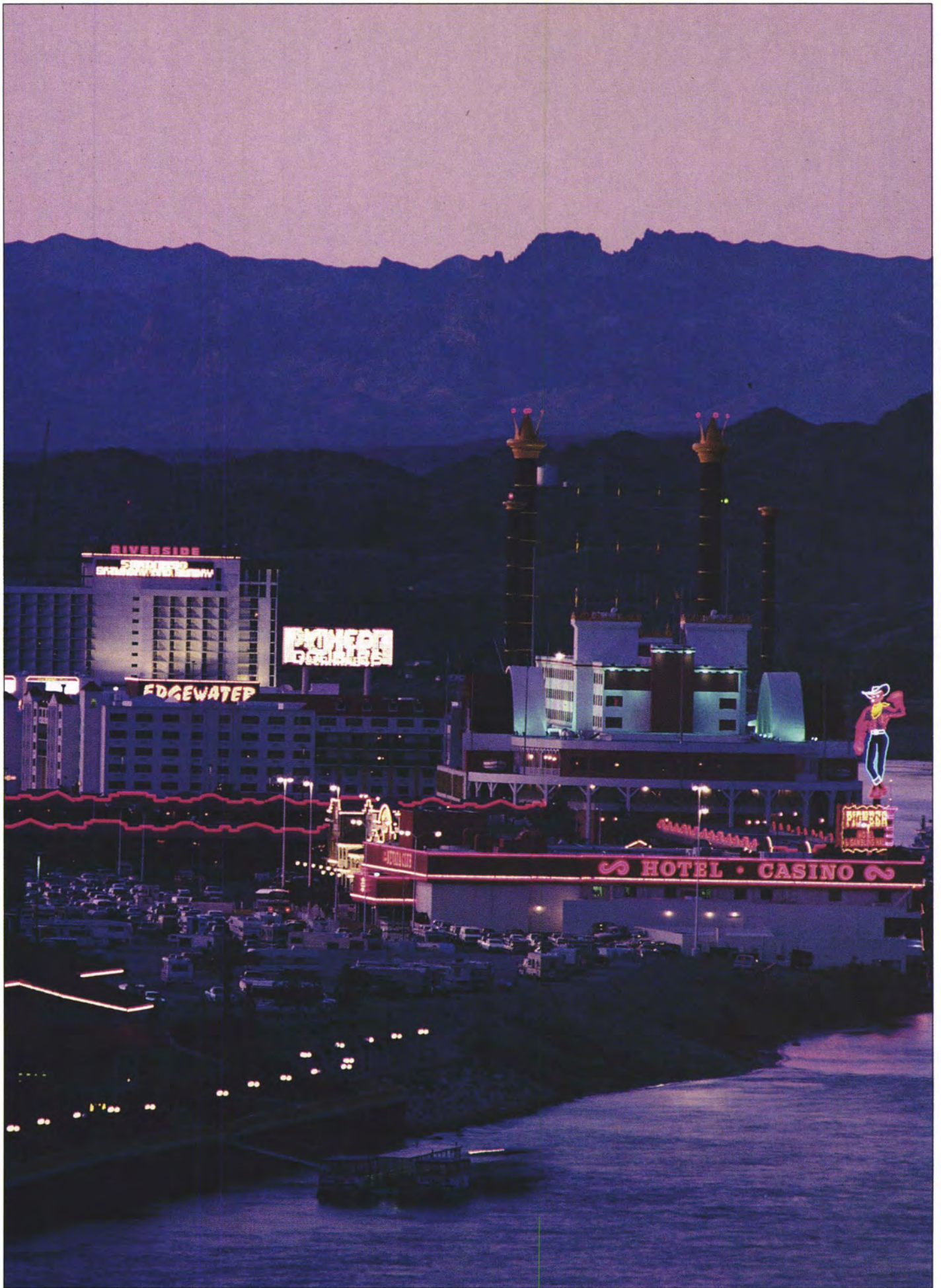
Economic reality dictates that Laughlin—which is expected to attract more than three million tourists this year—is not going to go away.

"The question is not if Laughlin will grow," says Ted Finneran, executive director of the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce, "but how much and how fast it will grow. Consider that in 1984 there were 95 people living in Laughlin with a work force of 1,000 and less than 500 resort rooms. Today Laughlin has a population of more than 5,000 with a work force of 12,000 and 7,200-plus resort rooms."

"We've come here because we believe in Laughlin's future," says R. Brooke Dunn, marketing director of the 2,000-room Flamingo Hilton Laughlin, the town's newest hotel-casino. "We've made a considerable investment in this facility. Our belief is that Laughlin has a long, successful future ahead. We don't think the town can help but continue to grow and prosper."

But even while agreeing that there is growth ahead, some residents see potential pitfalls.

"There's always the fear of growing too fast," says Kate Musgrove-Goins, a member of the Laughlin Town Board. "We're all aware of that possibility,





Don Laughlin saw the river's potential 20 years ago. Today, residential building tries to keep pace (top middle). Active Laughlinites include (clockwise from top right) Kate Musgrove-Goins of the town board, R. Brooke Dunn of the Flamingo Hilton, Don Laughlin, the chamber's Ted Finneran, and newspaperman Michael Sunderman.

and we want to guard against it. We've felt some strain lately, so the problem has our attention. There are a lot of people here for the long haul, no matter what difficulties must be faced."

The town's gaming-revenue growth has been consistently impressive: \$41 million in 1981, \$80 million in 1983, \$298.8 million in 1988, and \$365.93 million last year, figures exceeded only by the Las Vegas and Reno-Sparks areas. Charting that line on any corporate profit graph would make a shareholder's heart beat with joy.

In fact, more and more stockholders are being linked to Laughlin's success. Since the day in 1969 when Don Laughlin paid \$235,000 for an eight-

room motel and a small bar and restaurant with only 12 slot machines, the town that bears his name has grown into a neon-dotted strip city, a community with enough of a low-key disposition to readily accept, perhaps even revel in, the title its critics have attached to it: Mecca of the Low Rollers.

"Laughlin takes a great deal of pride in giving visitors a dollar's worth of value for every dollar spent," says Finneran. "People realize that when they come here they're going to get their money's worth."

In many places such a remark would be little more than the rah-rah talk for which chambers of commerce are famous. In Laughlin, however, it has a

ring of truth, as visitor Garson Beemer of San Bernardino, California, attests. "My wife and I live on a fixed income," says Beemer, who parked their motorhome at the Riverside Resort's big RV lot while visiting last fall. "When we go to Laughlin, we know two things: We'll have a good time and it won't bankrupt us. You can't beat that combination."

When a person comes to Laughlin, it isn't for high-stakes *chemin de fer* or the stretch-limo lifestyle that defines so much of the Las Vegas scene. Rather, Laughlin is a place where an RV owner will be welcome in almost any casino parking lot, where a family can find rooms often for as little as \$21 a night,

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where most hotels go to great extremes to be recognized as having the best—and most inexpensive—buffet. And conservative gamblers are not driven away by imperious dealers.

"We want people to come here and have a good time, relax, and enjoy themselves," says town founder Don Laughlin, owner of the Riverside Resort and a number of other Laughlin businesses ranging from a bank to a bus company. "We think of ourselves as friendly, down-home people and want our visitors to feel the same way."

The two Laughlins—the man and the town—have discovered that putting out a grass mat here is as good as rolling out a red carpet elsewhere.

"I think the low-roller thing has been overplayed," says Laughlin, a tough-minded businessman who has battled rival casinos, governmental bodies, and the media on his way to becoming Laughlin's best-known citizen. "That's a media tag that's caught on. But is it true? Maybe in part, but I think we get as much black-check action—that's \$100 chip action—as any casino in Las Vegas. As far as I'm concerned," says Laughlin behind a wry smile, "I don't care what people call us—as long as they call us."

Laughlin's expansion has had a great impact on its Arizona neighbor, Bullhead City. Since 1980, the population of Bullhead, also known as BHC, has more than doubled to about 25,000.

Bullhead's hotels, all of them much smaller than the resorts across the river, have prospered due to Laughlin's growth. On the Arizona side of the river, numerous parking lots and boat docks face Laughlin. From the docks a seemingly endless stream of ferries shuttle passengers to the casinos and, later, return them to their cars.

Not surprisingly, the increase in the tempo of the town's lifestyle has caused some Bullhead residents to resent the casinos.

"Laughlin has had a lot of impact on our town, and most of it I don't like," says Dewey Johnson, who moved to BHC more than 25 years ago. "The influx of workers has driven up the prices of a lot of things, and as far as I'm concerned, there's more trouble here than there used to be. As far as Laughlin is concerned, I can take it or leave it. Mostly, I leave it."

Other Bullhead residents hold a more sanguine view of their cross-river alter-ego.

"Sometimes people look at us becoming lost in the shadow of Laughlin,

Laughlin is a boom town in an era when such communities are rare. In 1982, the town had three casinos. Now, with the opening of the Flamingo Hilton, there are 10.

but we don't view it that way," says Mayor Bob Rogge. "We're very happy about the business Laughlin generates for our merchants. It would be terribly tunnel-minded not to view Laughlin and its casino trade as anything other than a plus for our town."

When one looks to the reasons for Laughlin's meteoric rise to gambling prominence, the most obvious is location.

Sitting 510 feet above sea level on the Colorado River, Laughlin is in the

middle of one of the nation's fastest growing recreational areas. The casino town is just below Lake Mohave and about 60 miles north of Lake Havasu City, and it draws a substantial number of outdoor types, many of whom like to gamble as much as they like to hunt and fish. Also, there's the proximity to the southern California cities of Los Angeles (300 miles away) and San Diego (390 miles) and the Arizona population centers of Phoenix, Mesa, Tempe, Scottsdale, and Chandler, all less than 275 miles away.

But Laughlin offers more than angling and access. The town radiates a warmth that some people find distinctly lacking in Las Vegas.

"What really impresses me about the area is the friendliness of the people in the casinos," says Thomas J. Brookins of Whittier, California. "There's a whole different attitude than I've experienced in other places. I'm not one of those high-roller types. I budget myself rather closely. Still, when I'm gambling, the casinos seem to appreciate the fact that I'm there."

A market study prepared for the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority shows that Brookins' feelings are shared by others. The study says Laughlin is meeting the expectations of

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Around Town

Laughlin is on the west bank of the Colorado River 90 miles south of Las Vegas and centrally located between Los Angeles and Phoenix. Temperatures are mild in winter, normally ranging from 40 to 70 degrees, and hot in summer, often climbing to 120 degrees. The average annual rainfall is 4.19 inches. The elevation is 510 feet—one of the lowest points in Nevada.

Laughlin has 10 casinos currently in operation. They are the Colorado Belle, Edgewater, Flamingo Hilton Laughlin, Golden Nugget Laughlin, Harrah's Del Rio, Pioneer, Ramada Express, Regency, Riverside, and Sam's Town Gold River. Most of the casinos offer a broad variety of slot and table-games action.

Rooms: Laughlin has more than 7,200 rooms. Rates run as low as \$19 per night in the off-season.

Entertainment: The Riverside has regular concerts with nationally known headliners. Sam's Town Gold River features the Sandy Hackett Comedy Club, while most of the other casinos (exceptions are the Edgewater and the Golden Nugget) offer nightly lounge entertainment. First-run motion pictures are shown in the Riverside's Twin Theaters.

Golf: Emerald River Country Club in Laughlin and Desert Lakes Golf Course in nearby Fort Mohave are both 18-hole championship courses. Chaparral Country Club in Bullhead

City is a nine-hole course.

Swimming: There are three swimming beaches in the area. One is at Katherine's Landing on Lake Mohave, and the second is at Davis Camp, across the river on the Arizona side. The third, at Harrah's Del Rio in Laughlin, is open to hotel guests only.

Katherine's Landing: At the southern end of Lake Mohave, this water-sports resort has boat slips and boat rentals that include houseboats, a boat launch ramp, sandy beaches with barbecue and picnic facilities, campgrounds with and without RV hookups, motel, boat storage yard, boat repair shop, store, restaurant, and lounge.

Davis Dam: Just north of Laughlin, the dam that cre-



Laughlin sits on the river's west bank.

ated Lake Mohave offers free self-guided tours of its electrical plant on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Downstream cousin of Hoover Dam, Davis Dam was completed in 1953.

Grapevine Canyon: Ten miles west of Davis Dam on State Route 163, the canyon has ancient Indian petroglyphs.

London Bridge: An hour's drive south in Lake Havasu City, this is the same bridge that spanned the Thames. It's now surrounded by shops and eateries.

Information: Write the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce, Box 2280, Laughlin, NV 89029, or call 702-298-2214 or 800-227-5245 outside Nevada.—LWE



visitors on all levels. Most visitors said their overall experience in Laughlin either met (81 percent) or exceeded (14 percent) their expectations. Moreover, most visitors indicated they were either very likely (92 percent) or somewhat likely (six percent) to return.

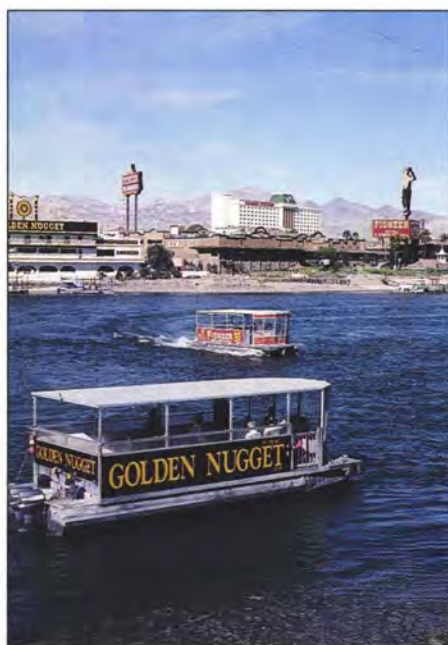
"I'm not surprised that we have such a high satisfaction rate here," says Marc Schorr, general manager of the Golden Nugget Laughlin. "I think there's an awareness of the fact that we are catering to a somewhat different clientele than that of Las Vegas. We do as much as we can to appeal to that clientele."



At core, Laughlin is a boom town in an era when such communities are rare.

In 1982, the town had but three casinos. Now, with the opening of the Flamingo Hilton, there are 10. And they are flourishing. In August, the first time the Flamingo was included in state gaming reports, Laughlin posted a near-record \$34,371,000 in gaming revenues, which represented a 31.5 percent growth over the same period in 1989.

Don Laughlin has been joined on the river bank by the Golden Nugget, Ramada, Harrah's, the Boyd Group, the Sahara, Circus Circus, and Hilton. Obviously, competition is fierce, and



Harrah's Del Rio is the southern spot on the river (top), which is busy with shuttles going shore to shore.

for his part Laughlin doesn't mind tweeking his competitor's noses.

"I was here first, and that's a big advantage," he says matter-of-factly. "I've done a lot for this community, not just because it's my home, but because

if it thrives, so does my business. The other people, well, the way I see it, they haven't done too much. To get anything done they have to make a dozen phone calls and write 10 memos. All I have to do is make a decision. That's a big advantage."

The town founder's views aside, the arrival of other casinos has brought the advantage of vast barrages of publicity for Laughlin.

Backstopping the casinos' efforts is the chamber of commerce's own campaign, based on the theme "Lucky for you there's Laughlin." This advertising has been heavily image-oriented, depicting Laughlin as a vacation destination that offers both gaming and outdoor recreation. Laughlin's accessibility by car and air has been stressed, while entertainment, special events, and sightseeing have also been emphasized. For a small town, Laughlin has gotten a great deal of national media coverage.

"Laughlin has a great story to tell. It's like the re-enactment of the American dream," says Michael Sunderman, publisher of the *Nevada Times*, one of Laughlin's two free weekly papers. Sunderman is one of the community's most bullish cheerleaders.

"This is a place filled with tremen-



A mile north of Laughlin, Davis Dam plugs the Colorado to create Lake Mohave and a boater's playground.

dous entrepreneurial possibilities," says Sunderman, who started the *Times* after parting ways with the *Laughlin Gambler*, where he had been publisher for three years. "I had offers to go other places, but I love it here. That's the way it is with a lot of people who come to Laughlin—there's something infectious about the place. It gets in your blood, and you don't want to leave."

Despite all the growth and positive talk, residents often are reminded of the stark nature of life in the desert. Laughlin's water allocation is little more than enough to support the casinos and the scattered residential and shopping areas that make up the unincorporated community. Builders want to construct homes and rental housing but are hamstrung by an inability to gain water rights, a situation that has made apartment rental prices at least 25 percent higher than in Bullhead City. Moreover, fears of a national recession have caused concern.

Laughlin is looking at building both water and sewage treatment facilities. A new high school is scheduled to open this year. These endeavors are more than nice touches for a burgeoning community; they are absolutely essential for long range growth.

"If we get the infrastructure, there will be a building spurt in 1992," says Michael Cool, Laughlin's town man-

◆

Laughlin now
has more than
7,200 rooms, and
the chamber of
commerce estimates
the number will
increase by 3,000
this year and 4,500
more in 1992.

◆

ager. "But until then, there isn't enough water to support any major building contracts."

Last fall, Laughlin watchers noted that two big resort projects were put on hold. Meanwhile, though, development continues on other fronts. Work is underway on a \$26-million project that will extend the Bullhead City Airport's runway to 9,500 feet, which would allow 727s and 737s to land in Laughlin's backyard.

The Fort Mojave Indians recently announced they are leasing 4,000 acres

eight miles south of Laughlin to developers who are planning casino sites, golf courses, and a whole new community.

Some of Laughlin's casinos, too, are expanding. The Edgewater, a Circus Circus property, has erected a 26-story tower, adding 872 rooms to its previous 602. The Golden Nugget Laughlin, at this point one of the town's few casinos without a hotel as part of its complex, is also building a 26-story tower. Laughlin now has more than 7,200 rooms, and the chamber of commerce estimates the number will increase by 3,000 this year and 4,500 more in 1992.

So Laughlin's creators still hear that voice whispering across the desert to their dream town on the river. They seem to know that when they build it, people will come.

"In any place that has grown as fast as this, there are bound to be ups and downs," says Sunderman. "But as far as I'm concerned, Laughlin is on course and headed in the right direction. It's for real and will be here for a long, long time." □

Lance W. Evans is a freelance writer who lives in Laughlin. He is a regular contributor to the NBA's HOOP Magazine, Athlon sports publications, Globe, and other national publications.

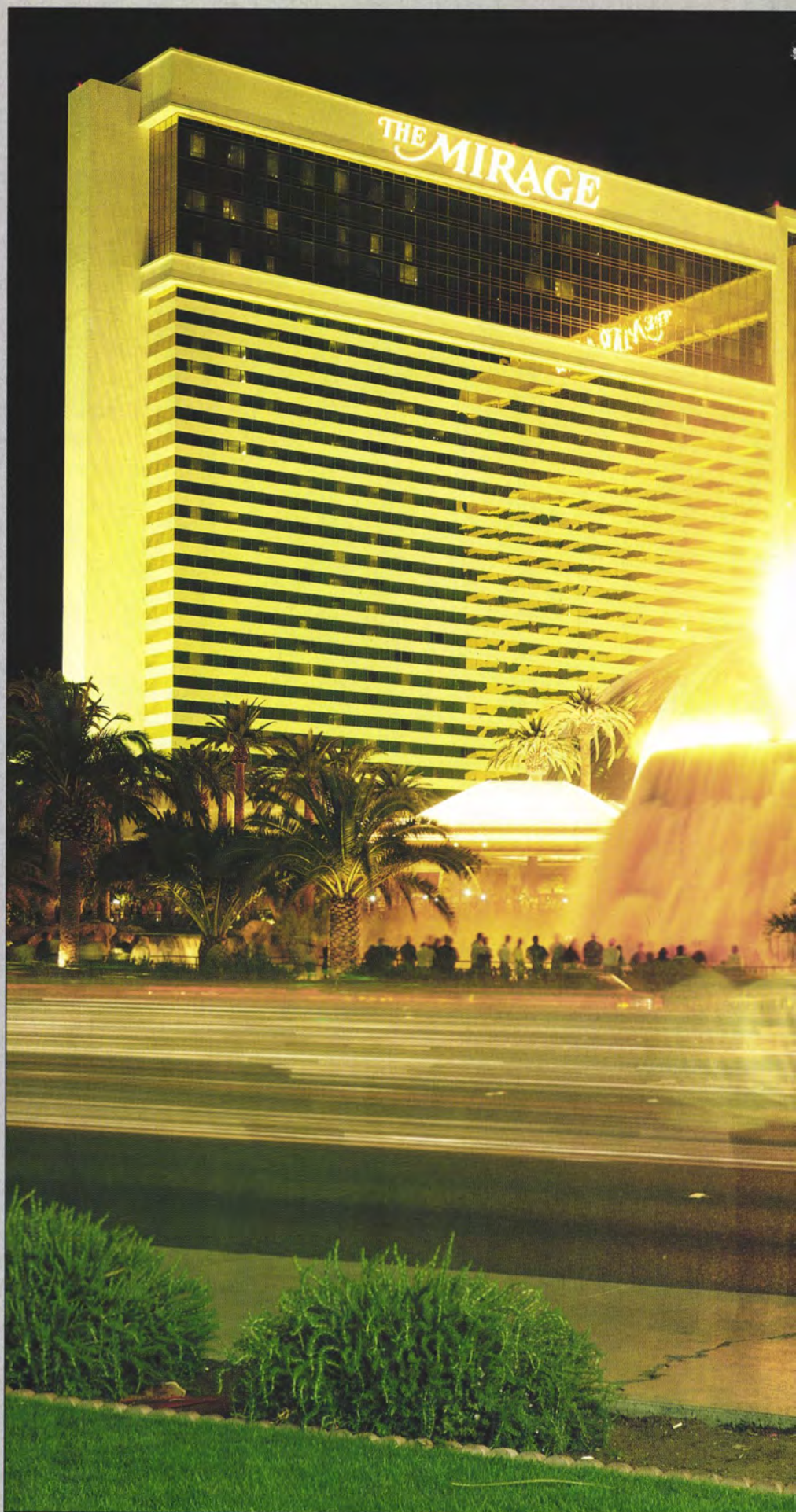


Happy New Year

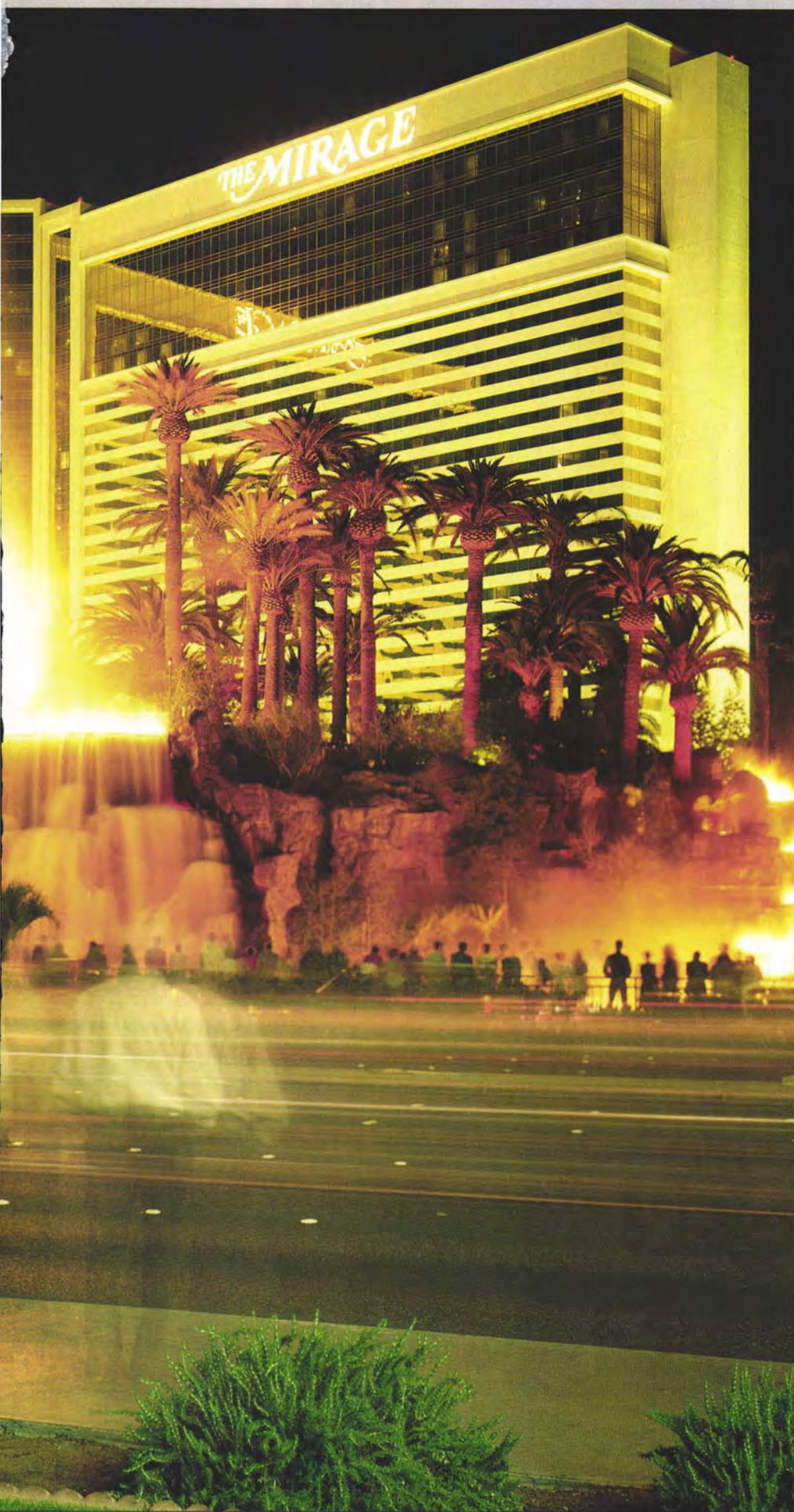
Casino calendars were gifts you could bet on from old-time casinos like the Bank Club, the Las Vegas Club, Harolds Club, and others. This 1949 model from Harolds has all the classic and personal touches—a beautiful woman's portrait, the proprietors' names, the club's slogan. With its "over 5,000 customers daily" Harolds probably was the most successful club in the state at the time. In this calendar "Harold's" has an apostrophe, which later was dropped because it was a nuisance when making signs. ▢

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statewide
guide
to
hotel-
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vacations.

