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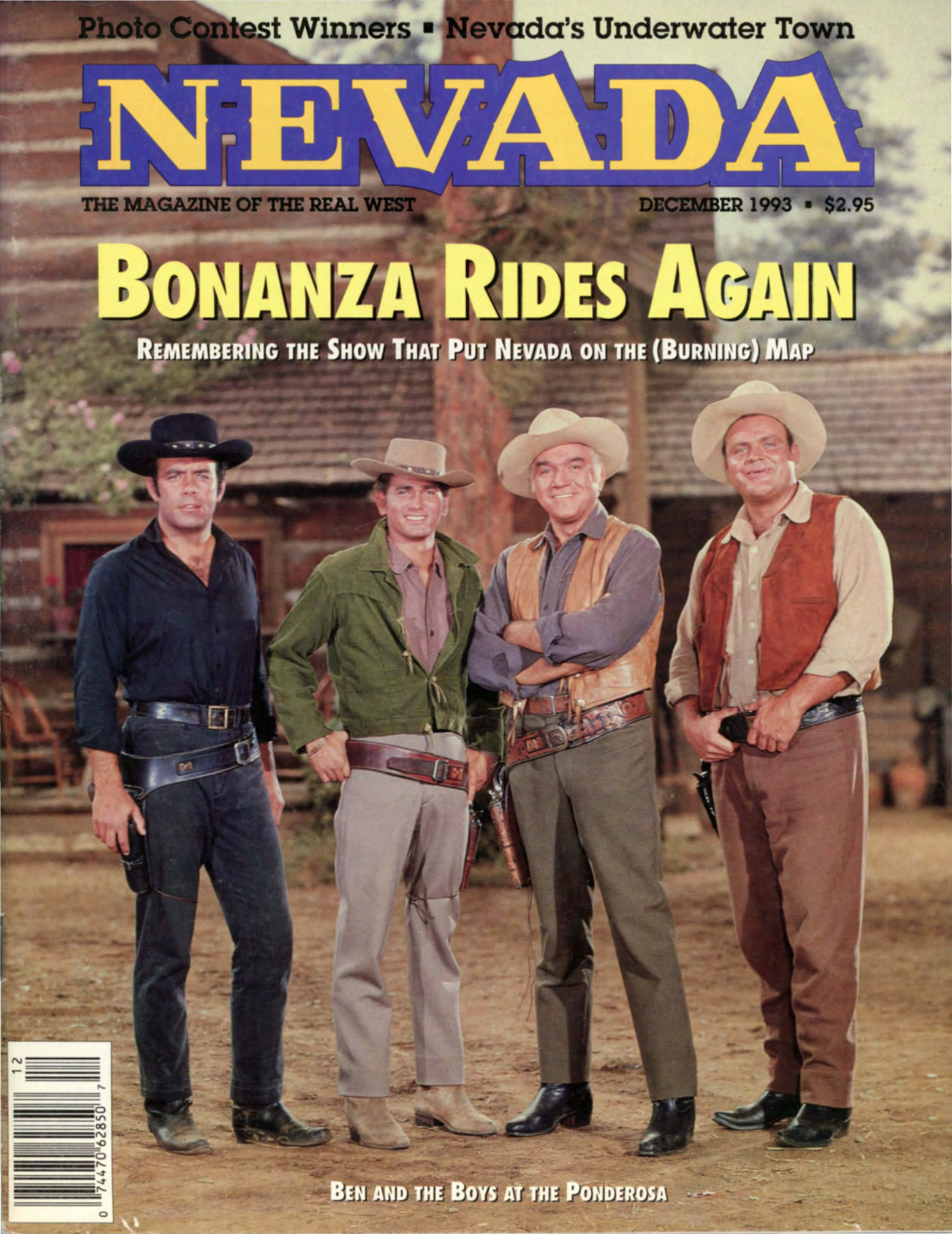
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Bonanzas

This issue's contributors offer both fond remembrances of bygone days and visions of Nevada's future. Also, the winners of this year's Great Nevada Picture Hunt appear in a special photo feature.

In "Back to Bonanza," Buddy Frank recalls the psychic impact of a single TV show on the Reno-Tahoe area. He remembers going to *Bonanza's* premiere in Reno as a youngster. "Dan Blocker walked by, and I said hello. He was huge to my small eyes." Buddy admits he wasn't exactly star struck by the show's unknown actors that night in 1959. "I didn't know any one of them from a hot rock," he says. But soon everybody did, and the rest is Ponderosa history.

The pioneer town of St. Thomas, which was buried by Lake Mead in the 1930s, is the subject of Dennis McBride's "The Mormon Atlantis." Dennis' new book, *Building Hoover Dam: An Oral History of the Great Depression*, covers the project that covered St. Thomas.

The McGill smokestack, which stood even taller than Hoover Dam, was gently blown up last Labor Day Richard Menzies watched the tower topple and was impressed with the technique. "I was amazed how they made it fall without hitting anything," he says.

At Lake Tahoe, snowboarders are carving out a major place in skiing's future. Seth Masia, a longtime Tahoe ski writer, reports on the shredder phenomenon in "Tray Monsters Invade Tahoe."

The photographers entering this year's Great Nevada Picture Hunt can be proud, says Paul AlLée, *Nevada's* art director. "Rainbows were way down, and people were way up," says Paul, who with fellow judges Linda Dufurrena and Jay Aldrich chose the winners announced in "Nevada Portraits."

In "Murder, She Wrote," Chris Platt profiles Sparks suspense writer Carol Davis Luce. *Nevada* publisher Richard Moreno talks to 11 other Silver State novelists in "Paperback Writers."

Ann Henderson muses about parties, fireworks, and even an indoor rodeo in "10 Great New Year's Revelries." Ann also looks back at a symbol of the Las Vegas Strip's heady early days, the Dunes, as it goes the way of the McGill smokestack. —*David Moore*

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On the Cover: *Adam, Little Joe, Ben, and Hoss Cartwright on the set of the original* Bonanza *television series. Photo courtesy of the Ponderosa Ranch*

Photos (from top to bottom): Ponderosa Ranch, George A. Strickland, Dennis McBride Collection

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LETTERS

Golden Girls and the Silver Slipper.

Golden Girl

I always enjoy *Nevada Magazine*, but the Sept/Oct issue was of special interest to me, especially the story "Golden Girls" by Sally Zanjani, author of *Goldfield: The Last Gold Rush on the Western Frontier* The Golden Girls of Goldfield included Mrs. Archibald, who owned a restaurant and used a horsewhip on a cook who had insulted a waitress. She was my husband's grandmother.

That spunky little Irish woman never lost her spunk. There is a story that after she left Goldfield and settled in Lodi Valley, near Gabbs, she recognized a lone horseman as a "scab" from Colorado. She got her shotgun and forced him to water his horse but refused him a drink of water.

Gini LeBeau
Hawthorne

Snake Charmer

Jim Andersen's "Snake Eyes" article in the July/August issue is the funniest thing I've read in years. I sent it to friends all over who appreciate a good sense of humor.

Pat Montague
Fallon

Alien Pursuits

Having sighted a UFO during a trip through Nevada a few years back, I'd love to correspond with Nevadans or Nevada travelers who've also witnessed UFO activities, especially in the Hiko, Alamo, and Indian Springs areas.

Those wishing to share their eyewitness accounts can write me at 1080 Lindsay Lane, Florissant, MO 63031.

Tomm Buzzetta
Florissant, MO

Tomm, as you'll see in last issue's story, "In Rachel, Things Are Looking Up" by Rob Powers, you won't feel alienated at the Little A 'Le' Inn in Rachel, a popular UFO observation area.—Ed.

Hot Item

Please send me one copy of the Sept/Oct issue. I am a current subscriber and have just ordered a subscription for a friend—everyone wants *my* magazines. This particular issue is excellent.

Gwen Lovelace
Las Vegas



The Goldfield women's temperance union.

Silver Slipper Search

I have a question relating to Las Vegas. When the Silver Slipper was demolished to make room for The Mirage a few years ago, was the large revolving silver slipper that adorned the outside of that casino saved?

Walter Sholomicki
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Walter we're happy to report that the Silver Slipper's slipper is intact and stored in the neon boneyard at Young Electric Sign Company in Las Vegas. The Allied Arts Council of Southern Nevada is raising funds to restore the slipper and other signs and provide a permanent home for them in a neon museum.—Ed.

Wovoka: Naval Namesake

Last year in Elko I read "The Paiute Messiah" by Don Lynch in the May/June '92 issue. From about 1964 to 1969 I was stationed aboard the *YTM-396 Wovoka*. It was a yard tugboat at Hunters Point, then later at Treasure Island, California. One tug master called it "the Cadillac" because it was electro-shift and not compressed air like other tugs. Like many other tugs, the *Wovoka* was built during World War II.



Wovoka.

During my tour, I had never heard of the man Wovoka. Your story was enlightening.

Dan Hutchinson
Spokane, WA

Show Fans

We were really pleased to see the Las Vegas show guide that is glued into the Sept/Oct Nevada Events section. We hope that you continue to put it in every issue.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Woloszyk
Clinton Township, MI

Prize Fixing

Regarding *Nevada Magazine's* annual Great Nevada Picture Hunt, I noticed that aside from the top winners who receive cash prizes, the prizes for category winners are slanted toward men: T shirt (unisex), tie, or suspenders. How about a bandanna or a mug?

Carol Conkey
Victoria, TX

Carol, we'll keep that in mind for next year and other suggestions will be welcome. Also, be sure to see this year's contest results, starting on page 22.—Ed.

Not His Style

I regret to inform you that I must cancel my subscription to *Nevada Magazine*. I was looking forward to reading about farmers, ranchers, buckaroos, sheepherders, miners, and prospectors. The trial copy of the magazine arrived, and I was very disappointed—not a single article on rural Nevada (which is 98 percent of Nevada). I'm not interested in reading about gaming, dancing girls, and show biz.

Bill Budd
San Jose, CA

Agent of Praise

As a travel agent for more than 25 years, I receive many, many publications, as do all travel agents. The purpose of this short note is to tell you that of all the reading opportunities I have, the arrival of *Nevada Magazine* every other month brightens my day. I read it, refer to it, and on occasion plagiarize something from it for my monthly travel agent newsletter.

I especially like the history, old photographs, and people articles. In the July/August '93 issue, the story "10 Great Biggest Hotels" filled yet another page in my publication.

Ron Carr
Tulsa, OK

Photos: Nevada Historical Society (top), Smithsonian Institution (bottom)

ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS

Snow rides and a Christmas cross.

OUTDOORS

Sleigh Days

LAKE TAHOE—If crisp winter days make you long for an old-fashioned sleigh ride, you can choose from a number of horse-drawn venues.

At Borges Sleigh, Hay, and Carriage rides at Stateline, visitors can hop on a one-horse open sleigh across the street from Caesars Tahoe for a narrated Lake Tahoe ride. The cost is $15 per couple and $5 for kids under 10 (702-588-2953). On the northwest side of Lake Tahoe, Northstar has sleigh rides through the forest. The resort is located off California State Route 267 Rides are $12 for adults and $8 for ages five to 12 (916-562-1230). In Verdi, big draft horses known as Percherons pull sleighs through the snow-blanketed pastures at Bull Creek Ranch, seven miles west of Reno. Rides are $8 for ages 12 and older and $5 under 12 (702-345-7600).—*Deborah Mawhar*



A two-horse open sleigh takes visitors through the woods at Tahoe.

WALKING

Historic Hike

EUREKA—History-minded visitors can pick up a free walking-tour guide to Eureka's landmarks. The eight-page booklet points out some historic spots in Eureka, one of the best preserved 19th-century mining towns in Nevada. Highlights include the recently restored Eureka Theatre, constructed in 1880, and the 1865 Tannehill Log Cabin, which is believed to be the town's first house. The free walking-tour booklet is available from the Eureka County Chamber of Commerce. You can call 702-237-5484 or write the chamber at Box 14, Eureka, NV 89316.—*Richard Moreno*

NIGHTLIFE

American Bandstanding



Dick's club is at Harolds.

RENO—Sock hoppers can rock at Dick Clark's American Bandstand Club in downtown Reno. The mini-museum and dance club upstairs in Harolds Club opens for happy hour and '50s music at 5 p.m. on Fridays. The club opens at 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays and Saturdays. Dancing to '50s through '90s music begins at 10:30 p.m. Dick Clark, who was on hand to open the new club last summer, shows off part of his massive collection of rock 'n' roll memorabilia. Cher's autographed "Moonstruck" script and an autographed surfboard from the Beach Boys hang on the wall. You can catch live acts on some weekdays. Cover charge is $2 on weekdays (redeemable for drinks), $3 Fridays and Saturdays.—*Deborah Mawhar*

TOURS

Backstage 'Folies'



Carlota Gutiorrez of Mexico takes her hat off to show biz during the Trop's backstage tour.

LAS VEGAS—You can take a tour behind the scenes at the Tropicana's "Folies Bergere," the longest running production show in Las Vegas. Performers lead backstage tours and tell visitors about the show. Among the tidbits: The move of the French show's American version to Nevada in 1959 was the brainchild of Lou Walters, the Trop's entertainment director and father of TV's Barbara Walters.

During the 45-minute tour, you can catch a glimpse of the show's dressing rooms, which are a controlled jumble of feathers, headpieces, and costumes. Those tour takers who heft a 45-pound costume gain a new respect for the showgirl who makes it look easy with a glide and a smile. And they learn the rule: Don't make the girl in the sunburst headpiece turn her head—the result can be painful.

"Folies" tours are conducted at 12:30, 1:30, and 2:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday at the Tropicana. Tickets are $3.50 and are available at the show's ticket booth.

Down the Strip, Bally's offers a backstage tour of "Jubilee!" for groups of 25 or more.—*Ann Henderson*

Photos: William Carr/Stock Ex (top), Kate Butler (bottom right)

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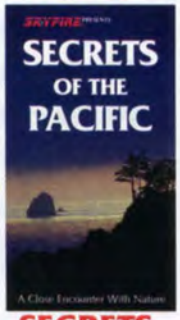
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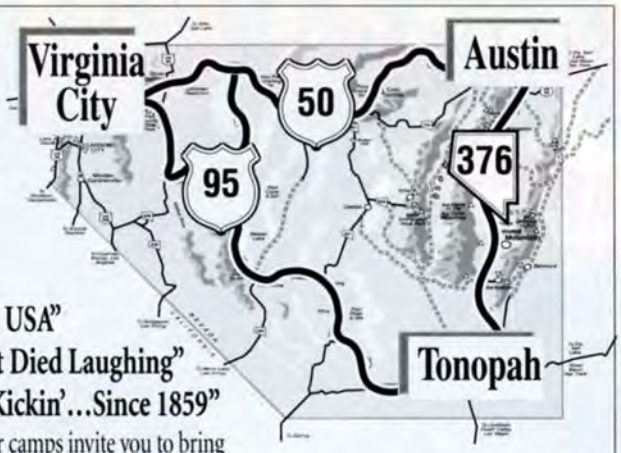
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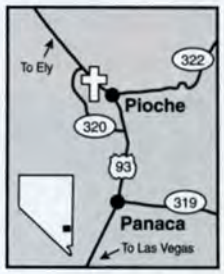
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HOLIDAYS

Christmas Cross

PIOCHE—Travelers often wonder about the significance of the 10-foot cross perched on a hilltop overlooking this old mining town. A Pioche fixture since the 1930s, the cross is decorated with lights every Christmas. The power source is an 800-foot extension cord leading down the hill to the nearest home. The cross was first erected by local miners, who dynamited a hole in the limestone hilltop and then planted the wooden cross to mark the site for Easter services for the Episcopal Church. After vandals burned the cross in the 1960s, townspeople missed the landmark and were bothered by the charred stump. In 1968, Pioche resident Bill Lynch bummed scrap metal from mining companies and built a larger cross. It took dynamite and the muscle of people representing several religions to secure the new version in cement. The cross was installed on July 24, which happens to be the Mormon holiday of Pioneer Day.—*Ann Henderson*



Map: Joanna Vernarecci

CASINOS

Rising to the Challenge

LAS VEGAS—Visitors can line up at Caesars Palace to join the studio audience of *Caesars Challenge*, NBC-TV's half-hour game show.

Hosted by sportscaster Ahmad Rashad, the show challenges contestants to unscramble letters that pop up when a hunk-sized centurion pulls the handle on a giant slot machine (no Vanna White-type assistant needed here). The show is broadcast weekdays, and a weekend edition has begun taping.

Prior to the show the audience is schooled in the proper TV etiquette of ooohs, aaahs, and applause. Future con-

testants are selected from the studio audience, and there are chances to win prizes before and during the show.

Tickets are free, with a limit of four per person, and can be picked up at the box office the Sunday before taping. Advance tickets may be requested by writing Caesars' ticket office at 3570 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas, NV 89109. Include request for times, dates, and number of tickets. No children under eight are admitted, and those between eight and 18 must be accompanied by an adult. For taping times and ticket information, call 702-731-7865 or 800-634-6698.—*Ann Henderson*

SIGHTSEEING



Holiday scenes adorn ice sculptor Pete Hagan's front lawn every Christmas.

The Snow Must Go On

CARSON CITY—Every winter Pete Hagan fills his front lawn with snow sculptures in time for Christmas—whether his yard has snow or not. If there isn't enough of the white stuff on the ground, he trucks it in from Lake Tahoe. Hagan chips out life-sized Santas, carolers, and scenes from "Beauty and the Beast" and "Aladdin" using a shovel, paddle, saw, and putty knives. He works for about three days to complete the sculptures by Christmas Eve. The statues usually last about a week, and Hagan adds to his montage throughout the winter, depending on Mother Nature. Passers-by can see the sculptures at 3186 Minonee Lane in Carson City, which is on the east side of town near U.S. Highway 50 and Airport Road.—*Deborah Mawhar*

Photo: Lisa J. Tolda



ALAN TACK, *pre-med student*
Clark High School Valedictorian, 1991

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Taller than Hoover Dam, the 750-foot McGill smokestack went out with a bang and a town picnic.

Blowing the Stack

A relic of White Pine's copper-milling days comes down in a big way.

By Richard Menzies

Only 20 years after it was built by the Kennecott Copper Corporation to meet federal emissions standards, the 750-foot smokestack at McGill came tumbling down at 3:50 p.m., Saturday, September 4, 1993. Standing 200 feet higher than the Washington Monument, the giant stack could be seen for miles and was reputed to be the tallest man-made structure in Nevada outside the Nuclear Test Site.

The demolition came as the grand finale to a McGill town picnic that featured live music, swim contests, a beachball tourney, and a drawing to determine who would be the lucky person to push the plunger. That honor went to 16-year-old Joe Farnsworth, an Ely resident who had bought just one raffle ticket.

"Neato!" exclaimed young Joe, who was only four years old when the big stack last blew smoke back in 1981. In recent years, as Kennecott dismantled other parts of the smelter, the stack had turned from a symbol of prosperity in White Pine County to a reminder of happier days when metal prices were up and copper was king.

"It's kinda sad. It's like a piece of you is gone," sighed Julie Rose, who grew up in nearby Ruth, where copper ore was mined from open pits and hauled by train to the McGill smelter.

Her husband, Claude, agreed. Formerly in charge of Kennecott's electrical department, it was Claude's unenviable task to replace the stack's aircraft-warning strobe lights every six months.

"Management had to do it because labor didn't want to," recalled Claude. "They wanted high pay."

Typically, it took two men eight hours to screw in 16 light bulbs. The reason things went so slow was because the elevator went up only the first 300 feet. The light-bulb changers had to climb a ladder, hand over hand, the rest of the way to the top.

"And I believe my fingerprints are embedded in every rung," said Claude.

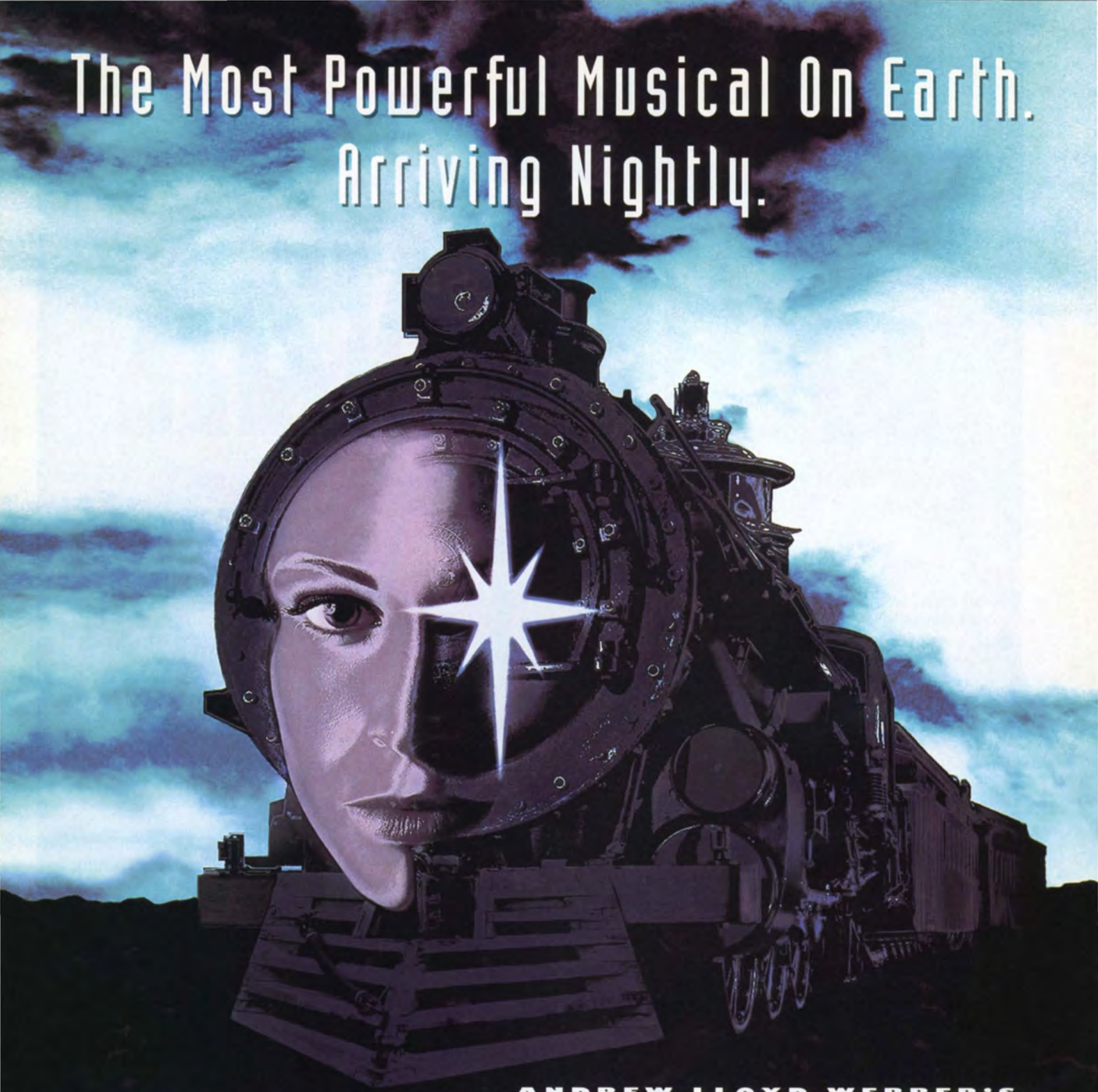
Ironically, the company chose Labor Day weekend to demolish the last remaining piece of Eastern Nevada's biggest smokestack industry. No matter; when the time came, the Roses, along with hundreds of their friends and neighbors—most of them former Kennecott employees—raised their voices in a hearty countdown chant.

At the count of zero a huge red fireball erupted, followed by a muffled boom. Then ever so slowly the big stack tilted northeastward, remaining airborne for a full 18 seconds before crashing to earth in a cloud of yellow-brown dust. A moment of almost reverent silence followed. Then a lusty cheer went up, and life went on in McGill.

Richard Menzies is a Salt Lake City-based writer and photographer who does his blowing up mostly in the darkroom. At McGill's picnic, the best he could manage was an honorable mention in the Big Splash Contest.

Photos: Scott Klette and Chris Krick

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BACK TO BONANZA

Twenty years after the Nevada-based show rode into reruns, the legend of the Cartwrights lives on.

By Buddy Frank

They came riding out of the distance, their horses galloping across a pine-ringed meadow with magnificently blue Lake Tahoe in the background. They were four men, powerful yet kind-hearted, banded together on a quest to set all things right in the world.

For most Americans the stirring opening scene of *Bonanza* was part of a weekly family ritual. For those of us living in Northern Nevada during the show's heyday, that image of the meadow was literally bigger than life. After all, *Bonanza* was our show, filmed with our scenery using our history Every week *Bonanza's* flaming map burned our backyard—Reno, Virginia City and Lake Tahoe—into the national consciousness, and we couldn't help being proud of our association with a hit show



The Cartwrights blazed a trail from Lake Tahoe to Virginia City.

I remember the night the Cartwright saga first captured Reno's attention. It was August 21, 1959, three weeks before the series' nationwide debut. That night the world premiere of *Bonanza* was held at the Granada Theater in downtown Reno. The stars had arrived a day early at the airport, each in their Western gear, and the *Reno Evening Gazette* devoted three extra pages to the event. The actors spent the night at the Mapes Hotel, and early the next morning they made a visit to Virginia City That afternoon they were honored by a parade down Virginia Street that ended at the theater.

The premiere was a spectacle. Standing in line for the early screening at 7 p.m., I saw the stars parade across the red carpet rolled out between two spotlights mounted next to Woolworth's.

The funny thing about the stars of the show was that no one—at least no one



Hoss, Ben, and Little Joe saddled up for a 14-year ride on *Bonanza* (above). Cast members were unknowns when they arrived in Reno for the premiere in 1959 (right).



Photos: Ponderosa Ranch (top and left), Don Dondero (right)



After Pernell Roberts departed in 1965, Dan Blocker, Lorne Greene, and Michael Landon held down the ranch.

I knew—had ever heard of them. Lorne Greene? Pernell Roberts? Dan Blocker? Michael Landon's name rang a bell only because of his role in *I Was a Teenage Werewolf*. Today the actors and their on-screen personas—Ben, Adam, Hoss, and Little Joe—are television legends, but not in '59.

Reno's business leaders, however, were keenly aware of the show's possibilities. At that time Reno officials were seeking to diversify the city's somewhat limited national reputation as the divorce capital of the world, and they warmed to the idea of a wholesome Western set in Nevada.

"It was a milestone for Reno because *Bonanza* had an enormous impact on the perceptions people had of this area, and the show directly caused a large increase in tourism traffic," says Roy Powers, a gaming executive and chamber of commerce official at the time.