By
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hen

gambling was legalized in Nevada in 1931, casino vacations were an idea whose time was yet to come. After driving into Las Vegas or Reno, you might find a small hotel room near the cluster of clubs downtown, and in the rural areas you might find an auto camp nearby. Inside the den of chance, the casino would be a smoky male preserve. Mention "pool" and they'd send you to a billiards hall down the street.

Today, of course, hotel-casino holidays are a more advanced notion. Nevada's hotels work hard to fill their rooms—and to make your days and nights filled with fun—so

good deals are plentiful. You can eat like a king or queen, see entertainment legends on stage, partake of exotic fantasies, work on your golf swing, and find a real pool or two.

There's lots for the kids, too, and in case they can't survive a week without a Nintendo fix, nearly every hotel has a video arcade so youngsters can blast away while their parents play their own video machines in the casino.

The following guide includes hotel-casinos (most with more than 100 rooms) and a few non-gaming hotels and non-hotel casinos around the state. The listing shows each hotel's number of rooms (including suites), per-person rates, languages spoken, games, and other attractions. Unless noted, all toll-free 800 numbers are good in the continental U.S. outside Nevada.

BATTLE MOUNTAIN

COLT SERVICE CENTER, 702-635-5424. 72 rooms (includes 12 suites), \$40 to \$50, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. **Games:** Slots. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, snack bar, bar/cocktail lounge. **Amenities:** Jacuzzi, 99-space RV park. **Languages:** English.

BEATTY

BURRO INN, 702-553-2445. 63 rooms (1 suite), \$29 to \$40. **Games:** Blackjack, slots, video poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, bar/cocktail lounge. **Amenities:** Video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

STAGECOACH, 702-553-2419, 800-4BIGWIN. 80 rooms (4 suites), \$30 to \$40. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, roulette. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, shops, video arcade. **Languages:** English.

CARSON CITY

CACTUS JACK'S SENATOR CLUB, 420 N. Carson St.; 702-882-8770. **Games:** Blackjack, slots, video poker, keno, poker, Win Cards with dealer assist. **Dining/Entertainment:** Snack bar, bar/cocktail lounge. **Languages:** English.

CARSON CITY NUGGET, 507 N. Carson St.; 702-882-1626, 800-426-5239 (Western U.S. outside Nevada). Accommodations available at City Center Motel, 800 N. Carson St., Carson City; 702-882-5535, 800-338-7760 (Western U.S. outside Nevada). 80 rooms, \$36 to \$48, non-smoking available. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, bingo. **Dining/Entertainment:** 4 restaurants, snack bar, show bar, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** World's Rarest Gold Display, video arcade, supervised children's lounge. **Languages:** English.

CARSON STATION, 900 S. Carson St.; 702-883-0900. 90 rooms (2 suites), non-smoking available, \$35 to \$65. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, sports book. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, snack bar, cabaret, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Languages:** English.

ORMSBY HOUSE, 600 S. Carson St.; 702-882-1890, 800-648-0920. 196 rooms (16 suites), \$40 to \$50. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, pai gow poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 restaurants, snack bar, 3 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, Derringer gun collection, gift shop, video arcade, babysitting. **Languages:** English.

ELKO

COMMERCIAL HOTEL, 702-738-3181. 38 rooms, \$23 to \$28. Airport pickup (12 to 6 pm).



The video poker players are pumped up at the Red Lion Inn in Elko.

Games: Slots, video poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** RV park. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

RED LION INN, 702-738-2111, 800-545-0044. 223 rooms (5 suites), \$59 to \$89, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker, sports book. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, snack bar, show lounge, 3 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, shops, video arcade. **Languages:** English.

STOCKMEN'S HOTEL, 702-738-5141, 800-648-2345 (Western U.S. outside Nevada). 141 suites, \$45 to \$56. Airport pickup. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, sports book. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, showroom, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, 3 outdoor tennis courts, bowling, golf course. **Languages:** English.

ELY

COPPER QUEEN MOTEL, 702-289-4884. 64 rooms, \$26 to \$29, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. **Games:** Slots, video poker, bingo. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, snack bar, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi. **Languages:** English.

HOTEL NEVADA, 702-289-6665. 63 rooms (3 suites), \$25 to \$40. Airport pickup. **Games:** Blackjack, slots, video poker, keno. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, snack bar, showroom, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Languages:** English.

JAILHOUSE MOTEL, 702-289-3033. 47 rooms, \$37 to \$45. Airport pickup. **Games:** Blackjack, slots, video poker, poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, 2 bars/cocktail lounges.

Languages: English.

FALLON

BONANZA INN, 855 W. Williams (Hwy. 95); 702-423-6031, 800-528-1234. 75 rooms (2 suites), non-smoking rooms available, \$40 to \$45. Airport pickup. **Games:** Slots, video poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, bar/cocktail lounge. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, RV park, video arcade. **Languages:** English.

FALLON NUGGET, 70 S. Maine; 423-3111. Rooms at the Bonanza Inn. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, bingo. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, 2 bars/lounges. **Languages:** English.

GARDNERVILLE

SHARKEY'S NUGGET, 702-782-3133. **Games:** Blackjack, slots, keno. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, bar/cocktail lounge. **Amenities:** Collections of saddles, boxing memorabilia, clown and circus posters, and antiques. **Languages:** English.

GERLACH

BRUNO'S COUNTRY CLUB, 702-557-2220. 42 rooms, \$30 to \$35. **Games:** Slots, video poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, bar/cocktail lounge. **Amenities:** 19-space RV park, golf course at Empire. **Languages:** English, Spanish, French, Italian.

HAWTHORNE

EL CAPITAN, 702-945-3321. 103 rooms, \$35 to \$40. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, snack bar, bar/cocktail lounge.



In Jean, the Gold Strike Inn has its own version of a Hollywood Western town.

Amenities: Swimming pool, video arcade. **Languages:** English.

HENDERSON

RAILROAD PASS, U.S. 95; 702-294-5000, 800-654-0877. 120 rooms (20 suites), \$32 to \$58, non-smoking available. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, bingo. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 restaurants, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, video arcade. **Languages:** English.

INDIAN SPRINGS

INDIAN SPRINGS HOTEL, 702-879-3700, 702-386-6844 (from Las Vegas). 45 suites, \$35 to \$43, non-smoking available. **Games:** Slots, video poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, snack bar, bar/cocktail lounge. **Amenities:** RV park, video arcade. **Languages:** English.

JACKPOT

BARTON'S CLUB 93, 702-755-2341. 60 rooms, \$20 to \$33. Airport pickup. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Languages:** English.

CACTUS PETE'S, 702-755-2321, 800-821-1103. 294 rooms (22 suites), \$30 to \$125, non-smoking available. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker, sports book. **Dining/Entertainment:** 4 restaurants, snack bar, showroom, show lounge, cabaret, 3 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, health club, shops, 52-space RV park, 2 outdoor tennis courts, golf course, video arcade. **Languages:** English.

HORSESHU, 702-755-7777, 800-821-1103. 120

rooms (10 suites), \$25 to \$55, non-smoking available. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, show lounge. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, shops. **Languages:** English.

JEAN

GOLD STRIKE INN, 702-477-5000, 800-634-1359. 300 rooms (53 suites), \$16 to \$29, non-smoking available. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 restaurants, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, gift shop, antique slot machine display, nickel video arcade. **Languages:** English.

NEVADA LANDING, 702-387-5000, 800-628-6682. 300 rooms (20 suites), \$16 to \$29, non-smoking available. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 restaurants, snack bar, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, gift shop, nickel video arcade. **Languages:** English.

LAKE TAHOE, NORTH SHORE

CAL-NEVA LODGE, Crystal Bay; 702-832-4000, 800-225-6382. 186 rooms (18 suites), non-smoking available, \$69 to \$139. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, roulette, poker. Non-smoking areas. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, showroom, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, health club, shops, museum, 2 outdoor tennis courts, video arcade, babysitting. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

CRYSTAL BAY CLUB, Crystal Bay; 702-831-0512, 800-458-2528. Valet parking. **Games:**

Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** 36-space RV park, video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

HYATT REGENCY LAKE TAHOE, Incline Village; 702-831-1111, 800-233-1234. 458 rooms (48 suites), non-smoking available (4 floors), \$75 to \$875. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker, sports book. Gaming lessons. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 restaurants, snack bar, 3 bars/lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, health club, shops, 2 tennis courts, nearby golf course, video arcade, babysitting, supervised nighttime activities, Camp Hyatt. **Languages:** English, Spanish, Dutch, Chinese, German.

TAHOE BILTMORE, Crystal Bay; 702-831-0660, 800-245-8667. 87 rooms, \$27 to \$80. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, bingo, pai gow poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, cabaret, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, gift shop, 20-space RV park. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

LAKE TAHOE, SOUTH SHORE

BILL'S LAKE TAHOE CASINO, Stateline; 702-588-588-BILL. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, roulette. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, show lounge, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Languages:** English.

CAESARS TAHOE, Stateline; 702-588-3515, 800-648-3353. 440 rooms (73 suites), non-smoking available, \$275 to \$970. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, bingo, baccarat, poker, sports book, pai gow poker. Gaming lessons. **Dining/Entertainment:** 7 restaurants, snack bar, showroom, cabaret, 4 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, health club, shops, museum, outdoor tennis courts, video arcade, babysitting. **Languages:** English, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese.

HARRAH'S LAKE TAHOE, Stateline; 702-588-6606, 800-648-3773. 535 rooms (81 suites), \$100 to \$160, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, bingo, baccarat, poker, sports book, race book, pai gow poker, mini-baccarat, Red Dog. **Dining/Entertainment:** 4 restaurants, 2 snack bars, showroom, cabaret, 7 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, health club, shops, video arcade, supervision for kids 6 to 14. **Languages:** Many.

HARVEY'S, Stateline; 702-588-2411, 800-553-1022. 717 rooms (36 suites), non-smoking available, \$85 to \$450. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, baccarat, poker, sports book, pai gow poker, sic bo, Red Dog, Big Six. Gaming lessons. **Dining/Entertainment:** 6 restaurants, 2 snack bars, showroom, show lounge, 8 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, health club, shops, coin collection, 4 outdoor tennis courts, video arcade, babysitting. **Languages:** English, Spanish, German, Tagalog, Chinese.

LAKESIDE INN, Stateline; 702-588-7777, 800-624-7980. 123 rooms, \$65 to \$105, non-smoking available. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, sports book. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, snack bar, show lounge, 3 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, gift shop, video arcade. **Languages:** English.

LAKE TAHOE HORIZON, Stateline; 702-588-6211, 800-648-3322. 539 rooms (20 suites), \$82 to

\$102. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, baccarat, poker, sports book, race book. **Dining/Entertainment:** 5 restaurants, showroom, cabaret, 6 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, shops, video arcade. **Languages:** English.

LAS VEGAS

ALADDIN HOTEL, 3667 Las Vegas Blvd. South; 702-736-0111, 800-634-3423. 1,100 rooms (42 suites), non-smoking available, \$45 to \$95. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, baccarat, poker, sports book. **Dining/Entertainment:** 6 restaurants, snack bar, Theatre for the Performing Arts, showroom, 4 cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, shops, tennis, video arcade. **Languages:** Many.

ALEXIS PARK RESORT, 375 E. Harmon Ave.; 702-796-3300, 800-582-2228. 500 rooms (all suites), \$85 to \$175, non-smoking available. Valet parking. **Games:** None. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, snack bar, cocktail lounge. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, health club, shops, 2 outdoor tennis courts, putting green, video arcade, babysitting. **Languages:** Many.

ARIZONA CHARLIE'S, 740 S. Decatur; 702-258-5200, 800-342-2695 (including Nevada). 100 rooms, \$38 to \$43, non-smoking available. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, bingo. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, snack bar, show lounge, 3 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, video arcade, babysitting. **Languages:** English.

BALLY'S LAS VEGAS, 3645 Las Vegas Blvd. South; 702-739-4441, 800-634-3434 (including Nevada). 2,832 rooms (265 suites), \$39 to \$75, non-smoking available. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, baccarat, poker, sports book, pai gow poker. Non-smoking. Gaming lessons. **Dining/Entertainment:** 6 restaurants, 3 snack bars, 2 showrooms, comedy club, show lounge, 3 cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, health club, shops, 10 outdoor tennis courts, video arcade. **Languages:** English, German, French, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Chinese, Italian.

BARBARY COAST, 3595 Las Vegas Blvd. South; 702-737-7111, 800-634-6755. 200 rooms (12 suites), \$50 to \$95. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, video poker, keno, roulette, baccarat, poker, sports book, race book. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 restaurants, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Babysitting. **Languages:** English.

BINION'S HORSESHOE, 128 Fremont; 702-382-1600, 800-237-6537 (including Nevada). 379 rooms, \$35 to \$75. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, bingo, baccarat, poker, sports book. **Dining/Entertainment:** 5 restaurants, 2 snack bars, 3 bars. **Amenities:** Pool. **Languages:** English.

BOARDWALK HOTEL, 3750 Las Vegas Blvd. South; 702-735-1167, 800-635-4581 (continental U.S. and Canada). 201 rooms (1 suite), \$32 to \$120, 2 non-smoking floors, 1 floor for pets. **Games:** Slots, video poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, snack bar, bar. **Amenities:** 2 pools, gift shop, video arcade, babysitting. **Languages:** English, Spanish, Japanese.

BOURBON STREET, 120 E. Flamingo; 702-737-7200, 800-634-6956. 166 rooms (4 suites), non-smoking available. \$45 to \$85. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, roulette, bingo, poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, show lounge, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Languages:** English.



For a grand a night, you can stay at Caesar's Palace's opulent Roman Fantasy Suite.

CAESARS PALACE, 3570 Las Vegas Blvd. South; 702-731-7110, 800-634-6661. 1,505 rooms (194 suites), \$95 to \$145, non-smoking available. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, baccarat, mini-baccarat, sports book, pai gow poker. Non-smoking gaming areas. **Dining/Entertainment:** 9 restaurants, snack bar, showroom, 4 show lounges, 9 cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** 2 swimming pools, jacuzzi, health club, theater, shops, 4 outdoor tennis courts, racquetball, squash, video arcade, babysitting. **Languages:** Many.

CALIFORNIA HOTEL, 12 Ogden; 702-385-1222, 800-634-6255. 650 rooms (50 suites), \$40 to \$60. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, baccarat, sports book. **Dining/Entertainment:** 4 restaurants, snack bar, 3 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, shops, 220-space RV park, video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

CIRCUS CIRCUS, 2880 Las Vegas Blvd. South; 702-734-0410, 800-634-3450 (outside Nevada; Canada). 2,800 rooms (124 suites), \$19 to \$45, non-smoking available. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker, sports book, Big Six. Gaming lessons. Non-smoking gaming areas. **Dining/Entertainment:** 5 restaurants, 3 snack bars, circus arena, 7 cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, shops, video arcade, carnival midway, free circus acts, 421-space RV park with swimming pool, kiddie pool, spa, saunas, fenced pet runs, convenience store, landromat, fenced playground. **Languages:** Many.

CONTINENTAL HOTEL, 4300 Paradise Rd.; 702-737-5555, 800-634-4144. 398 rooms (2 suites), \$25 to \$95. Airport pickup. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, bingo, poker, sports book. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2

restaurants, snack bar, showroom, cabaret, bar. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, video arcade, babysitting. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

DESERT INN, 3145 Las Vegas Blvd. South; 702-733-4444, 800-634-6906. 821 rooms (95 suites), \$90 to \$175, non-smoking available. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, baccarat, poker, sports book. Non-smoking. Gaming lessons. **Dining/Entertainment:** 5 restaurants, snack bar, showroom, show lounge, 2 cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, health club, 10 outdoor tennis courts, golf course, shops. **Languages:** Spanish, Japanese, Mandarin, Cantonese, others.

DUNES HOTEL, 3650 Las Vegas Blvd. South; 702-737-4110, 800-243-8637. 1,200 rooms (95 suites), \$29 to \$59. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, baccarat, poker, sports book. Gaming lessons. **Dining/Entertainment:** 4 restaurants, snack bar, showroom, 2 show lounges, 3 cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, health club, shops, golf course, video arcade. **Languages:** Many.

EL CORTEZ, 600 E. Fremont; 702-385-5200, 800-634-6703 (including Nevada). 300 rooms, \$23 to \$40. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker, sports book. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, snack bar, 3 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Gift shop, video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

EL RANCHO, 2755 Las Vegas Blvd. South; 702-796-2222, 800-634-3410. 1,006 rooms (13 suites), \$30 to \$52. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, bingo, baccarat, poker, sports book. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 restaurants, 3 snack bars, showroom, 3 cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, bowling, video arcade, shops. **Languages:** English.

EXCALIBUR, 3850 Las Vegas Blvd. South;



Fountain fantasy at the Excalibur.

702-597-7777, 800-937-7777 (outside Nevada; Canada). 4,032 rooms, \$45 to \$110, non-smoking available. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker, sports book, race book, pai gow poker, Big Wheel. **Dining/Entertainment:** 6 restaurants, 3 snack bars, King Arthur's Arena, show lounge, 9 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** 2 swimming pools, jacuzzi, movie theater, magic motion machines, shops, video arcade. **Languages:** English.

FITZGERALD'S, 301 E. Fremont St.; 702-388-2100, 800-274-5825 (continental U.S. including Nevada, Hawaii, Canada). 650 rooms, non-smoking available. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, bingo. Gaming lessons. Non-smoking gaming area. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 restaurants, snack bar, 3 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Jacuzzi, health club. **Languages:** English, Spanish, French, German, Korean, Japanese.

FLAMINGO HILTON, 3555 Las Vegas Blvd. South; 702-73-3111, 800-732-2111. 3,530 rooms (178 suites), \$49 to \$480, non-smoking available. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, baccarat, poker, sports book, sic bo, pai gow poker. Gaming lessons. Non-smoking. **Dining/Entertainment:** 9 restaurants, snack bar, showroom (non-smoking), show lounge, 7 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** 2 pools, jacuzzi, health club, shops, 4 outdoor tennis courts. **Languages:** Many.

FOUR QUEENS, 202 E. Fremont St.; 702-385-4011, 800-634-6045. 720 rooms (38 suites), non-smoking available, \$47 to \$57. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, mini-baccarat, poker. Gaming lessons. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, snack bar, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Gift shop, Ripley's Believe It or Not!,

video arcade. **Languages:** Many.

FRONTIER HOTEL, 3120 Las Vegas Blvd. South; 702-794-8200, 800-634-6966. 986 rooms (446 suites), \$35 to \$85, non-smoking available. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, baccarat, poker, sports book, pai gow poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** 4 restaurants, snack bar, 4 bars. **Amenities:** Pool, jacuzzi, shops, RV parking, tennis courts, video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish, Japanese.

GOLD COAST, 4000 W. Flamingo Road; 702-367-7111, 800-331-5334 (outside Nevada; Canada). 750 rooms (34 suites), \$35 to \$45, non-smoking available. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, bingo, baccarat, poker, sports book, pai gow poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** 4 restaurants, snack bar, 4 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool,

jacuzzi, movie theater, shops, bowling, video arcade, free child care. **Languages:** English.

GOLD SPIKE, 400 E. Ogden; 702-384-8444, 800-634-6703 (including Nevada). 110 rooms (7 suites), \$20 to \$30. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, bingo, poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, bar/cocktail lounge. **Amenities:** Video arcade. **Languages:** English.

GOLDEN GATE HOTEL, 111 S. Main St.; 702-382-3510, 800-426-0521. 106 rooms, \$25 to \$45, non-smoking available. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, 2 snack bars, bar/cocktail lounge. **Languages:** English.

GOLDEN NUGGET, 129 E. Fremont St.; 702-385-7111, 800-634-3454. 1,907 rooms, \$58 to \$120, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video



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poker, keno, roulette, bingo, baccarat, sports book, pai gow poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** 5 restaurants, snack bar, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Gold nugget collection. **Languages:** English.

HACIENDA HOTEL, 3950 Las Vegas Blvd. South; 702-739-8911, 800-634-6713. 840 rooms (20 suites), \$35 to \$85. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette. Gaming lessons. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 restaurants, snack bar, showroom, show lounge, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, shops, 451-space RV park, 4 outdoor tennis courts. **Languages:** English.