A few years earlier the Reno chamber had created a Silver Spurs award to recognize movie or television personalities whose work most benefited the area. Powers says that one year the presenter was Ronald Reagan, the popular host of *Death Valley Days*, who was accompanied by his wife, Nancy Powers recalls that the future president made a presentation to a Cartwright. In fact, the Cartwrights always seemed to win the Silver Spurs.

Dortort's idea for Bonanza had its beginnings in 1952 when he wrote a TV anthology about Virginia City for Fireside Theatre.

"First, each year we gave the award to one or another of the four main *Bonanza* characters. Then we gave the award to each of them again," Powers says. "It was great for Reno, but it actually ended up killing the Silver Spurs because *Bonanza* dominated the event for so long."

In those days my own excitement about *Bonanza* had little to do with awards. What made the NBC series so special to me and every other kid in the country was that it was in living color. Today we take color TV for granted, but it was something special 34 years ago. You considered yourself lucky if you knew someone who had a color set.

NBC already was the number-one network, but NBC was owned by RCA Victor, and RCA was the number-one

Photo: Ponderosa Ranch

The four stars became famous figures, although Pernell Roberts, the series' heartthrob, was troubled with his role.







Dan Blocker beholds Badwater Bill's beard (top) during Bonanza Days in Virginia City. Lorne Greene is a proud recipient of the Silver Spurs (lower left). Michael Landon and Pernell Roberts are decked out at the Nugget.

manufacturer of—you guessed it—color TVs. So NBC changed its logo to a peacock and set out to produce the country's first all-color weekly series.

The network hired veteran writer-producer David Dortort, who had written some 15 movies and 200 TV shows, including 78 episodes in two years of *Restless Gun*, which starred (and exhausted) John Payne. Dortort's idea for *Bonanza* had its beginnings in 1952 when he wrote a television anthology about Virginia City for *Fireside Theatre*.

"I recalled the success of the Comstock Lode in a *Fireside Theatre* piece and added a few other things that I had learned by that time," Dortort told a *Nevada Magazine* interviewer in 1966. "First: No more shows with a single star. Second: Why not use my Comstock knowledge? Third: It was time to create a strong father image."

And so Lorne Greene became Ben Cartwright, America's most famous dad. Ben was wise and strong, strict but fair, a man who could ride with the best of them.

Well, that last talent may be open to some question. NancySu Herron-Joines knows her riders; she was a Reno Rodeo princess three years in a row during the 1960s. In the summers she went to Burbank to help her grandfather, C.Y "Fat" Jones, who supplied the horses for the Cartwrights.

NancySu reveals, "Pernell Roberts was the most natural rider. Dan Blocker actually raised his own horses and did pretty well, too. Michael Landon wasn't a great rider, but he used his athletic abilities to do a decent job.

"But Lorne," NancySu relates with some reluctance. "Well, let's just say you could see a fair amount of daylight under his saddle." So much for the myth of Ben as the best horseman on the Ponderosa.

Ironically NancySu, who still lives in Reno, is related to Ben Johnson, who has the lead role in *Bonanza—The Return* (see page 18). "It's somewhat funny that my Uncle Ben will now be the main star and father figure," she says. "When he first appeared on the show back in April of 1962, the Cartwrights helped to hang him for being a bank robber."

Bonanza was known for its stable of top guest stars like Ben Johnson. Roles were filled by such diverse actors as Charles Bronson, Zsa Zsa Gabor, Dennis Hopper, and Yvonne DeCarlo. Before he became a Nevada showroom idol, a chubby young Wayne Newton made two guest appearances on the show Numerous cast members of *M.A.S.H.* (Loretta Swit, Larry Linville, and Mike Farrell) and *Star Trek* (Leonard Nimoy and DeForest Kelley) appeared on *Bonanza*. Future Academy Award winners included Lee Marvin, Jodie Foster, Ben Johnson, and Lou Gossett, Jr.

During the show's run the four stars became famous figures. Pernell Roberts, the series' heartthrob, was troubled with his role as the handsome older brother almost from the first episode. He criticized the scripts as mediocre and feuded with Landon. Roberts finally quit in 1965, and with little on-screen explanation Adam disappeared from the ranch.

Michael Landon used the show to develop his film-making skills, and he was one of television's most successful writer-producer-directors by the time of his death in 1991. A majority of the shows in *Bonanza's* final seasons were written and directed by Landon.

Dan Blocker, a former football player turned Shakespearean actor, lent a comic presence on and off the set. At six-feet-four and 300 pounds, Blocker was a giant but thoughtful man, and for many fans, Hoss was their favorite Cartwright. In 1972, Blocker's death due to a lung clot at age 43 left a void on the Ponderosa. Without him, *Bonanza* lasted only one more year.

Of the four stars, Lorne Greene's personal life most resembled his role. While at first he shared some of Pernell Roberts' opinions about weak scripts, by the end of the series Greene had, in many ways, come to identify with Ben Cartwright. Perhaps to amplify the point Greene, who died in 1987, built an ex-

Photos: Don Dondero



Dan Blocker and Lorne Greene ham it up for Governor Grant Sawyer and a throng of admirers in downtown Reno in 1964. The actors were in town for the Reno chamber's annual Silver Spurs award banquet.

act model of the Ponderosa ranch house at his home in Mesa, Arizona.

The *Bonanza* stars were always greeted warmly on their trips to the Reno area. When Michael Landon married Lynn Noe in Reno, Dan Blocker was the best man. When Virginia City held a *Bonanza* celebration, Lorne Greene led the cheering in the Delta parking lot.



Ben and Candy (David Canary) toil on the set overlooking Lake Tahoe.

When the Ponderosa Ranch theme park at Incline Village opened in 1967 (see page 19), it offered a focus for Bonanzamaniacs.

Reno became a hot spot for kids, teens, and other fans who wanted to drive out to see where Hoss discovered leprechauns (Episode No. 146) and the Ophir mine diggings where Adam helped Philip Diedeshiemer find a way to prevent cave-ins (Episode No. 8). I never tired of showing out-of-town friends the famous meadow near Tahoe's Stateline where I'd first seen the Cartwrights gallop into the Granada. Wherever they lived, my friends saw that same scene each weekend (on Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. until the show moved in 1961 to Sundays at 9 p.m.).

The show's liberal use of Nevada history was great for us Reno kids, but I remember a few times when I took those events and settings too literally Of the first 10 episodes, seven were based loosely on Comstock history It was the "loosely" that got me in trouble. I remember spending an entire Sunday in Virginia City trying to find the place

The show liberally used Nevada history. Of the first 10 episodes, seven were based loosely on Comstock history.

where Hoss and Little Joe had been during the previous night's show. They had driven a wagon down one street, turned a corner, and headed down another street to the livery stable. Both streets were relatively flat. If you've ever tried to find a flat spot on any street in Virginia City, you know it's a challenge, and finding a corner with two such streets is virtually impossible because the town was built precariously on the side of Sun Mountain.

Once I argued that Mark Twain had spent the better part of his life in Virginia City, based on my firm belief that Twain first hit the Comstock in Episode No. 5 (1959) when he helped save the Ponderosa from thieves, and that he was still there 13 years later working on the *Territorial Enterprise* in Episode No. 422 (1972) when the Cartwrights returned the favor by saving him from a libel suit. I assumed that the textbooks had reduced his stay to just two years, 1861 to 1863, by mistake.

The show's take on romance, of course, was a bit old-fashioned. Pernell Roberts often criticized the Cartwrights' romantic trials, and it was easy to guess the outcome when one of them fell in love: Adam meets Sue Ellen, but she is shot (Episode No. 14); Ben meets and marries Elizabeth, but she dies giving birth to Adam (Episode No. 65); Hoss falls in love with Margie, but she dies in Hoss' arms while giving birth to another man's baby (Episode No. 82); Little Joe is going to marry Sally the bank teller until an obsessed boyfriend kills her by accident (Episode No. 252); and so on. Loving a Cartwright was more fatal than cholera in the Old West.

Some quirks in the scripts didn't make much sense. Do you recall the quick rides that Hoss and Little Joe made from the Ponderosa to Virginia City to get a drink? In reality, there are 40 miles and two mountain passes between Lake Tahoe and the saloons of C Street.

"That trip would have taken a good rider at least six hours round-trip," says

Photos: Don Dondero (top), Ponderosa Ranch (bottom)

"We would get 50 to 75 inquiries a day," Petrini recalls. "'Do the Cartwrights come in here? What do they drink?'"

historian Phillip I. Earl of the Nevada Historical Society Despite the show's geographical—and historical—exaggerations, Earl admits to being a fan. "I used to watch the show all the time. Any media that generates interest in our past does a great service," he says.

"The show was the modern equivalent of the dime Western novels that were popular in the 1870s and 1880s. They helped to create the image of the West for an entire generation, just as *Bonanza* did four generations later. Accurate or not, both forms of entertainment created an awful lot of interest in our past and helped influence the future of the West."

Bonanza's influence on Virginia City was reminiscent of the town's original Big Bonanza, the incredibly rich deposit of gold and silver found by miners under Virginia City in 1873. Locals joked about the Cartwrights' improbably quick rides into town, but merchants welcomed those fans who made the pilgrimage to the Comstock.

Angelo Petrini, owner of the Delta Saloon, and his partners still operate the Ponderosa and Bonanza saloons on C Street in Virginia City He has no doubt about *Bonanza's* appeal.

"For over 10 years we would get 50 to 75 inquiries a day " he recalls. "'Do the Cartwrights come in here? What do they drink? Where's the ranch?' Today " Petrini adds with a sense of longing, "all the magic is gone. Hardly anyone mentions the show "

When *Bonanza* ended on January 16, 1973, it was the second-longest running TV Western of all time (after *Gunsmoke).* Prior to reruns, it attracted more than 480 million viewers and was aired with foreign-language dubbing in 97 countries.



Hoss often supplied comedic relief on *Bonanza*, both on-screen and off.

The show's stars found new homes in televisionland—Greene in *Griff, Battlestar Galactica, Code Red,* and countless *Alpo* commercials; Roberts in *Trapper John, M.D.* and *FBI;* and Landon as producer and star of *Little House on the Prairie* and *Highway to Heaven.* But *Bonanza* itself lives on, a popular fixture on cable, a Western morality tale in living color.

It also lives on in the Nevada angles of its scripts. The show introduced us students of the '60s to square-set timbering in the mines, the murder of prostitute Julia Bulette, the Civil War, and assorted other topics. I'm sure *Bonanza* awakened for many people a lifelong interest in Nevada and Western history I know it did for me.

Recently I talked by phone to another *Bonanza* fan, Melany Shapiro of Brooklyn, New York. Three years ago Shapiro saw her first *Bonanza* rerun. She says *Bonanza* soon became "an obsession," and she recorded almost every show Last summer her book, *Bonanza: The Unofficial Story of the Ponderosa,* was published by Pioneer Books of Las Vegas. It covers all 430 aired episodes, four lost episodes, and the entire cast from Candy to Hop Sing.

Despite her encyclopedic knowledge of *Bonanza,* Shapiro has never been to Virginia City So this winter, like hundreds of thousands of the faithful before her, she's flying out to Reno to see where the Cartwrights lived. I promised that when she's here, I'll show her all the flat spots in Virginia City

Buddy Frank of Reno is director of marketing for the Fitzgeralds Group. He still watches Bonanza *reruns and always salutes when he drives by the meadow at Stateline.*

Bonanza Rides Again

It's 1905 at the Ponderosa. The original Cartwrights are gone, and the ranch is threatened by a villainous tycoon who plans to level the forest and strip-mine the land. Can Ben Cartwright's grandkids foil the scoundrel and save the Ponderosa?

For the answer, fans can tune in to *Bonanza—The Return,* a two-hour TV movie filmed at the Ponderosa Ranch in Incline Village and other Northern Nevada locales. Scheduled to air on NBC in November, *The Return* is one of four *Bonanza* movies planned for next year. Associate producer Danny Sarnoff says the ecologically correct plots won't lessen the show's family focus.

"We have tried to contemporize the new show to reflect more modern values," Sarnoff says. "But the fact is, a strong family unit that sticks together works in any time period. The message is family first."

This isn't the first time the Cartwright descendants have returned to the Ponderosa. *Bonanza—The Next Generation,* a two-hour movie, was filmed in 1987

The Return cast includes Michael Landon, Jr. as Benj Cartwright, Little Joe's son. Dirk Blocker, son of Dan, plays a reporter. Brian Leckner, a Dan Blocker lookalike, plays Hoss' son, Josh. Other cast members include Linda Gray and Richard Roundtree as well as Western movie veterans Ben Johnson and Jack Elam. Dean Stockwell plays the villain, but against the Cartwrights, his chances don't look good.—*Jackie Ruffin*



Stars of *The Return* (clockwise from left): Alistair MacDougal, Michael Landon, Jr., Emili Warfield, and Brian Leckner.

Photos: Ponderosa Ranch (top), Gary Null/NBC (bottom)

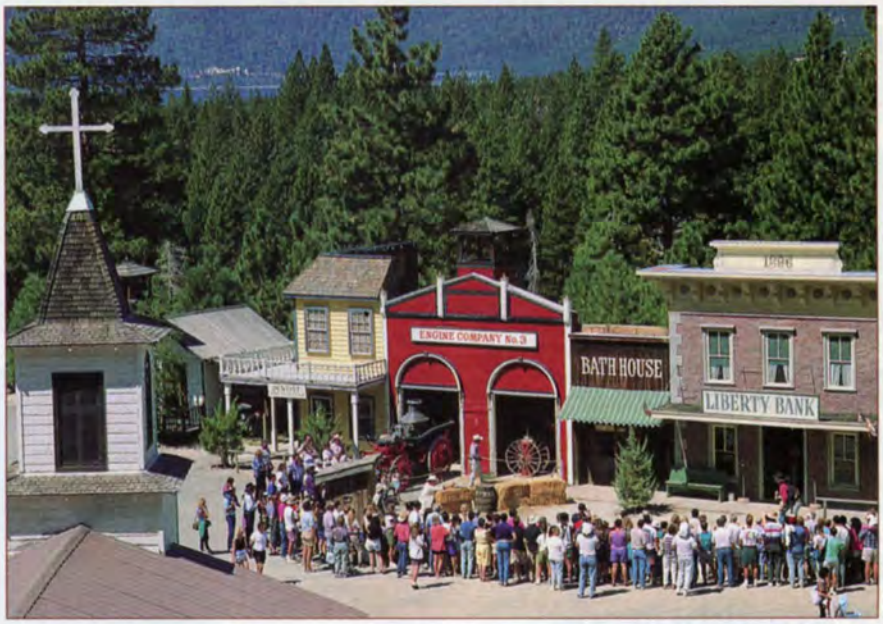
Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch

The Ponderosa Ranch in Incline Village has become a Tahoe landmark with its forest setting, Old West town, and Hossburgers. But before 1967 the Ponderosa was no more real than the Cartwright family

Bonanza's popularity in the early 1960s drew fans searching for the mythical Ponderosa on Tahoe's north shore. Incline Village contractor Bill Anderson, who stabled the show's horses, saw an opportunity to satisfy those fans. He entered a partnership with NBC and the *Bonanza* stars, and the Ponderosa Ranch opened its gates in 1967

Anderson, who bought out his partners, still greets visitors at the front gate. The Ponderosa is open from mid-April through October. Admission is $7.50 for adults, $5.50 for ages five to 11, and free for those four and under.

About 250,000 visitors a year amble along the theme park's Western streets and quench their thirst with souvenir tin cups filled with sarsaparilla. The ranch house, which appears deceptively huge on TV, is furnished with antiques, and the Cartwrights' hats and jackets still hang on a rack. Although the Cartwright boys may not have been lucky in love, the Ponderosa's wedding chapel is a popular spot to tie the knot.—*Jackie Ruffin*



A shootout draws a crowd at the Ponderosa Ranch in Incline Village.

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Photo: Gail Bandini

TRAY MONSTERS INVADE TAHOE

Shredding is on the rise as skiers and resorts make room for snowboards.

BY SETH MASIA

Skiing is a European sport. The gliding ski was brought to the gold fields of Nevada and California by Norwegian sailors who jumped ship to become miners. In the 1850s, Jon Torsteinson Rui, who later became known as John "Snowshoe" Thompson, traveled 90 miles on skis between Genoa and Placerville to deliver the mail. Later, Frenchmen like Emile Allais and Joe Marillac helped develop ski resorts in the Lake Tahoe area.

Befitting the sport's European heritage, American skiers observe a code of behavior that is downright courtly. We warn each other upon overtaking with a quiet "On your right." We line up at the lift like well-behaved parochial-school kids. We après-ski. Our language is sprinkled with Norwegian (telemark) and German (schuss). We are, on the whole, civilized and cosmopolitan folks.

However, over the past decade we have endured an invasion by barbarians as Southern California skateboarders have learned about snowboarding and headed for the hills.

Surfing and skateboarding are purely Americanized innovations, with a consciously anti-historical culture that comes straight off the California beaches. Skateboarding, the Sport of Kids, carried that concept inland to the city streets and became the ultimate expression of teenage angst.

Now Tahoe's ski hills are alive with rebellious youngsters on snowboards. They believe in baggy pants, not in continental manners. The mix of cultures engenders impatience, even intolerance. Skiers object when snowboarders cut in front of them on the hill and in lift lines, bank turns off live trees (it slices the trunks' bark), and tumble out of control into innocent skiers-by

Some snowboarders, like motorcyclists, feel they've been tarred by the irresponsible behavior of their own fringe element. Noah Selasnek, a Squaw Valley snowboarder, points out that only a few younger snowboarders are conscious rebels. "It's a few rich, spoiled brats who would behave that way no



Snowboarding has taken flight at most Lake Tahoe resorts, including Sugar Bowl (above), where shredder Bonnie Learey catches some air.

Photos: Larry Prosor



Skiers like Kevin Andrews (right) are learning to share the slopes in the Sierra with snowboarders like Damian Sanders (left), and vice versa.

matter what sport they were involved in," he says. "Most of us fit right into the mountain culture, but you'd never notice us."

In fact, most on-hill conflicts are pretty innocuous. Snowboarding is a new sport, growing about 40 percent annually. On a typical weekend, 15 percent of Tahoe's lift riders are now snowboarders, and on weekdays, especially early and late in the season, the proportion can be as high as 50 percent.

When a sport grows this fast, most of its participants have to be fairly new at it—so it's not surprising that many of them are still learning and tend to ride at the thin edge of control. Skiers naturally shy away from flailers.

"I think it's the less secure people on both sides who cause the behavior problems," one skier says.

Moreover, snowboarders tend to carve bigger turns than skiers, so skiers often find the wide-turning tray monsters unpredictable. Therefore, until a skier has been around them a lot, snowboarders can be pretty intimidating. One way to deal with the situation is to tell jokes about shred heads.

Last winter, while riding the Sky Lift at Heavenly Valley with my photographer buddy Tom Lippert, I repeated to him the latest joke: "How does a snowboarder say hello? 'Sorry, dude.'" We got off the lift, and as Tom hoisted his camera bag onto his back, a snowboarder clipped him from behind. "Sorry, dude," said the kid.

Lipp is an easygoing guy, and no more was said. But Tom Burt, a hot freestyle skier and occasional snowboarder, recalls watching as a group of 40-ish skiers—apparently offended by an earlier instance of adolescent behavior—surrounded a 15-year-old snowboarder and tried to run him off the trail at Boreal. One thing led to another, and pretty soon the ski patrol had to break up a full-fledged lift-line fist fight between a collection of mature skiers driven by righteous indignation and a pack of high-schoolers driven by youthful zeal.

Within the snowboard culture, too, there's a gulf between alpine boarders and freestylers. Freestylers are the skateboard kids, dedicated to trick riding in specially built half-pipes and bumps. Alpine riders often are converted skiers, interested in "maching"—high-speed riding on steep ski trails, especially when the snow is deep. Alpine riders generally adopt mountain values and fit in nicely with Tahoe's most athletic extreme skiers. "I think it's the less accomplished, less secure people on both sides who cause the behavior problems," Burt says.

Several ski areas try to segregate the freestyle riders by building special parks with artificial bumps and walls. Alpine Meadows simply bans snowboarding entirely "Our clientele isn't comfortable with them," says Werner Schuster, the resort's president.

Kim Kronkhyte, who coordinates the snowboard program at Squaw Valley, believes the culture clash is overblown. "A lot of adults are now learning to snowboard," she points out, and she feels this development has already diluted the thrasher element. "They're into it because their kids do it, and because it's easier to learn than skiing."

Personally, I'm all for snowboards. What I object to are the baggy clothes. When I was a teenager, one of the joys of skiing was to watch the girls in their stretch pants. It's an alien mentality that will go through adolescence without serious interest in body shapes—and I naturally distrust it.

Sorry, dude.

Seth Masia, product manager at K2 in Washington State, is a former Truckee resident who taught skiing at Lake Tahoe for 10 years. He tried snowboarding once.

Best Bets For Shred Heads

Tradition reigns at Alpine Meadows, Granlibakken, and Tahoe Donner, where snowboarding is not allowed, but snowboarders are welcome at all other Tahoe-area resorts. Shredders can cruise on the regular slopes with few restrictions and at special terrain parks and half-pipes at Boreal, Diamond Peak, Donner Ski Ranch, Heavenly, Homewood, Mount Rose, Northstar, Sierra at Tahoe (formerly Sierra Ski Ranch), Soda Springs, and Squaw Valley. Snowboarders are welcome on regular runs at Kirkwood and Sugar Bowl, too.

Most resorts give lessons and workshops for aspiring shredders. Generally, boards and boots rent for about $30 per day. Packages with rentals, lessons, and lift ticket are about $50. At Homewood, women instructors conduct two-day ($140) snowboarding clinics just for women.

In Southern Nevada shredders can share runs with skiers at Lee Canyon Ski Area. Lessons and rentals are available at the Mount Charleston resort, 47 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

See this issue's ski guide in Nevada Events for details.—*Jackie Ruffin*



First Wildlife
"Road Runner Hood Ornament, Near Las Vegas,"
by Rick and Donna Morus, Worcester, MA

Nevada Portraits

Faces and places came first for this year's photo contest winners.

By Carolyn Graham

Eric Gignoux of Zephyr Cove ventured to Virginia City two years ago hoping to capture on film some of the commotion kicked up during the town's annual camel races. While observing the post-race activity on C Street, Gignoux focused on Red Watson, a noted Virginia City banjo picker and watercolorist, and the resulting image won first place in this year's Great Nevada Picture Hunt.

Gignoux snapped just two photos using available light to capture Watson wetting his whistle at the Bucket of Blood Saloon. "It was a nice surprise," says Gignoux, who came to Nevada in 1968 from Grenoble, France. He owns a real-estate company and considers himself a part-time photographer, occasionally exhibiting his work at Lake Tahoe galleries. "My father, Hubert, is a well known watercolor painter in France," he says. "But I couldn't paint, so I had to pick another medium."

Second-place winner Roy Herrick, a Reno photographer and past Great Nevada Picture Hunt winner, took a less impromptu approach with his black-and-white photo of Mitzi Jones, proprietor of the Old Pioneer Garden bed and breakfast in Unionville.

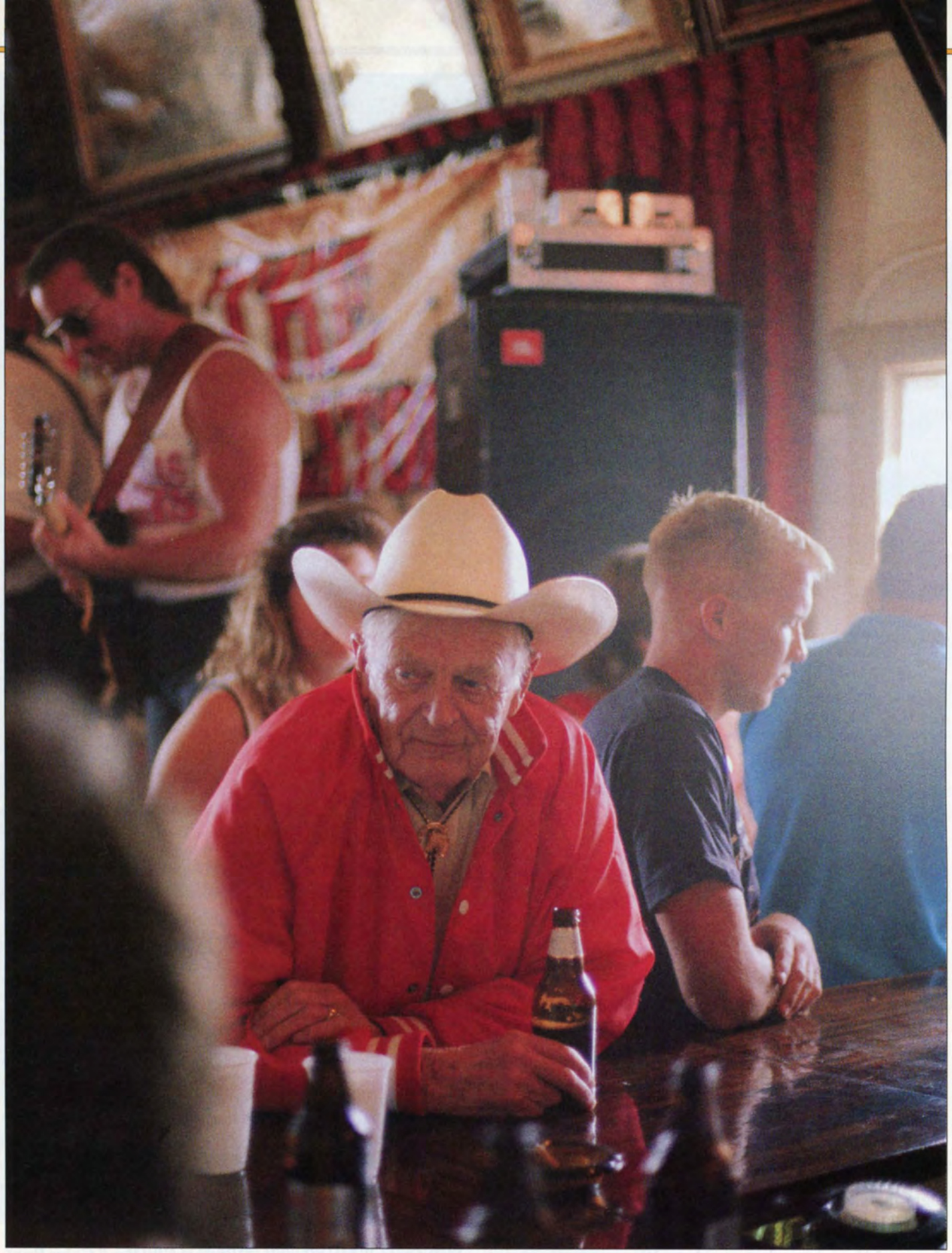
"She's very artistic, and the place has lots of interesting touches. Everything is made from scratch," Herrick says. "I wanted to photograph her in context, with the things that are out of her life and time."