HOLIDAY CASINO-HOLIDAY INN, 3475 Las Vegas Blvd. South; 702-369-5000, 800-634-6765 (including Nevada). 1,725 rooms (26 suites), \$59 to \$225, non-smoking available. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, bingo, baccarat, poker, sports book, pai gow poker, Red Dog. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 restaurants, snack bar, showroom, 4 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, health club, shops, video arcade, babysitting. **Languages:** Many.

HOWARD JOHNSON LODGE, 3111 W. Tropicana Ave.; 702-798-1111. 150 rooms, \$49 to \$150, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. **Games:** Slots, video poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, bar/cocktail lounge. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, shops, video arcade. **Languages:** English.

IMPERIAL PALACE, 3535 Las Vegas Blvd. South; 702-731-3311, 800-634-6441. 2,700 rooms (98 suites), \$45 to \$100. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker, sports book, mini-baccarat. Gaming lessons. **Dining/Entertainment:** 8 restaurants, 2 snack bars, showroom, 8 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, health club, shops, auto collection, video arcade. **Languages:** English.

KING 8 HOTEL, 3330 W. Tropicana Ave.; 702-736-8988, 800-634-3488. 300 rooms (4 suites), \$35 to \$55. Airport pickup. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, show lounge, bar/cocktail lounge. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, video arcade, babysitting. **Languages:** English, Spanish, French.

LADYLUCK, Third and Ogden; 702-477-3000, 800-523-9582 (including Nevada). 792 rooms (162 suites), \$39 to \$500, non-smoking available. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, baccarat. Gaming lessons. Non-smoking gaming areas. **Dining/Entertainment:** 5 restaurants, snack bar, showroom, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish, most Asian dialects.

LAS VEGAS CLUB, 1800 E. Fremont St.; 702-385-1664, 800-634-6532. 222 rooms (2 suites), \$32 to \$125. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Shops, sport memorabilia display, babysitting. **Languages:** English, Japanese, Spanish.

LAS VEGAS HILTON, 3000 Paradise Road; 702-732-5111, 800-732-7117. 3,174 rooms (278 suites), \$75 to \$165, non-smoking available. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, baccarat, poker, sports book. Gaming lessons. **Dining/Entertainment:** 14 restaurants, 3 snack bars, showroom, show lounge, 7 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, health club, shops, 6 outdoor tennis



The Ramada Express' narrow-gauge train takes guests from the parking lot to the hotel.

courts, video arcade, babysitting, separate youth hotel. **Languages:** All major foreign languages.

LAS VEGAS INN, 1501 W. Sahara Ave.; 702-731-3222, 800-634-6599 (including Nevada). 225 rooms (10 suites), \$36 to \$100. **Games:** Slots, video poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, bar/cocktail lounge. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, shops. **Languages:** English.

MARDI GRAS INN/BEST WESTERN, 3500 Paradise Rd.; 702-731-2020, 800-634-6501. 314 rooms, \$50 to \$59. Airport pickup. **Games:** Slots, video poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, bar/cocktail lounge. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, gift shop, beauty salon, video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish, German, Greek.

MAXIM, 160 E. Flamingo Rd.; 702-731-4300, 800-634-6987. 795 rooms (38 suites), non-smoking available, \$40 to \$225. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, baccarat, poker, sports book. Gaming lessons. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 restaurants, snack bar, cabaret, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, shops, video arcade, babysitting. **Languages:** English, Japanese, Spanish.

MIRAGE, 3400 Las Vegas Blvd. South; 702-791-7147, 800-627-6667 (including Nevada). 3,049 rooms, \$89 to \$159, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, baccarat, poker, sports book, Big Six. **Dining/Entertainment:** 7 restaurants, showroom, show lounge, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, health club, shops, tiger habitat, volcano. **Languages:** English.

NEVADA PALACE, 5255 Boulder Hwy.; 702-458-8810, 800-634-6283. 220 rooms (6 suites), \$29 to \$45, non-smoking available. Valet parking.

Games: Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, bingo, poker, sports book. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, snack bar, bar/cocktail lounge. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, 168-space RV park, video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish, German.

PADDLEWHEEL, 305 Convention Center Dr.; 702-734-0711, 800-782-2600. 193 rooms (12 suites), \$32 to \$75. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, bingo. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, video arcade. **Languages:** English.

PALACE STATION, 2411 W. Sahara Ave.; 702-367-2411, 800-634-3101. 650 rooms (8 suites), \$35 to \$105, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, bingo, mini-baccarat, poker, sports book. Gaming lessons. **Dining/Entertainment:** 5 restaurants, snack bar, show lounge, 5 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, shops, video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish, Japanese.

PARK HOTEL, 300 N. Main St.; 702-387-5333, 800-782-9909. 413 rooms (15 suites), \$36 to \$70. **Games:** Non-gaming resort. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, bar/cocktail lounge. **Amenities:** Swimming pool. **Languages:** English, French, Spanish, Danish.

PIONEER CLUB, First and Fremont; 702-386-5000. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, snack bar, bar/cocktail lounge. **Languages:** English.

QUALITY INN/ANTHONY'S CASINO, 377 E. Flamingo Rd.; 702-733-7777, 800-634-6617. 320 mini-suites (wet bar, fridge, sink), non-smoking

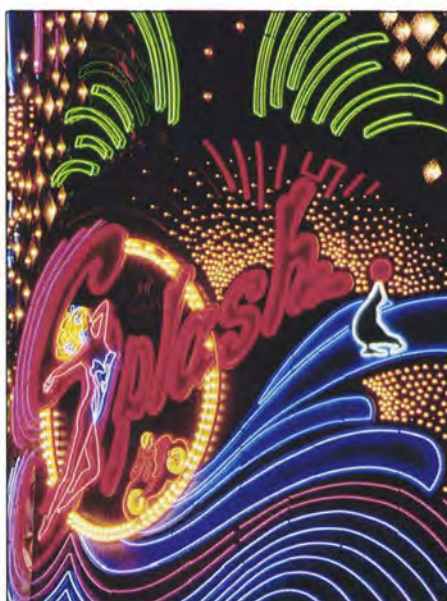
available, \$35 to \$150. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, roulette. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, bar/cocktail lounge. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, gift shop, RV park, video arcade, babysitting. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

RAMADA HOTEL SAN REMO, 115 E. Tropicana Ave.; 702-739-9000, 800-522-7766, 800-343-5521 (Canada). 282 rooms (36 suites), \$55 to \$777, non-smoking available. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, mini-baccarat, poker, sports book. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 restaurants, cabaret and show lounge, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, gift shop, video arcade. **Languages:** English, Japanese, French, Italian.

RAMADA SUITE — ST. TROPEZ, 455 E. Harmon; 702-369-5400, 800-666-5400. 149 rooms (all suites), \$85 to \$400, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. **Games:** Non-gaming resort. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, in-room jacuzzis, health club, shops, babysitting. **Languages:** Spanish, German, French.

RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT, 3225 Paradise Rd.; 702-796-9300, 800-331-3131 (including Nevada). 192 rooms, \$89 to \$155, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. **Games:** Non-gaming resort. **Dining/Entertainment:** None. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi. **Languages:** English.

RIO SUITE HOTEL, 3700 W. Flamingo Rd.; 702-252-7777, 800-888-1800 (including Nevada). 430 rooms (all suites), \$79 to \$850, non-smoking available. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, baccarat, poker, sports book. Non-smoking gaming area. **Dining/Entertainment:** 5 restaurants, snack bar, show



The Riviera's new neon.

lounge, 6 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, health club, shops, video arcade, babysitting. **Languages:** English.

RIVIERA HOTEL, 2901 Las Vegas Blvd. South; 702-734-5110, 800-634-6753. 2,000 rooms (187 suites), \$59 to \$95, non-smoking available. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, baccarat, poker, sports book. Non-smoking areas. **Dining/Entertainment:** 7 restaurants, food court with 9 quick-service restaurants, Versailles Theatre, showroom, show lounge, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:**

Swimming pool, jacuzzi, health club, shops, 2 outdoor tennis courts, babysitting. **Languages:** English, Spanish, Japanese.

ROYAL LAS VEGAS/BEST WESTERN, 99 Convention Center Dr.; 702-735-6117, 800-634-6118. 232 rooms, \$39 to \$49. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, shops. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

SAHARA HOTEL, 2535 Las Vegas Blvd. South; 702-737-2111, 800-634-6666. 2,000 rooms (80 suites), \$35 to \$110. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker, sports book. Gaming lessons. **Dining/Entertainment:** 6 restaurants, snack bar, showroom, show lounge, 3 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, shops, video arcade. **Languages:** English.

SAM BOYD'S FREMONT HOTEL, 200 E. Fremont St.; 702-385-3232, 800-634-6182. 452 rooms (24 suites), \$36 to \$60, non-smoking available. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, mini-baccarat, poker, sports book. Gaming lessons. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 restaurants, snack bar, show lounge, 4 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Gift shop. **Languages:** English, Spanish, Japanese.

SAM'S TOWN, 5111 Boulder Hwy.; 702-456-7777, 800-634-6371. 197 rooms (6 suites), \$40 to \$45, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, bingo, poker, sports book, race book, pai gow poker. Gaming lessons. Non-smoking gaming areas. **Dining/Entertainment:** 5 restaurants, 3 snack bars, show lounge, Western dance hall, 6 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, shops, Coca-Cola museum,

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498-space RV park, bowling, video arcade, supervised playroom for kids 2 to 8. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

SANDS HOTEL, 3355 Las Vegas Blvd. South, 702-733-5000, 800-634-6901. 722 rooms (36 suites), \$65 to \$310, non-smoking available. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, baccarat, sports book. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 restaurants, snack bar, showroom, show lounge, 3 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, health club, shops. **Languages:** English.

SHOWBOAT HOTEL, 2800 Fremont St.; 702-385-9123, 800-634-3484. 495 rooms (6 suites), \$45 to \$65. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, bingo, mini-baccarat, poker, sports book. **Dining/Entertainment:** 4 restaurants, 5 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, shops, bowling, video arcade, babysitting. **Languages:** English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Arabic, Chinese, German, Japanese.

SILVER CITY CASINO, 3001 Las Vegas Blvd. South; 702-732-4152. Rooms available at Circus Circus, 800-634-3450. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, sports book. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, snack bar, bar/cocktail lounge. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

STARDUST, 2000 Las Vegas Blvd. South; 702-732-6111, 800-824-6033. 1,650 rooms (90 suites), \$28 to \$125, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, bingo, mini-baccarat, poker, sports book, pai gow poker, Red Dog. Gaming lessons. **Dining/Entertainment:** 5 restaurants, snack bar, showroom, show lounge, 6 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, video arcade. **Languages:** English.

SUPER 8, 5280 Boulder Hwy.; 702-435-8888, 800-848-8888 (including Nevada). 150 rooms, \$35 to \$46, non-smoking available, handicap-equipped available. **Games:** Blackjack, slots, video poker, sports book. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, show lounge, bar/cocktail lounge. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, video arcade. **Languages:** English.

SUPER 8 MOTEL, 4250 Kona Lane; 702-794-0888, 800-848-8888 (including Nevada). 300 rooms (includes 12 suites), \$40 to \$75, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. **Games:** Slots, video poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, bar/cocktail lounge. **Languages:** English.

TROPICANA HOTEL, 3801 Las Vegas Blvd. South; 702-739-2222, 800-634-4000. 1,908 rooms, \$55 to \$110, non-smoking available. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, baccarat, poker, sports book. Gaming lessons. Non-smoking gaming areas. **Dining/Entertainment:** 6 restaurants, snack bar, showroom, 2 show lounges, 2 pool bars, 2 casino bars, 2 restaurant bars. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, health club, shops, video arcade. **Languages:** English.

UNION PLAZA, 1 Main St.; 702-386-2110, 800-634-6575 (including Nevada). 1,037 rooms, \$43 to \$50, non-smoking available. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker, sports book, race book. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 restaurants, snack bar, showroom, show lounge, 5 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, shops, 4 outdoor tennis courts, video arcade. **Languages:** English.

VEGAS WORLD, 2000 Las Vegas Blvd. South; 702-382-2000, 800-634-6277. 957 rooms (60 suites), \$35 to \$80, non-smoking available. Valet parking.



Rooms with a view are plentiful at Laughlin hotels like Sam's Town Gold River.

ing. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 restaurants, snack bar, showroom, 2 bars/lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, shops, video arcade. **Languages:** English.

WESTWARD HO, 2900 Las Vegas Blvd. South; 702-731-2900, 800-634-6803. 800 rooms (40 suites), \$20 to \$50. Airport pickup. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette. Gaming lessons. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, shops. **Languages:** English.

LAUGHLIN

COLORADO BELLE, 2100 S. Casino Dr.; 702-298-4000, 800-458-9500. 1,238 rooms (13 suites), \$25 to \$49, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker, sports book. **Dining/Entertainment:** 5 restaurants, snack bar, show lounge, 5 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, shops, video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

EDGEWATER HOTEL, 2020 S. Casino Dr.; 702-298-2453, 800-67RIVER (including Nevada, Canada). 1,472 rooms (6 suites), \$22 to \$120, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker, sports book, race book. Gaming lessons. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 restaurants, snack bar, 3 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

FLAMINGO HILTON LAUGHLIN, 1900 S. Casino Dr.; 702-298-5111, 800-662-LUCK (direct to hotel), 800-HILTONS (including Nevada). 2,000 rooms (30 suites), \$31 to \$200, non-smoking

available. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker, sports book (connected with Las Vegas Hilton), pai gow poker. Gaming lessons. **Dining/Entertainment:** 5 restaurants, snack bar, 4 bars/cocktail lounges, showroom, cabaret. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, shops, 3 tennis courts, video arcade, babysitting. **Languages:** English, Spanish, German, Japanese, French.

GOLDEN NUGGET LAUGHLIN, 2300 S. Casino Dr.; 702-298-7111, 800-237-1739 (outside Nevada). 300-room hotel to open in summer of 1991. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, pai gow poker. Gaming lessons. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, snack bar, 2 bars/lounges. **Languages:** English.

HARRAH'S DEL RIO, 2900 S. Casino Dr.; 702-298-4600, 800-447-8700. 958 rooms (16 suites), \$21 to \$90, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker. Gaming lessons. Non-smoking gaming areas. **Dining/Entertainment:** 5 restaurants, snack bar, show lounge, 5 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Riverfront beach on Colorado River with waverunner, fishing boat, and float rentals, swimming pool, jacuzzi, video arcade. **Languages:** English.

PIONEER HOTEL, 2200 S. Casino Dr., Laughlin; 702-298-2442, 800-634-3469. 412 rooms (80 with river views), \$28 to \$65, non-smoking available, handicapped-equipped. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, snack bar, 2 bars/cocktail lounges, show lounge. **Amenities:**



Bally's Reno has classic lines and 2,001 rooms.

Swimming pool, gift shop, 2 outdoor tennis courts, video arcade. **Languages:** English.

RAMADA EXPRESS, 2121 S. Casino Dr.; 702-298-4200, 800-2RAMADA. 406 rooms (3 suites), \$25 to \$59, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, mini-baccarat, pai gow poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 restaurants, snack bar, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, shops, video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

REGENCY CASINO, 1950 S. Casino Dr.; 702-298-2439, 800-551-1950 (Ariz., Calif.). **Games:** Blackjack, slots, video poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, snack bar, piano bar. **Amenities:** Video arcade. **Languages:** English.

RIVERSIDE RESORT, 1650 S. Casino Dr.; 702-298-2535, 602-763-7070, 800-227-3849. 660 rooms (33 suites), \$34 to \$58, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, bingo, poker, sports book. Non-smoking areas. **Dining/Entertainment:** 5 restaurants, snack bar, showroom, show lounge, Western dance hall, 6 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, movie theater, shops, museum, 600-space RV park, video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

SAM'S TOWN GOLD RIVER, 2700 S. Casino Dr.; 702-298-2242, 800-835-7903 (outside Nevada; Canada). 1,003 rooms (22 suites), \$19 to \$50, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, bingo, baccarat, poker, sports book, pai gow poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** 4 restaurants, 3 snack bars, comedy club showroom, show lounge, 7 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:**

Swimming pool, jacuzzi, shops, video arcade. **Languages:** English.

LOVELOCK

STURGEON'S, 702-273-2971. 74 rooms (1 suite), \$45 to \$63, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. **Games:** Blackjack, slots, video poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, bar/cocktail lounge. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, shops, museum, video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

MESQUITE

PEPPERMILL MESQUITE, 702-346-5232, 800-621-0187. 728 rooms (10 suites), \$34 to \$72, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker, sports book. **Dining/Entertainment:** 4 restaurants, 3 snack bars, cabaret, 7 bars/restaurants. **Amenities:** Swimming pool; jacuzzi; health club; shops, 42-space RV park; 2 outdoor tennis courts; golf course; trap, skeet and clay shooting; horseback riding, video arcade, miniature golf, petting zoo. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

VIRGIN RIVER HOTEL AND CASINO, 702-346-7777, 800-346-7721. 152 rooms, non-smoking available, \$30 to \$50. Airport pickup. **Games:** Blackjack, slots, video poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, bar/lounge. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, gift shop, RV park, video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

MINDEN

CARSON VALLEY INN, 702-782-9711, 800-321-6983. 160 rooms (7 suites), \$39 to \$69, non-smoking available. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots,

video poker, keno, roulette. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, snack bar, 3 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Jacuzzi, 60-space RV park, video arcade, supervised fun center for kids 4 to 12. **Languages:** English.

NORTH LAS VEGAS

MAHONEY'S SILVER NUGGET, 2140 Las Vegas Blvd. North, North Las Vegas; 702-399-1111. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, bingo, poker, sports book. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, 153-space RV park, video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

PAHRUMP

SADDLE WEST CASINO, 702-727-5953, 800-522-5953. 60 rooms (10 suites), \$29 to \$89, non-smoking available. **Games:** Blackjack, slots, video poker, bingo, poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, showroom, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, museum, RV park. **Languages:** English.

RENO

AIRPORT PLAZA/BEST WESTERN, 1981 Terminal Way; 702-348-6370, 800-648-3525. 270 rooms (21 suites), \$60 to \$90, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. **Games:** Slots, non-smoking gaming area. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, bar/cocktail lounge. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, health club, video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

BALLY'S RENO, 2500 E. Second St.; 702-789-2000, 800-648-5080. 2,001 rooms (400 suites), \$69 to \$525, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, bingo, baccarat, poker, sports book, pai gow poker, Red Dog, mini-baccarat. Gaming lessons. **Dining/Entertainment:** 6 restaurants, 2 snack bars, showroom, 2 show lounges, 5 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, health club, movie theater, shops, 452-space RV park, 3 outdoor and 5 indoor tennis courts, bowling, video arcade. **Languages:** English, French, Spanish, German, Japanese, Chinese, Tagalog.

BONANZA CASINO, 4720 N. Virginia St.; 702-323-2714, motel: 322-4464. 14 rooms, \$22. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 bars/cocktail lounges, show lounge. **Amenities:** Gift shop, video arcade. **Languages:** English.

BOOMTOWN, I-80 at Carson Rd. Exit; 702-345-6000, 800-648-3790 (Cal., Ore., Id., Utah, Ariz.). 121 rooms (4 suites), \$35 to \$75, non-smoking available. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, snack bar, show lounge, 3 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, shops, 203-space RV park, video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

CHEERS, 567 W. Fourth St.; 702-322-8181. 112 rooms, \$30 to \$75, non-smoking available. **Games:** Slots, video poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, bar/cocktail lounge. **Amenities:** Swimming pool. **Languages:** English.

CIRCUS CIRCUS, 500 N. Sierra; 702-329-0711, 800-648-5010. 1,625 rooms (72 suites), \$19 to \$45, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker, pai gow poker, Topsy Turvy. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 restaurants, 2 snack bars, 4 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Shops, shuttle for guests, circus acts, carnival

games. **Languages:** English.

CLARION HOTEL-CASINO (renovation of Quality Inn, which becomes Clarion in spring), 3800 S. Virginia St.; 702-825-4700, 800-762-5190. 303 rooms (11 suites), non-smoking available, \$49 to \$250. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, sports book, gaming lessons. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, snack bar, 5 bars/cocktails. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, health club, shops, video arcade, babysitting. **Languages:** English, Spanish, German, French, Persian.

CLUB CAL-NEVA, 38 E. Second St., 702-323-1046. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, baccarat, poker, sports book. Gaming lessons. Non-smoking areas. **Dining/Entertainment:** 4 restaurants, 3 snack bars, 8 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Gift shop. **Languages:** English, Spanish, all Asian languages.

COLONIAL MOTOR INN, 250 N. Arlington Ave.; 702-322-3838, 800-336-7366 (Cal., Wash., Utah, Ore.). 168 rooms, \$44 to \$84. **Games:** Blackjack, slots, video poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, shops, video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

COMSTOCK HOTEL, 200 W. Second St.; 702-329-1880, 800-648-4866. 309 rooms (8 suites), non-smoking available, \$28 to \$300. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, pai gow poker, over and under 13. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 restaurants, snack bar, 2 bars/lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, health club, shops, computer animated displays. **Languages:** Many.

CONTINENTAL LODGE/BEST WESTERN, 1885 S. Virginia Street; 702-329-1001, 800-942-2960 (Nevada, Cal., Canada). 104 rooms (1 suite), \$38 to \$95, non-smoking available. **Games:** None. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, bar/cocktail lounge. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi. **Languages:** English.

EL CORTEZ, 239 W. Second St.; 702-322-9161. 116 rooms (1 suite), \$16 to \$25. **Games:** None. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, bar/cocktail lounge. **Languages:** English.

ELDORADO HOTEL, Fourth and Virginia; 702-786-5700, 800-777-5325 (outside Nevada), 800-648-3024 (Canada). 785 rooms (92 suites), \$26 to \$550, non-smoking available. Valet parking. Airport pickup. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, baccarat, sports book. Gaming lessons. **Dining/Entertainment:** 7 restaurants, showroom, 7 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, video arcade, shops. **Languages:** English, Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Spanish.

FITZGERALD'S, 255 N. Virginia St.; 702-785-3300, 800-648-5022. 351 rooms (includes 7 suites), \$14 to \$140, non-smoking available. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, bingo. Non-smoking area. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, snack bar, showbar, 3 bar/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Shops, lucky charm collection, video arcade. **Languages:** Many.

FLAMINGO HILTON RENO, 255 N. Sierra St.; 702-322-1111, 800-648-4882. 604 rooms (60 suites), \$59 to \$189, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, bingo, poker, sports book, pai gow, sic bow. **Dining/Entertainment:** 4 restaurants, snack bar, comedy club, show lounge, 4 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Shops, video arcade. **Languages:** Many.



Harvey's modern look belies the hotel's origin as a wood-framed saloon in 1944.

GOLD DUST WEST, Fourth and Vine; 702-323-2211, 800-438-9378. 106 rooms (92 suites), \$35 to \$95. **Games:** Video poker, keno. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, 7 bars/cocktail lounges. **Languages:** English.

HAROLDS CLUB, 250 N. Virginia; 702-785-3390. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, snack bar, 3 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Shops, museum. **Languages:** Many.

HARRAH'S RENO, 219 N. Center St.; 702-786-3232, 800-423-1121. 565 rooms (67 suites), \$69 to \$375, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, baccarat, poker, sports book, pai gow poker, sic bo poker. Gaming lessons. **Dining/Entertainment:** 4 restaurants, 2 snack bars, showroom, show lounge, 8 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, health club, video arcade, babysitting. **Languages:** English, Spanish, French, Italian.