Third-place winner George A. Strickland of Las Vegas captured another face of Nevada's diverse culture: Native American heritage. Strickland says he shot nine rolls of film at the Snow Mountain Powwow at the Snow Mountain Paiute Reservation to get his winning photo, "A Side for Laughter, A Side for Crying." The Snow Mountain Reservation, which is part of the Las Vegas Colony, is about 20 miles north of Las Vegas on U.S. 95 near Mount Charleston.

Strickland retired from the U.S. Army two years ago and is working on a second career as a freelance photographer. "Photography's become my life," he says. Strickland developed an interest in photography while serving in Germany. "I lived in the same building as a professional photographer," he says, adding that he could often see some of his neighbor's work from his apartment. "We didn't speak the same language, but I could see the photos in the windows."

Sid McCammond of Fresno, California, shot his fourth-place photo from the second floor of the Riverside Resort in Laughlin while making his way to the parking lot.

"I was waiting around and bored stiff, and all the shad-



First Overall, First People
"Virginia City Bar," by Eric Gignoux, Zephyr Cove



SECOND OVERALL, SECOND PEOPLE
"MITZI JONES, OWNER OF THE OLD PIONEER GARDEN BED AND BREAKFAST, UNIONVILLE," BY ROY HERRICK, RENO

ows were in place, so I took a couple shots," says the high-school music teacher and frequent *Nevada* contributor. "It was empty, and then the man walked through for the second shot."

The contest's judges—Winnemucca photographer and rancher Linda Dufurrena, Minden photographer Jay Aldrich, and Paul AlLée, *Nevada's* art director—were pleased with the variety of Nevada subjects and scenes.

"Luckily we didn't have the influx of rainbow photos we've seen in previous years," AlLée says. "In all, 183 photographers entered close to 900 photos. When there's a flood of entries, you have to shoot subjects that will get noticed.

"Some photos were beautiful and technically correct, but they could have been shot anywhere. We went for the strong Nevada images."

The contest's top category winners will be exhibited November 15 through December at the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society in Las Vegas. The photo show will travel to the Northeastern Nevada Museum in Elko for an exhibit in January, the Central Nevada Museum in Tonopah in February, the Brewery Arts Center in Carson City in March, and the Nevada Historical Society in Reno in April and May. In July, the exhibit moves to the Tallac Historic Site gallery in South Lake Tahoe.

—*Carolyn Graham is* Nevada Magazine's *associate editor*

1993 Great Nevada Picture Hunt Winners

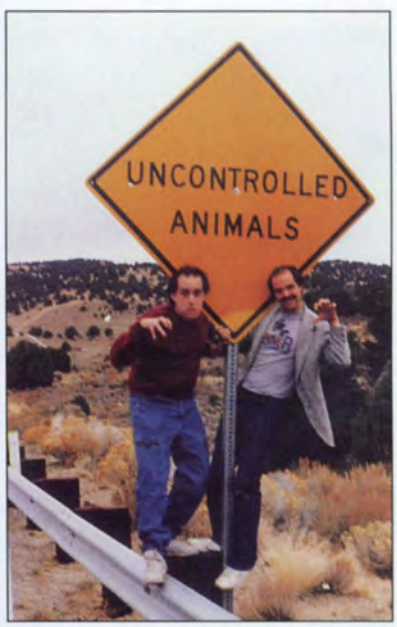
First Overall, First People: "Virginia City Bar," Color Print, Eric Gignoux, Zephyr Cove ($200)
Second Overall, Second People: "Mitzi Jones, Owner of the



Third Overall, First Ethnic Heritage
"A Side For Laughter, A Side For Crying,"
by George A. Strickland, Las Vegas



First Railroads
"Rails, Henderson,"
by Kent Nash,
Henderson



First Humor
"They Haven't Caught
Us Yet: On the Way
to Virginia City,"
by James W. Mohr,
Green Bay, WI



First Historical Landmarks
"Manhattan Church," by
Norma Reid Bybee, Las Vegas

First Rural
"Mill at Lovelock," by Stephen Johns,
Carson City



First Events
"Dusted," by Mona Noakes, Elko



FIRST GAMING
"CAESARS TRAFFIC," CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR, LAS VEGAS

Old Pioneer Garden Bed and Breakfast, Unionville," Black and White Print, Roy Herrick, Reno ($100)

Third Overall, First Ethnic Heritage: "A Side For Laughter, A Side For Crying," Color Print, George A. Strickland, Las Vegas ($75)

Fourth Overall, First Urban: "Laughlin, Nevada," Black and White Print, Sid McCammond, Fresno, CA ($50)

Other Photo Contest Category Winners

(PRIZE: T-SHIRT, SUSPENDERS, OR NECKTIE)

Events: "Dusted," Color Transparency, Mona Noakes, Elko

Gaming: "Caesars Traffic," Color Transparency, Christopher Taylor, Las Vegas

Historical Landmarks: "Manhattan Church," Color Transparency, Norma Reid Bybee, Las Vegas

Humor: "They Haven't Caught Us Yet: On the Way to Virginia City," Color Print, James W Mohr, Green Bay, WI

Railroads: "Rails, Henderson," Color Transparency, Kent Nash, Henderson

Rural: "Mill at Lovelock," Color Transparency, Stephen Johns, Carson City

Scenic: "Approaching Storm: A View From Wheeler Peak," Color Transparency, Lance Varnell, Houston, TX

Wildlife: "Road Runner Hood Ornament," Color Transparency, Rick and Donna Morus, Worcester, MA

Merit Awards

(PRIZE: 1994 NEVADA HISTORICAL CALENDAR)

"Hurry Up, Papa," Color Print, Bobby Dick, Fernley

"Wild Iris," Color Transparency, Barbara Eddleman, Carson City

"Indian Dancer," Color Print, Shirley Yvonne Fraser, Minden

"Window of Light Over Tonopah," Color Transparency, Jim Galli, Tonopah

"Happy, Carefree, Innocence of Youth," Color Print, Jeanne King, Battle Mountain

"Mule Ear in Bloom Near Hinkey Summit," Color Transparency, Sid McCammond, Fresno, CA

"A Welder Works on the Second Floor of the New Nevada





First Scenic
"Approaching Storm: A View From Wheeler Peak," by Lance Varnell, Houston, TX



Fourth Overall, First Urban
"Laughlin, Nevada," by Sid McCammond, Fresno, CA

Supreme Court Building," Black and White Print, Kit Miller, Carson City
"Ghostly Gathering," Color Print, Pat A. Moore, Reno
"Hamilton Ghost Town," Color Transparency, Christopher Taylor, Las Vegas

Honorable Mention

"Leopard Lizard," Color Transparency, Stewart Aitchison, Flagstaff, AZ
"Balancing Rock," Color Transparency, Donna Bloom, Riverdale, UT
"Water in the Desert," Black and White Print, Kathy Burks, Winnemucca
"Window Lamp," Color Transparency Fred L. Engelmann, Sparks
"Field of Dreams," Color Print, Michelle Farren, Reno
"Courthouse in Belmont," Color Transparency, Carolyn Fox, Jackson, CA
"Entering the Gates of Mondor," Color Print, Andrea Krueger, Las Vegas
"Feelin' the Beat," Color Print, Frank Maxwell, Las Vegas
"Lamoille Primrose," Color Print, Mona Noakes, Elko
"Ode to Darcy Farrow," Color Print, Vivian Olds, Wadsworth
"Halloween Horror on Decatur Street," Color Transparency, Gregory Perryman, Las Vegas
"Storm Clouds Over Red Rock Canyon," Color Print, Ann Sanfedele, New York, NY
"Sales Rep," Color Transparency, David Valentine, Winnemucca
"Schurz Paiute," Color Print, Nancy Whitmore, Silver Springs

Murder, She Wrote

Sparks novelist Carol Davis Luce leaves readers screaming for more.

By Chris Platt

She heard the woman scream. She saw the tall, bulky man squeezing the life out of her After lowering the body to the ground, he turned and started toward the forest of saplings, where Roberta lay helpless in the mud. A voice echoed through the woods. The killer paused, glanced around uncertainly, turned back to her—everything went black. —Night Prey

Carol Davis Luce admits she has an ability to see the dark side of things. Even when she was growing up in Southern California, when most kids were tuning in to *The Mickey Mouse Club*, Luce preferred the creepy tales of Edgar Allan Poe.

"I visualize menace in every corner," she says. "I'm not the person someone would want for company if they were alone and frightened. I often scare myself."

Luce is keeping lots of people company—and scaring them, too—with her third novel, *Night Prey*, a thriller set in the Reno-Tahoe area. Luce, who lives in a quiet, tree-lined neighborhood in Sparks, writes suspense novels about women who are stalked by murderers.

Three of her four books have been set in the Silver State. The first, *Night Stalker*, about a woman pursued by a man who is supposed to be dead, takes place in Reno and Sparks. The second, *Skin Deep*, was set in San Francisco, but Luce returned to Nevada locales in *Night Prey* with a psychopathic killer who lives in the forest at Lake Tahoe and comes down the mountain to stalk innocent victims in Reno and Sparks.

Her latest work, *Night Passage*, was recently bought by Zebra Books and is scheduled to be in bookstores in early 1995. In *Night Passage* a 12-year-old murder case resurfaces in a fictional Central Nevada mining town. Gaming, forensic medicine, and kidnapping are mixed into the rural plot.

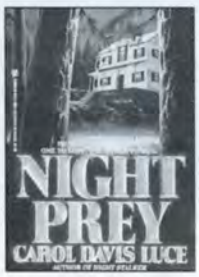
"I like to believe that the location is partially responsible for the popularity of my books," she says. "Two of the novels which sold out are those set in Nevada."



Carol Davis Luce, who sets her novels in Nevada, is on the cutting edge of suspense.

Luce, 49, has lived in Sparks since moving to the Rail City in 1969 from Downey, California, with her husband, Robert, and their three sons, Reg, Rob, and Ron.

"We had three young boys who wanted to hunt and fish," Luce recalls. "At first I dug my heels in. I didn't want to move to Nevada. But after six weeks of living here, I knew I'd never want to leave."



Night Prey *is Luce's third novel.*

Luce began writing novels in 1984. She was driven, she says, by the one-dimensional quality of the books she was reading. "The suspense books didn't have enough romance in them, and the romance books didn't have as much suspense as I liked," she says.

"You've heard the old cliché of a person saying, 'I can write a better book than that,' then going out and trying it? That's how I got started. I went to the library and checked out some books on how to write. Then I went home and dug out a $10 typewriter I had bought at a garage sale, and I started writing."

Luce soon discovered that writing a book was easier than getting it published. "My first mentor, Gilbert Ralston of Genoa, once told me that I wrote like a housewife, whatever that means," Luce chuckles. "My first novel took two years to write. It was unfocused, unskilled, and about 400 pages too long."

She cut the length, found a focus, and mailed off the manuscript. "The rejections quickly poured in," she recalls. After five years and several revisions a New York agent took her on, and *Night Stalker* finally was sold to Zebra Books.

Like all writers, Luce weaves personal experiences into her stories. "A few years back someone gave me a bunch

Photo: Gary Elam



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"This is frightening to admit," she laughs, "but I get a lot of my ideas from real life—newspapers and true-crime accounts. And most of the time I must tone down the facts to make them more believable."

of balloons," she says. "The balloons roamed the house, upstairs and down, seeming to follow me. If I passed too close, they gave me a static shock. I wrote a horror short story about them."

When she needs inspiration, Luce often turns to the *Reno Gazette-Journal* and the *Sparks Tribune*.

"This is frightening to admit," she laughs, "but I get a lot of my ideas from real life—newspapers and true-crime accounts. And most of the time I must tone down the facts to make them more believable."

Luce likes to present real-life settings in her novels. In *Night Prey* she uses a friend's beach house at Lake Tahoe. Readers of her novels will recognize such settings as Victorian Square in Sparks, Washoe Medical Center in Reno, Reno Cannon International Airport, the casinos of downtown Reno, and vari-



Luce often scouts real Nevada locales for her thrillers, like this area in Sparks.

Photo: Gary Elam

ous Lake Tahoe beaches.

She occasionally encounters roadblocks in the search for authenticity While doing research for *Night Passage*, Luce and her husband visited the small mining town of Eureka, 240 miles east of Reno. She wanted to incorporate Eureka's historic tunnel system in her plot.

"The people of the town were very helpful until I wanted to talk about the tunnels. Then everyone clammed up," she says.

When she's not researching or writing, Luce enjoys swapping tips and war stories with friends in the Reno area who also are published writers. The group includes Patricia Wallace, Terri Sprenger-Farley, Barbara Land, Kay Fahey, and Jo Ann Wendt. Luce says, "We try to get together every month or so to exchange publishing news or to congratulate, praise, or commiserate."

Lately, Luce has had good news to share. She recently sold stories to the *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine* and *Writer's Digest*. Zebra Books has signed her to a two-book contract. She has more than 200,000 books in print. Hollywood also beckons. Republic Pictures has expressed interest in *Night Prey*, and actress Alonna Shaw, who starred in the action movie *Double Impact*, called last August to say she was interested in optioning *Skin Deep* for a TV movie or possible series.

Meanwhile, Luce is scouting locations for her fifth novel. The action will take place in Reno-area casinos, and Luce hopes her readers enjoy the romance, danger, and suspense while being scared out of their wits.

•

No longer was Roberta in the ballroom being interviewed for the news. She saw an oak bar liquor bottles lined up under a plate glass mirror She saw a TV and she was looking at herself on the screen. She dropped her gaze and saw, reflected in the mirror directly opposite her a fierce-looking man staring at the TV

She heard the anchorwoman identifying her: "Live from the Rose Ballroom of John Ascuaga's Nugget, where Sophie Bennett and Roberta Paxton, directors of the Silver State Women's Center "

Those cold black eyes stared unflinchingly at the TV A wicked, knowing grin spread across his face.

She thought she would scream.

—Night Prey

Chris Platt is a Reno writer She recently completed a young-adult novel about horse racing and is writing a contemporary romance set in Reno.

Paperback Writers

Nevada novelists are filling the book racks with history, mystery, and romance.

By Richard Moreno

Nevada is home to more than a dozen paperback writers who, like Carol Davis Luce, find plenty of grist for romance and suspense in the Silver State.

"There's a lot of talent around here," notes Reno writer Barbara Land, a former book columnist for the *Reno Gazette-Journal* and a former editor at the Book-of-the-Month Club. "I don't know why that is, but there are a great many popular-fiction writers in the state."

A sampling of Nevada's genre writers includes:

✍

Patricia Wallace, 43, of Sparks has published 15 mystery, suspense, and medical thriller books, with another scheduled for next August. Wallace, who moved to Nevada from California three years ago, has begun to use Silver State settings. For example, her San Diego-based female private detective, Sydney Bryant, featured in three books, will venture to Reno in her next adventure and "may be moving to Reno in the future," Wallace says.

✍

David Eddings, 62, of Carson City is Nevada's box-office champ with more than 20 million books sold in 12 languages. One of his 16 novels, *The Seeress of Kell*, published in 1991, spent three weeks at number one on the *New York Times'* bestseller list.



David Eddings.

Although Eddings' venue is fantasy, he's managed to sneak a little of the Silver State into his work. You might not recognize the Nevada elements, however. "It's been rearranged a lot," Eddings explains. "I have to rebuild the world in order to make things work for my particular stories."

✍

Bill Moody, 51, a Las Vegan who has published a scholarly work about jazz artists, *Jazz Exiles*, recently sold his first private-eye story, *Solo Hand*. A University of Nevada, Las Vegas English teacher, Moody is a former professional musician who decided to write about two things he enjoys—jazz and mysteries. In *Solo Hand* his protagonist is a Las Vegas-based jazz pianist named Evan Horne who is caught up in a music-biz crime.



Bill Moody.

"My publisher says this book does for jazz what Dick Francis did for horse racing," he says. Moody is working on a second Evan Horne book, also set in Las Vegas, and hopes the two novels will be the start of a long-lasting series. "I've got 25 years in the music business to draw on," he says. "I've got ideas for at least a half dozen more novels."

✍

Dee Hendrickson, 63, of Reno specializes in historical fiction set during the Regency period in English history She describes this nine-year time frame, from 1811 to 1820, as "quite remarkable, a time of great

Sprenger-Farley's latest book is "about an herbalist in Virginia City and the Cornish influence," she says. "I call it *Hexmaker*, but we're still fighting about the title."

wit and brilliance."

Writing as Emily Hendrickson, which her editor felt sounded more British, she has had 16 books published since 1988. While Nevada has not figured into any of her stories, she will be bringing a touch of England to the Silver State—she and her husband are building a Tudor-style English manor home in Reno.

Terri Sprenger-Farley, 43, of Verdi picked the Catalina Islands and Los Angeles of Old California as the settings for her first two historical romances. Her next two books will take place in Virginia City and the Black Rock Desert.



Terri Sprenger-Farley.

Sprenger-Farley, who teaches honors English at Reno's Wooster High School, says extensive research is the key to writing any book, and she has spent months studying the history and lore of the Comstock for her Virginia City book. "It's about an herbalist in Virginia City and the Cornish influence," she says. "I call it *Hexmaker*, but we're still fighting about the title."

Jeff Wallman, 51, of Reno, has probably published more books under more names than any other Nevada author. Wallman, a University of Nevada, Reno English instructor, has had more than 200 books published under 22 noms de plume.

He specializes in Western series (*Lonestar*, *Longarm*, and *Trailsman*) using names such as Tabor Evans, Wesley Ellis, and John Sharpe. He's also written romances (as Amanda Hart Douglass, Elizabeth Watson, and Margaret Matland) as well as science fiction and war stories.

Wallman uses Nevada as a setting "as much as I can," he says. "This is a very colorful area. It's got a combination of things that give it a certain panache, a certain glamour—without being overly glamorous."

Virginia Coffman, 79, of Reno is another prolific writer. With more than 101 books to her credit, Coffman, a member of the Nevada Writer's Hall of Fame, has written everything from gothics to Westerns to historical romances.

Coffman, who has lived in Reno since 1956, has set only one book in Nevada. *Affair at Alkali*, a Western, was her second book; when published in Britain it was titled *Nevada Gunslinger* Her five-book "Moura" series, a historical fiction saga, has sold several million

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Helen Santori of Las Vegas has been in the romance-writing game for several decades. An 18-year Las Vegas resident, she has yet to set one of her tales of first love in Nevada. Her next book, *My Funny Guy*, will be published by Bantam Books as part of its "Sweet Dreams" young adult series.

Tammy Schmanski, 29, of Gardnerville is one of Nevada's newest authors. Her first book, a medieval romance called *Warrior Bride*, will be published next April, and she's already signed a contract for three more. Her present plans don't call for any Nevada novels ("I'm more into the medieval time period," Schmanski says) but she doesn't preclude the option.

Jo Ann Wendt of Reno has published four historical romances in the past decade. She hasn't yet used Nevada as a setting but says, "I certainly want to use the setting because it's so different from the rest of the country." Wendt, who is in her 50s, moved to Reno four years ago and is working on two more novels: a historical romance and a historical mystery that she hopes will be the first in a series.



Jo Ann Wendt.

Wendt is part of a small writers' critique group (which includes Carol Davis Luce and Patricia Wallace) that meets monthly to share ideas and help work on story structure. "When you're working alone, it's good to get some input on plot development and to catch mistakes," Wendt says.

Bernard Schopen, 51, of Reno finds Nevada is a great milieu for his detective novels. Both of his published fictional works, *The Big Silence* and *The Desert Look*, feature Reno private investigator Jack Ross.

Schopen, who teaches English part time at UNR and has published a critical analysis of the works of mystery writer Ross MacDonald, has lived in Reno for most of the past 20 years.

"One of the fun parts is writing in such a way that readers can't tell where the real Reno leaves off and the fictional part begins," Schopen says.

"It strikes me that Reno is one of the strangest places I've ever been," he says. "One of the fun parts is writing in such a way that readers can't tell where the real Reno leaves off and the fictional part begins."

Richard Moreno is the publisher of Nevada Magazine *and someday would like to see one of his books being sold near the checkout stand of his local grocery store, next to the* National Enquirer.

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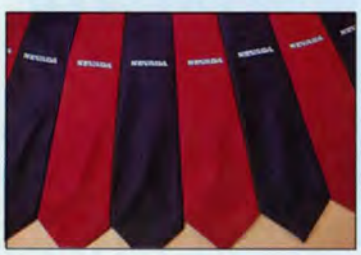
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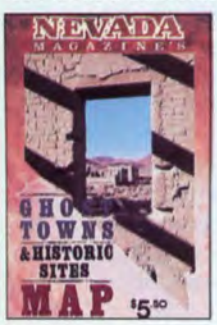
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Explore Nevada from a different point of view with Nevada Magazine's Ghost Towns and Historic Sites Map. It pinpoints long-forgotten mining camps that once were thriving cities. Included is information on historical sites, parks, museums, and vacation hot lines. #GTM, $5.50



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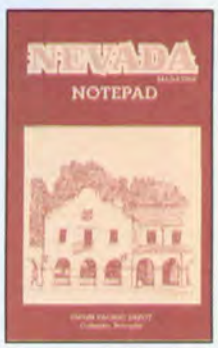


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The Dunes' sultan stood tall in good times and bad. The sultan sadly melted in 1985 in an electrical fire.

The Dunes Bows Out

Remembering the showgirls and the sultan.

By Ann Henderson

When dynamite reduces the Dunes' north tower to a pile of rubble this fall, a slice of Nevada history will have crumbled with it. The Las Vegas hotel had fallen on hard times in recent years, and the demolition may have been a logical last step. But there was a time when the Dunes seemed to have everything going for it—a prime location, trend-setting entertainment, a plush golf course, and the classic Vegas flair of the '60s.

The Dunes opened on May 17, 1955, with a huge V-shaped pool and a 30-foot-high fiberglass sultan standing over the entrance. At the time, there were only a few casinos on the Strip, including the El Rancho, Last Frontier, Flamingo, Thunderbird, Desert Inn, Silver Slipper, and Sands. Las Vegas was in the embryonic stage, and urban sprawl consisted mainly of desert brush.

But the Dunes, Riviera, and Royal Nevada all opened in a two-month period, and competition was stiff. The Dunes' inexperienced owners learned the definition of the word "gambling" in 1956 when the casino closed and the Dunes became a motel. However, the hotel's fortunes soon turned when the new owner Jake Gottlieb, a Chicago shipping magnate, brought in Major A. Riddle, owner of an Indiana trucking company, to run the place.



Entertainment guru Frederic Apcar poses with cast members of "Casino de Paris."

Under Riddle, the glory days of the Dunes were the pre-Caesars Palace years of 1962-1966, according to Lee Fisher, who spent 14 years as the hotel's public relations manager. "It was not the biggest in size, but it ranked at the top in revenue," says Fisher.

Those were the years when the Sultan's Table and Dome of the Sea were the town's reigning gourmet rooms. The Sultan's Table had Arturo Romero and his Magic Violins—13 violinists who strolled through the restaurant playing for customers. At the Dome of the Sea, Kippy Lou Brinkman reigned for years

Photos: Union Pacific Railroad Collection/University of Nevada, Las Vegas Library (top), Las Vegas News Bureau Archives (bottom)



Riddle flashes a major smile while greeting Jayne Mansfield on stage.

as the floating harpist, playing on a small boat in the center of the restaurant.

Customers entering the Hunt Breakfast Buffet were entertained by a red-coated huntsman instead of an impersonal security guard, and tourists rubbernecked when operators paged celebrities like Cary Grant. At the Top of the Dunes, nightclub patrons had a panoramic view of the valley and danced to the Russ Morgan Orchestra.

At the Dunes, Riddle was responsible for several entertainment firsts. On September 6, 1957 the first bare-breasted show in the city, "Minsky's Goes to Paris," debuted at the hotel. In 1961, Frederic Apcar's "Vive les Girls" began a 12-year engagement. Buoyed by its success, Riddle and Apcar imported "Casino de Paris," which played from 1963 to 1981.

Riddle bought 255 acres and developed the Dunes' Emerald Green golf course. "It was purchased for $750,000 at a difficult time," Lee Fisher recalls. "There was very little cash to work with, but the golf course helped make the Dunes." She adds, "When Riddle took over, he never had millions to work with, so the resort was developed on a wing and a prayer."

When Riddle was nervous about the casino's cash flow, he resorted to a favorite superstition, recalls Jo Melland, who worked in the Dunes' executive offices from 1959 until the hotel closed in 1992. Riddle was superstitious about the light that shined from the sultan's turban.

"If we were losing, he'd go outside and make sure the light was still on," she says.

While Riddle is given the credit for the Dunes' best years, subsequent operators such as Morris Shenker, an attorney for Jimmy Hoffa and the head of the hotel from 1975 to 1984, were not as fondly remembered. Over the years the Dunes noticeably declined.

Last year the fading property was acquired and closed by Steve Wynn, owner of The Mirage, Treasure Island, and the Golden Nuggets in Las Vegas and Laughlin. Wynn said in a *Las Vegas Review-Journal* interview that the Dunes "was run by a steady procession of dingdongs." The golf course remained open as The Mirage Golf Club, but the old hotel would have to go. Plans called for an "implosion" of the Dunes' north tower using 400 pounds of dynamite to coincide with the October 27 opening of Treasure Island.

As the Dunes goes to the great beyond, at least some onlookers will have shared the sentiment of the once-stylish hotel's marquee on closing day: "Thanks for the memories."

Ann Henderson still sings the praises of Rouvan, the operatic tenor from Utah who starred in "Casino de Paris."



Photo: Las Vegas News Bureau Archives

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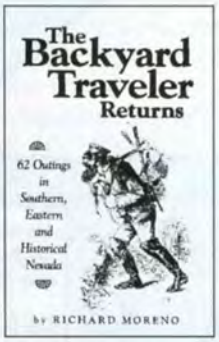


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NEVADA BOOKSHELF

Recent releases of Nevada interest. By Jackie Ruffin

Trappings of the Great Basin Buckaroo *by C.J. Hadley. University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV 89557 240 pages, 88 color and 35 black-and-white photos, $39.95 hardcover* C.J. Hadley's evocative photographs illustrate her book about real-life cowboys and how their gear relates to their work and surroundings. Hadley, the publisher of *Range Magazine* and former editor-publisher of *Nevada Magazine*, introduces 21 crafts people, such as reata braider Shorty Prunty of Elko County and bootmaker John Weinkauf of Washoe Valley, in affectionately written chapters. Twenty-two cowboy poems and a glossary also are presented in this artistic roundup.

•

The Complete Nevada Traveler *by David W. Toll. Gold Hill Publishing Company, Drawer F Virginia City, NV 89440. 256 pages, $12.95 softcover* In this fourth edition of his guide, Toll presents colorful stories about Nevada's towns, memorable characters, and historical moments such as the eulogy delivered at gambler Riley Grannan's funeral in 1908. With lots of history, photos, and sightseeing tips, Toll's book is extremely practical and highly entertaining. Be sure to look for the vintage autos included in the gallery of "rusting hulks."

•

Nevada Ghost Towns and Mining Camps: An Illustrated Atlas *by Stanley W. Paher photographs by Nell Murbarger Nevada Publications, 4135 Badger Circle, Reno, NV 89509. 208 pages, $29.95 hardcover* A bonanza of 460 photographs and 54 maps enlivens this statewide atlas. Murbarger, a veteran California journalist and ghost town explorer who died in 1991, photographed ghost towns like Hamilton in the 1950s and '60s before most of their last remaining buildings disappeared. Paher, publisher and author of numerous books on the Silver State, also offers the *Atlas* in separate Northern and Southern Nevada versions (each 104 pages, $14.95).

•

Building Hoover Dam: An Oral History of the Great Depression *by Andrew J Dunar and Dennis McBride. Twayne Publishers, 866 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022. 351 pages, $27.95 hardcover* More than a history of Hoover Dam, this oral history gives a voice to the people who came to Southern Nevada to start new lives in the 1930s. Dunar, a University of Alabama history professor, is the author of *The Truman Scandals and the Politics of Morality*. McBride, a Boulder City native, author, and historical consultant, founded the Boulder City/Hoover Dam Oral History Project.

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Nevada Wildlife Viewing Guide *by Jeanne L. Clark. Falcon Press, Box 1718, Helena, MT 59624-9948. 88 pages, $6.95 softcover* Wildlife watchers will appreciate the colorful photographs and maps that accompany information on animal habitats and times for best viewing. This information-packed guide is partly sponsored by the Nevada Department of Wildlife, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, and other agencies.

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Cowboy Country *by Ann Herbert Scott, illustrations by Ted Lewin. Clarion Books, 215 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10003. 44 pages, $14.95 hardcover* Youngsters curious about the West will enjoy this book. Lewin's illustrations are realistic and vivid, based on numerous photographs taken in Northern Nevada. Scott, who lives in Reno, is the author of many children's books. She based *Cowboy Country* on information gained during years of interviewing old-time cowboys.

•

Buckaroo: Visions and Voices of the American Cowboy *edited by Hal Cannon and Thomas West. Simon and Schuster 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020. 128 pages, $45 hardcover* The enduring culture of cowboys (and cowgirls) is portrayed in their own poetry and music in this beautifully photographed book and its companion CD. Nevada cowboy poets such as Jack Walther and Waddie Mitchell are among the 16 poets and authors featured. West is a playwright, author, and coeditor of *Two Lives: Georgia O'Keeffe and Alfred Stieglitz*. Cannon is the founding director of the Elko Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

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THE MORMON ATLANTIS



The Pioneer Town of St. Thomas Was an Idyllic Place—Until It Was Covered by Lake Mead.

BY DENNIS MCBRIDE

IT IS MARKED on the old maps halfway between Las Vegas and St. George, Utah, an inviting oasis nestled in the bottom of the Moapa Valley. Founded in 1865 by Mormon pioneers, St. Thomas was the kind of town Booth Tarkington wrote novels about and Frank Capra made movies of: clean, secure, not prosperous, but with a proud tradition and pioneer history. The faces and figures in the old photographs are plain, the scenes quintessentially American.

A woman in mutton sleeves, standing outside the Gentry Hotel, peers 80 years into the future.

A wagon team dashes down St. Thomas' main street into oblivion.

A stone house with gables and hedges holds time in its empty windows.

The men and women who lived in St. Thomas, who worked its fields and danced at its harvest festivals, never dreamed that one day everything they had built would disappear under 80 feet of black water. If they had seen their future creeping up the valley toward them, would they ever have settled there?



FRIENDS: Osborne Gentry looks up to Luke Syphus (left) and Harry Gentry. Laura Gentry peeks through the fence.

LIKE THE NILE, the Muddy River produced a rich life where it ran southward through the Moapa Valley to join the Virgin River. Yet just a short distance from the river's edge the desert was deadly.

When Brigham Young sent Mormon colonizers to settle the Las Vegas Valley in 1855, they skipped the Moapa Valley altogether. It was another decade before Young organized the Muddy River Mission to colonize the Moapa Valley and assigned that task to Brother Thomas Smith.

Smith arrived in the valley on January 8, 1865, with 11 men and three women. Over the next four years they established several colonies, the largest

Photo: Dennis McBride Collection (top left), Lost City Museum Archives (bottom)



GOODBYE. People leave St. Thomas by raft as Lake Mead submerges an abandoned house in 1938.



SCHOOL DAYS: A gaggle of St. Thomas boys ride horses in the school yard. The school was used until 1932, when it was sold and dismantled brick by brick.

of which they built near the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin rivers and named St. Thomas after the man who led them there.

These first settlers built adobe houses with roofs made from the reeds and cattails that grew 12 feet tall along the river. By the winter of 1866-67, according to church records, the 45 families who lived there had turned St. Thomas into an industrious settlement whose main crop was cotton.

The town's infant years, however, were far from blissful. The Muddy River bred a scourge of flies and mosquitoes along its marshy banks and swamps. Grasshoppers plagued the fields. Settlers died of malaria, ague, and heat prostration. The original Paiute residents of the valley suffered unintentionally, too, when a measles epidemic brought by the white settlers decimated their people.

Yet the colony's initial fate wasn't sealed by the hot summer weather or diseases. Its nightmare came in the form of government bureaucracy.

The Moapa Valley was the center of a bitter boundary dispute among Utah, Arizona, and Nevada. The settlements in the upper valley considered themselves part of Utah, while residents of St. Thomas believed at first that their town was part of Utah and later that it was in Arizona. Then authorities in Lincoln County, Nevada, organized in 1867, claimed the entire valley and wanted to tax it.

After an 1870 survey put the valley squarely in Nevada, Brigham Young released the settlers from their mission. They voted to leave, and with the exception of Daniel and Ann Bonelli, who soon afterward established Rioville on the Colorado River, the settlers left in February 1871.

Abandoned, St. Thomas fell into disrepair, and its fields lay fallow For a decade St. Thomas was a hideout for highwaymen who preyed on passing travelers.

It wasn't until 1880 that new Mormon settlers, content to be Nevada citizens and pay Nevada taxes, drifted back into the Moapa Valley to restore and rebuild the homes and farms. By then Mormon farming techniques had improved enough that reoccupied St. Thomas and its surrounding communities flourished.

When the San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad was completed in 1905, and a spur was put down from Moapa to St. Thomas in 1912, the Moapa Valley grew famous for the rich produce the railroad hauled from local farms. St. Thomas was even a tourist stop on the Arrowhead Trail, a forerunner of Interstate 15, between Salt Lake City and Los Angeles.

THOSE WHO LIVED IN ST. THOMAS BEFORE HOOVER DAM REMEMBER IT AS AN IDYLLIC RETREAT, AN AMERICAN ARCADIA.

THOSE WHO LIVED in St. Thomas before Hoover Dam was built remember the place as an idyllic retreat, an American Arcadia.

On warm nights, the moonlit hills around St. Thomas echoed the hoots, growls, and whistles of kids playing Run Sheep Run.

On the Fourth of July, auto races were run from Overton to St. Thomas, and dynamite blasts in the surrounding hills represented Revolutionary War cannon fire.

On spring and summer afternoons,

Photo: Dennis McBride Collection (top right)







OLD ST. THOMAS: The Gentry Hotel (top) was a social center in the early 1900s. Among its guests were federal officials scouting locations for Hoover Dam (at first called Boulder Dam). Laura Gentry (left) recalled those visitors. Kids called their school bus "the Churn" because it rode like a butter churn (right).

townspeople gathered around the May Tree, an ancient cottonwood in the lower end of the Harry Gentry farm. "Several swings were put up so the little folks had something to do all day," Euzell Preston recalled in *Memories*, a locally published booklet about St. Thomas. "Each family would bring a big lunch, and a lot of five-gallon freezers of ice cream would show up."

Farmers could grow almost anything in St. Thomas, from peaches, melons, and figs to wheat, barley, corn, and maize. Bermuda grass made good pasture for horses. Acres of almond orchards bloomed each spring, and in the lower end of town grew 20 acres of rich, green asparagus. There were impressive vineyards in St. Thomas, too, and although most of the Mormons who tended them preferred drying raisins to fermenting wines, a number of stills were operated discreetly in the valley.

In an oral history at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, the late Laura Gentry, whose parents came to the valley in 1881, remembered, "St. Thomas used to produce quite an acreage in Thompson seedless grapes. My father had a vineyard of seven acres of, I think, every variety of grape that was growing. Used to tax you real hard to go into that vineyard when the grapes were ripe and decide which ones you wanted to eat. You'd go to one vine and think, 'My, they're good. Then you'd look over and see a different type of grape, and you'd go and try them and say, 'Oh, these are better than those others.'"

DURING PROHIBITION ST. THOMAS WAS A READY MARKET FOR BOOTLEG HOOCH BREWED IN THE ARIZONA STRIP.

In summer St. Thomas farmers laid out tons of fruit to dry in the sun. But late summer is monsoon season in Southern Nevada.

The late Merle Frehner, whose family came to St. Thomas from Littlefield, Arizona, in 1911, recalled in his oral history, "When a cloudburst would come up at night, or the wind'd start blowing and thundering and lightning, every house in that town would light up and you'd hear those people piling out of bed and into the fields." Quickly they would pile up the drying trays to keep the rain off the fruit.

Perhaps because farming was its livelihood, St. Thomas was a considerate and closely knit community. Neighbors planted or harvested one another's fields, and lent threshers and wagons when someone needed them. There were no police, no jail, no town government. There was a school board but no mayor or town council. Much of town life revolved around activities of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and civic and spiritual leadership lay with the local Mormon bishop.

Yet LDS influence in St. Thomas wasn't as pronounced as it was in other valley towns like Overton and Logandale. Money and gentile influence came into St. Thomas with the miners from Searchlight and Eldorado Canyon, from Gold Butte and the Shivwits Plateau, with beaver trappers who used St. Thomas as their base camp, and with travelers on the Arrowhead Trail. During Prohibition St. Thomas was a ready market for bootleg hooch brewed in the nearby Arizona Strip.

Bootleggers hid their supply of homemade whiskey in the arrowweeds next to the Virgin River before coming into

Photos: Lost City Museum Archives: Gladys Gentry Collection (top), Pearl Wittwer Robison Collection (bottom right)

PEOPLE OFTEN DRIFTED OVER TO THE STORE LATE IN THE AFTERNOON TO SOCIALIZE WHILE WAITING FOR THE MAIL BUGGY.

town. Merle Frehner recalled, "If they needed it, they'd go back and get more to peddle. There were people [in St. Thomas] that drank—particularly at dances. Some of those young guys wouldn't have nerve enough to go into a dance hall and ask a girl to dance. They'd have to fortify themselves."

Like most Mormon settlements St. Thomas was laid out in a neat grid, following the banks of the Muddy River and surrounded by fields. Houses were built of timber planed and hauled from Southern Utah or of stone and brick. Hugh Lord's garage serviced the automobiles that drove through town. Hannig's Grocery and Soda Fountain was where the women of St. Thomas bought their Sunday hats, Japanese parasols, and fans to keep themselves cool when they went to church in the summer. Nutter's Grocery was an especially popular place near the end of the 1910s.

"Many of us heard our first radio broadcast from Nutter's Grocery," recalled Euzell Preston, who was a child when St. Thomas flourished. "Mr. Nutter had a crystal set in his office. We would line up for a chance to listen for a few minutes. We had to wear earphones to hear it."

Another popular place was the post office in Harry Gentry's General Mercantile Store. People drifted over to the store late in the afternoon to socialize while they waited for the mail buggy to arrive from Moapa.

But the Gentry Hotel, perfumed by roses and lilacs, shaded by cottonwoods, was the real social center of St. Thomas. Run by Laura Gentry's mother, Ellen, the hotel had 14 guest rooms, bathrooms on the lower floor, a balcony, and a popular kitchen and dining room where meals were served family style. Among the hotel's patrons in the early part of the century were Nevada's U.S. Senator Key Pittman and Governors Tasker Oddie and James Scrugham.

While governor in the early 1920s, Scrugham saw to it that state funds were spent to excavate the Pueblo Indian ruins, called the Lost City or Pueblo Grande de Nevada, that were being un-

St. Thomas and the Lake Mead Area



Map: Paul AlLée



"UNLESS A SNAKE DROPPED INTO THE CISTERN, THAT'D BE A SIX-MONTH SUPPLY OF WATER."



THE DAM: Hoover Dam, the engineering wonder of its time, spelled doom for St. Thomas. The town of Kaolin and ruins of Callville also were buried under Mead.

earthed near St. Thomas. During the digs Scrugham stayed in the Gentry Hotel, and in 1926 he arranged an extravagant pageant at the Lost City ruins.

Travelers visiting St. Thomas in the early 1900s would have been struck by its lack of 20th-century amenities. The town had no electricity, no running water, no sewers.

"There was no refrigeration, no ice, not much way of preserving food," Laura Gentry remembered. "They had what they called desert coolers. These coolers were made of a frame, with burlap wrapped around. A water tank was set on top with a metal bottom with holes perforated all around the perimeter This would drip, drip, drip onto the burlap. A breeze would come along and create the coolness. They served the purpose very well, and I didn't know a family who didn't have one or maybe two in operation.

"For drinking water we had cisterns, and some of these cisterns might be 14 or 18 feet deep with cement walls," Laura Gentry recalled. "Water would be filtered into those cisterns from an irrigation ditch through gravel and charcoal, which did a pretty nice job of clarifying the water and taking some of the alkali out of it. Then we'd pull the wa-

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THROUGHOUT THE 1910S AND 1920S SURVEYORS, EXPLORERS, AND OFFICIALS BEGAN VISITING ST. THOMAS.

ter out of the cistern with a bucket."

"Unless a snake or something dropped into it," Merle Frehner said, "that'd be a good six-month supply of water for the household."

There was no resident doctor in St. Thomas. Once a year an itinerant dentist came to town and worked out of the Gentry Hotel. For emergencies St. Thomas residents visited Dr. D.O. Beale in Overton, but if anyone needed surgery he had to go into Las Vegas with cash in hand: Vegas doctors refused to treat valley patients otherwise. Babies came into the world through the capable hands of church-approved midwives such as Ellen Gentry in St. Thomas and Mamie Lytle in Overton.

It was inconceivable that St. Thomas would not go on forever. Las Vegas, the nearest town of significant size, was no competition. Gambling would not become a legalized industry until 1931, and the economic boom that would come with Hoover Dam's construction was years away Yet there were foreshadowings of St. Thomas' doom.

"There was lots of government surveying going on, and there was survey crews," Merle Frehner said. "Sometimes they'd come to St. Thomas and stay several months."

Throughout the 1910s and 1920s surveyors from the Bureau of Reclamation, Colorado River explorers such as William Sibert and George Washington Goethals, Senator Phil Swing of California, and other officials visited St. Thomas as they began their investigation of suitable sites for Hoover Dam, or Boulder Dam as it was initially called. At the time the primary site under consideration was Boulder Canyon, about 50 miles below St. Thomas.

One of the first scouting team members to come to St. Thomas was Walker Young, who later served as the Bureau of Reclamation's construction engineer for the dam. He arrived in St. Thomas the last week of December 1920 to establish a camp in Boulder Canyon for drilling operations. In 1922 he brought his wife and daughter, who stayed in St. Thomas.

"We lived in a tent, my mother and I," Jane Young Ayers recalled as part of her father's oral history. "Dad was down at the canyon [at] the river most of the time making the preliminary investigations for the dam. Mother and I pitched a tent at the corner of [the Chadburn] farm in St. Thomas. I remember the drunken men that used to come through. Mother kept a gun under the pillow just in case. We ate our meals off a trunk in the tent. Mother and I had a little pet mouse that came and sat on the flour sack and squeaked at us."

DURING THE 1920s residents of St. Thomas followed news of the Hoover Dam bill in the *Las Vegas Review* and the *Las Vegas Age* as it was repeatedly introduced and defeated in Congress. But when the bill was passed in 1928 and after Herbert Hoover signed for appropriations in 1929, the residents realized they had to leave.

"There was nothing to argue," says William Murphy, who was born and raised in St. Thomas and today lives in



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"THERE WAS NOTHING TO ARGUE. THE GOVERNMENT SAID, 'MOVE OUT OR WE'RE GOING TO FLOOD YOU.'"

Henderson. "The government said, 'Move out or we're going to flood you.'"

The Department of the Interior had to buy all the private land, farms, ranches, and homes that Lake Mead would eventually swallow. In 1930 the Bureau of Reclamation appointed a three-man appraisal team to oversee the government's acquisitions. Cecil W Creel of Reno was secretary of the team, and Harry Crain of Wyoming was chairman. The third member was a St. Thomas man, Levi Syphus. Syphus had been a Nevada state senator and was one of the appointed founders of Nevada's Colorado River Development Commission in 1921. Syphus, Creel, and Crain spent the spring of 1931 traveling through the Moapa Valley appraising property and evaluating claims.

During the early stages of appraisal, John Page, office engineer for the Bureau of Reclamation in Las Vegas, noted in his diary that Crain and Creel were "distressed as to Syphus' attitude and fearful of agreement."

It wasn't that Syphus was being contentious—he was, after all, in a difficult position. He had relatives and lifelong friends in St. Thomas. Mormon officials who visited St. Thomas during this time refused to deal directly with the government, preferring instead to speak through Syphus.

"He did all he could to get those appraisals as high as possible," remembers Owen Gibson, a current resident of St. George who lived in St. Thomas and knew Syphus. At the same time, Syphus had to satisfy his government bosses, who wanted to pay as little as possible.

In the end, few St. Thomas residents were pleased. Appraisal notices were mailed on November 27, 1931, and the average price offered was about $40 an acre.

"I don't remember anyone who was happy with the assessment," William Murphy says. "Everyone thought they'd got about 10 cents on the dollar from what it was really worth. We really felt we had no choice. Take it or leave it, that was the attitude."

Walker Young recalled in his oral history, "The only one I think who really objected to the price offered for his property was John Perkins, who we employed to build our road from St. Thomas down to the head of Boulder Canyon. He owned a house [near St. Thomas]. His trees were there, making shade, and he brought up the subject of the value of the shade. Well, that was intangible value. But when we stopped to think what the value of shade is in that country, he really had some reason to bring up the point. There wasn't anything on his place worth as much as that shade created by trees he'd planted himself years and years ago."

There wasn't much Perkins could do, however, and like the rest of his neighbors he accepted the government's final appraisal.

Another problem was transplanting the St. Thomas cemetery, which Walker Young remembered as "a rather delicate operation." The government hired Howell Garrison, a Las Vegas mortician and former mayor, to handle the exca-

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TIME'S UP: A crew dismantles a house as the lake advances in 1938 (left). The old townsite is revealed in March 1964 (right).

vation and transfer of the graves.

"The government was very careful, and the bishop and other people were there as it was being done, and they checked it," Merle Frehner recalled. "There were many graves unmarked at the time they were moved. There were especially a lot of infants, no identification, from the earlier settlement of St. Thomas."

"I remember seeing some of the transplantation of the cemetery," said the late Elton Garrett, a one-time *Las Vegas Review-Journal* reporter, in an interview several years ago. "I remember some of the women folks around with sheets and gold-colored safety pins to re-inter and take care of these long-deceased. I remember one little girl standing up on the edge looking down as [Garrison] pulled this little pair of baby shoes out, and she said, 'Oh, ain't that cute!'"

Many of the dear departed were reburied in a new St. Thomas cemetery on a barren knob in the foothills two miles south of Overton, where burials continue today.

Contrary to what many people think, St. Thomas was not left intact beneath the encroaching waters of Lake Mead. Boys from the Civilian Conservation Corps camp near Overton cut down most of the orchards and cottonwoods so they wouldn't be navigational hazards. St. Thomas' buildings were demolished or moved. Some were dismantled, their bricks and timber used to build homes and outbuildings on farms and ranches elsewhere in the Moapa Valley.

By the summer of 1932 all the property within the reservoir area had been sold or ceded to the government. During the next six years residents moved away.

"A number of these families went into Las Vegas," Laura Gentry recalled. "Prominent among these was the Bunker family. Some of the Syphus family. The Pearson family. The Robert O. Gibson family They all established homes and businesses in Las Vegas. Some others went to California, some resettled in nearby Overton and Logandale. Others went into Utah. Some few went into Idaho, where they bought farms or established businesses."

The Fenton Whitney family left St. Thomas for Hurricane, Utah, in July 1932 with their settlement from the government: $5,500 and a new Chevrolet.

Some never recovered from their uprooting. "I hated to see it," said Merle

A Trip to St. Thomas Country

THE RUINS of St. Thomas may be hidden under Lake Mead, but visitors can find much to explore on dry land in and around the Moapa Valley (see "Life on the Muddy," *Nevada*, May/June '91), which is 65 miles northeast of Las Vegas. Nearby attractions include Lake Mead and Valley of Fire State Park.

Overton's Lost City Museum (702-397-2193) tells the story of the ancient Pueblo culture uncovered in the valley in the 1920s. The museum has a monument, erected by the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, that honors the settlers of St. Thomas and other valley towns. Also, in Mesquite, the Desert Valley Museum (702-346-5705) has exhibits on Mormon settlements, including St. Thomas.

Today the underwater townsite is visited only by the anglers and waterskiers who ply St. Thomas Cove north of Overton Beach.



LOST CITY: Young excavators in 1934 show restored pottery vessels found in the Lost City ruins.

Photos: Dennis McBride Collection (top left), E.E. Hertzog, Bureau of Reclamation (top right), Pueblo Grande de Nevada Collection/UNLV Library (bottom)

HUGH LORD STEPPED OUT HIS FRONT DOOR INTO THE BOAT, THREW GASOLINE IN THE HOUSE, AND TOSSED IN A MATCH.

Frehner "My mother—she thought she'd be heartbroken, and I guess she was for a while. As long as she lived up in Lincoln County in Alamo, she always said there's no people on earth like there was in St. Thomas."

"There was quite a scramble to relocate," William Murphy recalls today. "My parents went to Idaho, Utah, California, looking for a place to live. But my mother said nothing ever felt like home anywhere they went, not like St. Thomas. My dad bought 40 acres in Overton, and that's where we moved in December 1935. I thought, 'Well, we're not going too far away. We can come back.' But in two or three years, we couldn't. St. Thomas was gone."

Murphy owned a horse, and several times each week he rode down the valley from his new home in Overton to watch the water rise.

"It came up fast," he remembers. "There was one family down there, he was the blacksmith, and they had a lot of old cars. He'd move one up about a hundred yards, then go back and move another one, and then another. But the water rose faster, and he wound up losing just about all those cars."

At least one St. Thomas resident refused to move until he absolutely had to.

"Hugh Lord had the garage," Murphy says. "He wasn't even from St. Thomas, but he'd lived there a long time and loved it that much. He had an old shack out there with a boat, and he vowed he wasn't going to move till the water forced him out. And it did, finally. He stepped out his front door into the boat, threw gasoline in the house, and tossed in a match. He watched it burn."

June 11, 1938, was the day St. Thomas officially ceased to exist. On that day Leland Whitmore, the St. Thomas postmaster, canceled 4,000 letters as Lake Mead's rising waters lapped at the foundations of the post office. At four o'clock that afternoon Whitmore threw his

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HOME AGAIN. In 1945, John F. Perkins (left) and family stand where the doorstep of their house used to be. Next to Perkins is his daughter Marva, who organized the 1952 reunion. At right are Carolyn and Jack Perkins; Jack was born in the house. In front are grandchildren Barry Johnson and Murray and Jackie Perkins.

stamp canceler as far out into the water as he could, and workmen demolished the building.

EVEN THOUGH St. Thomas was erased from the map, it never disappeared completely. During the past 50 years St. Thomas, like Atlantis, has risen several times from the black mud of Lake Mead and then disappeared again.

When the lake recedes in times of drought, the outline of old St. Thomas gradually emerges. The water was low enough in the springs of 1945, 1952, 1964, and 1991 to reveal most of the town—the foundations of its houses and shops, derelict wagons, abandoned cars, and the skeletons of cottonwoods that had lined the main street.

During the low water of 1952, Marva Perkins Sprague persuaded former St. Thomas residents to gather for a formal reunion. The ground was dry enough that people could drive their cars into town and walk around. On Easter Sunday the first reunion of St. Thomas residents took place in the ruins of their hometown.

"Each family came, brought their own lunch, and we all ate in our own yards," Mrs. Sprague said in *Memories*. "The main street was lined with cars and people were embracing, some were laughing. Children climbed the trees—the huge cottonwood in our lawn stood like a silver sentinel, worn smooth as silk by the constant movement of the waters of the lake. The cisterns were still there, full of water and fish.

"People picked up little things from their yards: a button, a chip of glass or china, safety pins, a buckle, some a few coins, old pieces of machinery Each home was well-defined; even the pathways from the street to our doorways were still there. No houses, [but] we could see them in our minds."

DURING THE PAST 50 YEARS ST. THOMAS, LIKE ATLANTIS, HAS RISEN SEVERAL TIMES FROM THE BLACK MUD OF LAKE MEAD.

Dennis McBride of Boulder City is the author of Boulder City: In the Beginning *and coauthor of* Building Hoover Dam: An Oral History of the Great Depression *(Twayne Publishers, New York).*

Photo: William S. Russell, Bureau of Reclamation/Dennis McBride Collection



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10 GREAT

New Year's Revelries

Celebrating 1994 with countdowns and cowboys.

By Ann Henderson

From glittery casino affairs to parties in boisterous neighborhood saloons, the Silver State offers wall-to-wall festivities on New Year's Eve. The following are a few ideas for a memorable New Year's in Nevada. Most events (and hotel rooms) tend to sell out quickly, so call early for reservations. See this issue's Nevada Events section for further tips and details.



1 Puttin' on the Ritz: You can drag out the party duds and join the celebrations in casino ballrooms and showrooms. Some casinos book headliners for entertainment and dancing. The rule is to call early for reservations. However, reservations are not required at some hotels like Circus Circus in Las Vegas, which will present an evening of free dancing to the Jimmy Dorsey Band.

2 New Year's Bang: You can join the thousands of people who jam downtown Las Vegas to watch the fireworks over Jackie Gaughan's Plaza. But be ready to ring in the new year at 8 p.m. instead of midnight. The early fireworks display became a tradition when national TV began to weave the Glitter Gulch event into the big countdown back East.

3 The Flip Side: Rocks and rolls are part of the New Year's party at Grand Slam Canyon in Las Vegas. You can ride the double-looping roller coaster and drenching flume ride until 1 a.m.