HOLIDAY HOTEL, Mill and Center; 702-329-0411, 800-648-5431. 195 rooms (2 suites), \$29 to \$62. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, bingo. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, snack bar, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Babysitting list available. **Languages:** English.

HOLIDAY INN-CONVENTION CENTER, 5851 S. Virginia St.; 702-825-2940, 800-HOLIDAY (including Nevada). 153 rooms, \$40 to \$65, non-smoking available. **Games:** Non-gaming resort. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, bar/cocktail lounge. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi. **Languages:** English.

HOLIDAY INN-DOWNTOWN, 1000 E. Sixth St.; 702-786-5151, 800-648-4877 (outside Nevada);

Canada). 286 rooms (6 suites), non-smoking available, \$52 to \$85. Airport pickup. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, snack bar, 3 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool. **Languages:** English, Spanish, German, French.

NEVADA CLUB, 224 N. Virginia; 702-329-1721. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Languages:** Many available.

PEPPERMILL RENO, 2707 S. Virginia St.; 702-826-2121, 800-648-6992. 631 rooms (34 suites), \$45 to \$400, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, baccarat, poker, sports book. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 restaurants, 2 snack bars, cabaret, 6 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, health club, shops, video arcade, babysitting. **Languages:** English, Spanish, French, German, Chinese, Dutch, Italian, Hebrew, Japanese, Korean, Tagalog.

PIONEER INN, 221 S. Virginia St.; 702-324-7777, 800-648-5468. 252 rooms (10 suites), \$38 to \$65. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 restaurants, snack bar, 3 bars/lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

QUALITY INN (see Clarion Hotel-Casino).

RENO RAMADA, Sixth and Lake; 702-788-2000, 800-648-3600, 800-225-4398 (Canada). 230 rooms (10 suites), \$25 to \$120, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. **Games:** Slots, video poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, bar/cocktail lounge. **Amenities:** Video arcade. Lan-

guages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog.

RIVERBOAT HOTEL, 34 W. Second St.; 702-323-8877, 800-888-5525 (including Nevada), 800-321-4711 (Canada). 120 rooms (2 suites), \$25 to \$75. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Languages:** English.

SANDS REGENCY, 345 N. Arlington Ave.; 702-348-2200, 800-648-3553. 1,000 rooms (22 suites), \$49 to \$350, 2 non-smoking floors. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, sports book, gaming lessons. **Dining/Entertainment:** 6 restaurants, 2 snack bars, 2 bars. **Amenities:** 2 pools, jacuzzi, health club, shops, RV parking, arcade, babysitting. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

SUNDOWNER HOTEL, 450 N. Arlington Ave.; 702-786-7050, 800-648-5490 (Western U.S.). 600 rooms, \$20 to \$70, non-smoking available. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 restaurants, snack bar, 3 cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Pool, video arcade. **Languages:** English.

VIRGINIAN HOTEL, 140 N. Virginia St.; 702-329-4664, 800-874-5558 (Western U.S. including Nevada). 120 rooms (6 suites), \$30 to \$75. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, snack bar, 3 bars/cocktail lounges. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

SEARCHLIGHT

SEARCHLIGHT NUGGET AND EL REY HOTEL, 702-297-1201, 702-297-1144. 21 rooms, \$19 to \$57. **Games:** Blackjack, slots, video poker, poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, show lounge. **Amenities:** 100-space RV park, video arcade, babysitting. **Languages:** English.

Casino Collections

Nevada's gambling past comes to life in collections around the state.

In Las Vegas, the **Rio Suite Hotel** has antique slot machines, and the **Imperial Palace** has a large auto collection, including Howard Hughes' '54 Chrysler New Yorker. The **Liberace Museum** presents the late showroom legend's clothes, pianos, and other items.

In Reno, the **Liberty Belle Restaurant and Saloon** has an extensive collection of early slot machines, including the first, the Liberty Bell, which was invented by the grandfather of owners Marshall and Frank Fey. **Harolds Club** has a large gun collection and artifacts like the club's '49 Silver Dollar Buick. **Sierra Sid's** in Sparks also has a gun collection. Bill Harrah's old car collection is now the **National Automobile Museum** and located downtown near the Truckee River.

Virginia City has an excellent collection in the **Nevada Gambling Museum**.

For more information see this issue's *Nevada Events*.

SPARKS

JOHN ASCUAGA'S NUGGET, 1100 Nugget Ave., Sparks; 702-356-3300, 800-648-1177 (outside Nevada, Western Canada). 1,000 rooms (40 suites), \$25 to \$105, non-smoking available. Air-

port pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, bingo, poker, sports book, pai gow poker, Red Dog. Gaming lessons. **Dining/Entertainment:** 7 restaurants, snack bar, showroom, cabaret, show lounge, 4 cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, health club, shops, museum, video arcade, Bertha and Tina the performing elephants. **Languages:** Many.

PLANTATION CASINO, 2121 B St.; 702-359-9440. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, bar/cocktail lounge. **Amenities:** Video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

SILVER CLUB, 1040 B St.; 702-358-4771, 800-648-1137. 206 rooms (2 suites), \$32 to \$90. Airport pickup. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, sports book. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 restaurants, snack bar, 5 cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Video arcade, babysitting. **Languages:** English, Spanish, Chinese.

WESTERN VILLAGE, 815 Nichols Blvd.; 702-331-1069, 800-648-1170. 278 rooms (5 suites), \$28 to \$41. Airport pickup. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, sports book. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, snack bar, cabaret, 4 bars. **Amenities:** Pool, jacuzzi, shops, arcade. **Languages:** English.

STATELINE, I-15 SOUTH

PRIMADONNA RESORT, I-15 South at California/Nevada border; 702-382-1212, 800-367-7383. 300 rooms (4 suites), non-smoking available, \$16 to \$29. Valet parking. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, sports book. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 restaurants, snack bar, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, shops, semi-truck parking, putting

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Shoppe Locations

Flamingo Hilton (702) 796-4004 • **Stardust Hotel** (702) 735-0087 • **California Hotel** (702) 383-3340 • **Plant Shoppe** (702) 458-8864 • **Airport Shoppe** (702) 739-6276 • **Meadows Mall** (702) 877-2777 • **Fashion Show Mall** (702) 796-6662 • **Park Place** (702) 369-8438 • **Union Plaza Hotel** (702) 382-2580 • **Holiday Inn Strip** (702) 737-1199 • **McCarran/Satellite C** (702) 798-1143 • **Tropicana Hotel** (702) 795-0135

green, video arcade, merry-go-round and ferris wheel. **Languages:** Many.

WHISKEY PETE'S, I-15 South at California/Nevada border; 702-382-4388, 800-367-7383 (includes Nevada). 258 rooms (8 mini-suites, 2 reg. suites), \$16 to \$150, non-smoking available. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker, sports book, pai gow poker, big six. Non-smoking gaming areas. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 restaurants, snack bar, 2 bars/cocktail lounges, show lounge. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, children's pool, jacuzzi, RV parking, gift shop, video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

TONOPAH

MIZPAH HOTEL, 702-482-6202. 54 rooms (4 suites). **Games:** Slots, video poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** RV parking. **Languages:** English.

STATION HOUSE, 702-482-9777. 78 rooms (3 suites), \$35. Airport pickup on request. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, bingo. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, snack bar, saloon, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Gaming museum, 20-space RV park, video arcade. **Languages:** English.

TOPAZ LAKE

TOPAZ LODGE AND CASINO, 702-266-3338, 800-962-0732. 59 rooms, \$36 to \$41. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, roulette. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, buffet, 2 bars/cocktail lounges, dance floor. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, 36-space RV park, video arcade. **Languages:** English.



Reno's upwardly mobile Eldorado Hotel.

VIRGINIA CITY

Numerous saloon-casinos include the **DELTA**, **BUCKET OF BLOOD**, **BONANZA**, **PONDEROSA**, and **RED GARTER**, and there are several motels for lodging. A good bet for gaming buffs is the **NEVADA GAMBLING MUSEUM** a few doors south of the Delta.

WELLS

RANCH HOUSE CASINO, 702-752-3384. 60 rooms, \$32 to \$45, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video

poker. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, showroom, show lounge, bar/cocktail lounge. **Amenities:** Golf packages, roping arena, video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

WENDOVER

NEVADA CROSSING, 702-664-4000, 800-537-0207. 136 rooms (5 suites), \$17 to \$25, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker, sports book. **Dining/Entertainment:** Sports lounge and showbar, bar/cocktail lounge, restaurant, snack bar. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

PEPPERMILL WENDOVER, 702-664-2255, 800-648-9660. 90 rooms (2 suites), \$33 to \$55. Airport pickup. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, cabaret, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Shops, video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

RED GARTER, 702-664-2111. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, video keno. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, snack bar, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** RV parking, bowling alley, video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

SILVER SMITH, 702-664-2231, 800-648-9668 (Western U.S. outside Nevada), 120 rooms (15 suites), \$43 to \$87, non-smoking available. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette. Gaming lessons. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, show lounge, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, health club, 2 outdoor tennis courts, video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

STATE LINE, 702-664-2221, 800-648-9668 (Western U.S. outside Nevada). 248 rooms (11 suites), \$41 to \$88. Airport pickup. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, keno, roulette, poker, sports book. **Dining/Entertainment:** 3 restaurants, 2 snack bars, show lounge, 4 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, jacuzzi, 56-space RV park. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

WINNEMUCCA

RED LION INN, 702-623-2565, 800-633-6435 (including Nevada). 122 rooms (6 suites), \$55 to \$75, non-smoking available. Airport pickup. **Games:** Blackjack, slots, video poker, roulette. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, bar/cocktail lounge. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, video arcade. **Languages:** English.

WINNERS HOTEL, 702-623-2511, 800-648-4770. 83 rooms (2 suites), \$30 to \$73. Airport pickup. **Games:** Blackjack, craps, slots, video poker, roulette. **Dining/Entertainment:** 2 restaurants, snack bar, 2 bars/cocktail lounges. **Amenities:** Gift shop, video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish.

YERINGTON

CASINO WEST, 11 N. Main St.; 702-463-2481, 800-227-4661. 46 rooms (1 suite). **Games:** Blackjack, craps (Friday and Saturday), slots, video poker, keno, free bingo. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, 2 bars/lounges. **Amenities:** Swimming pool, 12-space RV park (electric only). **Languages:** English, Spanish.

DINI'S LUCKY CLUB, 45 N. Main St.; 702-463-2868. **Games:** Blackjack, slots, video poker, bingo. **Dining/Entertainment:** Restaurant, bar/lounge, dance lounge. **Amenities:** Video arcade. **Languages:** English, Spanish. □



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FANTASYLAND

(Continued from page 82)

long. The centerpiece is a huge volcano at the top of the biggest waterfall that goes off every 15 minutes at night. The volcano shoots a pillar of fire into the air, and then the fire comes cascading down over the waterfall. The pillar of fire, by the way, smells like piña coladas.

"Why would they do something like that?" asked a tourist from Idaho.

Why not? This is Vegas.

When asked why the sign in front of his hotel was "so small" in comparison to other hotel signs, Steve Wynn said, "No, you got the wrong idea. The volcano, the volcano is the sign."

"The hotels of Las Vegas, particularly The Mirage, have reconstructed reality according to their own ideas of what reality *should* be," Wynn added.

As if to prove this point, he noted that the fountains and volcano were designed by David Hersey, who also designed the lighting for "Les Misérables" and "Starlight Express." Hersey himself said that the hotel's "volcanic experience" and other elements make The Mirage one of "a small and exclusive group of hotels that have make-believe as their guiding theme."

Mirage architect Joel Bergman added the final note: "You don't create excitement by being a drone."

Speaking of make-believe, the MGM Grand people have started construction on a 5,000-room \$700 million hotel (which will then be the largest in the world) and movieland theme park on what used to be the Tropicana Country Club—a total of 111 acres.

Thus, the three largest hotels in town all will have fantasy as their theme.

The fantasy actually begins as soon as you step off your plane into McCarran International Airport. How many other airports have a million dollars' worth of art-deco palm trees—on the inside?

The suspension of reality continues inside the casinos, where you find neither clocks nor windows. What time is it? Las Vegas time. Play.

Several years ago, *Pravda* claimed that



Rome's glory is now reflected at Caesars, including neck rubs.

Las Vegas was the world's most conspicuous example of capitalistic consumption, a depraved place of gaudy glitter. To which the city fathers replied: Yes, fortunately.

Most of the major hotels have fantasy suites, where, if you have the money, you can be treated like a big shot. And who is to say you aren't? While playing at the craps table in your hotel, you look up and there he is right across the table from you: Frank Sinatra. You nod as if you've known him all your life and murmur, "Hi, Frank." He nods back. There you are. Who could dispute it?

Those luxury suites generally go for around \$1,000 a day, but more often than not they are comped to high rollers, entertainers, or other VIPs.

In the beautiful fantasy suite at Caesars Palace, you can enjoy the Jacuzzi in front of a two-story-high window overlooking the glittering lights of the Strip.

At the Las Vegas Hilton, you can stay in the Elvis Presley Suite that the King occupied when he performed there.

"The suites are like movie sets," said famed suite designer Henry Conversano. "The first thing you're trying to give is a sense of drama, of theater. Then you give the guest a chance to step into that drama."

A little like Shangri-La, in other words.

Even the shows reflect a world of fantasy. In "Jubilee!" at Bally's, they sink the mighty *Titanic* on stage twice a night. Samson, shorn of his locks, pulls

down a massive temple. If that seems right out of the movies, it should; the show opened when the hotel was the MGM Grand.

In "King Arthur's Tournament" at the Excalibur, you are transported to Camelot and encouraged to cheer on your knight during his jousts. To add authenticity, the show is preceded by a medieval dinner—which you eat with your fingers.

At the \$30 million Siegfried and Roy show at The Mirage, you are convinced that you, too, like Dr. Doolittle, could talk to the animals had you but the rapport of Siegfried and especially Roy, who is legendary in

his ability to become a part of their world. Another fantasy, perhaps, but it's one that has come true—because Roy believes he can do it.

Elvis Presley, Roy Orbison, and Marilyn Monroe all come to fantastic life in the "Legends in Concert" show at the Imperial Palace. At the Sahara, boys will be girls in "Boy-Lesque"—what could be more fantastic than that?

At Caesars Palace you can dine in the atmosphere of Imperial Rome and be served by toga-clad maidens at the Bacchanal Room. The maidens will pour your wine from golden pitchers and between courses give you a neck rub.

You can go back to the '50s at Ralph's Diner in the Stardust Hotel, where the era has been lovingly recreated in design, menu, and even waitresses' uniforms (da Fonzy would love da place).

Singer Petula Clark said it best: "In Las Vegas, fantasy is a part of the deal."

Any competent psychiatrist will tell you that there is nothing wrong with a little fantasy—as long as you recognize the difference between what is fantastic and what is real.

In Las Vegas, they will tell you there is nothing wrong with a lot of fantasy—as long as you recognize that the fantasy is the reality. □

Stephen Allen is a writer with the Las Vegas News Bureau. Before moving to Las Vegas 13 years ago, he lived for five years in a cabin without electricity or running water in the North Idaho woods. He says Las Vegas is proof that electricity wasn't a fad after all.



Aspiring to fantasy: Merlin and the turreted Excalibur add to the city's aura of make-believe.

Welcome
to

Fantasyland

You're driving toward the city at night on Interstate 15. The moon is shining. And after miles of trackless desert, the city begins to rise in the moonlight like some Brigadoon in the sand.

The spires of a castle are towering nearly 300 feet above the desert floor. There are 14 spires to be exact, topped with cones of red, blue, and gold. Four more massive stone turrets. On the other side of the castle, where you enter, is a moat and drawbridge.

The Excalibur rises from the desert like King Arthur's sword rising from the lake.

Fifty years ago, all of this was nothing but sand, like Brigadoon the morning after.

Now it is Las Vegas, the capital of fantasy.

Before they built the 4,000-room

—◆—
Is it real,
or is it Vegas?
By Stephen Allen
—◆—

Excalibur—the largest resort hotel in the world—Circus Circus execs toured the castles of France, Germany, and Spain. They liked the castle of Mad King Ludwig in Bavaria, which also was the inspiration for the castle at Disneyland.

And now the Ludwig-inspired fantasy stands there, on the Strip across from the Tropicana Hotel, looking, said the *New York Times*, "for all the world like the evil twin of the Disney World

Cinderella's castle."

Las Vegas leaders just *love* flattery like that.

The castle might reflect the guiding motif of famed casino designer Zoli Kovacs, who once said, "Anything worth doing is worth overdoing."

In Las Vegas, nothing succeeds like excess. If you wanted a relaxing vacation where things are "just like home," then you should have stayed home in Dog's Breath, Iowa. Las Vegas works because it is *unlike* anything you have ever seen or experienced.

Las Vegas is an *idea* where, if you have enough money, fantasies can come true—or seem to.

Up the street from the Excalibur is Steve Wynn's \$630 million palace, The Mirage. The front yard of the hotel is decorated with waterfalls nearly a block

(Continued on page 81)

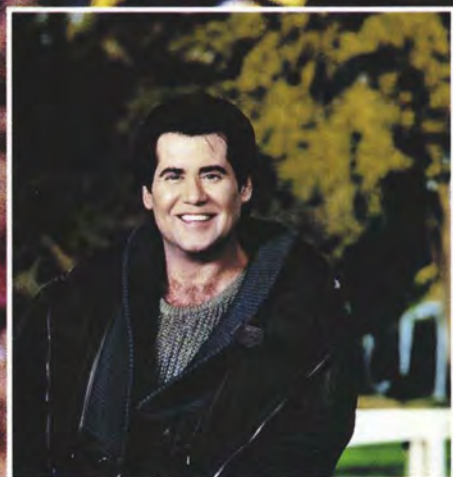
NEVADA

events

- **UNLV and UNR Basketball Round-Up**
- **Winnemucca: Shooting the West**
- **Elko Cowboy Poetry Gathering**
- **Complete Nevada Ski Guide**

**A
GUIDE
FOR
TRAVELERS**

Jan/Feb/March 1991



**Nevada stars: Stacey Augmon
of UNLV and Wayne Newton**

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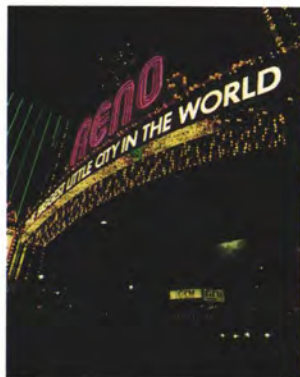
You'll find plenty of excitement at the bottom of the hill, too — 24-hour casino action, top-name entertainers, outstanding restaurants and luxurious accommodations, all at surprisingly low rates.

You'll have your choice of deluxe condominiums or resort casinos at Incline Village and Crystal Bay along Lake Tahoe's spectacular north shore, or the non-stop excitement of Reno's world famous hotel/casinos. Whichever you choose, you'll find Reno/Tahoe winter packages designed to meet every need and every budget.

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Reno-Sparks Convention & Visitors Authority



Discover Reno action



Visit the Auto Museum



Bring the kids



See Liza live



Share the spirit

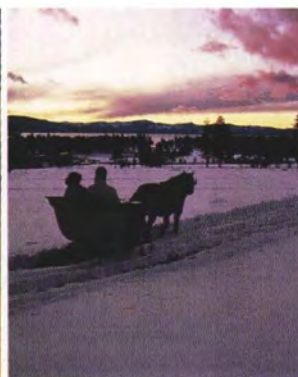
powder.



jacks!



Watch 'em ride



Dash thru the snow



Catch court action



Up, up, and away



Enjoy the classics

TRAVEL PLANNER

GETAWAY HOT LINES

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

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

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

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

STATEWIDE INFORMATION

Nevada Commission on Tourism: Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710; 687-3636 or 1-800-NEVADA-8 anywhere in U.S. and Canada

TOLL-FREE HOT LINES

Carson City Convention and Visitor's Center: 800-634-8700 outside Nevada

Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce: 800-727-7677 anywhere in U.S.

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

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

LAS VEGAS AREA

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

Boulder City Events Hot Line: 293-0137

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

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

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

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

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

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

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RENO AREA

Carson City C of C: 1900 S. Carson St., Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89701; 882-1565

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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

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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. 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 nationwide

RURAL AREAS

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

Battle Mountain C of C: Battle Mountain, NV 89820

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

EDASS (Econ. Development of Silver Springs): Box 269, Silver Springs, NV 89429; 577-2008

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: 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; 687-4387

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, 785-6402; Box 26569, Las Vegas, NV 89126, 647-5000; 1523 Hot Springs Rd., Suite 300, Carson City, NV 89701, 885-6000; Box 831, Elko, NV 89801, 738-4071

Humboldt National Forest: 976 Mountain City Hwy., Elko, NV 89801, 738-5171

Toiyabe National Forest: 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431, 331-6444; 550 E. Charleston, Las Vegas, NV 89104, 477-7782 (for Mount Charleston area)

FISHING AND HUNTING

Nevada Dept. of Wildlife: Main: 1100 Valley Rd., Reno, NV 89503, 688-1500; Southern Nevada: State Mail Complex, Las Vegas, NV 89158, 486-5127

Pyramid Lake: Pyramid Lake Fisheries: Star Route, Sutcliffe, NV 89510, 673-6335

NEVADA EVENTS

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January/February/March 1991

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NEVADA EVENTS



The University of Nevada, Las Vegas' Department of Dance Arts presents two performances for dance lovers this winter. On February 16-17 are performances by the Las Vegas Music and Dance Ensemble, a professional dance company specializing in the use of live original music by Las Vegas-based and nationally-renowned composers. On March 9-10 is the University Dance Theatre in Concert, offering jazz, modern, and ballet by dance faculty and guest choreographers. Pictured is UNLV choreographer Victoria Dale.

HOT LINES

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

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

Nevada Division of State Parks: hikes, tours, stargazing, campfire programs at 21 parks around the state, District VI, Las Vegas, 486-5126

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

UNLV Basketball: call for schedule, Thomas and Mack Center, 739-FANS

UNLV Concerts: music and dance, 739-3101

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

EVENTS

January

Art Exhibit, thru 1/19, paintings, drawings, and prints by James Pink and Michael McCollum of the UNLV Art Dept., Barrick Museum of Natural History, UNLV, 739-3381

Pueblo Deco: Architecture of the Southwest Exhibit, thru 1/27, photographs of structures from the 1920s and '30s that were built in the Pueblo Deco style which uses Native American and Hispanic motifs, Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955

Winthrop Davis: Photographs of Southern Nevada and the Dam, thru 3/23, exhibit of photographs taken during the early 1930s, including shots of Boulder Dam workers, migrants' camps, and early Las Vegas, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 486-5205

Art Exhibit, 1/2-31, paintings by Betty Gay of

PREVIEW

Rebels With A Cause

With four starters returning from a team that went 35-5 and won its first-ever national championship, the UNLV basketball team opened practice for the 1990-91 season with most of its questions already answered.

Except one: Would the Rebels be permitted to defend their title?

After UNLV beat Duke 103-73 last April to win the NCAA championship, Rebel fans immediately began speculating whether the team could repeat—a feat that no team has accomplished since 1973, when UCLA won the last of its seven consecutive titles. Last summer the NCAA Infractions Committee banned UNLV from postseason play in 1990-91 as a resolution to its 17-year legal tug-of-war with Rebel coach Jerry Tarkanian.