4 Time Warp: On New Year's Eve you can have twice the fun at Laughlin, which sits on the Colorado River across from Bullhead City, Arizona. Some Laughlin casinos hold two midnight countdowns because of their location on the border—the first for Mountain Time in Arizona and the second an hour later for Pacific Time in Nevada.

5 Free of Spirits: There will be numerous smoke- and alcohol-free parties around the state. If you're over age 55 you can try the dance at the Las Vegas Senior Center On Lake Tahoe's south shore, a First Night celebration will entertain families—sans alcohol—with multicultural art and music. In Carson City, they've taken the "Brew" out of the Brewery Arts Center, which will have a live band and caller for line, circle, and partner dancing. Reno also has a First Night shindig.

6 The Cowboy Way: Rodeo fans will be in cowboy heaven on New Year's at the Buck 'N' Ball at the Reno Livestock Events Center. Gates open at 4:30 p.m. for a barbecue, rodeo, dance (on a wooden floor), and indoor fireworks. Top bareback, saddle bronc, and bull riders, many of them fresh from the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, will ride for $60,000 in total prize money Then everyone will dance past midnight.

7 Count Under It: The countdown under the Reno Arch is a longtime (and sometimes rowdy) event on Virginia Street. The crowd starts to gather between 11 and 11:30 p.m. It's best to dress warmly, although the refuge offered by the downtown casinos can help offset the nippy weather.

8 Snowy Soiree: Weather permitting, you can ski until 9 p.m. at Donner Ski Ranch and then top it off with dinner and dancing. Other Tahoe resorts like Kirkwood and Northstar have fireworks and parties for all ages, but night skiing is limited to the torchlight parade staged by employees at Kirkwood.

9 Rural Hot Spots: Going to a community dance is a great way to enjoy New Year's Eve. The volunteer fire departments in Wellington and Ely have held holiday dances for as long as anyone can remember. In Wellington, about 85 miles south of Reno, the Community Hall rocks until midnight, when partiers repair to the buffet. Ely residents decorate their convention center for the dance, which is the fire department's major fundraiser.

10 Triple Header: Not everyone celebrates New Year's on December 31. Bagpipes, dancing, and Gaelic football begin the Celtic New Year with a wail on November 5-7 in downtown Reno. Procrastinators wishing to postpone the inevitable—or party again—can find various casinos celebrating the Chinese New Year on February 10, beginning what in 1994 will be the Year of the Dog.

Ann Henderson is the Las Vegas representative for Nevada Magazine.

Illustration: John Bardwell

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NEVADA Events

Section of Nevada Magazine



Santa with Heather Dahlberg at the Clark County Heritage Museum

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LAS VEGAS AREA SHOPPES: Factory Shoppe • McCarran Airport (Gates A & B, Satellite C) • California Hotel • O'Shea's • Union Plaza Hotel Tropicana Hotel • Harrah's Hotel • Stardust Hotel • Flamingo Hilton • Meadows Mall • Fashion Show Mall • Boulevard Mall
RENO/TAHOE AREA SHOPPES: Caesars Tahoe • Fourth & Virginia St.– Reno • Reno Airport

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On the Cover: Mr. LV Santa and Heather Dahlberg get ready for Nevada's Christmas festivities. Photo taken at Clark County Heritage Museum in Henderson by Kate Butler

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Nevada Events is a section of **Nevada Magazine**. **Events Editor:** Melissa Cronin Loomis. **Editor:** David Moore. **Associate Editor:** Carolyn Graham. **Art Director:** Paul AlLée. **Production Editor:** Gary Elam. **Production Assistant:** Joanna Vernarecci. **Publisher:** Richard Moreno. **Circulation Manager:** Debi Frame. **Advertising Manager:** Patty Noll. **Business Manager:** Greg Weyland. **Commission on Tourism Chair:** Lt. Governor Sue Wagner. **Executive Director:** Thomas G. Tait. **Nevada Magazine** (ISSN 0199-1248) is published bimonthly by the State of Nevada at 1800 Hwy. 50 East, Suite 200, Carson City, NV 89710-0005; (702) 687-5416.

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SPOTLIGHT

The Year at a Glance

1994 Nevada Events

The following events represent a sampling of celebrations and gatherings scheduled this coming year in Nevada. This calendar can be used in planning next year's vacations and weekend outings in the Silver State.

While great care was taken in compiling this guide, event dates are subject to change and cancellation, so please call ahead to confirm information. The area code is 702 throughout Nevada.

January

Sharkey's Serbian Christmas Dinner, Jan. 7 Gardnerville, 782-3133
Sing the Dream, Jan. 15-17, celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, Reno, 329-8990
Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Jan. 25-30, Elko, 738-7508

February

Las Vegas International Marathon, Feb. 5, 731-2115

March

Hoover Dam Square Dance Weekend, March 4-5, 293-4918
Snowfest, March 4-13, winter carnival, North Lake Tahoe and Truckee, 916-583-7625
Shooting the West, March 11-13, photography seminar, Winnemucca, 623-6388
Stewart Indian Museum Mother Earth Awakening Powwow, March 18-20, Carson City, 882-1808

April

Clark County Fair, April 7-10, Logandale, 398-3247
Henderson Industrial Days, April 15-24, 565-8951
Wendover Bordertown Bike Challenge, April 22-24, 664-3414
Boulder City Spring Jamboree, April 29-May 1, 456-6695
Cinco de Mayo Fiesta, April 30, Wendover, 664-3414



Poets like Red Steagall (above) will perform at the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko January 25-30.

May

Cinco de Mayo, May 5-8, Sparks, 353-2291
Cinco de Mayo, May 6, Jarbidge, 588-2311
Desert Oasis Bluegrass Festival, May 6-8, Fallon, 423-7733
Chili Cook-Off and Cinco de Mayo, May 7-8, Virginia City, 847-0500

Photo: Kate Butler

Clark County Artists Show, May 7-8, Boulder City, 456-6695
Comstock Historic Preservation Weekend, May 13-15, Virginia City, 847-0975
BluBlocker Nevada 100, May 13-15, auto race, host city is Ely, 289-8877
Rhythm and Ribs Concert and Rib Burn-Off, May 14-15, Las Vegas, 455-8200
Winnemucca Barrel-Racing Futurity, May 14-15, 623-2225
Liberace's 75th Birthday Celebration, May 15-16, Las Vegas, 798-5595
Helldorado, May 20-29, Las Vegas, 870-1221
She's a Screamer Wells-to-Wendover National Motorcycle Race, May 21, 664-3414
Armed Forces Day, May 21-22, Hawthorne, 945-5896
Mesquite Days, May 26-28, 346-5295
Jim Butler Days, May 27-30, Tonopah, 482-3859
Lincoln County Homecoming, May 27-30, Caliente, 726-3333
Portuguese Festa, May 28-29, Lovelock, 273-7213
Senior Pro Rodeo, May 28-29, Winnemucca, 623-2225

June

Reno West Coast Wine Competition Tasting, June 2, 827-7636
Denio Barbecue and Roping, June 4, 941-0357
Downtown A-Fair, June 4, Carson City, 885-0411
Winnemucca Mule Show and Races, June 4-5, 623-2225
Kit Carson Rendezvous Wagon Train, June 9-11, Reno and Carson City, 884-3633
Kit Carson Rendezvous, June 10-12, Carson City, 884-3633
Carson Valley Days, June 10-12, Minden/Gardnerville, 782-9828
Ely Grand Prix Motorcycle Race, June 11, 289-8877
Winnemucca Basque Festival, June 11-12, 623-2225
Gridley Days, June 17-18, Austin, 964-2200
Red Mountain Powwow/Quinn River Indian Rodeo, June 17-19, Fort McDermitt Reservation, McDermitt, 532-8259
Stewart Indian Museum Powwow, June 17-19, Carson City, 882-1808
Reno Rodeo, June 17-26, 329-3877
Miners' Day, June 19, Austin, 964-2200
Cowboy Music Gathering, June 23-26, Elko, 738-7508
Lamoille Country Fair, June 26, 753-6603
Silver State International Rodeo, June 30-July 3, Fallon, 423-4674

July

National Basque Festival, July 1-3, Elko, 738-7547
Nugget Jazz Festival, July 3-6, Sparks, 356-3300
Damboree, July 4, Boulder City, 293-2034
Fourth of July Festivities, Statewide
Carson Valley Heritage Day Chili Cook-Off and Art and Crafts Faire, July 9, Minden/Gardnerville, 782-8144
All-Indian Rodeo, Stampede, and Powwow, July 15-17 Fallon, 423-6075
Land Speed Opener, Bonneville Salt Flats, July 22-24, Wendover, 801-785-5364
Panaca Pioneer Day, July 23, 726-3333
Pioche Heritage Days, July 27-30, 726-3333
Capital City Fair, July 29-31, Carson City, 882-4460
Winnemucca's Hot August Nights, July 31-Aug. 2, Winnemucca, 623-2225

August

Shakespeare at Sand Harbor, Aug. 1-21, Lake Tahoe, 916-583-9048
Hot August Nights, Aug. 5-7 Reno and Sparks, 829-1955
Lovelock Frontier Days, Aug. 5-7, 273-7213
Arts in the Park, Aug. 6-7, Ely, 289-8877
Lincoln County Fair, Aug. 12-20, Panaca, 726-3333
Santa Maria Day, Aug. 13, Dayton, 246-7909 or 246-3993
Speed Week, Bonneville Salt Flats, Aug. 13-19 (tentative), Wendover, 801-785-5364
Carson Valley Fine Arts and Street Celebration, Aug. 20-21, Minden, 782-8144
Pony Express Horse Racing, Aug. 20-21 and Aug. 27-28, Ely, 289-8877
Nevada State Fair, Aug. 24-28, Reno, 688-5767
White Pine County Fair, Aug. 27-28, Ely, 289-8877

September

Numaga Indian Days, Sept. 2-4, Reno, 329-2936
Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off, Sept. 2-5, Sparks, 356-3300
Pioche Labor Day Celebration, Sept. 2-5, 726-3333
Winnemucca Rodeo and Tri-County Fair, Sept. 3-5, 623-2225
Virginia City International Camel Races, Sept. 9-11, 847-0311
Great Reno Balloon Race, Sept. 9-11, 826-1181
Parimutuel and Quarter Horse Races, Sept. 10-11 and Sept. 17-18, Winnemucca, 623-2225
Pinenut Festival and All-Indian Rodeo, Sept. 15-18, Walker River Indian Reservation, Schurz, 773-2306
Reno National Championship Air Races, Sept. 15-18 (tentative), 972-6663
BluBlocker Silver State 100, Sept. 16-18, auto race, host city is Ely, 289-8877
Pahrump Harvest Festival, Sept. 16-18, 727-5800
Dayton Valley Days, Sept. 17-18, 246-3281
Ranchhand Rodeo, Sept. 17-18, Winnemucca, 623-2225
World of Speed, Bonneville Salt Flats, Sept. 22-25, Wendover, 801-785-5364
Meadow Valley Days, Sept. 23-24, Caliente, 726-3333
Genoa Candy Dance, Sept. 24-25, 782-8696
Las Vegas Jaycees State Fair, Sept. 30-Oct. 9, 457-8832



A young Native American in colorful dress dances at a Carson City powwow.

October

Art in the Park, Oct. 1-2, Boulder City, 293-2034
Wendover Air Show, Oct. 1-2, 664-3901
Snow Dance Festival, Oct. 1-3, Incline Village, 468-2463
Las Vegas Blues and Heritage Festival, Oct. 2, 455-8200
Italian Festival, Oct. 8-9, Reno, 786-5700
Henderson Expo, Oct. 21-23, 565-8951
World Finals, Bonneville Salt Flats, Oct. 21-23 (tentative), Wendover, 801-785-5364
North Las Vegas Fairshow and Hot-Air Balloon Races, Oct. 28-30, 642-1944
Wa She Shu Powwow, Oct. 28-30, Carson City, 883-6431
Nevada Day Parade, Oct. 31, Carson City, 882-2600

November

Mesquite Arts Festival, Nov. 4-5, 346-5295
Elko Pre-Holiday Show, Nov. 19-20, 738-7135
Walker Lake Fishing Derby Nov. 25-27 Hawthorne, 945-5896

December

Silver and Snowflakes Tree Lighting Ceremony, Dec. 1, Carson City, 885-0411
National Finals Rodeo, Dec. 2-11, Las Vegas, 731-2115
Craft Fair, Dec. 3, Caliente, 726-3333
Sparks Hometowne Christmas, Dec. 3, 353-2338
Children's Christmas Parade, Dec. 10, Henderson, 565-8951
Sky Festival Air Show, Dec. 10, Mesquite, 346-5295



Hot-air balloon enthusiasts take to the Nevada skies in late summer and early fall.

Photos: Larry Prosor (top), Gary Elam (bottom)

Vacation Hot Lines

Where to call or write for travel tips.

When planning your Nevada trip or vacation, be sure to write or phone these one-stop sources for information.

If you plan to stop by a chamber (C of C) 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 800-NEVADA-8 anywhere in U.S. and Canada

Las Vegas Territory

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

Boulder City Visitor Center: 100 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; 294-1220

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

Jean Visitor Center: Interstate 15 Rest Area (8 mi. south of Jean), Jean, NV 89019; 874-1566

Las Vegas C of C: 711 E. Desert Inn Road, Las Vegas, NV 89109; 735-1616

Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority: 3150 Paradise Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89109; 892-0711

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

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

Laughlin Visitor Center: 1555 S. Casino Dr., Laughlin, NV 89029; 298-3321

Mesquite Area C of C: 250 W. Mesquite Blvd., Suite 8, Box 785, Mesquite, NV 89024; 346-2902

Mesquite Visitor Center: Interstate 15 Exit 122, Mesquite, NV 89024; 346-2702

Moapa Valley C of C: Box 361, Overton, NV 89040; 397-2193 (Lost City Museum)

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

North Las Vegas C of C: 1023 E. Lake Mead Blvd., North Las Vegas, NV 89030; 642-9595

Southern Nevada Arts Hot Line: Local arts and cultural events; on touch-tone phone call 385-4444 and enter code 2172

Reno-Tahoe Territory

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

Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau: 1900 S. Carson St., Suite 200, Carson City, NV 89701; 687-7410 or 800-NEVADA-1 anywhere in U.S.

Carson Valley C of C and Visitors Authority: 1524 Hwy. 395, No. 1, Gardnerville, NV 89410-7814; 782-8144 or 800-727-7677 in U.S.

Greater Reno-Sparks C of C: 405 Marsh Ave., Reno, NV 89505; 686-3030

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 anywhere in U.S.

Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority: 1156 Ski Run Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; 916-544-5050, 800-AT-TAHOE in U.S., or 900-776-5050 for updated visitor info. ($1/min. charge)

North Lake Tahoe C of C: Box 884, Tahoe City, CA 95730; 916-581-6900

Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority: 4590 S. Virginia St., Reno, NV 89502; 827-7600, 827-RENO, or 800-FOR-RENO toll-free anywhere in the U.S.

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

South Lake Tahoe C of C: 3066 Lake Tahoe Blvd., S. Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; 916-541-5255

Sparks C of C: 831 Victorian Ave., Sparks, NV 89431; 358-1976

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

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

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

Cowboy Country

Battle Mountain C of C: Box 333, Battle Mountain, NV 89820; 635-8245

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 800-248-ELKO outside Nevada

Jackpot Visitors Information: Box 508, Jackpot, NV 89825; 755-2321, 800-821-3935 in Nevada, 800-821-1103 anywhere in U.S.

Jarbidge Community Assn.: c/o Trading Post, Box 260072, Jarbidge, NV 89826; 488-2315

Lovelock C of C: Box 821, Lovelock, NV 89419; 273-7213

McDermitt Information: Box 278, McDermitt, NV 89421

Wells C of C: Box 615, Wells, NV 89835; 752-3540

Wendover USA Visitors/Convention Bureau: Box 2468, Wendover, NV 89883; 664-3414

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

Pony Express Territory

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

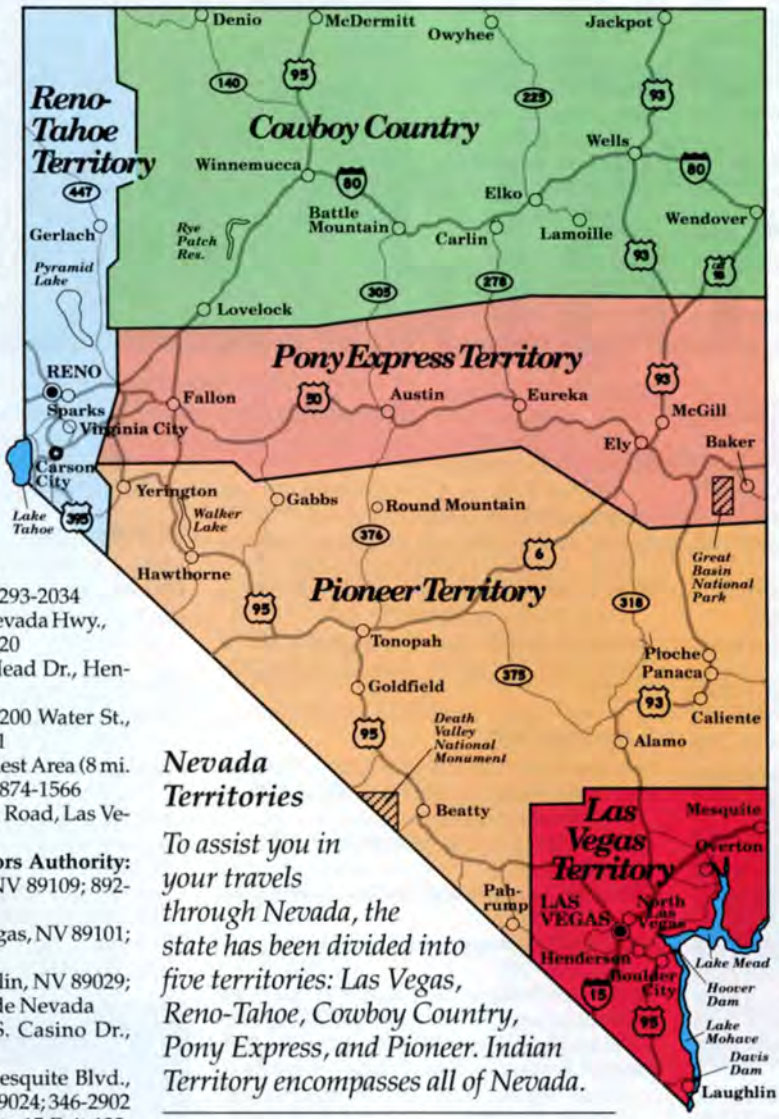
Dayton C of C: Box 408, Dayton, NV 89403; 246-7909 (open Thurs.-Sun.)

Ely's Bristlecone Convention Center: Box 958, Ely, NV 89301; 289-3720

Eureka County C of C: Box 14, Eureka, NV 89316; 237-5484

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

Fallon Convention and Tourism Authority: 100 Campus Way, Fallon, NV 89406; 423-4556 or



Nevada Territories

To assist you in your travels through Nevada, the state has been divided into five territories: Las Vegas, Reno-Tahoe, Cowboy Country, Pony Express, and Pioneer. Indian Territory encompasses all of Nevada.

800-874-0903 anywhere in U.S.

Fernley C of C: Box 1606, Fernley, NV 89408; 575-4459

Great Basin C of C: Baker, NV 89311; 234-7302

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

White Pine C of C: 636 Aultman, Ely, NV 89301; 289-8877

Pioneer Territory

Amargosa C of C: HCR 69-2 Box 401W, Amargosa, NV 89020; 372-5459

Beatty C of C: Box 946, Beatty, NV 89003; 553-2424

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

Gabbs, City of: Box 86, Gabbs, NV 89409; 285-2671

Goldfield C of C: Box 225, Goldfield, NV 89013; 485-9957

Goldfield Historical Society: Box 178, Goldfield, NV 89013; 485-6365

Greater Smoky Valley C of C: Box 2020, State Route 376 at Carver's Station, Round Mountain, NV 89045; 377-2490

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

Mason Valley C of C: 227 S. Main St., Yerington, NV 89447-2536; 463-3721

Mineral County C of C: Box 1635, Hawthorne, NV 89415; 945-5896

Pahrump Valley C of C: Box 42, Pahrump, NV 89041; 727-5800 or 800-633-WEST

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

Tonopah Convention Center: Box 408, Tonopah, NV 89049; 482-3558

Indian Territory

Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada: 806 Holman Way, Sparks, NV 89431; 355-0600

Indian Territory Chair: Stewart Indian Museum, 5366 Snyder Ave., Carson City, NV 89701; 882-1808

State and National Parks

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

Nevada Division of State Parks: Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710; 687-4387

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area: Box 26569, Las Vegas, NV 89126; 363-1921

More Camping, Hiking, and Fishing

Bureau of Land Management: Main: 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

Nevada Dept. of Wildlife: Main: Box 10678, Reno, NV 89520, 688-1500; Southern Nevada: State Mail Complex, Las Vegas, NV 89158; 486-5127

Pyramid Lake: Pyramid Lake Fisheries: Star Route, Sutcliffe, NV 89510; 476-0500

Toiyabe National Forest: 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431, 331-6444; 2881 S. Valley View, Suite 16, Las Vegas, NV 89102, 873-8800

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So Much To Do
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Las Vegas Territory

PREVIEW

A Fan's Guide to the NFR

By Ann Henderson

The glitter of neon and the scuff of cowboy boots will be a good fit during the 35th annual National Finals Rodeo, December 3-12. A Las Vegas event since 1985, the NFR welcomes 126 athletes competing for bragging rights and prize money, which this year totals $2.7 million.

Tickets to the rodeo performances are typically sold out well in advance, but fans sometimes can obtain seat-availability tickets at the Thomas and Mack Center box office. Even if it's hard to get in the Thomas and Mack, the atmosphere in town is nearly as good as a front-row seat. It's the chance to look and feel Western—beginning with the casino showrooms.

During the NFR, Clint Black headlines at Caesars Palace, Willie Nelson at the Stars' Desert Inn, and Tanya Tucker and Charlie Daniels at Bally's. The Stardust turns its conference center into Ricky's Saloon for Ricky and the Red Streaks, who call themselves "raunchy, rowdy, and reckless" and were voted the favorite band of the pro-rodeo circuit. (There are no advance reservations for Ricky's show, which has a $5 cover charge, begins at 11 p.m., and lasts until the party is over.) For show information see this issue's Showguide.

If your mind and feet are aching to see action on the dance floor, check out the Gold Coast, Sam's Town, and the Palladium nightclub.

After the haze has lifted, you can shop for Western duds at two events created around the rodeo. The Christmas Gift Show runs December 3-11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Cashman Center. The Western Emporium at Sam's Town holds its annual tent sale from November 26 to December 26.



There's plenty of action both in and out of the arena during National Finals Rodeo December 3-12 in Las Vegas.

Rodeo devotees hoping to see their favorite contestants will have a good chance at the Gold Coast, the Rio, or the cowboys' host hotel. The Gold Coast will have an awards presentation each night at 11 in the dance hall, and admission is free. The Rio will have the NFR reader board, and competitors are expected to drop by to check out their standings and stock draws for the next day.

You also can hang out at the host hotels. Saddle-bronc riders are booked into the Gold Coast, bull riders at the Horseshoe, Wrangler bullfighters at the Four Queens, bareback riders at the Golden Nugget, calf ropers at Harrah's, barrel racers at the Fremont, and steer wrestlers at the Las Vegas Club. Team ropers are split between Fitzgeralds and the Aladdin.

The NFR officially starts December 3, but festivities begin November 28 with the Miss Rodeo America Contest, which concludes December 4 at a coronation luncheon at the Flamingo Hilton. Event tickets are $45. More pomp and ceremony takes place as the NFR ends with its awards banquet at Caesars Palace. Tickets are $50 per person.

For further information call Las Vegas Events, 702-731-2115.

Ann Henderson is the Las Vegas representative of Nevada Magazine.

Photo: Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association

EVENTS

November

Alan Bean Exhibit and Lecture, thru Nov. 2, Alan Bean, Apollo-Saturn 12 astronaut, shows his recent artwork and space artifacts, photos, and memorabilia related to the Apollo program, Moonstruck Gallery, 364-0531 or 800-421-9133

Ceramics Exhibit, thru Dec. 1, Las Vegan Gary Marx's large-scale ceramic pieces, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 229-6211

History in the Making: The Moulin Rouge Civil Rights Exhibit, thru Dec. 31, photographs and artifacts recall 1955 hotel-casino's pivotal role in breaking down racial barriers at Las Vegas resorts, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 486-5205

Samplers From the Lightner Museum Exhibit, thru Jan. 8, historical craft art including pieces from 1791, $1 adults, children and seniors 50 cents, Clark County Heritage Museum, 455-7955

Seniors' Week, Nov. 1-4, hay rides, big bands, free video poker tournaments, Peppermill, Mesquite, 346-5232

Stopping Time: A Rephotographic Survey of Lake Tahoe, Nov. 1-Dec. 31, photo exhibit, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

Clark County Student Art Exhibit, Nov. 3-Jan. 18, at various area libraries, for schedule call 733-3601

The Auction: Antique and Classic Car Sale, Nov. 4-8, Imperial Palace, 794-3174

Concert, Nov. 5, piano and vocal by Michael Ballam, Virgin Valley High School Auditorium, 346-5295

Mesquite Arts Festival, Nov. 5-6, arts, crafts, children's activities and rides, puppet shows, concessions, Mexican Fiesta on Sat. night includes dancers of the Hispanic-Mexican Ballet from Old Town San Diego, music and food, Mesquite library grounds, 346-5295

USSSA Men's "D" Softball Tournament, Nov. 5-6 and 12-13, City Ballfield, Mesquite, 346-5280

Harrah's Country Celebration, Nov. 5-7 live country bands, Southwestern artists, Laughlin's Longest Line Dance, Harrah's Laughlin, 298-4600

Art Exhibit, Nov. 5-Dec. 4, paintings by Robert Beckman of Las Vegas and Cara Wood of New York City, Barrick Museum, UNLV, 895-1402

Riddick Bowe v. Evander Holyfield Championship Boxing, Nov. 6, for the WBA and IBF heavyweight titles, tickets $100-$800, Caesars Palace outdoor stadium, 731-7865 or 800-634-6698

Strut Your Mutt, Nov. 6, wacky canine contests, Dog Fancier's Park, 5700 E. Flamingo, 455-8200

Sound Trek Series Concert, Nov. 6, chamber music of Canada performed by Nevada Symphony Orchestra, 8pm, location TBA, Las Vegas, 792-4337

Holiday Craft Show and Sale, Nov. 6, seniors display homemade crafts, free admission, Las Vegas Senior Citizens Center, 229-6454

Living History Program: John C. Fremont, Nov. 6, 1 and 3pm, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 875-4141

Supercops IV Nov. 6, national invitational all-police drag racing, 1,000-horsepower cars, red lights, and sirens, Racers Against Impaired Driving (RAID) charity event, Las Vegas Dragstrip, 486-4101 or 361-0878

Fun Run, Nov. 6, two-mile and four-mile divisions, meet at Sav-On, W. Sahara and Fort Apache, 870-8269

PREVIEW

Old-Time Christmas

The Clark County Heritage Museum recreates a spirited holiday during its sixth annual Old-Fashioned Christmas Celebration December 11. The museum and its historic buildings in Henderson will be decorated and ready for revelers with craft booths, Santa in the Print Shop, and roving carolers from noon to 8 p.m.