Last fall the committee decided to rehear the case, a move that led many Rebel fans to believe the postseason ban would be lifted or modified. UNLV officials were cautiously optimistic.

Then, on November 29, the announcement came. The university accepted an NCAA-offered penalty banning the Runnin' Rebels from postseason play in 1991-92 and keeping them off live television that season. In exchange, the NCAA agreed to allow UNLV to defend its national championship this season.

Before the decision Tarkanian had commented, "The [NCAA] Tournament is something we should be striving to reach and not considering it a given. We have a season to prepare for."

Preparations began with Tarkanian welcoming back nine players on a roster of 14. As on all of Tarkanian's teams, the strengths will be pressure defense and transition offense. The concerns, if any, may include consistent perimeter shooting.

Heading up the returnees is the senior frontcourt tandem of Larry Johnson and Stacey Augmon.

Johnson, a 6-7 forward from Dallas, led UNLV last season in both scoring (20.6 points per game) and rebounding (11.4 per game). For his efforts, Johnson



Coach Jerry Tarkanian (left) led his team to a 35-5 record and the NCAA title last season. Stacey Augmon (right) is in the middle of the action in a game against UC Irvine.

was named UNLV's first consensus All-American (Associated Press, United Press International, and U.S. Basketball Writers Association). He also was the Big West Conference's Player of the Year, the conference tournament's Most Valuable Player, and a finalist for the 1990 Wooden Award.

One of the best defensive players in the country, the 6-8 Augmon was named last year's NCAA West Regional's MVP. Also a nominee for the Wooden Award, the native of Pasadena averaged 14.2 points and 6.9 rebounds last season and for the second straight year was an honorable mention All-American.

UNLV's other two returning starters—6-2 senior Greg Anthony and 6-1-1/2 junior Anderson Hunt—are in the backcourt.

Anthony, who went to Las Vegas' Rancho High School, where he was Nevada Class AAA Player of the Year his senior season, will be long remembered for his fearless play last season after breaking his jaw in a midseason win over Fresno State. With his jaw wired shut, Anthony continued to play as UNLV won 15 of its last 16 games. He led the Rebels with 289 assists (7.4 per game) and 106 steals while adding 11.2 points and 3.0 rebounds per game. Like Augmon, he was an honorable mention All-American.

Hunt picked up an award, too: He was named MVP of the Final Four after scoring 20 points in a 90-81 semifinal victory over Georgia Tech and 29 in the lopsided title-game win over Duke. UNLV's primary outside scoring threat, Hunt, a native of Detroit, made 99 three-pointers last season and scored at 15.9 points per game.

Tarkanian has only one starting position to fill—at center, where David Butler averaged 15.8 points per game last season. The leading candidate is 6-9 senior George Ackles, who red-shirted last season after breaking the navicular bone in his right wrist while playing in a pick-up game.

Four other non-starters, led by 6-5 junior guard Travis Bice, who shot 48 percent from three-point range last season. Two other guards, 6-4-1/2 senior David Rice and 5-11-1/2 junior Bryan Eberzian, will add depth in the backcourt while 6-8-1/2 senior forward Chris Jeter will serve as a reserve up front.

The Rebels welcome five new players this season, four of them from the junior college ranks.

Elmore Spencer, a 7-foot junior transfer from Connors State College in Warner, Oklahoma, was the MVP of the national junior college tournament last season. He, along with 6-9-1/2 Melvin Love, a junior transfer from Salt Lake (Utah) Community College, will vie with Ackles for playing time at center.

A pair of 6-7 junior forwards, Evric Gray and Bobby Joyce, will spell Johnson and Augmon at forward. Both are transfers from Riverside (California) Community College.

The Rebels have just one freshman listed on the roster: 6-3 guard H. Waldman, of Las Vegas' Clark High School. Waldman is a skilled ball-handler and will back up Anthony at point guard.

For ticket information call UNLV's Thomas and Mack Center at 702-739-FANS.—Joe Hawk, UNLV Director of Sports Information

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Michael McCollum's "Goddess of Reason" (left) and James Pink's "Leaving Yellowstone" are part of an art exhibit at UNLV through January 19.

Overton, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

The Highway as Habitat, 1/5-2/15, photography exhibit depicting the architecture along America's highways in the 1930s and '40s, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 486-5205

African-American Exhibit, 1/6-27, collection of

paintings and photographs by local African-American artists including Tony Trigg, Vickie Richardson, Sylvester Collier, and Harold Bradford, Las Vegas Art Museum, Lorenzi Park, 647-4300

Bank of America's Prints of the '80s, 1/7-2/10, corporate collection of 50 original prints by 45 artists, Nevada Institute for Contemporary

Art, Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery, UNLV, 739-3801

McCarran International Airport 5-K Run-A-Way, 1/12, 5-K run on one of the airport's new runways, which will be opening up after the event, grand opening celebration, 383-2326

Dance Concert, 1/12, air jazz, 7:30pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3801



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SHOWGUIDE

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

Bally's, 739-4567: *Celebrity Room*: TBA; *Ziegfeld Theatre*: "Jubilee!" indf. (dark Wed.); *Catch a Rising Star*: comedy/variety club, indf.

Barbary Coast, 737-7111: Entertainment TBA
Bourbon Street, 737-7200: New Orleans Jazz, indf.

Caesars Palace, 731-7333: George Burns 95th Birthday Celebration, 1/19; Pointer Sisters, 1/30-2/4; Julio Iglesias, 2/20-25; Joan Rivers, 2/27-3/4; David Copperfield, 3/6-18

California Hotel, 385-1222: Entertainment TBA

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

Continental, 737-5555: "Sex Over 40," indf. (dark Sun.)

Desert Inn, 733-4566: The Righteous Brothers/Louise Mandrell, 12/27-1/9; The Righteous Brothers/Brad Garrett, 1/10-16; Garth Brooks, 1/17-23; Lou Rawls, Marilyn McCoo, 1/24-2/13

Dunes, 737-4741: TBA

El Rancho, 796-2222: Entertainment TBA

Excalibur: 597-7777: "King Arthur's Tournament," indf. (dark Sun.); nightly lounge entertainment

Fitzgeralds, 382-6111: Nightly entertainment

Flamingo Hilton, 733-3333: "City Lites," stage spectacular, indf. (dark Sun.); Sonny Turner/Carleen Terrano, 12/21-1/17

Four Queens, 385-4011: Ink Spots, 1/1-6; Paul Casey, 1/8-27; Doug Kershaw, 1/29-2/10; Frank Sinatra, Jr., 2/12-2/24; The Original Drifters, 3/26-4/7; Monday Night Jazz, indf., starring Matt Catingub (sax) and Mavis Rivers (singer) 1/7

Gold Coast, 367-7111: Sorta Dixie Jazz Band, indf.

Golden Nugget, 386-8100: TBA

Gold Strike Hotel, Jean, 477-5000: Entertainment TBA

Gold Strike Inn, Boulder City, 293-5000: 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, indf. (dark Sun.), headlining Bob Anderson, 12/25-1/26

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

Lady Luck, 477-3000: Entertainment TBA

Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5755: Neville Brothers, 1/9-13; Smokey Robinson, 1/15-27; Bill Cosby/Clint Holmes, 1/29-2/3; Wayne Newton, 2/5-24

Maxim, 731-4300: Comedy Cabaret, indf. (dark Sun.)

The Mirage, 792-7777: Siegfried and Roy, magic spectacular, performances three out of four weeks every month, call for dates and times

Nevada Landing, Jean, 387-5000: Entertainment TBA

Paddlewheel, 734-0711: Entertainment TBA
O'Sheas, 733-3111: Entertainment TBA

Palace Station, 367-2411: Entertainment TBA
Peppermill Resort, Mesquite: 346-5833: Entertainment TBA

Ramada Hotel San Remo, 739-9000: Entertainment TBA

Rio Suite Hotel, 252-7727: Earl Turner/Gina Eckstine; Sergio Alberti/Barbara Graham, 1/8-27; Tony Tillman, 1/29-2/17; Sneak



Joan Rivers is appearing at Caesars Palace.

Preview, 2/5-17; Li'l Elmo and the Cosmos, 2/19-3/3; Earl Turner, 2/26-3/17; Two for the Show, 3/5-17; Freddie Bell/Barbara Graham, 3/19-4/7

Riviera, 794-9301: "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: Melinda, the First Lady of Magic, and Her Follies Revue, indf. (dark Mon.)

Stardust, 732-6111: "Lido de Paris," starring Bobby Berosini and his Orangutans, thru 2/28 (dark Tues.)

Tropicana, 739-2411: "Folies Bergere," indf. (dark Thurs.); "Comedy Stop," comedians, indf.

Union Plaza, 386-2444: "Bed Full of Foreigners," comedy, indf.

Vegas World, 383-5264: Reflections of Sinatra starring Duke Hazlett, indf.; Memories of Elvis starring E.P. King, indf.; Marty Allen and Steve Rossi, indf.; (dark Thurs.)

Westward Ho, 731-2900: Paul Delicato/Liz Damon, indf.

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

Laughlin

Colorado Belle, 298-4000: Nightly entertainment; Big Band Bash every Sun.

Edgewater, 298-2453

Flamingo Hilton Laughlin, 298-5111: Revues Mon.-Thurs., pop music Fri.-Sat., Big Band music Sun. afternoons

Harrah's Del Rio, 298-4600: Entertainment TBA

Ramada Express, 298-4200: Entertainment TBA

Regency, 298-2439: Piano bar

Riverside Resort, 298-2535: Eric for Elvis, 1/8; Freddie Fender, 1/9-12

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



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PREVIEW

Young Love and 'La Boheme'

By Jerome Horowitz

Christmas in Paris, a street party in the Latin Quarter, young love in a freezing garret, and a brilliant score—these are the ingredients of "La Boheme."

Nevada Opera Theatre is bringing Puccini's popular opera back to Las Vegas with a magnificent cast—all the young lovers are in their resplendent vocal prime—and conductor Stephan Lano, former head coach at La Scala and now associate conductor at the Pittsburgh Symphony and Opera.

Tenor lead is Hans Ashbaker, whose glorious voice and powerful acting have won him accolades at the Met. A Las Vegas favorite, he has given great performances here in "Carmen," "La Boheme," "Il Trovatore," and "Die Fledermaus."

At his last Las Vegas performance, James Javore stole the show as Figaro in Rossini's "Barber of Seville," so his Marcello is sure to please his many fans here. He comes to us from New York, where he is Leader of Song at St. Patrick's



Nevada Opera Theatre boasts a bright cast for its production of "La Boheme" January 13.

Cathedral and a frequent guest star at the New York City Opera.

Stephanie Conte has garnered heaps of bouquets for her lyrical and vulnerable Mimi, a role she often performs opposite Ashbaker. The pair should be sensational. She was seen nationally in January 1990 on the PBS television broadcast *Live From Wolf Trap*. Already a star of opera stages in Connecticut, New York, Ohio, and Texas, this will be her first appearance in Nevada.

With this cast and conductor, the Las Vegas "Boheme" should be memorable. The sets and costumes are eye-catching, Ken Yunker's lighting designs are always poetic, and Bill Kickbush's technical di-

rection is an ironclad guarantee of a smooth performance. If you don't know the Cashman Field Center Theatre, you are in for a treat, and there is unlimited parking at the door. The two o'clock curtain ensures that the audience will be home by nightfall, and they should have plenty to talk about.

"La Boheme" will be presented by Nevada Opera Theatre on January 13 at 2 p.m. at the Cashman Field Center Theatre, 850 Las Vegas Boulevard North. Tickets are available from Ticketron and Nevada Opera Theatre, 702-451-6331.

Jerome Horowitz is the music critic of the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

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Nevada Chamber Symphony Concert, 1/13, 3pm, Clark County Library Concert Theatre, 382-3493

"La Boheme," 1/13, Nevada Opera Theatre, Cashman Field Center Theatre, 451-6331

\$175,000 Showboat Pro Bowler Association Invitational, 1/13-19, oldest tour stop on the PBA Tour, finals on Sat. will be televised by ABC-TV, admission is free, Showboat Hotel, 385-9158

Black and White Ball, 1/18, cocktails at 7pm, dinner at 8pm, seventh annual fundraiser for Nevada Dance Theatre, The Mirage, 739-3838

Elks 44th Annual Charity Ball, 1/19, Elks Lodge, Boulder City, 293-2457

World War II and the Emergence of Modern Las Vegas, 1/19-12/1, an exhibit of the major events on the "home front" in Las Vegas during World War II—the founding of Nellis Air Force Base, a major defense plant in Henderson, and the emergence of a resort industry at war's end, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 486-5205

Subscription III Concert, 1/20, Las Vegas Symphony and Desert Chorale, 2pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3420 or 739-3801

P.D.Q. Bach, 1/24, Professor Peter Schickele's classical music and comedy, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3801

Mariachi Nuevo Uclatlan Concert, 1/24-25, 8pm, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

"Little Shop of Horrors," 1/25-27 and 1/29-2/2, musical, 8pm, Sunday matinee at 2pm on 1/27, New West Stage Company, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 876-NWSC

Men's "AA" Volleyball Tournament, 1/26, Stewart-Mojave Sports Center, 386-6563

Super Bowl High Roller Bowling Tournament, 1/26-27, amateur men and women bowlers compete for a projected top prize of \$150,000, Showboat Hotel, 385-9123

"Romance Romance," 1/31-2/2 and 2/6-9, musical comedy, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 739-3801

February

Art Exhibit, 2/1-28, paintings, embossings, and handmade paper by Marion Brinker of Overton, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

Art Exhibit, 2/1-3/2, recent paintings by Mary Ann Bonjorni of the UNLV Art Dept., Barrick Museum of Natural History, UNLV, 739-3381

Amen! Amen! Gospel Concert, 2/2, 8pm, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

Desert Treasures Mineral and Mining Show, 2/2-3/24, Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955

Las Vegas Symphony Orchestra Concert, 2/3, 1pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3420

Art Exhibit, 2/3-24, Las Vegas Art Museum, Lorenzi Park, 647-4300

"Lucia di Lammermoor," 2/5, performed in English by Western Opera Theatre from San Francisco, Boulder City High School, 456-6695 or 294-5058

Best of Nevada Camera Club Exhibit 1990, 2/5-3/10, juried exhibit of members' best for 1990 plus Nevada Camera Club's Photographer of

the year exhibit, Flamingo Library, 451-2132
"The Gondoliers," 2/6, performed by Opera a la Carte from Los Angeles, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3801

Boat and RV Show, 2/7-10, Cashman Field, 386-7100

American Tap Dance Orchestra, 2/10, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

Chamber Music Southwest, 2/10, pianist Pascal Roge, 2pm, \$15, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3801

Black History Week Celebration, 2/11-15, week-long celebration of Black heritage programs, soul food tasting, and gospel music, Doolittle Community Center, 386-6374

Nevada Marine Trade Boat Show, 2/11-18, Convention Center, 364-2376

Utah Symphony, 2/12, 8pm, \$25, \$35, \$62.50, and \$125, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3801

"And They Dance Real Slow in Jackson," 2/13-

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ANGEL PLANES, March

SPRING JAMBOREE & ARTISANS FAIR, May

CLARK COUNTY ARTIST SHOW, May

LAS VEGAS SYMPHONY, June

WATER SKI RACES, June

BOULDER CITY DAMBOREE, July

WATER SKI RACES, September

LAS VEGAS SILVER CUP HYDROPLANE RACES (tentative), September

ART IN THE PARK, October

BUD LIGHT U.S. TRIATHLON SERIES (tentative), October

HARBOR PARADE OF LIGHTS, December

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SHOWCASE

Wayne Newton: Life On (and Off) The Strip

By Jackie Brett

Wayne Newton—prominent Las Vegas, the Midnight Idol, a headliner for more than 25 years—never had a doubt about what he wanted to do with his life.

"I was working literally from the time I was six years old. I had a local radio show," he recalls, resting backstage at the Las Vegas Hilton after a sold-out show. "I feel fortunate in that I chose early. It took a lot of years, but at least I was focused enough to stay with it on the roller coaster ride."

Newton, who played Vegas and Reno-area lounges in the 1960s with his brother Jerry, says he doesn't want show business to become all-consuming.

"I realized very early on, that when what you do on those boards becomes all there is, you're in trouble," he says. Show business is like life, an up-and-down affair, he says. "I believe that life is nothing more than a roller coaster, and it's got its ups and downs and its turns. Whether you're in the front seat or the back seat, you'll go over exactly the same rails. The difference, I think, is if you choose the front seat, the scenery changes."

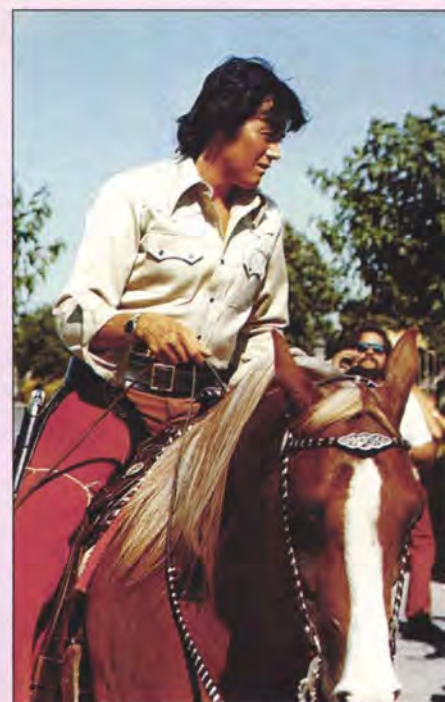
One link with reality is his 50-acre Las Vegas estate, Casa de Shenandoah. "That's my balance. That's the thing that keeps my feet on the ground."

Another is his daughter, Erin, 14.

"I go through exactly the same problems as everybody else who has a 14-year-old daughter. Luckily I've been blessed because she's such a good kid. She hasn't been a problem at all. But as far as school—taking her to school and picking her up—all those things that people don't think of the performer doing, I've made sure I do because I think that would be a terrible thing to miss. Also I wouldn't be much good to her going through her growing-up problems if I were removed from it."

Will Erin follow in her father's footsteps to work in show business?

"I don't know," says Wayne, whose 17-year marriage to Elaine Newton ended in divorce a number of years ago. Of Erin he adds, "She's terribly talented, but right now she shies away from anything of a



The performer today as a Las Vegas headliner (left), and a younger Newton relaxing at his ranch.

competitive nature, which of course show business is.

"She loves horses, and she's an excellent rider. I'm going to let her make up her own mind what direction she wants to go and be supportive of that. I don't want her to feel she has to walk in my shoes, whether it be with the horses, show business, or with a lifestyle. She's going to have to live her life long after I'm gone."

There has been talk that Wayne is trying to sell his Arabian horse ranch, Aramus Arabians, in Logandale.

"It's true. I've gotten so busy in my life and career that even taking the 22 minutes to fly there in my helicopter, and taking the 22 minutes to fly back, and taking the time up there I need to do it properly, I don't have it anymore," he says matter-of-factly.

"I've been systematically over the last two or three years cutting the herd down. I'll keep my best 60 horses and bring them here [Casa de Shenandoah]." At Logandale, about 60 miles northeast of Las Vegas, the herd had grown to 300 a year ago. Wayne sold 100 of the animals at auction last year, and another auction is planned for March.

Meanwhile, after years of ups and downs, his career is flourishing.

"For the most part it's timing," he says. "There was a conscious effort on my part about two years ago. I sat with Mark [Moreno, his business manager] and my people, and said, 'Look, I never want to give up the on-stage end of it because it's what keeps me sharp and on my toes. But there are other aspects of this industry that I'd enjoy doing that by virtue of my schedule I can't do—i.e., movies and recording.'"

"Then I've been in other extracurricular activities like my court trial."

This is the famous case between Newton

and NBC that began October 6, 1980, when *NBC Nightly News* aired a segment titled "Wayne Newton and the Law," alleging that Wayne was tied to the Mob.

"The latest one is being appealed," he says. "We always knew it would go to the Supreme Court."

Does he have any regrets going through the court battles?

"The only regret I have is that it was a lie to start with and that they weren't human, caring, and classy enough to simply retract it, give me an apology, and let me get on with my life. When they chose not to do that, they left me no other choice. So from that standpoint, yes, there are a lot of regrets. You can't go through that kind of 10-year battle without having your scars, but they're not life-threatening scars."

He says he hopes the case will have worthwhile results.

"I think ultimately when it's all finished it will be a better thing for mankind because it will be a long time before they do that again. Responsibility has to be in there someplace."

"Writing is not the problem. It's interesting because when the first amendment was instituted, writing was all there was. We didn't have radio and television. Now the minute you couple television and writing, and you show pictures of one thing, and the words are saying something else, and you can turn the sound off and get a 180-degree different story by the picture, then I'm not sure that's covered by the First Amendment. So far the courts say it is, but I think the day will come when you'll find out they can't keep this up."

As he branches out, Wayne is finding time to make movies. His current string of acting appearances is the result of his oft-



Wayne and his brother Jerry in 1963. The Newtons played the Nevada lounge circuit.

praised portrayal of the evil Confederate Captain Thomas Turner in the TV miniseries *North and South Book II*. Last summer he managed to get favorable mentions from critics for his work in *Ford Fairlane* while the star, Andrew Dice Clay, wasn't as fortunate.

Wayne has another movie, *The Dark Backward*, coming out this spring. It stars James Caan, Judd Nelson, and Rob Lowe.

"I've got the third lead in the picture. I had a ball doing it because I was working with actors who at first, when they heard that I'd been cast for the role, were upset. They believed somebody had sold out somewhere to pressure. OK, give me name value even though he's not an actor."

Wayne's been playing bad guys in the movies and likes it. "The roles are more memorable," he says. "It gives me a chance to do something and to be something people don't expect me to be. To bring that off and make it believable—again, it serves the purpose of being a challenge." He adds that people are sophisticated enough to realize he's only acting and not the bad person he portrays.

He says he wouldn't want to do a TV series even though he's been offered the opportunity.

"There's two reasons. I don't believe the level of writing is as good as it could be if proper time were taken. More importantly, I'm convinced the people won't pay for something they can see for free." This is a concern because he wants to continue to do live shows.

Wayne says he'd like to think he'd leave the business before it left him.

"A career goes through two phases, basically, unless you're able to achieve that wonderful spot of a Frank Sinatra, Dean

Martin, or Sammy. If you're able to hit that spot, then the star never really tarnishes very much. But what happens is the industry needs the newcomer, then they spawn it, and then they start to beat it down. Then if it stands up and says I'm not taking it and continues to fight it, it generally survives with a modicum of talent, which I hope I've done."

He's also making records again, starting with "Coming Home" and "The Best of Wayne Newton—Now," a collection of contemporary country songs and updated recordings of his three biggest hits, "Danke Schoen," "Red Roses For a Blue Lady," and "Daddy, Don't You Walk So Fast." He's even got a romantic single, "At This Moment," that's climbed the charts.

"It's interesting, records never really do for any performer what the press thinks it does. Let me explain. I can name performer after performer who've had hit records that they couldn't put on one wall. And the minute they're off the charts, their career for all practical purposes is over because they never bothered to learn the craft. That's the only thing that'll sustain you. It's what sustained Frank, Dean, and Sammy. What are hit records going to do for them or me? Am I going to get paid more? No. Will it get me more work?"

"All it's going to do is bring a new audience to Wayne Newton, maybe a younger crowd. Then I have to be careful about that because of the places I work."

"I developed a style of performing long before I had a hit record. In other words, I was convinced I'd never have a hit record. So the hit records came after I started this path of whatever it is I have become."

Wayne got to know Nevada after working lounges around the state.

I developed a style of performing long before I had a hit record. In other words, I was convinced I'd never have a hit record. So the hit records came after I started this path of whatever it is I have become.'

"I've played literally all over the state. And, the state represents something different for me than it does to a lot of people. I believe that the people who settled the state are the true, died-in-the-wool frontiersmen. I mean these are the people who even today are pulling up stakes and moving to the state."

He admits, though, that he would like to see the state maintain its smallness. "I would love to have seen the world not find out about our Utopia for another 50 years, at which point I'd probably be gone or at least close to it. The fact that they didn't find out about Nevada sooner is surprising. All of a sudden everybody's finding out about Nevada."

"It's the most unique state I know of in all the 50 states. It's still small enough that you can know the people you should know and stay in contact with them on a regular basis, yet it's big enough to maintain a certain economy that you usually only find in larger states and larger cities."

He's had many titles and many hosting honors such as the Las Vegas Invitational golf tournament, but Wayne says he's particularly proud to have been named "Ambassador of Goodwill for the State of Nevada" by Governor Bob Miller. For this job he gets paid a dollar a year.

When you talk with Wayne, you can never forget he's a hard worker.

"God gives us the tools—what we give back is our gift," he says.

OK, a final question for a man who says he doesn't live only for show business: Is there a chance there might be another Mrs. Newton?

"I would imagine that would be highly possible," he readily replies. "We [Marla Heasley, once with *The A Team*] have been engaged almost three years now, and we've been together over six. From a personal life standpoint, I don't ever remember being happier." ▢

Jackie Brett is a longtime Las Vegas showgoer and Nevada's Las Vegas representative.

CASINO NOTES

•Siegfried and Roy celebrated their 10,000th live performance at **The Mirage** on September 24. It is believed to be the most live stage appearances ever recorded by any entertainers. The illusionists' shows have become legendary since the two came to Las Vegas to launch their U.S. careers more than 20 years ago. They moved from early appearances in several Las Vegas hotels to create their own Kenneth Feld-produced spectacle at the Frontier Hotel eight years ago. It became one of the most successful attractions in the history of Las Vegas, playing a record breaking 3,538 performances. The two performers' latest triumph is an all-new \$25 million Feld production staged in a theater created especially for them by Mirage hotel owner Steve Wynn.

•In December, the **MGM Grand Hotel/Casino/Theme Park** began groundbreaking for its mega-resort, which will be the world's largest hotel with more than 5,000 rooms and an entertainment attraction-filled theme park. "We are moving ahead to prepare the 115-acre site for what will become Las Vegas' showcase when it opens in the fall of 1992," said Larry Woolf, chief executive officer of MGM Grand Hotel.

•Construction of the all new **Santa Fe** hotel-casino, ice arena, and bowling center is underway, and games of all sorts will be the main attraction at the new facility. The bowling center's BowlerVision system will allow bowlers to play up to a dozen different video games like battleship, golf, or baseball, using



It's no trick: Illusionists Siegfried and Roy are breaking records at The Mirage.

the bowling lane and the computer screen. The Brunswick BowlerVision feature is available at only seven other bowling centers in the U.S. The Santa Fe's ice arena will be the only full size public ice arena in southern Nevada, and will feature an 85' x 200' National Hockey League regulation size surface.

•The **Excalibur** was the recent recipient of a recognition award from the American Lung Association of Nevada for its outstanding sup-

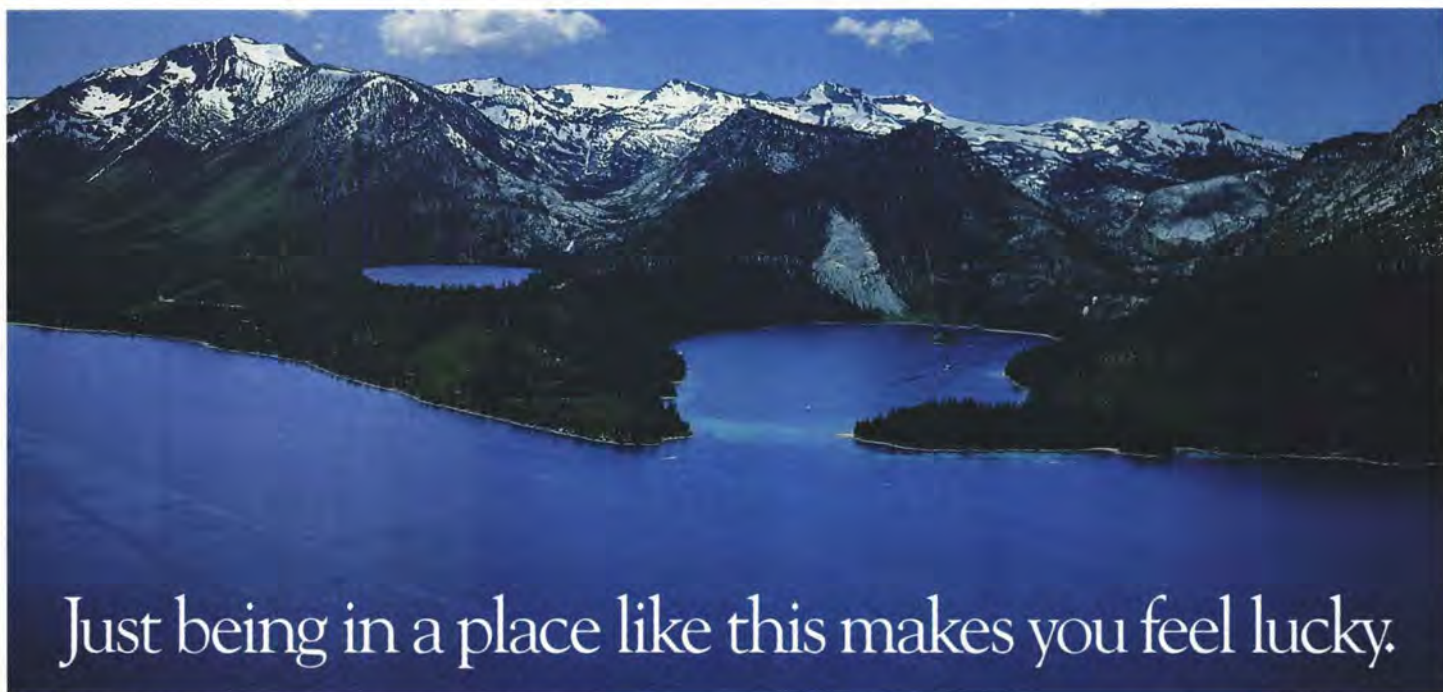
port in the fight against lung disease. The Excalibur was the first hotel to open in Las Vegas with non-smoking areas in all main public areas. Guests are provided a smoke-free environment in designated hotel rooms which are located on six entire non-smoking floors, on the casino floor, in all restaurants, in King Arthur's Arena (the showroom), and in the two Magic Motion Simulator Movie Theaters.

•**Harrah's Del Rio** in Laughlin has been receiving letters of praise regarding its separate non-smoking casino. The casino offers guests a completely separate non-smoking casino, between the hotel's two towers. Guests can play slot and video poker machines, blackjack, and roulette—all in a smoke-free environment. The non-smoking casino was opened in late 1989, when Harrah's Del Rio opened its second hotel tower.

•The **Holiday Casino/Holiday Inn** spent \$30 million to modernize, expand, and reposition its distinctive 450-foot Mississippi Riverboat facade to attract more walk-in traffic to its property. The renovation also created more gaming space, parking facilities, office space, and public areas within the hotel-casino.

•The **Excalibur** is allowing photos to be taken in the casino as well as in the other public areas of its facility. In the Medieval Village, it is possible to take a picture with one of 25 fantasy and strolling Renaissance performers including magicians, a belly dancer, Punch and Judy, a big strolling bear, a knight on horseback, or a giant green dragon.

•The **Rio Suite Hotel and Casino** celebrates its first anniversary during the entire month of January with casino specials and mini-tournaments.



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NV11



With a dedication to the fusion of dance and jazz, Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal will perform at UNLV on February 26.

17, 8pm Wed.-Sat., 2pm Sun., \$3, Black Box Theatre, UNLV, 739-3801

Academy of Saint-Martin in the Fields Orchestra, 2/15, from Canada, 8pm, \$25, \$35, \$125, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3801

Pacific Promotions Annual Autorama, 2/15-17, Cashman Field, 386-7100

Elks Annual Sweetheart Ball, 2/16, Elks Lodge, Boulder City, 293-2457

Las Vegas Music and Dance Ensemble, 2/16-17, 8pm Sat., 2pm Sun., \$8 general, \$5 children, students, and seniors, Judy Bayley Theatre, 739-3801

"Pirates of Penzance," 2/16-17 and 2/23-24, Musical Arts Singers, \$10 general, \$7 children, military, handicapped, and seniors, Helen J. Stewart School, 451-6672

Purgatory Plainsmen's Fourth Annual Rendezvous, 2/16-18, blackpowder shooting, hawking, and knifing competition, primitive camp and tin camp, site is near Indian Springs, 45 miles northwest of Las Vegas on U.S. 95, watch for signs or call for directions, 879-3469 or 879-3487

The Swingle Singers, 2/19, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 798-4321

"Lewin and Lewin Virtuoso Duo," 2/22, 7:30pm, \$15, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3801

John Jackson Sings the Blues, 2/22, 8pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

"Fool For Love," 2/22-24, 2/28-3/2, comedy, 8pm, Sunday matinee at 2pm on 2/24, Clark County Community College Theatre, North Las Vegas, 644-PLAY

Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal, 2/26, fusion of dance and jazz, 8pm, \$15, \$21, \$37.50, and \$75, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3801

March

Powerlifting Competition, 3/1, Mirabelli Community Center, 386-6259

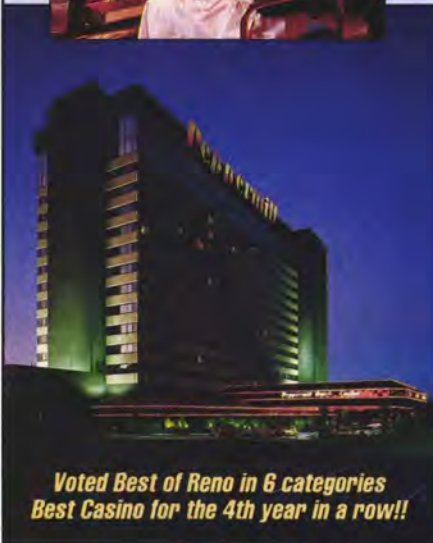
Hoover Dam Square Dance Festival, 3/1-2, 18th annual, on Sat. dance on Hoover Dam from 9-10am, workshop and dancing at Elton Garrett Junior High School, Boulder City, 293-4918

Nissan 400 Desert Race, 3/1-3, second annual off-road race event in the desert area northeast of Las Vegas; on Fri. Contingency Row (tech and safety inspection) takes place on Fremont Street; on Sat. race starts from the Las Vegas International Speedway; 400 vehicles expected to enter, 361-5404

Powers and Company Craft Festival, 3/1-3, Cashman Field, 386-7100

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

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MUSEUMS

Boulder City

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

Henderson

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

Las Vegas

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

Guinness World of Records Museum: open daily, 2780 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 792-0640 or 792-3766 (business office)

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 January 1991, 384-3466

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

Lied Discovery Children's Museum: 10am-5pm Tues.-Wed. and Fri.-Sat.,

10am-9pm Thurs., noon-5pm Sun., 833 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 382-KIDS

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., 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

Searchlight

Searchlight Historic Museum: (Satellite of Clark County Heritage Museum) 9-5 Mon.-Fri., 9-12 Sat., Searchlight Community Center, 200 Michael Wendell Way, 455-7955

Very Special Arts Southern Nevada Festival, 3/2, a celebration of the arts, theme is "Celebrate the Magic," includes visual, dance, music, drama, workshops, performances, and exhibits; participation is open to everyone, Clark County Community College, North Las Vegas, 598-1976

Kite Carnival, 3/2, workshops, demonstrations, entertainment, Freedom Park, 386-6297

Lung Run for Clean Air, 3/2, 5-K run and 1-mile fun run/walk for clean air; male and female divisions in five-year increments, American Lung Assn. of Nevada, Las Vegas, 454-2500

America's Living Folk Traditions, 3/2-5/21, a major exhibition from the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico, includes performing artists and craftspeople, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 486-5205

Sierra Wind Quintet, 3/3, 7:30pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3801

Art Exhibit, 3/3-31, Las Vegas Art Museum, Lorenzi Park, 647-4300

The Work of Art in the Age of Perestroika, 3/3-4/28, contains 27 works by 17 Soviet artists epitomizing the changes taking place in the world today, Nevada Institute for Contemporary Art, Donna Beam Gallery, UNLV, 739-3751

University Wind Ensemble, 3/5, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3801

"Confessions of a Nightingale," 3/7, Ray Stricklyn as Tennessee Williams, 7pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

"Are You Now or Have You Ever Been?" 3/7-17, 8pm Wed.-Sat., 2pm Sun., Black Box Theatre, UNLV, \$7, 739-3801

Home Show, 3/8-10, Cashman Field, 386-7100
Jerry N. Velsman Photo Exhibit, 3/8-4/6, Barrick Museum of Natural History, UNLV, 739-3381

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The 18th annual Hoover Dam Square Dance Festival will be held in Boulder City March 1-2. Dancing on the dam will take place Saturday.

American Dream Festival and English Leather Calendar Girl National Finals, 3/9, Stardust, 732-6111

Waverly Consort, 3/9, music from the 12th through 18th centuries, 8pm, \$17.50, \$25, \$45, and \$90, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3801

University Dance Theatre Spring Concert, 3/9-10, jazz, modern, and ballet, 8pm Sat., 2pm Sun., \$8 general, \$5 children, students, and seniors, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 739-3801

Masters of Bluegrass, 3/10, concert, 2 and 7pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

Las Vegas Symphony, 3/11, with pianist Robert Taub, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3801

"A Lovely Light," 3/14, Marion Ross as Edna St. Vincent Millay in Dorothy Stickney's play, 7pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

"All My Sons," 3/15-17, 3/21-24, and 3/28-31, drama, Las Vegas Little Theatre, Spring Valley Library, 383-0021

New World Brass Quintet Concert, 3/16, 7:30pm, \$6, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3801

Folk Dance Performance, 3/16, Brigham Young University, Cashman Field, 383-0500

"Celebration of Life," 3/17, musical, Classics According to John Henry, United Way Services, Cashman Field, 798-6877

Concerts and Conversation, 3/17, afternoon recital and tea with pianist Pierce Emata, Boulder Dam Hotel, Boulder City, 294-5058

"Mexico Romantico," 3/17, nostalgic revue of romantic Mexican music featuring New York's Repertorio Espanol, 2pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

1990-91 Division I NCAA West Regional Women's Basketball Championship, 3/21-23, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 731-2115

Summer Sports Show Spectacular, 3/22-24, Cashman Field, 386-7100

Concert, 3/24, the Musical Arts Chorus and Orchestra will perform Mozart's "Grand Mass in C, K.427" to celebrate the bicentennial of his death, Ham Hall, UNLV, 451-6672

Native American Festival, 3/29-4/28, Indian arts and crafts on exhibit and for sale, craft demonstrations, speakers, and dances, Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955

COMING EVENTS

Henderson Industrial Days, 4/13-21, 565-8951
Spring Jamboree and Artisans Fair, 5/4-5, Boulder City, 293-2034

Las Vegas Helldorado Days, 5/24-6/2, 870-1221
Boulder City's Damboree and Parade, 7/4, 293-2457

Jaycee State Fair, 9/28-10/6, Las Vegas, 457-8832
Art in the Park, 10/5-6, Boulder City, 293-2034

Las Vegas Invitational Golf Tournament, 10/16-20, 382-6616

National Finals Rodeo, 12/6-15, Las Vegas, 731-2115

TOURNAMENTS

January

Slots, 1/10-13, 1/24-27, and 2/6-10, Westward Ho, 731-2900

Slots, 1/20-23 and 3/18-21, Stardust, 732-6111

Slots, 1/27-30, Bally's, 739-4413

Slots, 1/29-2/1, Holiday Casino/Holiday Inn, 369-5088

February

Gin Rummy, 2/3-7, Stardust, 732-6111

Slots, 2/10-12, Peppermill, Mesquite, 346-5232

Video Poker, 2/10-12, Imperial Palace, 794-3160

Poker, 2/14-3/4, Four Queens, 385-4011

Blackjack, 2/20-23, Holiday Casino/Holiday Inn, 369-5088

Blackjack, 2/22-24, Imperial Palace, 794-3160

Blackjack, 2/25-28, Stardust, 732-6111

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NEVADA EVENTS



North Lake Tahoe and Truckee's Snowfest winter carnival marks its 10th anniversary March 1-10. Special events include a torchlight ski parade (right) during opening ceremonies at Squaw Valley. Snowfest's mascot, Silver Slippers, clowns around with a children's ski group (left).



HOT LINES

Festivals at Tahoe: for 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, 687-4379

UNR Basketball: 1/10 v. Montana State; 1/12 v. Montana, 1/28 v. Idaho State; 2/14 v. Eastern Washington; 2/16 v. Idaho; 2/21 v. Boise State; 2/23 v. Weber State; 2/28 v. Northern Arizona, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 348-PACK

UNR Music Department: concerts, recitals, 784-6145

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

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 each hotel's toll-free phone number, call 800-555-1212.

EVENTS

January

Art Exhibit, thru 1/9, paintings by Mary Warner, Sheppard Gallery, Church Fine Arts Complex, UNR, 784-6658

Art Exhibit, thru 1/10, experimental works using paper, resin, and light by Danae Anderson, XS Gallery, Western Nevada Community College, Carson City, 887-3108

Art Exhibit, thru 1/10, collection of oil paintings and watercolors produced since the 1870s, Nevada Museum of Art, 329-7118

NAA Winter Art Show, thru 2/2, all media, Nevada Artists Assn. Gallery, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 882-6411

Winter Festival of Lights, thru 3/1, South Shore businesses, South Lake Tahoe, 916-544-5050

A Most Excellent Adventure: Hands On Exhibit for Kids of All Ages, thru 5/1, Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 687-4810

Children's Art Show, 1/1-31, Artist's Co-Op Gallery, 329-3590

Concerts in the Atrium, 1/4-3/29, every Fri., free

classical music performances, noon-1pm, Sierra Arts Foundation event, Airport Gardens, 1325 Airmotive Way, 329-1324

Alpenglow 10-K Classic Ski Race, 1/6, 10am, Tahoe Donner Cross-Country, 916-587-9484

Sharkey's Serbian Christmas Celebration, 1/7, Sharkey's Nugget, Gardnerville, 782-3133

Caulkins Classical Guitar Duo, 1/11, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

"Fools," 1/11-12, 1/18-20, and 1/25-26, Russian fairy tale, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

BMX Silver Dollar Nationals, 1/11-13, youth bicycle racing, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Emerald Bay in Winter Ski Trek, 1/12, cross-country ski, meet at Eagle Point Campground, 916-525-7277

Introduction to Cross-Country Skiing Park Program, 1/13, 1/19, 2/2, 2/3, 2/10, 2/16, two-mile tour on easy terrain, includes instruction, meet at 10am, Sugar Pine Point ski

PREVIEW

Season In The Balance

In the three years since Len Stevens took over the reins of the University of Nevada, Reno's basketball program, he has strived for a team that had the ability to score points off defensive pressure, the depth to maintain that pressure, and a balanced offensive attack.

That team has arrived for the 1990-91 season.

"Balance is the key for this team," says Stevens, who has compiled a 46-38 record with the Wolf Pack. "We seem to have put the right pieces together to give us both outside and inside proficiency. This team has the ability to effectively score a lot more three-pointers than last year's team."

He says the development of center Ric Herrin and the maturity of Gary Scott "will give us a power inside game that we have not had before."

Stevens thinks his team has good depth, with "a solid two deep at every position and three deep at most." Lack of depth has been one reason the Wolf Pack has failed to advance in recent postseason Big Sky Tournaments. "The Big Sky has never sent more than the conference champion on to the NCAAs, so the Big Sky Tournament is what we will be shooting for. It's tough to say what this team's won-and-loss record will be because of the very difficult pre-conference schedule—maybe the toughest ever for this school—but the most important thing is that we will be a competitor for the league championship."

The depth of this year's team comes in the form of some veteran players and some new additions. Starters back from last year's 15-13 team are three-year starter Matt Williams (6-3 senior small forward), two-year starter Kevin Soares (6-0 junior point guard), and Herrin (6-10 sophomore center), who started every game as a true freshman last year.

Returning support includes Scott (6-5 junior power forward), who scored more



Sophomore Ric Herrin (top) and senior Matt Williams (bottom) are returning starters for the UNR Wolf Pack.

points per minutes played than all but the Wolf Pack's leading scorer, Kevin Franklin, who decided not to play basketball during this, his senior year. Also returning is Gary Huskey, a flashy and sometimes brilliant guard (26 points vs. Idaho State, double-figure scoring in eight of the last 12 games), and sophomore guards Rod Brown and Herb LeDee.—Paul Stuart, Sports Information Director, University of Nevada, Reno

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A pet pig entrant in Snowfest's Dress-Up-Your-Dog Contest hams it up.

trail parking lot, 916-525-7982

Introduction to Cross-Country Skiing Park Program, 1/13, 1/27, 2/10, 3/3, and 3/10, two-mile tour on easy terrain, includes instruction, meet at 10am, Grover Hot Springs Pool parking lot, 916-694-2248

Robbie Steinbach Photography Exhibit, 1/17-2/14, suburban social landscape in the Midwest, XS Gallery, Western Nevada Community College, Carson City, 887-3108

Lazer Vaudeville, 1/18, performance includes dance, acrobatics, comedy, juggling, and magic using black light, strobe, fog, and special effects to create the illusion of traveling through time, Community Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Free National Learn-to-Ski Day, 1/18, at participating ski resorts, 916-426-3651

Mid-Winter Gala, 1/18, exhibit, Passing Through: Documentation of Travels in Nevada, 1820-1920, Nevada Historical Society, 789-0190

Nevada Opera Concert, 1/19, \$10, free refreshments, 8pm, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 786-4046

Animals in Winter Park Program, 1/19, bring snowshoes and binoculars, Sugar Pine Point State Park, 916-525-7982

Sierra Sweepstakes Sled Dog Races, 1/19-20, (alternate bad-weather dates are 2/9-10), 10am, Truckee Tahoe Airport, 916-587-3276

Western Region Winter Carnival, 1/19-21, in celebration of Martin Luther King's birthday, ski competitions and parties, Alpine Meadows, 916-583-4232

Kirkwood/Fischer 25-K Cross-Country Citizen Ski Race, 1/20, Kirkwood, 209-258-6000

Legislator's Cup Ski Race, 1/25, ninth annual, ski race between Nevada and California legislators and staff, Sierra Ski Ranch, 916-659-7519

Richard Misrach: The Bombing of the American West, 1/25-2/25, photo documentary of military bombing of Nevada lands, reception on 1/25 from 7-9pm, Sheppard Gallery, Church Fine Arts Complex, UNR, 784-6658

Reno Chamber Orchestra Concert, 1/26, 8pm, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 826-0880

Nordic Weekend, 1/26, cross-country ski races,

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—L. Scott, Santa Clara, CA

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SHOWGUIDE

Bally's Reno, 789-2285: Entertainment TBA
Bill's Lake Tahoe, 588-2455: Entertainment TBA

Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515: *Circus Maximus*: Smokey Robinson, 12/31-1/1; Michael McDonald, 1/11-12; Sheena Easton, 1/18-20; Pointer Sisters, 1/25-26; Howie Mandel, 2/8-9; Kenny Loggins, 2/15-17; Eddie Money, 2/22-23; Santana, 3/1-2; *Caesars Cabaret*: Playboy's Girls of Rock 'n Roll, indf. (dark Mon.); Laff Trax, indf.