Also, you can enjoy a catered ham and turkey holiday dinner while being serenaded by harp music and caroling in the museum's railroad depot. Dinners will be served at 1:30, 5, and 7:30 p.m. Cost will be $15 for adults and $10 for children 12 and under.

On display will be the exhibit Samplers From the Lightner Museum (from Florida) featuring old-fashioned samplers, which were sewed by young women learning stitching motifs. The exhibit runs through January 8 at the museum.



Mr and Mrs. LV Santa take time from their busy traveling schedule to visit with granddaughter Heather Dahlberg at the museum's Beckley House.

TERRITORY MAP



HOT LINES

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

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

Las Vegas Aces: Semi-pro hockey club, Nov. 5-6 v. St. Paul Champps, Nov. 12-13 v. Chicago Selects, Nov. 19-20 v. St. Paul Parkers, Nov. 26-27 v. Anchorage Aces, Dec. 3-4 v. Minneapolis Bucks, Dec. 10-11 v. Pueblo Ravens, Dec. 17-18 v. Philadelphia Wings, Sante Fe Hotel Ice Arena, 658-4991 or 800-457-2882

Las Vegas Thunder: International Hockey League, Nov. 5-6 v. Salt Lake City Golden Eagles, Nov. 19 v. Phoenix Roadrunners, Nov. 23-24 v. Kalamazoo Wings, Nov. 26 v. Phoenix Roadrunners, Dec. 19 and Dec. 22 v. San Diego Gulls, Dec. 29 and Dec. 31 v. Milwaukee Admirals, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV 798-7825

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 Concerts: music and dance, 739-3101

UNLV Football: Nov. 20 v. Southwestern Louisiana, Sam Boyd Silver Bowl, 739-3900

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

Photo: Kate Butler

Gun Show, Nov. 6-7 Cashman Field, 386-7100

Paintbrush Diplomacy: Children's Art From the Americas, Nov. 6-Dec. 5, Lied Discovery Children's Museum, 382-3445

Las Vegas Civic Symphony, Nov. 7 2pm, free, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 229-6211

Jazz Ensemble I, Nov. 7, 2pm, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 895-3801

Living History Program: Pioneer Women, Nov. 7 1 and 3pm, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 875-4141

Nevada Day Juried Art Show, Nov. 7-28, plus artwork by Jill Gottlieb and Ruth Kraemer, Las Vegas Art Museum, 647-4300

Scott Grieger: From the '70s, Nov. 8-Dec. 19, photography exhibit, free, Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery, UNLV 895-3801

"Quilt: A Musical Celebration," Nov. 11-14 and 17-21, musical by Jim Morgan, $5, Black Box Theatre, UNLV 895-3801

Art Exhibit, Nov. 11-Dec. 31, Michael Heizer's works range from massive five-acre plots of gouged earth to gallery installations that question the nature of art, art ownership, and artists' materials, Nevada Institute for Contemporary Art, 434-2666

Boy Scouts of America Scout Expo '93, Nov. 12-13, Cashman Field, 736-4366

"True West," Nov. 12-14 and 17-21, comedy, tickets $12.50, $9 seniors, students, and handicapped citizens, New West Theatre, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 657-5000

Barbershop Show, Nov. 13, features Panache, the 1990 Sweet Adeline Queens of Harmony; Sound Express, Las Vegas' award-winning male quartet; and the Valley of Fire Chorus, 2 and 8pm, Cheyenne High School, 641-3520 or 739-6553



Skiers get a lift at Lee Canyon Ski Resort on Mount Charleston, west of Las Vegas.

Living History Program: Jim Wilson, Nov. 13, Jim Wilson and his partner were the first to file on the Sand Stone Ranch (Spring Mountain Ranch), Wilson was one of Nevada's earliest settlers, 1 and 3pm, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 875-4141

Sierra Wind Quintet, Nov. 13, Black Box Theatre, UNLV 895-3801

The Age of Chivalry Renaissance Faire, Nov. 13-14, the Society for Creative Anachronism and the Empire of Chivalry and Steel hold a fighting tournament and demonstrations, encampments, jousting demonstrations, battle-ax throw, juggling contests, arts and crafts, the Utah Shakespearean Festival presents its "Costume Cavalcade," food, English beer and ale, adults $3, children (6-12) $1, and kids 5 and under free, Sunset Park, 455-8200

Ninth Annual 76+4 Trombones Concert, Nov. 14, featuring jazz great Carl Fontana, 2pm, $6 general admission, $4 students, seniors, and military, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3736

Living History Program: Jim Beckwourth, Nov. 14, Beckwourth was an African-American from New Orleans and an explorer, trapper, guide, and courier, 1 and 3pm, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 875-4141

Topless Dancers World Championships, Nov. 14-19, more than 120 topless dancers from North America compete for $50,000 in cash, prizes, contracts, and merchandise, lingerie and bikini contest on Sun., strip-off contests nightly Mon.-Thurs., on Fri. grand finals for the crowning of the Topless Dancing Champion of 1993, Stardust, 732-6111

Peppermill Birthday Celebration, Nov. 15-20, Peppermill, Mesquite, 346-5232

Great Nevada Picture Hunt Winners Show, Nov. 15-Dec. 31, exhibit of *Nevada Magazine's* 16th annual photo contest winners, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 486-5205

Fun Run, Nov. 16, 10K and two-mile divisions, 7:30am, Spring Mountain Ranch, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 870-8269

Championship Boxing, Nov. 17 Riviera, 734-5110

Table Tennis Tournament, Nov. 18, Mirabelli Community Center, 229-6359

"The Marriage of Figaro," Nov. 18-19 and 21,

PREVIEW

Pigskin Party

They're still talking about last year's Las Vegas Bowl. It was the kind of football game that avid beer-swilling, chip-munching, grandstand-quarterbacking fans dream about.

Bowling Green may have won the Big West/Mid-American Conference contest by a score of 35-34, but it was an unforgettable comeback for the University of Nevada, Reno, which trailed 28-3 at half time. ESPN called the Las Vegas Bowl its "most exciting bowl game," and fingers are crossed that history will repeat itself December 17 during Las Vegas Bowl II.

Fans can immerse themselves in pre-game events. The popular Kickoff Luncheon is December 16 at the Riviera Hotel, and former Michigan coach Bo Schembechler will be the keynote speaker. Bo knows bowls: His teams have played in 17 bowl games. A limited number of luncheon tickets priced at $15 are available through the Riviera box office, 702-734-5110.

Later that evening the two conference champions will host pep rallies. Big West fans will meet at the Sands Hotel, while Mid-American Conference backers congregate at the Riviera. Each rally starts at 7 p.m.



The Sam Boyd Silver Bowl, home turf of UNLV (above), will be the battleground for Las Vegas Bowl II on December 17

Also, there are 144 places in the inaugural Grid-Iron Invitational Golf Tournament to be played December 15. For information, golfers can call 702-737-0103.

On game day the Hospitality Village will open at noon with food booths and entertainment at the 32,000-seat Sam Boyd Silver Bowl, and fans can party up to the 5 p.m. kickoff. Reserved seats are $30, $15, and $10 and are available from Ticketmaster, 702-474-4000, and at the Thomas and Mack Center box office.—*Ann Henderson*

Photo: Kate Butler (top), University of Nevada, Las Vegas (bottom)



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The brightly decorated boats in the Parade of Lights bring Christmas glitter to Lake Mead on the evening of December 11.

UNLV Opera Theatre, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801

UNLV Authors' Reception and Autograph Party, Nov. 19, 5:30-7:30pm, Tam Alumni Center, UNLV 784-6573

City of Mesquite Softball Tournament of Champions, Nov. 19-20, City Ballfield, Mesquite, 346-5280

Craft Festival, Nov. 19-21, Cashman Field, 386-7100

Horse Show, Nov. 20, 9am, Southern Nevada Hunter/Jumper Assn., Horseman's Park, 433-9757

Turkey Trot, Nov. 21, 10K and two-mile fun run, Bally's Las Vegas, 870-8269

Art Exhibit, Nov. 21-Jan. 5, James Pink, UNLV art professor and recently named Absolut Vodka's Nevada artist, exhibits his acrylic paintings and charcoal drawings, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 229-6383

Chamber Music Southwest Concert, Nov. 22, music for oboe and strings, 8pm, $5, Black Box Theatre, UNLV 895-3801

Festival of Trees and Lights, Nov. 23-27, 5th annual, celebration of Christmas and Chanukah, professionally decorated Christmas trees, Gingerbread Village, vignettes, Chanukah displays, children's craft area, Teddy Bear Tea, gala with auction of the trees and decorations, $3 adults, $2 seniors, $1 children, benefit, Bally's Las Vegas, 227-3552

Les Ballet Africans, Nov. 24, blend of traditional African dance, music, and storytelling, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801

Western National Collectibles Show, Nov. 27-28, Cashman Field, 382-7043

Las Vegas Doll Club Show, Nov. 27-28, Las Vegas Convention Center, 564-2395 or 565-1600

"Elijah," Nov. 28, Mendelssohn's oratorio, Southern Nevada Musical Arts Society chorus and orchestra with guest soloist Neil Wilson, 3pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801

Miss Rodeo America Pageant, Nov. 28-Dec. 4, horsemanship competition, fashion show, and coronation, Flamingo Hilton, 733-3240

December

"Die Fledermaus," Dec. 1, presented by the San Francisco Opera Center, 8pm, tickets $9-$35, Ham Hall, UNLV 737-6373 or 895-3801

Las Vegas Hall of Fame Collegiate Wrestling Championships, Dec. 1-4, Las Vegas Convention Center, 871-3818

Winter Wonderland, Dec. 1-31, festival of lights, White and Wild Day on Dec. 18 has games, workshops, and entertainment for kids and their parents, Sunset Park, 455-8200

Rio's Christmas Tree Lighting and Winter Wonderland, Dec. 1-31, the Rio Suite Hotel celebrates Christmas with roving carolers, holiday decorations, and visits by Santa Claus, on Nov. 26 lighting of outdoor tree in front of hotel, 252-7706

Christmas at the Liberace Museum, Dec. 2, Liberace impersonator Daryl Wagner will pull the switch to light a giant Christmas tree assisted by Santa in Liberace's gold lamé suit at

NIGHTLIFE

In the Prime of Her Lives



Shirley MacLaine appears at the D.I.

BY MARLA BROOKS

Shirley MacLaine's signature song, "If They Could See Me Now," is a number she made famous in "Sweet Charity." It also is a song whose reincarnations reflect MacLaine's own career passages from Broadway to Hollywood to Las Vegas.

A native of Arlington, Virginia, MacLaine spent her teenage summers dancing in New York chorus lines. She moved full-time to the Great White Way after graduating from high school, and at 19 she was signed to a movie contract by producer Hal Wallis after he spotted the young actress in "Pajama Game."

Since then MacLaine has starred in more than 40 movies, including *Irma la Douce*, *Sweet Charity*, and *The Apartment*. Nominated for six Academy Awards, she won an Oscar in 1984 for her performance as Aurora Greenway in *Terms of Endearment*. She has won five Emmys for her television specials. She has played Las Vegas on and off for years. She has written seven best-selling books on her personal, inner journeys. She even entered the home-video market with *Shirley MacLaine's Inner Workout*.

Last year she found a new role on stage at the Desert Inn. MacLaine joined Frank Sinatra, Liza Minnelli, Don Rickles, Buddy Hackett, and other Vegas stars in signing multiple-performance contracts with the hotel, which then was renamed the Stars' Desert Inn.

Her current stint in the Crystal Room is a mix of old and new, with her theme song, "If They Could See Me Now," interwoven throughout. She presents a medley from "Gypsy" and a hooker number with routines from "Sweet Charity" and "Irma la Douce," two of her most popular Broadway shows. Between numbers MacLaine offers some patter about such topics as her little brother, Warren Beatty, and her age. (She jokes that each of her fabulous-looking legs is 29-1/2 years old, totaling her current age of 59.)

In each show MacLaine presents a musical number that relates, in a comedic way, to her spiritual quest.

Photo: Kate Butler (top)

5:30pm in the parking lot of Liberace Plaza, caroling, free admittance to museum with unwrapped new toy or nonperishable food donation for the Salvation Army, museum will be decorated with many of Liberace's favorite decorations, 798-5595

"Romeo and Juliet," Dec. 2-5 and 8-12, 8pm, 2pm Sun., Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 895-3801

"La Serva Padrona" and "Gallantry," Dec. 3, UNLV Opera Theatre, location TBA on UNLV campus, 895-4073

"Amahl and the Night Visitors," Dec. 3-4 and 10-11, Nevada Opera Theatre, Summerlin Library and Performing Arts Center, Summerlin (Sun City), 737-6373 or 895-3801

Las Vegas Civic Ballet Holiday Concert, Dec. 3-5 and 10-12, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 229-6211

Arts and Crafts Festival, Dec. 3-5, 10-12, and 17-19, Harrah's Laughlin, 298-4600

Hometown Christmas Days, Dec. 3-6, includes children's Christmas parade and picnic on Sat., dance, holiday crafts bazaar, candlelight procession, tree lighting ceremony, campfire Christmas carols and marshmallow roast, performance of Handel's "Messiah" by Southwest Symphony and Chorale, Mesquite, 346-5295

NFR Cowboy Christmas Gift Show, Dec. 3-11, Cashman Field, 386-7100

National Finals Rodeo, Dec. 3-12, 35th competition, 126 top rodeo athletes compete for prize money totaling $2.7 million, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 731-2115

Boulder City Christmas Parade, Dec. 4, 293-2034

Nellis Air Force Base Choral Performance, Dec. 4, Cashman Field, 652-5014

Las Vegas Rugby Challenge, Dec. 4-5, more than 50 teams from the U.S. and Canada participate, Freedom Park, Sam Boyd Silver Bowl Soccer Field, 597-7170 or 731-2115

"Messiah," Dec. 5, 2pm, Nevada Symphony Orchestra, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801

Christmas Bazaar, Dec. 5-28, Las Vegas Art Museum, 647-4300

Art Exhibit, Dec. 5-Jan. 12, Las Vegas artist James Stanford exhibits his pencil drawings and encaustic paintings, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 229-6211

Christmas Candlelight Procession, Dec. 6, procession from Valley Market to City Hall followed by tree lighting ceremony, free candles for walkers, Santa Claus, Mesquite City Hall front lawn, 346-5295

Christmas Recital, Dec. 7 performance by students, Robison Community School, 459-0201

National Finals Rodeo Tight Fittin' Jeans Contest, Dec. 9, 11pm, Harrah's Las Vegas, 369-5123 or 800-392-9002

"Curious George," Dec. 10, musical, Theatreworks USA, 10am, Ham Hall, UNLV 800-497-5007

"The Wind in the Willows," Dec. 10-12 and 17-19, The Rainbow Company, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 229-6383

Children's Christmas Parade, Dec. 11, Henderson, 565-8951

Lake Mead Parade of Lights, Dec. 11, 17th an-

For example, the audience is likely to do a double-take when a dramatic story about an ancient high priest turns into a tribute to Jimmy Durante.

The drummer in her seven-piece band will be familiar to many baby boomers. He's ex-Mouseketeer Cubby O'Brien, who at one point joins in a Mouseketeer tap dance.

MacLaine goes through six costume changes in the show, but they are cleverly concealed—all done on stage without the audience being immediately aware of them.

For admirers of dance, a highlight is MacLaine's interpretation of how five choreographers would design dance arrangements to the same song, "Sweet Georgia Brown." One after another, the elegant hoofer demonstrates the styles of masters like Bob Fosse and Alan Johnson (who happens to be the choreographer of this show). The result is a wonderful salute to the Great White Way from someone who's been there.

Shirley MacLaine performs at the Stars' Desert Inn in Las Vegas November 23-28.

Marla Brooks is a freelance entertainment writer based in Los Angeles.



nual, procession of brightly decorated vessels starts at 6pm from Lake Mead Marina, 293-1530

Old-Fashioned Christmas Celebration, Dec. 11, 6th annual, Clark County Heritage Museum recreates an old-fashioned Christmas with craft booths, holiday decor, carol sing-along, Santa Claus, $1 adults, children and seniors 50 cents, 1-8:30pm, Henderson, 455-7955

Old-Fashioned Christmas Dinner, Dec. 11, catered dinner with all the trimmings and entertainment, raffle, and door prizes, seatings at 1:30, 5, and 7:30pm, $15 adults, children 12 and under $10, Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955

Concert, Dec. 12, Las Vegas Youth Orchestra, Las Vegas Academy of Performing Arts Theatre, 9th and Clark streets, 385-8948

Christmas Concert, Dec. 12, First Presbyterian's choir performs selections from the "Messiah," and other seasonal music, First Presbyterian Church, 1515 W. Charleston Blvd., 384-4554

Art Exhibit, Dec. 14-Jan. 31, watercolors and pottery by Lisa Faulkner-Wright, West Las Vegas Library, 647-2118

Championship Boxing, Dec. 15, Riviera, 734-5110

U.S. Table Tennis National Championship and World Doubles Cup, Dec. 15-19, more than 750 athletes compete in 54 events, determines the 24-person U.S. national team, Las Vegas Convention Center, 578-4583 or 731-2115

Bolshoi Ballet, Dec. 16-24, Bally's, 739-4567

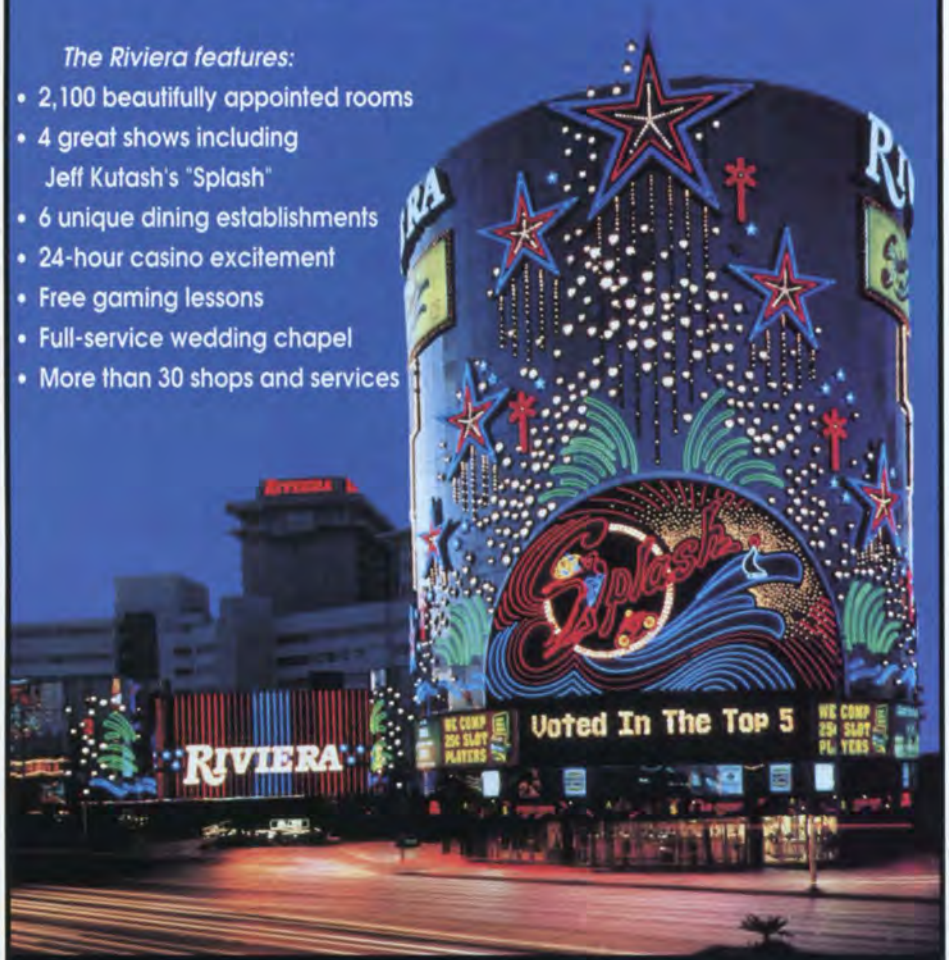
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"The Nutcracker," Dec. 16-30, Nevada Dance Theatre, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 895-3801

Art Educators of Southern Nevada Art Exhibit, Dec. 16-Feb. 1, works from juried competition, reception from 5-7pm on Dec. 16, West Charleston Library, 878-3682

Las Vegas Bowl II, Dec. 17 the Big West Conference champions play the winners of the Mid-American Conference title, game is at Sam Boyd Silver Bowl, reserved seating tickets are $30, $15, and $10, call Ticketmaster, 474-4000; pre-bowl events include Grid-Iron Invitational Golf Tournament on Dec. 15 (737-0103), Kick-Off Luncheon and keynote speaker Bo Schembechler on Dec. 16 at the Riviera Hotel (734-5110), 7 p.m. concurrent pep rallies at the Sands Hotel and Riviera on Dec. 16, Hospitality Village opens at noon with food booths at Sam Boyd Silver Bowl on Dec. 17

Gun Show, Dec. 17-19, Cashman Field, 386-7100

Horse Show, Dec. 18, 9am, Southern Nevada Hunter/Jumper Assn., Horseman's Park, 433-9757

Las Vegas Mini Running Marathon, Dec. 18, half-marathon with four-person relay, 7:30am, Stardust, 870-8269

Southwest Weapons Collectors' Gun and Knife Show, Dec. 18-19, $3 admission, children 17 and under free when accompanied by an adult, Henderson Convention Center, 565-2171

Walt Boenig's Big Band Christmas Concert, Dec. 19, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 229-6211

Judy Collins Concert, Dec. 19, 7pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801

Las Vegas Holiday Prep Classic Basketball Tournament, Dec. 20-23, more than 30 teams compete, UNLV's North and South Gyms, 799-5850 or 731-2115

Desert Chorale Christmas Concert, Dec. 22, Virgin Valley High School, Mesquite, 346-5295

Children's Storytelling, Dec. 27 children of all ages are invited to snuggle up by the fire in the Spring Mountain Ranch House and listen to stories told by Clark County Library storyteller Marsha Cutler, 11am and 1pm, sign-ups required, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 875-4141

Calvary Chapel Church Holiday Choral Presentation, Dec. 31, Cashman Field, 362-9000

New Year's Eve Dance, Dec. 31, open to anyone 55 years and older, smoke-free, alcohol-free event, live music, food, beverages, tickets sold at door, Las Vegas Senior Center, 229-6454

New Year's Eve Celebration, Dec. 31, 8pm fireworks, Jackie Gaughan's Plaza, Fremont St., downtown Las Vegas, 386-2110

SHOWGUIDE

Jean

Gold Strike Hotel, 477-5000 or 800-634-1359: Facade, Oct. 26-Nov. 14

Nevada Landing, 387-5000 or 800-628-6682: Entertainment TBA

Las Vegas

Aladdin, 736-0240: "Country Tonite," revue, indf. (dark Tues.)

Arizona Charlie's, 258-5200: "Naughty Ladies," revue, indf. (dark Mon.); Paul Bowman's Country Showcase every Mon.

Bally's, 739-4567: George Carlin/Dennis Blair thru Nov. 3; Tom Jones, Nov. 4-17; Oak Ridge Boys, Nov. 18-24; Anne Murray, Nov. 25-Dec. 1; Tanya Tucker/Charlie Daniels, Dec. 2-8. *Jubilee Theater:* "Jubilee!" indf. (dark Fri.); *Catch*



Evander Holyfield (above) will challenge Riddick Bowe for the WBA and IBF heavyweight championship titles at Caesars Palace on November 6

a Rising Star: comedy/variety club, indf.

Bourbon Street, 737-7200: Lounge entertainment (dark Mon.)

Caesars Palace, 731-7333 or 800-445-4544: Julio Iglesias, Nov. 3-8; Jay Leno, Nov. 12-14; David Copperfield, Nov. 16-29; Clint Black, Dec. 3-11 (dark Dec. 6 and 9); Luis Miquel, Dec. 16-19; Sheena Easton, Dec. 29-Jan. 1

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

Continental, 737-5555: Sidro's Armada, Nov. 1-6 and 8-13; Amore, Nov. 2-7 9-14, 16, 21, 23, 28, and 30; Soundchaser, Nov. 15-20; Cook E. Jarr, Nov. 17-20, 24-27, and Dec. 1-4; Real Class, Nov. 22-27, 29, Dec. 1-5, and 27-31; Edy Gainer, Dec. 6-11; Facade, Dec. 7-12 and 14-19; Kalua N Kream, Dec. 13-18 and 20-25; Amore, Dec. 21-26 and 28-31

Debbie Reynolds Hollywood Hotel, 734-0711: Debbie Reynolds performs at 7:30pm, Rip Taylor and TNT perform at 10:30pm, indf. (dark Sun.)

Eldorado, Henderson, 564-1811: Randy Anderson, Nov. 3-7 and 10-14; Fast Company, Nov. 17-21; Dave Coaty, Dec. 8-12 and 15-19; Pam Nickels, Dec. 22-26 and Dec. 29-Jan. 2 (dark Mon.-Tues.)

Excalibur, 597-7600: "King Arthur's Tournament," indf., entertainment nightly Minstrel's Theatre Lounge and Wild Bill's Saloon and Steakhouse

Fitzgeralds, 388-2400 or 800-274-LUCK (U.S. outside Nevada and in Alaska): Nightly entertainment except Thurs.

Flamingo Hilton, 733-3333: *Flamingo Showroom:* "City Lites," stage show, indf. (dark Sun.); *Bugsy's Celebrity Theatre:* "American Superstars," indf. (dark Thurs.)

Four Queens, 385-4011 or 800-634-6045: Original Drifters, Nov. 2-14; Kingston Trio, Nov. 23-28; Doug Kershaw, Nov. 30-Dec. 12; Monday Night Jazz, indf.