Carson City Nugget, 883-3854: Entertainment TBA

Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711: Perfect Circle, 1/1-6; Silver State, 1/7-13; Foreign Affair, 1/14-27; Reta and the Wizz Kidz, 1/28-2/3; Whiskey Ridge, 2/4-10; Squeeze Play, 2/11-24; The Act, 2/27-3/3; Network, 3/4-10; Glass House, 3/11-17; Passion, 3/18-31; *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: Entertainment TBA

Eldorado, Reno, 786-5700: The Diamonds, 1/1-13; Rob Hanna, 1/14-2/3; Dae Han Sisters, 2/19-3/10; Danny Marona, 3/12-31

Fitzgeralds, 785-3300: Flashback, 1/1-13; Brown and Diamond, 1/14-27; Love Affair, 1/28-2/10; Whiskey Ridge, 2/11-24; Perfect Circle, 2/25-3/10; Marty Davis, 3/11-17; Ohana, 3/11-24; Stormy Weather, 3/18-31; Passion, 3/25-3/31



The Pointer Sisters will be at Caesars Tahoe.

Flamingo Hilton Reno, 322-1111: Just For Laughs, Comedy Club; *Sunspot Lounge*: Silk, thru 1/11; Dae Han Sisters, thru 1/21

Harold's Club, Reno, 329-0881: Entertainment TBA

Harrah's Reno, 329-4422: *Casino Cabaret*: Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles, 1/9-21; Bill Medley, 1/23-2/4; Zasu Pitts Memorial Orchestra, 2/6-11 and 3/27-4/1; Sonny Turner, 2/13-25; The Buck Ram Platters, 2/27-3/4; Frederic Apcar's "Zing!" revue, indf.

Harrah's Tahoe, 588-6606: *South Shore Room*: The Judds, 12/27-1/1; "A Chorus Line," 1/18-3/4; *Stateline Cabaret*: Greg Kihn Band, 12/28-1/2; Zasu Pitts Memorial Orchestra, 1/4-9; War, 1/11-16; Little Charlie and the Nightcats, 1/18-23; Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles, 2/1-6; Elvin Bishop, 2/8-13; Lydia Pense and Cold Blood, 2/15-20; "Bottoms Up '91," thru 3/26

Harvey's, Stateline, 588-2411: *Emerald Theater*:

Danny Marona, 2/13-24; "Risqué Business," indf.; *Top of the Wheel*: Ron Rose Sound, indf.; *Emerald Bar*: Zella Lehr, 1/14-2/3 and 3/4-17; Checkmates, 2/4-3/3; Second Wind, 3/18-4/7

Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe, Incline, 831-1111: Entertainment TBA

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3304: *Celebrity Showroom*: Brenda Lee/Fielding West, 12/27-1/9; Bellamy Brothers, 1/10-23; *Casino Cabaret*: California Cowboys, thru 1/5; Zella Lehr, thru 1/6; Ricky and Bobby Rex, thru 1/6

Lake Tahoe Horizon, Stateline, 588-6211: Richard Lewis/Clarence Clemons, 1/11-12

Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890: Entertainment TBA

Peppermill, Reno, 826-2121: E.M.C./The Lelands, thru 1/6; Double Edge, 12/31-1/13 and 3/18-31; St. Romain, 1/7-13, 1/28-2/3, and 3/4-10; The Wrays, 1/7-20 and 3/11-24; Silk, 1/14-20; David Proud, 1/14-27; Tommy Bell, 1/21-27 and 3/25-4/7; Cameron, 1/21-2/3; E.M.C., 1/28-2/10 and 3/18-31; Silk/Band on the Run, 2/4-17; Brian and the Dominos, 2/11-17; Vox Pop, 2/18-24; Brief Case Blues Band, 2/18-24; Hot Pursuit, 2/18-3/3; The Lelands/Circuit, 2/25-3/3; Tanzania/Cameron, 3/4-17

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: Martha's Children/Whiskey Ridge, thru 1/6

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SNOWCASE

Skiing Around the State

A guide to Nevada and Tahoe area skiing.

1991 Downhill Skier's Guide

| Area | Phone | Top Elevation | Vertical | Lifts | Rating Bg-Int-Adv | Lift Price Adult/Child | Rental Adult/Child |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|----------|-------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| TAHOE BASIN | | | | | | | |
| Alpine Meadows | 916-583-4232 | 8,637 | 1,800 | 13 | 25-40-35 | \$38/\$13 | \$18/\$13 |
| Boreal | 916-426-3666 | 7,800 | 600 | 10 | 30-55-15 | \$27/\$14 | \$16/\$12 |
| Diamond Peak/Ski Incline | 702-832-1177 | 8,540 | 1,840 | 7 | 18-49-33 | \$29/\$12 | \$14/\$10 |
| Donner Ski Ranch | 916-426-3635 | 7,751 | 720 | 4 | 25-50-25 | \$20/\$10 | \$14/\$8 |
| Granlibakken | 916-583-4242 | 6,480 | 280 | 2 | 50-50-0 | \$12/\$6 | \$12/\$8 |
| Heavenly | 916-541-1330 | 10,100 | 3,600 | 24 | 25-50-25 | \$35/\$14* | \$15/\$9* |
| Homewood | 916-525-7256 | 7,880 | 1,650 | 10 | 15-50-35 | \$27/\$9 | \$18/\$11 |
| Kirkwood | 209-258-6000 | 9,800 | 2,000 | 11 | 15-50-35 | \$35/\$17 | \$16/\$10 |
| Mount Rose | 702-849-0704 | 9,700 | 1,450 | 5 | 30-35-35 | \$28/\$10 | \$14/\$10 |
| Northstar | 916-562-1010 | 8,600 | 2,200 | 11 | 25-50-25 | \$36/\$14 | \$17/\$11 |
| Sierra Ski Ranch | 916-659-7475 | 8,852 | 2,212 | 9 | 20-60-20 | \$29/\$14 | \$16/\$11 |
| Soda Springs | 916-426-3666 | 7,350 | 650 | 3 | 30-50-20 | \$20/\$11 | \$16/\$12 |
| Squaw Valley | 916-583-6985 | 9,050 | 2,850 | 32 | 25-45-30 | \$38/\$10 | \$19/\$13 |
| Sugar Bowl | 916-426-3651 | 8,383 | 1,500 | 9 | 20-30-50 | \$32/\$14 | \$17/\$13 |
| Tahoe Donner | 916-587-9400 | 7,350 | 600 | 3 | 50-50-0 | \$20/\$10 | \$16/\$12 |
| MOUNT CHARLESTON (LAS VEGAS) | | | | | | | |
| Lee Canyon | 702-646-0008 | 9,320 | 1,030 | 3 | 15-80-5 | \$20/\$14 | \$14/\$14 |

1991 Cross-Country Skier's Guide

| Area | Phone | Trail (km) | Trail Fee Adult/Child | Rental Adult/Child | Lessons Adult/Child | Day Lodge |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| TAHOE BASIN | | | | | | |
| A-TOMA | 702-849-2513 | 30 | \$12/\$8 | \$11/\$7 | \$27/\$22** | ✓ |
| Diamond Peak/Incline | 702-832-1177 | 30 | \$9/\$6 | \$10/\$7 | \$25/\$20** | ✓ |
| Kirkwood | 209-258-7248 | 80 | \$12/\$7 | \$12/8 | \$28/\$20** | ✓ |
| Lake Tahoe Basin | 916-573-2600 | The U.S. Forest Service has brochures on many forest areas. | | | | |
| Northstar | 916-562-1010 | 45 | \$11/\$6 | \$13/\$9 | \$35/\$19** | ✓ |
| Royal Gorge | 916-426-3871 | 317 | \$15.50/\$8.50 | \$12.50/\$8.50 | \$31.50/\$24.50** | ✓ |
| Sorensen's | 916-694-2203 | 50 | none | \$12/\$7 | \$12/\$8** | ✓ |
| Spooner Summit | 702-749-5349 | 65 | \$7/\$4 | \$17.50/\$12 | \$23** | ✓ |
| Squaw Valley | 916-583-8788 | 30 | \$9/\$7 | n/a | n/a | ✓ |
| Tahoe Donner | 916-587-9484 | 65 | \$13/\$8 | \$12/\$8 | \$27/\$20** | ✓ |
| Tahoe Nordic | 916-583-0484 | 65 | \$11/\$4 | \$12/\$6 | \$28/\$17** | ✓ |
| AROUND THE STATE | | | | | | |
| Lee Canyon (Las Vegas) | 702-732-7222 702-872-7064 | Randy McGhie of the Ski Chalet offers x-country suggestions Joe McNally has info on camping and avalanche conditions | | | | |
| Ruby Mountains (Elko) | 702-753-6867 | Ruby Mt. Heli-Skiing in Lamoille offers helicopter skiing | | | | |
| Spring Valley (Eureka) | 702-237-5280 | Ron Carrion at the Owl Club provides directions | | | | |
| White Pine (Ely) | 702-289-8877 | Chamber has maps for skiing at two local areas | | | | |

* prices subject to change **includes trail pass, equipment, and lessons



Skier's Update

By Julie Krater

Increased snowmaking, new lifts, more runs, and expanded snowboarding are just a few of the new features added this year at Lake Tahoe ski resorts. Here is a sample of what you will find:

Alpine Meadows: Last year Alpine Meadows made 82 percent more snow than in 1988-89. This year's snowmaking capabilities include the top of Scott Peak, which means eight of Alpine's 13 lifts will have good coverage all season long.

Boreal/Soda Springs: Boreal's new Quicksilver Quad chairlift adds 80 acres of advanced skiing to the resort's south face. From January 2 to the end of the season, lift tickets will be available at half price on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Diamond Peak at Ski Incline: Diamond Peak has completed a three-year expansion program that includes a new quad chairlift and a new computerized snowmaking system. The resort's total ski area is now 655 acres.

Donner Ski Ranch: For the 1990-91 season, Donner Ski Ranch has lowered its lift ticket prices and added a dirt "half-pipe" designed specifically for snowboarding.

Mount Rose Area: Two new intermediate runs—South Rim and Washoe Zephyr—were added just below the Bonanza Traverse on the Slide side of Mount



Skiers dip into the fine powder bowls of Heavenly Valley's Mott Canyon (above).

Rose. The runs now total 41, with more than 900 skiable acres.

Northstar at Tahoe: Northstar at Tahoe has expanded its snowmaking capabilities to 15 out of its 49 runs. Also new this year is Northstar's Snowboard Gully, a special area that can be reached by Look-out lift.

Sierra Ski Ranch: One of the first resorts to open each year, Sierra Ski Ranch widened the lower third of Sugar and Spice, a 2.5-mile run for beginners and intermediates.

Squaw Valley USA: Squaw Valley has opened a new triple chair called Squaw Creek that will connect the new Resort at Squaw Creek with the rest of the resort. Another new triple chair, Big Red, will service the Red Dog Ridge.

Sugar Bowl: Lake Tahoe's oldest resort has renovated its base lodge cafeteria, including several rooms in the historic Sugar Bowl Lodge.

Reno/Tahoe Skier's Guides: For a free 1990-91 Reno/Tahoe Skier's Planning Guide, a Reno/Tahoe Winter Vacation Package Pricing Guide, and room reservation referral, call toll-free 800-FOR-RENO or 702-827-RENO.

Julie Krater is publicity assistant with the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority.

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NIGHTLIFE

On the Eve of Lounging Out

By Guy Richardson

While much attention goes to northern Nevada's endangered main rooms, Reno's traditional lounges also have been tumbling left and right. Almost every casino still has a lounge, but the big lounges that showcase hot bands are becoming rare.

This not only knocks the heck out of the lounge biz, as you might suspect, but also drives hot bands out of town.

Take Gary Raffanelli and Sandy Selby. For more than a decade they've been one of Reno's favorite bands. Selby sings like a rowdy angel, and Raffanelli is a musical/electronic/business genius who keeps the music blistering.

They've won awards, cut records, and have a huge northern Nevada following. And they worked here only once in 1990.

There were no lounges that fit them. Bally's, which had been their home, converted to a comedy club. Harrah's uses only one band a month, and Selby and Raffanelli don't have the marquee value of, say, Lacy J. Dalton.

The Sparks Nugget tore the back wall off its lounge to make an open area. Easy to walk in, but the music flies out and over the pit. No sizzling bands need apply. Besides, the Nugget's lounge budget is too small for Selby and Raffanelli.

The only lounge in Reno that uses wailing bands is the Eldorado. After 30 weeks this year in Las Vegas, Selby and Raffanelli play the Eldorado on New Year's Eve.

To Raffanelli, the lack of work in Reno is just another phase. "Sandy and I are coming out of a two-year downswing because things have closed in northern Nevada. In Las Vegas, it's opening for us."

Both live in Reno. The work, however, is in Vegas. The two did a record business this fall and opened the Palace Station's new lounge on Thanksgiving. The Vegas casinos, says Raffanelli, are knocking out cheap lounges. "All the casinos in Vegas are bringing up their lounge budgets," he said. In Reno, budgets are static. A singer told me she's working little casino lounges in Reno for the same money she got 10 years ago.

Raffanelli, looking at 36 weeks in Vegas for 1991, said, "It's unfortunate for Reno, and unfortunate for my family.



Gary and Sandy: Upward bound.

But it's OK because I'm making enough money to fly them down for my days off."

Family means a lot to Raffanelli. "When you are not a family man you remember if you had a good night on stage. With a family, though, there are so many special moments. You remember the first time your son sits up, the first time your daughter brings home from school a letter spelled all wrong." Selby is single, but "Sandy gets the benefit of all that—and doesn't have to go through labor."

Raffanelli's been married for almost two years. When he got married, he expected to be home in Reno most of the time, but instead he's on the road. "It's hard on my wife when I go away for a month and she has to take care of two children. Then again, it's hard on me when I come home and have to take care of two children." He laughed.

Their careers are getting back on track. The two are looking at producing their fifth album and a video. "When you're not working, your main objective is to keep the group working," Raffanelli said. Simply getting booked pushes everything else to a lower priority. "You don't have time to concentrate on your career. Now that we're working again, we can take the time and money and do a project. We're working with Wolfman Jack in Nashville, and Epic Records is looking at us."

And Raffanelli and Selby will be at the Eldorado in 1991. The Eldorado bucks the northern Nevada trend and can hit a \$20,000 per week lounge budget for two acts.

"We're looking at a dozen weeks here in 1991," said Raffanelli. "That's still a lot less time than we used to work in Reno." Fortunately, there's Las Vegas.

Reno entertainment writer Guy Richardson is a frequent contributor to Nevada.

sports fitness and health fair, free demo day, auction, raffle, and wine tasting, Tahoe Nordic, 916-583-0484

Full Moon Ski Tours, 1/28 and 2/27, Tahoe Nordic, 916-583-0484

Biggest Little Cutting in the World, 1/28-2/2, \$150,000 in cash and prizes; daily at 9am, free, Reno Livestock Events Center, 827-7662

Moonlight Ski Tour, 1/30, Hope Valley Cross-Country, 916-694-2203

World Pro Skiing Championships, 1/30-2/2, Squaw Valley, 916-583-6985

Nevada State Backgammon Championship, 1/30-2/3, largest backgammon tournament in U.S., three divisions, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 826-1984

February

Valentine's Love In, 2/1-28, art show, Artist's Co-Op Gallery, 329-3590

Microbrewery Beer Tasting, 2/2, 6pm, Tahoe Donner Cross-Country, 916-587-9484

Winter Carnival, 2/2, Tahoe Donner, 916-587-9400

Firefighter Winter Games, 2/3-7, Northstar, 916-562-1010

USAC Midget Auto Races, 2/8-9, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Sweet Hop Ball, 2/9, Salvation Army benefit, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3367

Alpine County Canine Connection Sled Dog Races, 2/9-10, Markleeville, 916-694-2475

Rossignol President's Cup 15-K Cross-Country Ski Race, 2/18, Tahoe Donner Cross-Country, 916-587-9484

Leonardo da Vinci Exhibit, 2/19-4/11, hands-on inventions and replicas, Ormsby Library, Carson City, 887-2244

"Tales of Hoffmann," 2/21 and 2/23, 8pm, Nevada Opera Assn., Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 786-4046

Carson Valley Inn Pheasant Hunt/Game Feed, 2/21-23, fifth annual, Minden, 782-9711

Art Exhibit, 2/21-3/21, multi-media installation of art and robotics by Wendy Oberlander of San Francisco, XS Gallery, Western Nevada Community College, Carson City, 887-3108

Infiniti Connoisseur Ski Invitational, 2/23-24, ski races, winetasting and gourmet banquet, Resort at Squaw Creek, Squaw Valley, 916-583-6985

Fischer/Royal Gorge Cup 30-K Race, 2/24, Royal Gorge, 916-426-3871

Carson City Chamber Orchestra, 2/24, 7:30pm, Carson City Community Center, 883-4154

Art Lecture, 2/26-27, sculptor Robert Morrison of UNR Art Dept. at Brewery Arts Center in Carson City on Tues., at Washoe County Library Main Branch Theater on Wed., 887-3108

U.S. National Senior Winter Games, 2/27-3/3, downhill and cross-country racing, ice skating competitions, Diamond Peak at Ski Incline, 832-1177 or 831-4440

Moonlight Ski Tour, 2/30, Hope Valley Cross-Country, 916-694-2203

March

"Light Up the Sky," 3/1-2, 3/8-10, and 3/15-16, comedy, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Reno's International Basque Bash, 3/1-3, Reno Livestock Events Center, 786-1131

Shrine Circus, 3/1-3, Reno Livestock Events Center, 329-1041

Snowfest Winter Carnival, 3/1-10, largest winter carnival in Western U.S. with more than 150 events, includes torchlight ski parade, Dress-Up-Your-Dog Contest, localman triathlon, Miss Sierra Snowfest pageant, Tahoe City street dance and fireworks, children's penny carnival, River Ranch snowman

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CASINO NOTES

• **Harrah's Lake Tahoe** has been working on a massive renovation project, redecorating and refurbishing 114 deluxe rooms and 26 executive hospitality suites in their 534-room hotel tower. The deluxe rooms, which cost about \$7,500 each, include designs by San Francisco interior decorator Henry Conversano. The 26 executive hospitality suites will be redone by The Design Shop, a local Lake Tahoe firm, at a cost of \$21,000 per room.

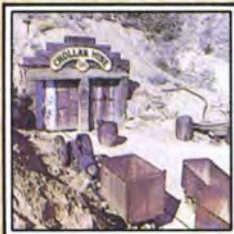
• The **Eldorado's Vintage Restaurant** has been recognized for the fifth year by *The Wine Spectator* for its distinguished wine list. The Vintage was given a Best of Award of Excel-

lence for well-rounded, high quality wines.

• On St. Patrick's Day many casinos celebrate with food and drink specials, decorations, and strolling Irish entertainment. **Fitzgeralds** will be celebrating by a green Reno Arch, and **John Ascuaga's Nugget** in Sparks will have a double celebration—the lucky day also is the Nugget's 36th birthday.

• **Eldorado Food and Beverage Director** Gregg Carano was selected as Nevada's Restaurateur of the Year. The prestigious award was given to Carano in September by the Nevada Restaurant Association and Nevada Hotel and Motel Association. The 31-year-old Carano was recognized by industry peers for "outstanding contributions of leadership, service, and exemplary professionalism."

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MUSEUMS

Carson City

Nevada State Archives: 8-5 Mon.-Fri., 3579 Hwy. 50 E., 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., 687-6953

Stewart Indian Museum: 9-4 every day, 5366 Snyder Ave. on the south end of town, 882-1808

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

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: 11-11 daily, 4250 S. Virginia St., 825-1776

Mackay School of Mines Minerals Museum: 8-5 Mon.-Fri., UNR, 784-6988

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, or 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

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 Way It Was Museum: 9:30-5 daily, 847-0766

Wild West Museum: 9-5 daily, 847-0400



Fitzgeralds celebrates St. Patrick's Day.

Minden, 782-8144
Stewart Indian Museum Powwow and Arts and Crafts Fair, 6/15-16, Carson City, 882-1808
Reno Rodeo, 6/24-30, 329-3877
World Soaring Championships, 6/24-7/14, Minden, 786-8505

Slots, 1/20-22, 2/24-26, and 3/17-19, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3429
Slots, 1/25, 2/22, and 3/29, Club Cal-Neva, 323-1046
Blackjack, 1/29, 2/26, and 3/26, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

TOURNAMENTS

January

Keno, 1/12, Harrah's Reno, 786-3232
Slots, 1/13-15, 2/3-4 and 2/24-25, Eldorado, 786-5700
14th World Championship of Racehorse Handicapping Tournament, 1/16-19, Club Cal-Neva, 323-1046
Keno, 1/18-19, 2/15-16, and 3/15-16, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

February

Keno, 2/8-10, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3429
Keno, 2/10-11, Eldorado, 786-5700
Slots, 2/13-15, Harvey's, Lake Tahoe, 588-2411
Slots, 2/14-15, Peppermill, 689-7282
Blackjack, 2/15-17, Peppermill, 689-7100

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.

building contest, Snowball Open golf tournament, various locations throughout North Lake Tahoe and Truckee, 831-4440 or 916-583-7625
Monoliths, Megaliths, and Monuments, 3/1-31, paintings by Betty Mills, Artist's Co-Op Gallery, 329-3590
Art Exhibit, 3/1-4/1, sculpture and drawings by Robert Brady; prints by Wayne Horne, Sheppard Gallery, Church Fine Arts Complex, UNR, 784-6658
Lions Annual Crab Feed, 3/2, all-you-can-eat from 5-8pm, dancing until 11pm, \$17, Chateau, Incline Village, 831-1834
Myelin Project Ski-a-Thon, 3/2, Mount Rose, 849-0704
The Great Ski Race, 3/3, 30-K race from Tahoe to Truckee, Tahoe Nordic, 916-583-0484
Nevada Winter Special Olympics, 3/5-7, Diamond Peak at Ski Incline, 832-1177 or 827-2111
Doctors' Wives of Washoe County 40th Annual Rummage Sale, 3/9, 8am-4pm, Reno Live-stock Events Center, 825-8965
Tandy Beal Dance Company, 3/10, unique blend of music, song, and dance, 7:30pm, Virginia City Middle School, 847-0311
Jimmie Heuga Express, 3/10, ski-a-thon and giant slalom race to benefit Multiple Sclerosis Society, Sugar Bowl, 916-426-3651
The Joy of Skiing and Eating Gourmet Cross-Country Ski Tour, 3/10, guided tour, Northstar, 916-587-0273
Corporate Ski Challenge, 3/11-16, Alpine Meadows, 916-583-4232
Early Days Ski-athon, 3/15, Snowshoe Thompson Ski Race on old wood skis, Sierra snowshoe race, and barrel stave race, Sierra Ski Ranch, 916-659-7519
Fitzgeralds St. Patrick's Day Celebration, 3/15-17, Irish entertainment, arts, and crafts, World's Largest Leprechaun, genuine Blarney Stone drawings, most events located at the Reno Arch which will be decorated green, 785-3300

COMING EVENTS

Chili Cook-Off and Cinco de Mayo, 5/4, Virginia City, 847-0311
Comstock Preservation Weekend, 5/17-19, Virginia City, 847-0311
Kit Carson Rendezvous, 6/7-9, Carson City, 885-7491
Carson Valley Days, 6/7-9, Gardnerville/

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NEVADA EVENTS



Warm up at a Winnemucca quilt show and a California Cajun concert in Battle Mountain.

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

January

Art Exhibit, thru 1/22, watercolors of Nevada by Karen Smith, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Wells Chariot Racing, 1/13, 1/20, 1/26-27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24, 3/10, 3/17, noon, chariot track, Wells, 752-3355

Lion's Club Crab Festival, 1/19, convention center, Winnemucca, 623-4366

Winnemucca Quilt Show and Convention, 1/21, featured guest speaker will be Julie Silber, associate producer of the film *Hearts and Hands*, screening of *Hearts and Hands*, quilt display,

vendor booths, refreshments, quilt drawing, 10am-5pm, convention center, Winnemucca, 623-4204

Cowboy Poetry Gathering, 1/30-2/2, folklife and cultural events featuring cowboy poetry, music, humor, exhibits of cowboy crafts, convention center, Elko, 738-7508

February

Cactus Pete's Diamond Peak Tower Grand Opening, 2/8-9, 204-room, 10-story tower, special entertainment, Jackpot, 755-2321

Women For Winnemucca Dinner Dance, 2/9, semi-formal, convention center, Winnemucca, 623-5512

Elks Sweetheart Dance, 2/15, semi-formal charity dance, takes place at convention center, Winnemucca, 623-4952

Eagles Lodge Crab Feed, 2/16, advance tickets only, junk auction follows feed, community center, Lovelock, 273-2611

Firemen's Ball, 2/23, community center, Lovelock, 273-7144

March

Winnemucca Crazy Quilters Show and Convention, 3/2, raffle, sale, Dollmakers of Humboldt County display, convention center, Winnemucca, 623-4266

Slot Tournament, 3/14-16, Stateline Casino, Wendover, 664-2111

Shooting the West III (The Nevada Photography Experience), 3/15-17, works by John

Running, Stephen Trimble, Annie Griffith Belt, C.J. Hadley, Cliff Segerblom, Ansel Adams, and Edward Weston; presentations, exhibits, and workshops by Nikon, Canon, Kodak, Waldenbooks, the Camera Bag; bring three of your best photos, convention center, Winnemucca, 623-6388

St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Feed, 3/16, Community Hall, Lovelock, 273-7105

Intercollegiate Mining Competition, 3/29-30, Elko, 738-4091

PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY

January

Watch and Clock Exhibit, thru 2/1, clocks and watches from 1800s on, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3537

Hidden Cave Tours, 1/26, 2/23, and 3/23, meet at 9:30am, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677

Charlie Musselwhite Band, 1/26, blues band, community center, Fallon, 423-1440

February

Art Exhibit, 2/1-28, paintings and watercolors by Mary Warner, Churchill Public Library, Fallon, 423-1440

Battle Mountain Civic Center's Annual Crab Feed and Dance, 2/2, \$25 a plate for all-you-can-eat crab dinner and dance starting at 6:30pm; \$10 for dance only starting at 9pm, entertainment by California Cajun Orchestra, Civic Center, Battle Mountain, call ahead for tickets, 635-9228

Bristlecone Birkebeiner, 2/2-3, 5-K and 10-K cross-country ski race for adults and 2-K race for children, awards for best times, age group, team, family, couple, and oldest and youngest racers, White Pine Ski Club, Ward Mountain, six miles southwest of Ely, 289-3065

March

An Evening With the Arts, 3/9, fifth annual fundraising dinner and silent auction featuring art and other items donated by local artists and businesses, community center, Fallon, 423-1440

Bristlecone Chariot Races, 3/9-10, fairgrounds, Ely, 289-8877

St. Patrick's Day Celebration, 3/16-17, Silver Springs, call 577-2008 for information

PIONEER TERRITORY

January

Fossil Shelter Tours, ranger leads tours and discussions of 225 million-year-old ichthyosaur fossils, call for times and days, Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, 867-3001

Second Annual Chili Cook-Off, 1/12, International Chili Society Sanctioned chili cook-off, Miss Chili Pepper Contest, Shoot and Holler; all proceeds go to Pahrump Valley Volunteer Fire Dept. and Senior Citizens Center, Saddle West Hotel, Pahrump, 727-5953

March

Pahrump Chamber of Commerce Spring Trade Show, 3/23, crafts, arts, businesses, door prizes, refreshments, 10am-4pm, Saddle West Convention Center, Pahrump, 727-5800

PREVIEW

Big Shots in Winnemucca

Following the successes of the last two years, "Shooting the West III" offers programs for professional and amateur photographers, as well as those who love beautiful images regardless of the medium, March 15-17 in Winnemucca.

Featured speakers will be John Running, a veteran photographer of the West, well known for his Native American portraits; Stephen Trimble, a writer-photographer whose most recent book is *The Sagebrush Ocean*; and Annie Griffith Belt, assignment photographer for *National Geographic*, *Smithsonian*, and *Newsweek* and winner of numerous awards. C.J. Hadley, Washoe Valley freelance photojournalist, will return as moderator.

Cliff Segerblom, who died last summer, will be honored as "Nevada Photographer of the Year for 1991." The Boulder City artist and photographer began his career as the photographer for the Boulder Dam Project. Segerblom had a varied and colorful career which included founding the photo department at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.



This astragalus in the Quinn Canyon Range was photographed by "Shooting" speaker Stephen Trimble, author of The Sagebrush Ocean. Also featured is John Running.

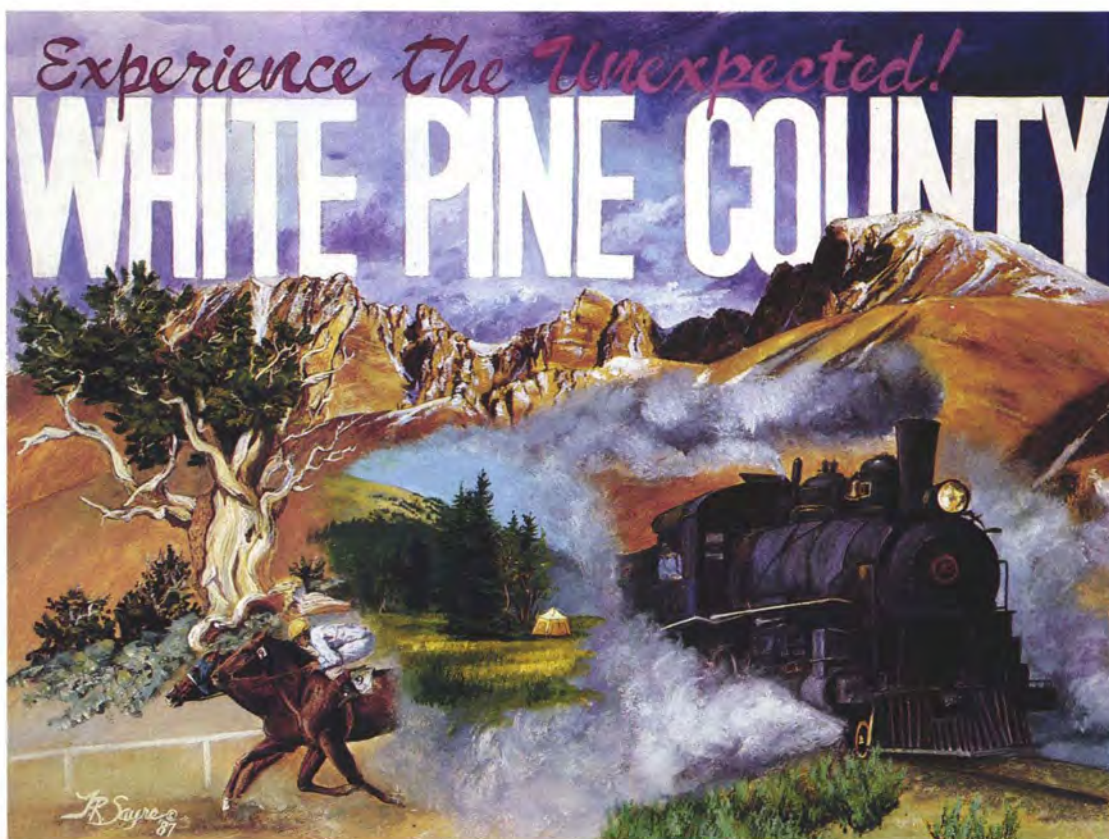
Also offered will be a short course on camera use, information on having work published, exhibits by Nikon, Canon, and Kodak, and showing of photographs by

Ansel Adams and Edward Weston.

For information write Shooting the West III, 85 Fifth Street, Winnemucca, NV 89445, or call 702-623-6388.

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RURAL COMING EVENTS

Armed Forces Day, 5/18, Hawthorne, 945-5896
Lincoln County Homecoming, 5/24-27, Caliente, 726-3333

Jim Butler Days, 5/24-27, Tonopah, 482-3859
Mule Show and Races, 5/31-6/2, Winnemucca, 623-2225

Winnemucca Basque Festival, 6/8-9, 623-2225
Mining Expo, 6/13-15, Elko, 738-4091

Founders Day Celebration, 6/14-15, Silver Springs, 577-2008

Gridley Days, 6/14-16, Austin, 964-2200

SHOWGUIDE

Covered Wagon Territory

Elko: Commercial Hotel, 738-3181. Red Lion, 738-2111. Stockmen's Hotel, 738-5141

Jackpot: Cactus Pete's, 755-2321: *Gala Showroom*: Sneak Preview, 12/31-1/13; Horseshu Casino, 755-2331

Wendover: Nevada Crossing, 664-4000. Peppermill, 664-2255: Tammy Allen and RSV, 12/26-1/6; Sneak Preview, 1/14-27. Red Garter, 664-2111. Silver Smith, 664-2231 ext. 709: Live entertainment nightly. State Line, 664-2221 ext. 698: Live entertainment nightly
Winnemucca: Winners Hotel, 623-2511

Pony Express Territory

Battle Mountain: Owl Club, 635-5155

Fallon: Fallon Nugget, 423-3111

Yerington: Casino West, 463-2481. Dini's Lucky Club, 463-2868: Entertainment weekends

Pioneer Territory

Pahrump: Saddle West Casino, 727-5953

Tonopah: Station House, 482-9777

MUSEUMS

Covered Wagon Territory

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

Marzen House Museum, 9-2 Mon.-Fri., 1:30-4 Sat.-Sun., Lovelock, 273-7213

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

Pony Express Territory

Nevada Northern Railway Museum, 8:30-4:30 daily, May 27-Oct. 1, closed during winter, East Ely, 289-2085

White Pine Public Museum, 9-5 Mon.-Fri., 10-4 Sat.-Sun., 2000 Aultman St., Ely, 289-4710

Eureka Sentinel Museum, open April 15-Oct. 13, 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 BLM, 885-6000

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

Pioneer Territory

Mineral County Museum, 11-5 Mon.-Fri. May-Sept., noon-4 Mon.-Fri. Oct.-April, Hawthorne, 945-5142

Lincoln County Museum, closed during winter, Pioche, 962-5207

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

Nevada's Covered Wagon Territory

where the great western tradition is still alive



1991 EVENTS CALENDAR



JANUARY

Wells: Invitational Chariot Races
Elko: Cowboy Poetry Gathering

MARCH

Winnemucca: "Shooting the West II"
A Nevada Photography Experience

MAY

Wells: N.A. Pony Express Championship
Winnemucca: Barrel Futurity & Derby
Winnemucca: Old Timer's Team Roping

JUNE

Winnemucca: Mule Show & Races
Elko: Western Heritage Festival
Winnemucca: Basque Festival
Lovelock: Portuguese Festa
McDermitt: Red Mountain Indian Pow Wow & Rodeo
Elko: Mining Exposition



JULY

Elko: National Basque Festival
Jackpot: Hollerin' Contest
McDermitt: Twin States Stampede
Jackpot: Annual Home Built Airplane Rendezvous
Elko: Silver State Stampede

AUGUST

Lovelock: Frontier Days
Winnemucca: Nevada Open Horse Show & Futurity
Wendover: Air Races
Wendover: Bonneville Speed Week

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Winnemucca: 9th Annual Buckaroo Heritage Western Art Round Up, Winnemucca Rodeo & Tri-County Fair
Elko: Elko County Fair & Livestock Show, Pari-mutuel Racing

SEPTEMBER

Winnemucca: Thoroughbred, Quarter Horse & Mule Pari-mutuel Racing; Ranch Hand Rodeo
Battle Mountain: Covered Wagon Days Trail Ride
Wendover: World of Speed

Write or Call: Covered Wagon Territory, 50 Winnemucca Blvd. West, Winnemucca, NV 89445 (702) 623-5071

PREVIEW

Home on the Ranch

By Barbara Land

It's a tradition among cowboys everywhere. When the cattle are rounded up and chores done, buckaroos and ranchers like to swap verses and songs about the life they love.

The annual Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko celebrates that tradition, bringing in ranch families from every corner of North American cow country. City folks, from New York to Los Angeles, join the fun. Last year's crowd was estimated at 8,000.

This year's Gathering on January 30 to February 2 salutes "Families on the Ranch," focusing on the teamwork needed to run a modern ranch. For four days lovers of cowboy lore will crowd into Elko to hear buckaroo bards, clap their hands to country music, see headline entertainers, and meet old friends for hours of good talk.

Nightly shows will be held at Elko's Convention Center auditorium. "Life at the Cow Camp," an original stage revue by Texas poet Buck Ramsey and a team of collaborators, is scheduled for Friday night.

Every day, all day, visitors can choose among simultaneous cowboy poetry sessions. Some performers will recite old favorites like "I'm Hittin' the Trail Tonight" by the late Bruce Kiskaddon (1898-1950):

*I'll ride the trail till the stars turn pale
And camp at the break of dawn.
Nobody will know which way I go,
They'll only know I'm gone.*

Others create their own verses about cowboy ways in the 1990s. Utah rancher Bob Christensen's "Rancher's Revenge" pokes fun at federal regulations:

*And when I think of government
And all the funds they've spent
To get the public on our range,
And then they raise the rent.*

*They pay a man to raise no corn;
They buy another's cheese;
They pay you not to milk your cows
And to turn loose half your bees.*

Nowadays, ranch women are adding their distinctive voices to the rhymed celebrations of life on the ranch. In "Woman of the Land," Gwen Petersen of Big Timber, Montana, salutes her ranching sisters:

*Her name won't be in history books,
This woman of the land;
Her heart is where it wants to be,
Content with Heaven's plan.*

*And in the corridors of time,
Her way is counted true;
Enduring hardships, strong as rock,
She does what she must do.*



It'll be a swinging time at the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko January 30-February 2.

Ranch women and their handicrafts will be at the center of an exhibit called "Back at the Ranch: Images and Arts of the Ranch Family" at the Northeastern Nevada Museum in Elko. The show opens January 31 to coincide with the Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

Folklorist Meg Glaser and the museum staff spent five months collecting quilts, cookbooks, kitchen gadgets, and anything else used in everyday life on ranches across the United States.

"We're focusing on contemporary ranch life," Glaser explained. "This exhibit doesn't go back to horse-and-buggy days."

The modern attitude is also reflected in verse.

"The new audience for cowboy poetry is more sophisticated and more interested in the reality," Vess Quinlan wrote in the program for last year's Gathering. "The new poets must deal with a world where the range is fenced, managed, and must be shared with ever-increasing numbers of city folks who need it to escape."

Quinlan, a very modern Arizona rancher who used laser technology to design an efficient irrigation system, says the American cowboy of popular literature is based on myth more than reality. In "The Open Question," a poem lamenting the shortage of real cowboys, he concedes:

*The closest thing I've seen
Is a Nevada buckaroo
But I've seen them fixing fence
And driving tractors too . . .*

*The sad truth of this matter
May bring strong men to tears.
There hasn't been a real cowboy born
In almost a hundred years.*

Real or not, hundreds of cowboys will be in Elko for the 1991 Gathering.

Barbara Land writes for the Reno Gazette-Journal and is a regular Nevada contributor.

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DINING GUIDE

The following Nevada dining directory includes current magazine advertisers. 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 Viennese. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

Flamingo Hilton/Lindy's Deli—733-3111. Grilled Reuben, New York steak, marble cheesecake. B, L, D. \$, major.

Rio Suite/All American Bar and Grille—252-7777. Mesquite grilled steak and seafood, extensive list of American beers and wines. D. \$-\$\$\$ major.

Rio Suite/Beach Cafe—252-7777. Pasta and seafood specials daily, night owl specials. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

Rio Suite/Carnival Buffet—252-7777. Bountiful selection. B, L, D. \$, major.

Rio Suite/Sonny's Deli—252-7777. Authentic New York deli style sandwiches and salads. 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.

Desert Inn/La Vie en Rose—733-4444. Poached pear in port wine, mousse of goose liver and prosciutto rosettes; veal with caramelized apples; boneless roast duck with choice of varied sauces, Steak Diane. 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 bouquette, 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.

Caesars Palace/Primavera—731-7110. Fettuccine

Primavera, pasta specialties, 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 specialties, pasta, veal. D. \$\$, major.

Las Vegas Hilton/Andiamo—732-5111. Northern Italian specialties, 25 pastas, veal, lamb, and fish entrees. L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

Desert Inn/Portofino—733-4444. Scampi alla Provinciale, Fettuccine Verde with Pesto, Veal Chop alla Parmigiana, Osso Buco Milanese con Risotto. D. \$\$\$\$ major.

Rio Suite/Antonio's—252-7777. Risottos, pastas, special desserts. 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

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.

Las Vegas Hilton/Garden of the Dragon—732-5111. Shark's fin soup, Szechuan chicken salad, honey roasted duck with oranges, Mongolian beef, Thai fried noodles. 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.

Flamingo Hilton/Beef Barron—733-3111. Prime rib special, chateaubriand, crisp roast duck. D. \$-\$\$\$ major.

Holiday Casino/Claudine's—369-5000. Steaks and seafood, open kitchen, piano bar nearby, excellent wine list. D. \$-\$\$\$ major.

Imperial Palace/The Seahouse—794-3261. Alaskan King crab legs, hot and cold appetizers, seafood salads. 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.

LAUGHLIN

Colorado Belle/Orleans Room—298-4000. Steak, seafood, prime rib, lamb chops, linguini. D. \$\$, major.

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

Carson Nugget/Bufet—882-1626. Sun. champagne brunch, Sat. breakfast buffet, Fri. seafood buffet. B, L, D. \$, major.

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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.

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., 825-2940. 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.

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.

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.



Sporty Café Andreotti in Harrah's Tahoe.

Flamingo 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.

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.

Peppermill/Le Moulin—826-2121. Tournedos of beef a la Dianne, veal a la Oscar, dover sole meuniere. D, \$, major.

INTERNATIONAL

Eldorado/Choices—786-5700. An express cafe with hot brau, deli, bakery, ice cream. B, L, D, \$, major.

ITALIAN

Bally's/Caruso's—789-2267. Fresh oysters, cannelloni, calamari. D, \$\$\$, major.

Eldorado/La Strada—786-5700. Saltimbocca, gnocchi al pesto, ravioli verdi con spinaci. D, \$, major.

ORIENTAL

Bally's/China Seas—789-2268. Mandarin shrimp, Mongolian beef, cashew chicken. D (closed Sun.), \$, major.

major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Trader Dick's—Sparks, 356-3300. Cashew chicken, Szechwan specialties, flaming dagger brochette. 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.

Circus Circus/Hickory Pit—329-0711. One-pound prime rib, New York steak. D, \$, major.

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.

LAKE TAHOE

AMERICAN

Caesars Tahoe/Cafe Roma—Stateline, 588-3515. Lamb chops, prime rib. B, L, D, \$-\$\$, major.

Harrah's Tahoe/Forest Buffet—Stateline, 588-6611. Friday night seafood bounty, Sunday brunch, daily buffet. B, L, D, \$, major.

Harrah's Tahoe/Sierra—Stateline, 588-6611. Chicken pot pie, cashew chicken salad, Chinese cuisine. 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.

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.

Harrah's Tahoe/Café Andreotti—Stateline, 588-6611. Pizza quattro stagioni, filetti barbaresco, lasagne Andreotti, D, \$, 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 Steak and Seafood Grill—Stateline, 588-6611. Blackened shrimp, mixed grill of lamb filet and smoked quail, hickory smoked range chicken with Southern Comfort apple butter, Black Angus beef. 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 coffeeshop, evening dinner house. B, L, D, \$-\$\$, major.

AROUND THE STATE

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.

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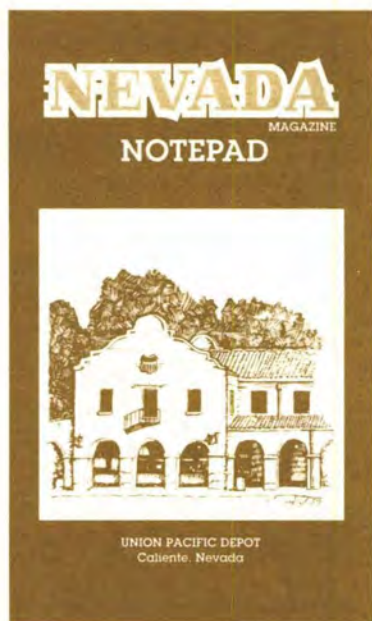
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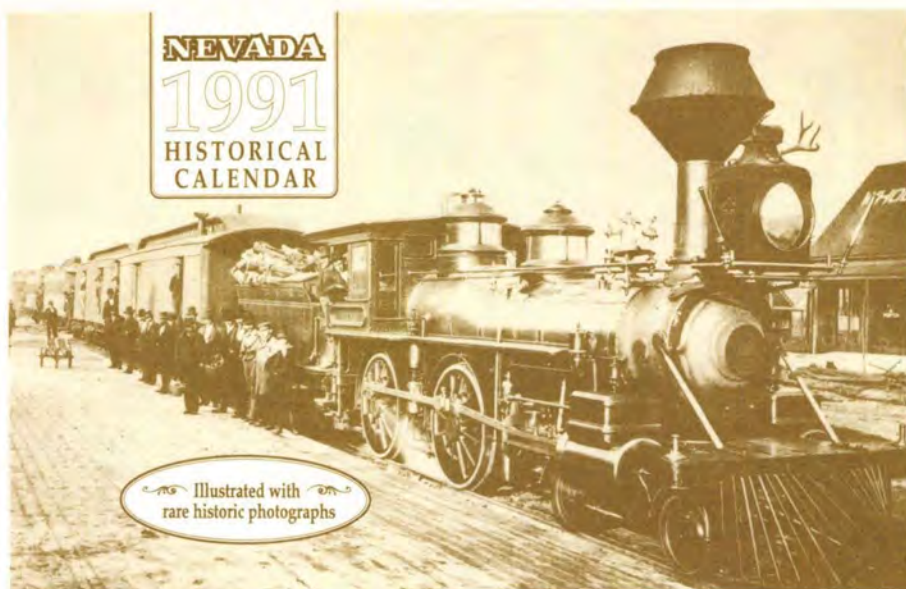
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