Gold Coast, 367-7111: Touch of Country, thru Nov. 15; Rock 'n' Roll Heaven, Nov. 2-14; Jason Lugo, Nov. 3-15; Shake Rattle 'n' Roll, Nov. 17-29; Stolen Faces, Nov. 23-Dec. 2; Randy Anderson, Dec. 1-18 and Dec. 24-Jan. 3; Wayne Vold/Monty "Hawkeye" Henson/Johnny U and Dodge Country Band, Dec. 3-11; Pony Express, Dec. 3-12; Gary Hohman, Dec. 12-Jan. 3; Marcia Wise and Enterprise, Dec. 14-Jan. 2

Gold Strike Inn, Boulder City, 293-5000: Entertainment TBA

Hacienda, 739-8911: Lance Burton: World Champion Magician, indf. (dark Mon. and Dec. 13-28); free comedy shows in Bolero Lounge every Mon. night, indf.

Harrah's Las Vegas, 369-5222 or 800-392-9002: "Spellbound, A Concert of Illusion," indf. (dark Sun.)

Imperial Palace, 794-3261 or 800-634-6441: "Legends in Concert," indf. (dark Sun.)

Jackie Gaughan's Plaza, 386-2444 or 800-634-6575 (U.S. outside Nevada): *Omaha Lounge*: Dusty Barron/Claiborne/Yvonne and Jesse, indf.; *Plaza Theater:* "Forbidden Vegas," entertainment spoof, indf.

Joker's Wild, Henderson, 564-8100: Live entertainment Wed.-Sun., Karaoke Tues.

Lady Luck, 477-3000 or 800-523-9582: Melinda, the First Lady of Magic, indf. (dark Mon.); Lady Luck Luau every Mon.

Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5111 or 800-STARLIGHT: Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Starlight Express,"

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HOTELS

Casino Notes

• A new hotel is a-rising on Las Vegas' eastern horizon. The $85-million **Boulder Station** will open next summer on the Boulder Highway near Sam's Town. The railroad-themed Boulder Station, a sister property of the Palace Station, will have a 13-story tower and 300 rooms.

• Movie stars Bruce Willis and Demi Moore have broken ground for a new **Planet Hollywood** restaurant next to the Forum Shops at **Caesars Palace** on the Strip. Along with partners Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sylvester Stallone, and *Fugitive* producer Keith Barish, Willis and Moore anticipate a spring opening for the largest Planet Hollywood restaurant, which will display memorabilia from such movies as *Viva Las Vegas*. Other Planet Hollywoods are located in London, New York City, Chicago, and Cancun.



The Rio's Christmas tree is one of the largest in the state.

• Sharks are the big stars of the newest Omnimax movie at **Caesars Palace.** The five-story, dome-shaped screen is showing the 38-minute underwater adventure *Search for the Great Sharks*, which includes a swim alongside a rarely seen whale shark that is more than 40 feet long.

• **Circus Circus** has announced that a motion-based simulator will be added to its **Grand Slam Canyon** "adventuredome." The simulator will join the roller coaster, flume ride, and tubular slide in the climate-controlled fun dome.

• The **Flamingo Hilton Laughlin** has completed a $5-million expansion that added 10,000 square feet of casino space, the Terrace Bar overlooking the Colorado River, and a river-walkway entrance.

• Football fans at the **Golden Nugget Laughlin** were the first to take advantage of the New York-style deli that opened recently in the casino's sports book area.

• **Harrah's** has introduced new services for guests. Customers can now reach any Harrah's property by calling 800-HARRAHS. Also, players can register at any Harrah's casino for a gold card, which tracks slot and table play by computer. The more you gamble, the better the perks.

• Football fans can follow the Yellow Brick Road to the **MGM Grand's** public arena next spring, when the MGM Grand Garden will be the home of the Las Vegas franchise for the Arena Football League. Under a five-year lease the team will play from May through July, with playoffs in August.

• The **Primadonna,** Whiskey Pete's sister property across Interstate 15 at State Line, has set next June as the completion date of a third development. A 3,000-foot laser rainbow spanning the highway will lead to a new $90-million Western-themed hotel and casino, which also will have a ghost-town attraction, flume ride, and roller coaster.

• A $1-million cash drawing to be held December 19 will be part of the **Ramada Express'** expansion celebration in Laughlin. New facilities include a 23-story tower with 1,100 rooms, expanded casino, a 1,100-seat pavilion for parties and concerts, and a locomotive-shaped swimming pool.

• The **Rio Suite Hotel** picked up four-and-a-half stars in the category of "Nicest Rooms" in *Bob Sehlinger's 1993 Unofficial Guide to Las Vegas*. Published by Simon and Schuster, the book gave the all-suite Rio a rating of 94 out of a possible 100 points. The Rio's second hotel tower, with 437 suites, opened Labor Day, and a third is planned at the



Bruce Willis (right) lent a hand at the groundbreaking for a new Planet Hollywood restaurant on the Strip.

off-Strip property. The Rio also is aiming high with its Christmas tree. The casino is looking for an 80- to 90-foot-tall tree to be decorated and lit on November 26.

• "Splash," the **Riviera** show starring mermaids, high divers, and swimmers, recently celebrated its eighth anniversary. More than four million people have seen the aquacade and its high-tech special effects.

• **Sam Boyd's Fremont** has completed renovations on the Lanai Cafe and its sports book while adding the Second Street Grill, an upscale restaurant serving traditional and Pacific Rim dishes.

• **Sam's Town** is planning a major expansion. A larger race and sports book opened this summer, followed by a second parking garage. New additions to be completed by June include 650 rooms and a 25,000-square-foot atrium and indoor park. The park will have a glass roof, a 25-foot mountain with a waterfall, laser shows, and shops. A sports bar will encourage activity with a one-on-one basketball court and a computerized golf game.

• The **Sands** has put in its two cents' worth by offering a $1.08 football bet, which slides under the normal $1.10 wager at other sports books.

• **Whiskey Pete's,** located at State Line on the Nevada-California border, has opened a 700-seat showroom where country-western entertainers such as Mickey Gilley, Waylon Jennings, and the Marshall Tucker Band will appear. Construction is under way on a 537-room tower at the property, located 43 miles south of Las Vegas.

indf. (dark Mon.)

Luxor, 262-4000 or 800-288-1000: "Winds of the Gods," musical production, indf.

Maxim, 731-4300 or 800-634-6987: "Just For Laughs," comedy club, indf.

The Mirage, 792-7777: Siegfried and Roy, magic spectacular, Nov 5-29, Dec. 24-29 and 31 (dark Wed.); "Cirque du Soleil," thru Nov. 21 (dark Mon.)

Palace Station, 367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Kristine and Sting, Nov. 2-7; Sergio Alberti, Nov. 2-7 and 9-14; Tony Tillman, Nov. 9-14 and 16-21; Danny Gale, Nov. 16-21 and 23-28; Far East, Nov. 23-28; Nevada/Brent Self-Self Indulgence, Nov. 30-Dec. 12; Passion, Dec. 14-19; Glenn Smith, Dec. 14-19 and 21-26; Sidro's Armada, Dec. 21-26 and 28-31; Coasters/Del Vikings, Dec. 28-31 (usually dark Mon.)

Rio Suite Hotel, 252-7776 or 800-888-0400 (continental U.S. outside Nevada): "Brazilia," revue, thru. Dec. 13 (dark Mon.)

Riviera, 794-9301 or 794-9433: Jeff Kutash's "Splash," production show, indf.; "An Evening at La Cage," revue, indf. (dark Tues.); "Crazy Girls: Las Vegas' Sexiest Topless Revue," indf. (dark Thurs.); "An Evening at the Improv," comedians, indf.

Sahara, 737-2515: "Boylesque," starring Kenny Kerr, indf. (dark Wed.); the Rich Little Show, indf. (dark Thurs.); the Comedy Caravan, indf. (dark Sat.-Sun.); *Pacific Rim Restaurant:* "Island Magic," indf. (dark Thurs.)



Photo: John Gurzinski

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LAS VEGAS

Sam's Town, 456-7777: Live entertainment nightly
San Remo, 597-6028: Geno Munari's "Hanky Panky Revue," indf. (dark Mon.)
Sands, 733-5453 or 800-446-4678: *Grand Ballroom:* Gallagher, Nov. 21-28, Dec. 19-28; "Bare Essence," indf. (dark Thurs.); "Viva Las Vegas!" indf. (dark Sun.)
Santa Fe, 658-4900: Live entertainment Tues.-Sat., Karaoke Sun.
Showboat, 385-9123 or 800-634-3484 (U.S. outside Nevada): Entertainment TBA
Stardust, 732-6111 or 800-824-6033 (U.S. and Mexico): "Enter the Night," stage show, indf. (dark Tues.); "Topless Dancers World Championship," Nov. 14-19
Stars' Desert Inn, 733-4566 or 800-634-6909 (U.S. outside Nevada): *Crystal Room:* Don Rickles, Nov. 2-7; Shirley MacLaine, Nov. 23-28; Liza Minnelli, Nov. 30-Dec. 5; Willie Nelson, Dec. 7-12; Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme, Dec. 28-Jan. 2; *Starlight Theatre:* Frank Sinatra, Jr. and Buddy Childers' Orchestra, thru Nov. 7; Frankie Randall, Nov. 9-28
Treasure Island, 894-7111: "Mystère," circus theater, Nov. 26-indf.
Tropicana, 739-2411: "Folies Bergere," indf. (dark Thurs.); "Comedy Stop," comedians, indf.
Vacation Village, 897-1700 or 800-658-5000: Lounge entertainment nightly
Vegas World, 383-5264: Marty Allen and Steve Rossi with Karon Kate Blackwell, indf. (dark Thurs.); "Memories of Elvis," indf. (dark Thurs.)
Westward Ho, 731-2900: Nightly entertainment

Laughlin

Colorado Belle, 298-4000: Entertainment TBA
Edgewater, 298-2453: Daily entertainment
Flamingo Hilton Laughlin, 298-5028 or 800-435-8469: *Club Flamingo:* "American Superstars," tribute by celebrity look-alikes, indf. (dark Thurs.); "Love Over 40," comedy revue, afternoons Mon.-Wed. and Fri., evening performance Thurs., indf.
Gold River Laughlin, 298-2242 or 800-835-7904: "Bottoms Up '93," adult comedy revue, indf. (dark Tues.)
Golden Nugget Laughlin, 298-7175 or 800-237-1739 (U.S. outside Nevada): Santa Fe, Nov. 2-14; Powerhouse, Nov. 16-Dec. 5; Unity, Dec. 7-19; Sandy Hackett's Comedy Club, Mondays
Harrah's Laughlin, 298-4600 or 800-447-8700: Entertainment TBA
Ramada Express, 298-4200: Live entertainment Tues.-Sun.; Karaoke Mon.
Regency, 298-2439: Piano bar nightly; Free Flight thru Dec. 31
Riverside Resort, 298-2535 or 800-227-3849 ext. 616 (U.S. outside Nevada): Gallagher, Nov. 4-6, and 18-20; Boots Randolph/Floyd Cramer, Nov. 11-14; Willie Nelson, Nov. 25-27; Nutcracker Suite, Dec. 8-12; Merle Haggard, Dec. 28-Jan. 1; Roberta Linn, Dec. 31

Mesquite

Peppermill Resort, 346-5232: Nightly entertainment
Virgin River, 346-7777: Live entertainment Tues.-Sun.; free line-dancing lessons Mon.

State Line

Primadonna, 382-1212 or 800-826-4471: Marshall Tucker Band, Nov. 5-6; Confederate Railroad, Nov. 19-20
Whiskey Pete's, 382-1212 or 800-367-7383: Waylon Jennings, Nov. 26-27



Theatreworks presents "Curious George" on December 10 at UNLV

GAMING TOURNAMENTS

November

Video Poker, Nov. 1-2, Flamingo Hilton Laughlin, 298-5111
Craps, Nov. 6-8, Four Queens, 385-4011
Slots, Nov. 7-9 and Nov. 28-Dec. 1, Flamingo Hilton, 733-3240
Slots, Nov. 7-10, Sahara, 737-2111
Keno, Nov. 7-10, Caesars Palace, 731-7324
Slots, Nov. 7-10, Bally's Las Vegas, 739-4413
Slots, Nov. 8-11, Sands, 733-5000
Blackjack, Nov. 12-13, Hacienda, 739-8911
Slots, Nov. 14-17 Palace Station, 367-2411
Slots, Nov. 14-17 and 18-21, Imperial Palace, 794-3160
Video Poker, Blackjack, and Slots, Nov. 16-18, Harrah's Laughlin, 298-4600
Keno, Nov. 19-21, Harrah's Las Vegas, 369-5088
Blackjack, Nov. 19-21, Tropicana, 739-2614
Slots, Nov. 21-24, Tropicana, 739-2614
Slots, Nov. 21-24 and Nov. 29-Dec. 2, Harrah's Las Vegas, 369-5088
Slots, Nov. 30-Dec. 3, Stardust, 732-6111

December

Slots, Dec. 2-5, Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5779
Slots, Dec. 2-5, Hacienda, 739-8911
Video Poker, Dec. 5-8, Imperial Palace, 794-3160
World Championship of Blackjack, Dec. 9-11, Riviera, 734-5110
Slots, Dec. 9-12, Aladdin, 736-0111
Slots, Dec. 10-14, Riviera, 734-5110
Blackjack, Dec. 14-17 Stardust, 732-6111
Keno, Dec. 17-26, Four Queens, 385-4011

ATTRACTIONS, TOURS & MUSEUMS

Boulder City

Black Canyon Raft Tours: 1297 Nevada Hwy., 293-3776
Boulder City Historic District: Walking tour, 1497 Nevada Hwy., 293-2034
Boulder City/Hoover Dam Museum: 444 Hotel Plaza, 294-1988
Bruno Liguori's Turquoise and Indian Museum: 1306 Nevada Hwy., 293-4865 or 800-292-3233
Hoover Dam: Tours, U.S. 93, 293-8367
Lake Mead Cruises/*Desert Princess:* Lake Mead Marina, 293-6180
Lake Mead National Recreation Area: 601 Nevada Hwy., 293-8907

Henderson

Clark County Heritage Museum: 1830 S. Boulder Hwy., 455-7955
Ethel M Chocolate Factory and Cactus Garden: Tours, 2 Cactus Garden Dr., 458-8864
Green Valley Outdoor Sculpture Museum Information Center: Self-guided driving tour, Green Valley Shopping Plaza at Sunset Rd. and Green Valley Pkwy., 458-8855
Kidd Marshmallow Factory: Tours, 8203 Gibson Rd., 564-3878

Las Vegas

American Museum of Historical Documents: 3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., private, 731-0785
Bethany's Celebrity Doll Museum: Metz Plaza, 3765 Las Vegas Blvd. S., Suite G, 798-3036
Bonnie Springs Old Nevada: Bonnie Springs Ranch, Red Rock Canyon, 875-4191

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PREVIEW

Faire Days

By Lisa Lynn Brewer

Sunset Park in Las Vegas will be transported back a few centuries on November 13-14 during the Age of Chivalry Renaissance Faire.

Over the weekend a war will erupt between two kingdoms, resulting in sword fighting, jousting, and a royal wedding.

The Society for Creative Anachronism and the Empire of Chivalry and Steel will hold demonstrations and set up encampments around the field of honor. Warhorse Farms from Sarasota, Florida, will offer jousting demonstrations. Goldsmiths, silversmiths, leather tanners, and other artisans will be selling their wares. The Utah Shakespearean Festival will present its "Costume Cavalcade," which traces the evolution of clothing from the Dark Ages through the death of Queen Elizabeth I.

Events of skill such as archery, battle-ax throwing, juggling, dunk-the-wench, and other activities worthy of the Dark Ages will be open to the public. Costumes will be available for purchase and rent during the faire. Vendors will sell shepherd's pie and English ale.



Cindy Harper and Mark Pfister will preside over the faire.

Admission to the Renaissance Faire, presented by the Clark County Department of Parks and Recreation, KLAS-TV, and Sky View, is $3 for adults (13 and up), $1 for children (six to 12), and free for kids under six. All monies raised will go to scholarships to help needy children participate in Clark County Parks and Recreation programs. For more information on the Renaissance Faire contact Fred McElhaney, Clark County Parks and Recreation, 702-455-8200.

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May 14 & 15 - Winnemucca Barrel Racing Futurity
June 4 & 5 - Winnemucca Mule Show & Races
June 4- Denio Bar-B-Q
June 11 & 12 - Winnemucca Basque Festival
June 16 & 17-McDermitt Red Mountain Indian Pow Wow & Rodeo
June 19- Paradise Valley Volunteer Fireman's Father's Day BBQ
July 3 & 4 - Ranch Hand Rodeo - McDermitt
July 10 - 14- IFCA World Championship Roping
July 31 thru August 2 Hot August Nights Winnemucca
August 14 & 15 - Nevada Open Horse Show & Futurity
August 19-21- Winnemucca Hot Air Balloon Festival

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Debbie Reynolds Hollywood Hotel, Casino, and Movie Museum, 305 Convention Center Dr., 734-0711
Desert Demonstration Gardens: Tours, 3701 W. Alta, 258-3205
Elvis, Elvis, Elvis, Inc.: Elvis mementos, Metz Plaza, 3765 Las Vegas Blvd. S., Suite C, 798-3036
Floyd Lamb State Park: Ponds, 9200 Tule Springs Rd., 486-5413
Grand Slam Canyon: Adventure park, next to Circus Circus, 800-444-CIRCUS
Guinness World of Records Museum: 2780 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 792-0640 or 792-3766 (bus.)
Imperial Palace Auto Collection: 731-3311
Las Vegas Art Museum: Lorenzi Park, 3333 W. Washington Ave., 647-4300
Las Vegas Natural History Museum: Includes the Wildlife World Art Museum, 900 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 384-DINO
Liberace Museum: 1775 E. Tropicana, 798-5595
Lied Discovery Children's Museum: 833 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 382-KIDS
Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History: UNLV 739-3381
Mirage Dolphin Environment: The Mirage Hotel, 791-7111
Mount Charleston Area: Recreation information, 222-1597
Nevada State Museum and Historical Society: Lorenzi Park, 486-5205
Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort: Las Vegas Blvd. N. at Washington (entrance from Cashman Field parking lot B only), state historic park, 486-3511
Omnimax Theatre: Caesars Palace, 731-7900
Red Rock Canyon Recreation Area: 363-1921
Scandia Family Fun Center: 2900 Sirius Ave., 364-0071
Southern Nevada Zoological Park: 1775 N. Rancho Dr., 648-5955
Spring Mountain Ranch State Park: Red Rock Canyon, 875-4141
Wet 'n Wild: Seasonal, 2601 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 737-3819
World Boxing Hall of Champions: Photos, posters, memorabilia, Metz Plaza, 3765 Las Vegas Blvd. S., Suite H, 798-3036

Laughlin

Lake Mohave: Marina at Katherine, 602-754-3245

Mesquite

Desert Valley Museum: 346-5705
Peppermill Gun Club: 346-5232 ext. 3729

North Las Vegas

The Planetarium: Community College of Southern Nevada, 644-5059

Overton

Lost City Museum: 397-2193
Valley of Fire State Park: 12 miles south, 397-2088

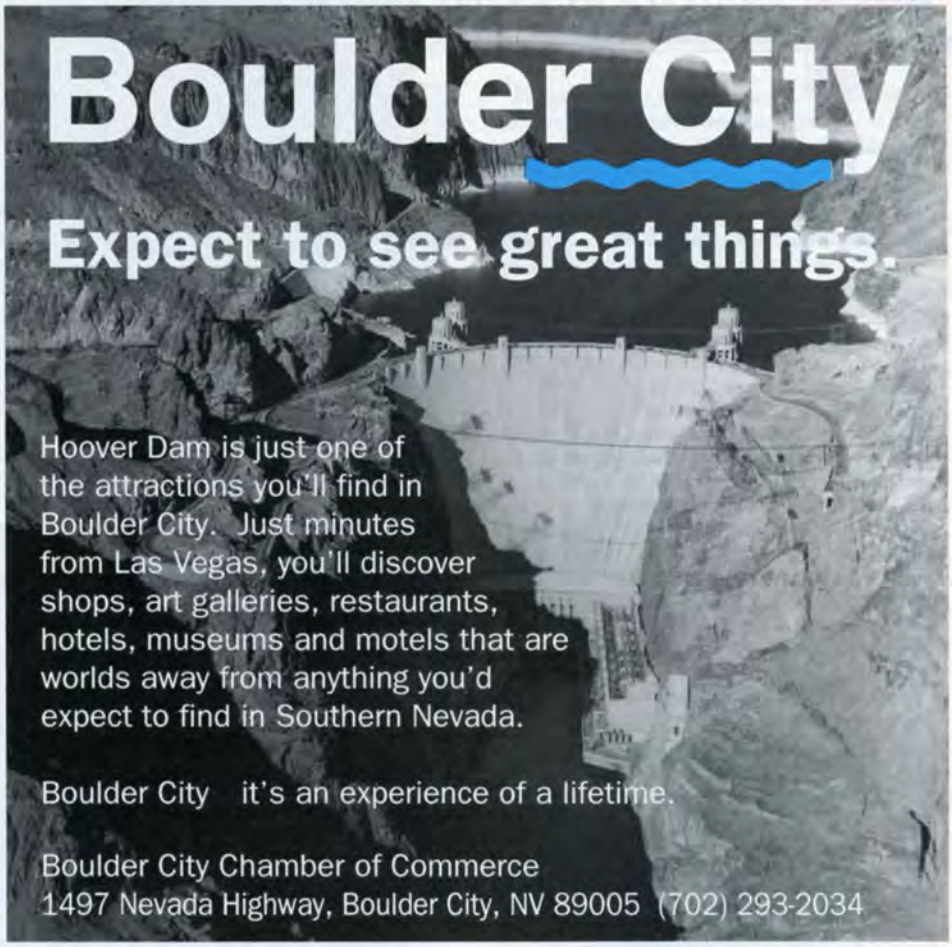
Pahrump

Pahrump Valley Winery: Tours, 3810 Homestead, 727-6900

Searchlight

Searchlight Historic Museum: Community Center, 455-7955

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.



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Reno-Tahoe Territory

EVENTS

November

RSVP Nevada Day Carnival, Oct. 29-Nov. 1, eighth annual, rides, games, food, free admission, Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Mills Park, Carson City, 687-4680

Art Exhibit, thru Nov. 11, works by Tom Gilbertson of Virginia City and Larry Williamson of Pioche, Sierra Arts Center, 329-1324

Richard Guy Walton: Ground Zero, thru Nov. 28, Virginia City artist Richard Guy Walton features approx. 50 works on paper that largely focus on the period of the above-ground nuclear tests in the Nevada desert, Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

TERRITORY MAP



Art Exhibit, thru Nov. 28, three-dimensional works by contemporary Basque artist Andres Nagel, Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Chromogenic Photographs Exhibit, thru Nov. 28, by Reno artist Erik Lauritzen, Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Petroglyphs and Pictographs From Around the World Exhibit, thru Dec. 20, Nevada Historical Society, 688-1190

Beyond Gum San: The Chinese in Nevada, thru April 30, 1995, Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 687-4810

Harvest Art Show, Nov. 1-29, open house Nov. 14, Artists Co-Op Gallery, 322-8896

Alisa Fineman, Nov. 3, folksinger and songwriter, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Jeff Friedman, Nov. 4, modern dance, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

A Taste for Travel, Nov. 4, dessert-tasting and travel-oriented auction, CARE Chest of Sierra Nevada fundraiser, Reno Hilton, 829-2273

Alan Jackson Concert, Nov. 4, country-western music, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4444 or 800-876-4849

Choreographer's Forum, Nov. 4-7, sixth annual, open to public, master classes offered, on Nov. 6 Alicia Perea presents "Frida," portraying the life of painter Frida Kahlo, Nightingale Hall, UNR, for reservations call Martina Young at 784-4041

National Judicial College's 30th Anniversary, Nov. 5, celebration includes dinner honoring the college and members of the Northern Nevada Judiciary, United States Attorney General Janet Reno and Harvard law professor Arthur Miller have been invited to speak at the event, Reno Hilton, 784-1013

Agustin Lira and Alma Concert, Nov. 5, ballads with Latin-folk variations, 7:30pm, Cal-Neva Lodge, Crystal Bay, 832-4000

"Angel Street," Nov. 5-6, mystery, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Celtic New Year Celebration, Nov. 5-7 bagpipe and Highland dance competitions, Irish, Scottish, and Welsh entertainment, Clancy Brothers concert on Sat., Gaelic football tournament, Celtic arts, crafts, and food, downtown Reno and Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-3312 or 800-FOR-RENO

Black Diamond Rush, Nov. 6, Warren Miller ski movie, Cal-Neva Lodge, Crystal Bay, 832-4000

Starwatch Program, Nov. 6, NASA astronomer Jess Bregman will present a talk and slide show, Sorensen's Resort, Hope Valley, 916-694-2203 or 800-423-9949

Interfaith Gospel Choir 22nd Annual Concert, Nov. 6, 7pm, $10, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 828-0401



Country-western singer Alan Jackson performs November 4 at the University of Nevada, Reno's Lawlor Events Center

Carson Valley Historical Society's Christmas Card Winner's Reception, Nov. 7, sale of the cards benefits Genoa Courthouse Museum, 2-4pm, Nenzel's Bed and Breakfast Mansion, Gardnerville, 782-2281

College Faire, Nov. 7-8, noon-4pm Sun., 2-5pm Mon., Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 333-5150

National Senior Pro Rodeo Finals, Nov. 8-14, former world champions ranging from 40 to more than 70 years old compete; Benny Reynolds, 1993 inductee into the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame, will perform; first rodeo performance Nov. 11, from Nov. 8-10 Cowboy Holiday Gift Show including Western art, tack, and clothing, cowboy and clown reunions, dances, fashion show, and pre-qualifying events, Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751 or 800-FOR-RENO

Veterans' Day Parade, Nov. 11, 11am, C St., Virginia City, 847-0311

"The Fantasticks," Nov. 11-21, musical, 8pm Thurs.-Fri., 2 and 8pm Sat., 2pm Sun., Daring Explorations Theatre Company, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 348-4600 or 800-225-BASS

Patty Larkin, Nov. 12, singer and songwriter,

HOT LINES

Festivals at Tahoe: information on North Shore festivals throughout the year, 916-583-7625

Nevada Division of State Parks: hikes, tours, stargazing, campfire programs at 21 parks around the state, District II, Carson City, 687-4379

UNR Football: Nov. 6 v. San Jose State, Mackay Stadium, UNR, 348-7225

UNR Music Department: concerts, recitals, 784-6145

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



The sound of bagpipes will ring in Reno's Celtic New Year's party in November

PREVIEW

Celtic Invasion

Reno will host the first Celtic games held in Nevada in more than 100 years on November 5-7 The games are a tradition of the Celts, who include the Scots, the Irish, the Welsh, the Cornish, and the people of Brittany and the Isle of Man.

The festival in downtown Reno will feature individual and band bagpiping competitions, Highland dance competition, Irish dancing, Celtic athletics, and entertainment, food, and crafts from the Celtic world.

For several years Reno has hosted a Celtic New Year's party on the first weekend of November, which was the time of annual renewal for the Celtic world. This year's event will be the first to include the games.

A *ceilidh* ("kaylee," Gaelic for "party") will begin the weekend on Friday night, November 5, at the American Bandstand Club in Harolds Club. Piping and dance competition will run Saturday and Sunday

The California Gaelic Football League will have its annual playoffs on Saturday, November 6, at Reno's Rancho San Rafael Park. Gaelic football is something like rugby, soccer, and American football mixed together but with fewer rules.

Also at the park and throughout the weekend, the Scottish American Athletic Association will hold exhibitions, including the caber toss (throwing a log the size of a small telephone pole) and the strong-man walk. On Saturday night, November 6, the well-known Irish folk group the Clancy Brothers will appear at the Flamingo Hilton.—*Ron James*

Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Truckee River Beer Tasting, Nov. 12, microbreweries from the West represented, Flamingo Hilton, 322-7064

Banjo Music Program, Nov. 12-13, slide show about banjo history, workshop, concert, Sorensen's Resort, Hope Valley, 916-694-2203

"Assassins," Nov. 12-13 and 17-21, Nevada Repertory Company, Redfield Studio Theatre, UNR, 784-1110

Rhymers Rodeer Cowboy Poetry, Nov. 12-14, dinner shows on Fri. and Sat. nights, matinee on Sun., cowboy gear show Fri.-Sun., Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

"Oklahoma," Nov. 12-14 and 19-21, musical, Western Nevada Community College Players, Carson City Community Center, 887-3153

Paraguano Music Festival, Nov. 14, Reno Sparks Convention Center, 827-7620

Sculpture Exhibit, Nov. 15-Dec. 24, by Jacqueline Peele, Sierra Arts Center, 329-1324

Watercolor Exhibit, Nov. 15-Dec. 31, Linda Valle paintings depicting snow-covered Nevada landscapes and historic buildings, Valle Art Gallery, 323-1887

Reno Philharmonic Orchestra, Nov. 16, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 825-5905

"Annie," Nov. 17-21, Tahoe Players' Assn., Cal-Neva Lodge, Crystal Bay, 832-4000

San Francisco Consort, Nov. 18, The Reign in Spain: Music and Literacy from the Age of Discovery, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 784-6145

University of Nevada Press Book Festival, Nov. 18, ninth annual authors' reception, 5:30-7:30pm, Harrah's Reno, 784-6573

Arenocross Motorcycle Races, Nov. 19-21, Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751

Fall Fun Shoot, Nov. 19-21, sporting clays, Red Hills Hunting Preserve, host hotel is Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

Old-Fashioned Christmas Faire, Nov. 20-21, visit from Santa Claus, merchants offer gift ideas, free admission, Carson City Community Center, 882-2111

Gun Show, Nov. 20-21, Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751

Arts, Crafts, and Antiques Show, Nov. 25-28, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 916-273-3725

Reno's World Championship Snaffle Bit Futurity, Nov. 25-28, Reno Livestock Events Center, 849-2263 or 849-0108

"The Rainmaker," Nov. 26-28, Cal-Neva Lodge, Crystal Bay, 832-4000

Very Special Arts Nevada Community Arts Festival, Nov. 27 11am-5pm, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 329-1401

Celebrate Christmas on the River, Nov. 27, kicks off Festival of Trees (Nov. 27-Dec. 28) with Santa Claus, caroling, food and drink, lighting of 25-35 decorated trees and announcement of the Festival of Trees winners at Raymond I. Smith Truckee River Walk, Winter Wonderland decorations go up in Wingfield Park, 334-2077

Tahoe Nordic Cross-Country Ski Swap, Nov. 27-28, Tahoe Nordic, 916-583-0484

Magic of Santa Christmas Faire, Nov. 27-28, Reno Livestock Events Center, 334-2265

Christmas on the Comstock, Nov. 27-Dec. 24, 5pm parade on Nov. 27 kicks off Virginia City's holiday season, business and home decorating contests, Virginia City, 847-0311

December

Hispanic Muralists' Exhibit, Dec. 1-17, Sheppard Art Gallery, UNR, 784-1110

Christmas Through Time, Dec. 1-31, decorations spanning the century, National Automobile Museum, 333-9300

Art Show and Sale, Dec. 1-Jan. 1, miniature paintings and pottery, Artists Co-Op Gallery, 322-8896

Silver and Snowflakes Festival of Lights, Dec. 2, starts at 5:30pm, on the Capitol grounds Governor and Mrs. Miller will light a tree timed to coincide with Christmas lights being turned on along Carson Street, procession follows led by Santa to the City Tree for a second lighting ceremony at the First Presbyterian Church on the corner of Nevada and Musser streets, Carson City, 885-0411

Utah Phillips, Dec. 2, storyteller, philosopher, political commentary, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Holiday Open House, Dec. 3, music, exhibits, and Saint Nick, 6:30-9pm, Western Nevada Community College, Carson City, 887-3114

Sierra Nevada Chorale Christmas Concert, Dec. 3, 8pm, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 786-2149

"A Christmas Carol," Dec. 3-4, 10-12, and 17-18, based on the novel by Charles Dickens, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Children's Powwow, Dec. 3-5, Carson Indian Colony, Carson City, 887-1089

"The Nutcracker," Dec. 3-5, performed by the Oakland Ballet, Cal-Neva Lodge, Crystal Bay, 832-4000 or 800-225-6382

Sparks Hometowne Christmas, Dec. 4, 7th annual, Nevada Country Christmas theme, 1pm parade, Santa Claus, tree lighting, arts and crafts, holiday foods, 11am-5:30pm, Victorian Square, downtown Sparks, 353-2291

Tour De Ski, Dec. 4, slalom racing from 10am-2pm, Squaw Valley, 916-583-6985

Reno Philharmonic, Dec. 4, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 825-5905

Genoa Christmas Faire, Dec. 4, Genoa Town Hall, 782-3841

Carson City Railroad Christmas Show, Dec. 4-5, model railroads, railroad supplies sale, Carson Mall, Carson City, 883-2381

Learn to Ski Sunday, Dec. 5, lessons, rentals, and trail pass for $20, Royal Gorge, 916-426-3871

NIGHTLIFE

The Two Faces of Dan

By Guy Richardson

Never, in my 30-odd years of watching Nevada acts, have I seen anyone remotely as odd as Dan Hankins.

Hankins calls his act "a mixture of Weird Al Yankovic and Boy George."

What Hankins does is dress as half man, half woman, split down the middle. The effect is eerie. He walks out on stage much like himself, a tall, slim man with a mustache. He spins, and the other profile is Diana Ross. The man wears pants, Ross an elegant dress. Hankins switches voices as the characters switch.

He also does Ike Turner going one way, Tina going the other. Sexy Tina's in a dancing frenzy; macho Ike stomps. It's a stunning instant transformation. Hankins is a showbiz rarity—an act that's absolutely unique. Weird, but unique.

He does his act at Harrah's Reno in "Stagestruck" and "High Voltage," two of the best shows in Northern Nevada.

Hankins good-humoredly calls the whole thing "bizarre." I don't know what the heck to call it. He's Stevie Wonder on one side, Dionne Warwick on the other. Wonder wears dreadlocks, dark glasses, and an African robe; Warwick has a classy upsweep and an elegant gown. He walks to the right as Warwick. He spins, and a cast member gently takes his elbow to guide Wonder to center stage. Lordy.

Even when he was a youngster singing in the Canaan Baptist Church choir in Houston, Hankins liked to do impressions. Of course, back then he did them one at a time.

A few years later he became a male model. One Halloween he planned to go out as a gladiator. Then fate struck. "The costume store closed," Hankins said. Thinking fast, he took a friend's wig, folded it over, and created a half-woman.

Newton and the apple, Galileo and the tower of Pisa, Hankins and a folded wig. Bingo time, known among academics as paradigm shift. Next thing he knew, he was working in a Vegas revue.



Dan Hankins portrays a half man, half woman in his act.

A columnist's job is not always a pretty one. Sometimes one has to ask questions that go to the heart of the matter. "What," I said, "does your momma think of what you do for a living?"

Hankins, bless his heart, didn't hit me. "She thinks it's fantastic," he said. "She helps with the costumes. She loves it even more than I do."

Next project for Hankins is doing Nat and Natalie Cole, and after that Michael Jackson. He calls it "Michael and Michael—the old and the new Michael Jackson."

He's also toying with the idea of an album. I say something about a first record. "Oh, no," Hankins said. "I recorded my first record with the Canaan Baptist choir. I was a soloist, and they called us the Canaanaires."

A guy who's half man, half woman, and former gospel singer. I tell you, it'll never be matched.

Dan Hankins appears in "Stagestruck" and "High Voltage," which both play through December 13 and December 24-January 2 at Harrah's Reno.

Guy Richardson is a reporter and entertainment writer for the Reno Gazette-Journal *and a regular contributor to* Nevada Magazine.

Cross-Country Ski Races, Dec. 5, 26, and 29-31, 10K races, Kirkwood Ski Resort, 209-258-6000
UNR Wind Ensemble, Dec. 6, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 784-6145
Hereford Cattle Show and Sale, Dec. 6-7 Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751
Harvey's Santa Claus, Dec. 8-24, Harvey's, Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 588-2411
"The Nutcracker," Dec. 10-12, performance by Nevada Festival Ballet, Reno Hilton, 329-2552
"Messiah," Dec. 11-12, performed by Reno Chamber Orchestra and UNR Symphonic Choir, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 348-9413
Santa Train, Dec. 11-12, ride with Santa on a steam train, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 687-6953
Gun Show, Dec. 11-12, Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751
Art Show, Dec. 11-Jan. 22, works by Jan Vance, Town Center Mall, 333-2826
Nevada Heritage Quilt Project Exhibition, Dec. 11-Jan. 23, E.L. Wiegand Gallery, Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333
A Brush with Disney: The Art of Herbert Dickens Ryman, Dec. 11-Feb. 6, includes artworks from Ryman's long career with Disney and paintings from his adventures around the world, Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333
Cal-Neva Children's Christmas Party, Dec. 12, 2-5pm, Cal-Neva Lodge, Crystal Bay, 832-4000
Holiday Concert, Dec. 12, 10th annual, $6 adults, children 16 and under free, 4pm, Carson Chamber Orchestra and Singers, Carson City Community Center, 883-4154
Truckee 10K Classic Cross-Country Race, Dec. 12, Northstar, 916-587-0280
"The Littlest Angel," Dec. 15-19, Tahoe Players' Assn., Cal-Neva Lodge, Crystal Bay, 832-4000
Ho Ho Homewood Toy Drive, Dec. 17, bring new unwrapped toy, then ski for $5, après ski party, Ski Homewood, 916-525-2992
"Amahl and the Night Visitors," Dec. 17 family-oriented opera, performed in English, Nevada Opera, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 786-4046 or 800-992-2072
Snowboard Jam Demo Days, Dec. 18-19, Donner Ski Ranch, 916-426-3635
Rage'n at the Ranch, Dec. 18-19, USASA-sanctioned snowboard series, giant slalom on Sat., slope style on Sun., Donner Ski Ranch, 916-426-3635
Visit With Santa, Dec. 18-19, Mount Rose Ski Area, 849-0704
The Flying Kilometer, Dec. 19, 1K cross-country ski race, Royal Gorge, 916-426-3871 or 800-634-3086
Tahoe Nordic Ten, Dec. 19, 10K citizens' cross-country ski race, snowshoe division, too, 10am, Tahoe Nordic, 916-583-0484
Christmas Choral Concert, Dec. 19, 3pm, Reno First Methodist Church, 784-6145
Hidden Valley Christmas Home Decorating Contest, Dec. 19-31, 11th year, Hidden Valley homeowners decorate their homes with Christmas lights, judging and awards posted at the winning homes on Dec. 19, food drive, Hidden Valley, Southeast Reno, 829-6328
Christmas Festivities, Dec. 20-Jan. 2, includes Santa on skis, Ski Homewood, 916-525-2992
Christmas Festivities, Dec. 22-25, Santa on skis, kids' race, cross-country caroling guided tour, snowman-building contest, Northstar, 916-587-0280
Santa on Skis, Dec. 24-25, Santa will spend Christmas Eve and Christmas Day on the slopes and in the lodge, Mount Rose Ski Area, 849-0704
Full Moon Ski Tour, Dec. 29, 7pm, $10, Tahoe Nordic, 916-583-0484
Contra Dance, Dec. 31, line, circle, and partner dances to a live band and caller, non-alcoholic evening, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976
First Night Lake Tahoe, Dec. 31, New Year's Eve celebration in a non-alcohol, family environment, includes presentations by artists, musicians, storytellers, actors, and dancers and traditional foods and arts from different cultures, events held at several South Lake Tahoe locations including South Lake Tahoe Community College, Embassy Suites, and Tahoe Keys Marina, 916-541-8935
New Year's Eve Countdown, Dec. 31, 11:30pm, Virginia City, downtown Reno, 686-3030
Buck 'N' Ball New Year's Eve Party, Dec. 31, rodeo, barbecue, and dance, Reno Livestock Events Center, 800-444-BUCK
Torchlight Parade, Dec. 31, Kirkwood Ski Resort, 209-258-6000
New Year's Eve Party, Dec. 31, Donner Ski Ranch, 916-426-3635
New Year's Eve Festivities, Dec. 31, fireworks and parties, Northstar, 916-587-0280

SHOWGUIDE
Reno/Sparks

Circus Circus, 329-0711 or 800-648-5010: Free circus acts, 11am-midnight



Seafood Grotto
For a variety of seafood, sail this way.
"The best choice around for the freshest seafood. From food to service, absolutely the best."
–Bob Belknap, **KGLE, South Lake Tahoe**



Sage Room
A classic steak house since 1947.
"The Sage Room is the best steak house on the planet."
–Phil Weidinger, **Weidinger Public Relations**



Carriage House
Great food and convenience, anytime of day. Or night.
"The food's always great."
–Kim Kash, **Daily Nexus**



Llewellyn's
This AAA 4-Diamond restaurant, located on the 19th floor, offers spectacular views.
"From the food to the atmosphere... a class act."
–Sandra Macias, **Reno Gazette Journal**

Harvey's Eight Restaurants Are On Everyone's Lips.



Classic Burgers
Bop on over for some old-fashioned hamburgers, hot dogs and shakes.
"A satisfying, quick meal served in an upbeat atmosphere."
–Tom Jensen, **Heavenly Ski Resort**



El Vaquero
Say olé to authentic south-of-the-border cuisine.
"Every day is a fiesta at El Vaquero."
–Denise Sloan, **Tahoe Tribune Entertainment**



Garden Buffet
With such a variety, get ready for lots of trips back and forth.
"Taboe's best buffet. Fast and fresh, something for everyone."
–Jim McClain, **KHIT, Reno**



Pizzeria
The perfect place for pizza lovers who love to party.
"The pizza was fresh, and the crust was excellent. I thoroughly enjoyed it."
–Dean Adraktas, **KRLT, South Lake Tahoe**

The Party's At Harveys!
RESORT HOTEL / CASINO LAKE TAHOE
For reservations call, 588-2411 or 1-800-553-1022.

Saving on the Slopes

By Jackie Ruffin

Skiers, whether experts or first-timers, are on the lookout for two things this winter: lots of the white stuff and money-saving ways to enjoy it. Luckily, ski bargains are easy to find at Sierra ski resorts this season. Deals range from family packages to lodging-lift combos to coupons. Following is a sampling of this winter's deals.

Alpine Meadows' Dawn of the Season package, available until December 24, includes lift ticket, one night's lodging nearby, and breakfast for $49.50 per person, double occupancy, depending on availability

Boreal offers an Easy Save coupon book for $99. The book includes 20 $10-off coupons, a savings of $101. The coupons can be used for lift tickets, rentals, and other services at Boreal and Soda Springs.

Diamond Peak's parent-child lift ticket allows one parent and one child (age six to 12) to ski for $38. Each additional child is $5. A senior can ski with a child for $25 for the pair.

Heavenly lift tickets can be purchased at participating Northern California Safeway stores at a $5 to $9 savings. Beginning skiers can try the Jump Start package for $139 per person, which includes three nights' lodging, two days of lessons, and equipment rental (excludes holiday periods).

Homewood offers free lift tickets for children eight and under who are skiing with an adult. Three-day passes at Homewood are $65 for adults and $20 for ages nine to 13. Beginning January 5, every Wednesday is two-for-one day, with two adult lift tickets for the price of one.

Mount Rose offers midweek specials (excluding holiday periods). If you buy an all-day adult lift ticket on Tuesdays, you can improve your skills at the resort's free two-hour group workshop. On Wednesdays, an all-day ticket includes free ski rentals.

Northstar combines lodging and skiing in its Stay and Ski Free package. For $64.50 per person, double occupancy, skiers receive one night's lodging and a lift ticket. The offer extends to December 23 (excluding Thanksgiving weekend) and from March 20 to the end of the season. There is limited availability from January to March. Call 800-GO-NORTH for information.

Sierra at Tahoe, formerly Sierra Ski Ranch, offers a Teen Ticket for 13- to 19-year-olds. Teens can ski for $27, a break of $8 from the adult price of $35. The Frequent Skier Plan allows a free day of skiing after three paid days.

Squaw Valley's Ski Free package combines lodging and lift ticket for $89 per person, per night, double occupancy. For dates available, call 800-327-3353.

Jackie Ruffin is a Reno writer and skier



Heidi Bobela and Scott Mellin "hot dog" it down the slopes at Alpine Meadows.



Photo: Larry Prosor Map: Joanna Vernarecci

Skiing Around the State

A guide to Nevada and Tahoe Basin ski areas.

1993-94 Downhill Skier's Guide

Area	Phone	Top Elevation	Vertical	Lifts	Rating Bg-Int-Adv	Lift Price Adult/Child	Rental Adult/Child	Snow-boards
TAHOE BASIN								
Alpine Meadows	916-583-4232	8,637	1,800	12	25-40-35	$41/$16	$19/$14	No
Boreal	916-426-3666	7,800	600	9	30-55-15	$31/$10	$18/$14	Yes*
Diamond Peak	702-831-3211	8,540	1,840	7	18-49-33	$34/$14	$17/$11	Yes*
Donner Ski Ranch	916-426-3635	7,751	720	6	25-50-25	$20/$10	$15/$10	Yes*
Granlibakken	916-583-4242	6,480	280	1	50-50-0	$12/$6	$15/$12	No
Heavenly	916-541-1330	10,040	3,500	23	20-45-35	$40/$19	$18/$10	Yes*
Homewood	916-525-2992	7,880	1,650	10	15-50-35	$29/$10	$18/$12	Yes*
Kirkwood	209-258-6000	9,800	2,000	12	15-50-35	$35/$17	$18/$12	Yes
Mount Rose	702-849-0704	9,700	1,440	5	30-35-35	$32/$14	$18/$12	Yes*
Northstar	916-562-1010	8,600	2,200	11	25-50-25	$40/$18	$20/$14	Yes*
Sierra at Tahoe	916-659-7453	8,852	2,212	9	25-50-25	$35/$17	$20/$20	Yes*
Soda Springs	916-426-3666	7,352	650	2	30-50-20	$18/$5	$14/$11	Yes*
Squaw Valley	916-583-6985	9,050	2,850	32	25-45-30	$40/$5	$20/$12	Yes*
Sugar Bowl	916-426-3651	8,383	1,500	8	20-30-50	$35/$8	$18/$13	Yes
Tahoe Donner	916-587-9400	7,350	600	3	50-50-0	$24/$12	$16/$12	No
MOUNT CHARLESTON (LAS VEGAS)								
Lee Canyon	702-646-0008	9,510	1,000	3	15-80-5	$25/$18	$15/$15	Yes

**Resorts with special snowboarding parks and/or half-pipes*

1993-94 Cross-Country Skier's Guide

Area	Phone	Trail (km)	Trail Fee Adult/Child	Rental Adult/Child	Lessons Adult/Child	Day Lodge
TAHOE BASIN						
Clair Tappaan Lodge	916-426-3632	10	$5/$2.50	$11/$7	$12/$12	√
Diamond Peak	702-831-3211	35	$12/$7	$12/$8	$15/$15	√
Kirkwood	209-258-7248	80	$13/$5	$12/$8	$30/$20**	√
Lake Tahoe Basin	916-573-2600	The U.S. Forest Service has brochures on many forest areas				
Northstar	916-562-1010	65	$15/$8	$15/$9	$35/$23**	√
Royal Gorge	916-426-3871	321	$17.50/$8.50	$15/$9.50	$37/$25**	√
Sorensen's	916-694-2203	80	none	$12/$8	$24/$16	√
Spooner Lake	702-887-8844	101	$10/$4	$12/$4.50	$30/$18**	√
Squaw Valley	916-583-6300	30	$12/$8	$12/$8	$32/$28**	√
Tahoe Donner	916-587-9484	70	$14/$9	$13/$9	$34/$25**	√
Tahoe Nordic	916-583-0484	65	$13/$5	$12/$6	$29/$18**	√
AROUND THE STATE						
Lee Canyon (Las Vegas)	702-252-8077 702-873-8800	Randy McGhies of the Ski Chalet offers x-country suggestions The U.S. Forest Service 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)	702-289-3031	Ward Mt. and Loop Trails info available from the U.S. Forest Service				

***Includes trail pass, equipment, and lessons*

All prices are subject to change. Call resorts for information about children's programs.

Lake Tahoe's Best Packages

CELEBRATION PACKAGE

Deluxe Main Tower Guest Room, bottle of champagne, 2 collector glasses, 2 welcome beverages, Lobster Special in Josh's Restaurant, $50 value Funsheet

$98

Sun-Fri; Sat $118
9/20 - 12/24/93

PRESIDENTIAL SUITE PACKAGE

Two room Presidential Suite, lakeview balcony, VIP check-in, champagne & glasses, fresh rose & vase, fruit and cheese tray

$198

Sun-Fri; Sat $298
9/18 - 12/24/93

ROOM & CAR PACKAGE

Deluxe Aspen Tower Room, double beds, 1 or 2 persons, economy rental car, unlimited mileage, $50 value Funsheet

$69

Sun-Fri; Sat $109
9/20 - 12/24/93

SKIER SUPERSAVER

Deluxe Aspen Tower Room King or Double, one lift ticket per person, discount ski rental, $50 value Casino Funsheet

$59

Feb & March 1994
Sun-Thurs, $69
Fri & Sat, $89

Sun-Thurs; Fri & Sat $89
Nov & Dec 1993
Jan, Apr, May 1994
per person, dbl occ

SKI ADVENTURE

5 days/4 nights, Room in Aspen Tower; 4WD vehicle with ski racks,unlimited mileage; 4 lift tickets per person, 4 breakfasts at the Four Seasons or brunch buffet per person and 2 daily cocktails per person; $50 value Casino Funsheet

$349

Sun-Tues arrivals only; per person, double occupancy

Packages are plus tax, advance reservations required. Holiday periods excluded, subject to availability. Cancellable at management's discretion.

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LAKE TAHOE HORIZON CASINO RESORT

P.O. Box C, Lake Tahoe, NV 89449

PREVIEW

A Country Christmas

Sparks celebrates its seventh annual Hometowne Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday, December 4, at Victorian Square. This year's theme is "A Real Nevada Country Christmas."



Marching bands highlight the Sparks Christmas Parade.

Attractions will include arts and crafts, children's games, Santa Claus' arrival and photos, Hanna Barbera characters, holiday foods, hot beverages, and entertainment. The Christmas parade will begin at 1 p.m. The tree-lighting ceremony at dusk will feature a 60-foot tree from Garibaldi, Oregon. For more information about the event call the Sparks Redevelopment Agency at 702-353-2291.

Clarion, 825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Entertainment TBA

Eldorado, 786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside Nevada), or 800-648-3024 (Canada): Doug Kershaw, Oct. 26-Nov. 7 Danny Marona, Nov. 8-14; Rob Hanna's Salute to Rod Stewart, Nov. 16-21; Kristine and the Sting, Nov. 23-Dec. 12; Doug Kershaw, Dec. 26-Jan. 1; Honolulu, Dec. 28-Jan. 16

Fitzgeralds, 785-3300: The Act, Oct. 25-Nov. 7; Carmon and Duchane, Nov. 1-7; Whiskey Ridge/Vamp, Nov. 8-14; Tammy Allen and RSVP/David Proud, Nov. 15-21; Madison Avenue/Paradise, Nov. 22-28; Garfin Gathering/St. Romain, Nov. 29-Dec. 5; Perfect Circle, Dec. 6-19; White Wing, Dec. 27-Jan. 2; Garfin Gathering, Dec. 27-Jan. 9

Flamingo Hilton Reno, 785-7080: *Flamingo Showroom:* "American Superstars," indf. (dark Tues.); *Showspot Lounge:* Zella Lehr, Nov. 2-28; Martha's Children, Nov. 30-Dec. 12

Harolds Club, 329-0881 or 800-648-5022 (U.S. outside Nevada): Cheryl Cotten, Oct. 25-Nov. 7; Gary Xavier, Nov. 1-Dec. 5; Mark Donovan, Nov. 8-14; Steve Lord, Nov. 15-Dec. 31; Mark Donovan, Dec. 6-31

Harrah's Reno, 788-3773 or 800-648-3773: *Sammy's Showroom:* Greg Thompson's "Stagestruck" and "High Voltage," thru Dec. 13 and Dec. 24-Jan. 2 (dark Tues.)

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3304 or 800-648-1177: *Celebrity Showroom:* Sha Na Na/Mark Merchant, Oct. 28-Nov. 10; Nick Lewin, Nov. 11-24; Ronnie McDowell/Dick Hardwick, Nov. 25-Dec. 8; Herb Reed and the Platters/Fielding West, Dec. 26-Jan. 12; *Casino*

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(702) 849-0704
Outside NV (800) SKI-ROSE

Photo: Lonnie Peck/Reno News Bureau

Cabaret: Flashback, indf.

Peppermill, 826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Jerry Zu/Double Edge, Oct. 25-Nov. 7; Passion, Nov. 1-14; Cheryl Cotten/St. Romain, Nov. 8-21; Tanzania, Nov. 15-21; Johnny Baron/Smiles Revival/Brother to Brother, Nov. 22-28; Surprize Package, Nov. 29-Dec. 5; David Proud, Nov. 29-Dec. 12; Madison Avenue/Double Edge, Dec. 6-19; Tanzania, Dec. 13-26; Tommy Bell/Cameron, Dec. 20-Jan. 2; Lelands, Dec. 27-Jan. 9

Reno Hilton, 789-2285 or 800-648-3568 (U.S. outside Nevada): *Ziegfeld Theatre:* Smokey Robinson, Nov. 5-7; George Carlin, Nov. 12-13; Anne Murray, Nov. 19-21; Oak Ridge Boys, Nov. 25-28; Rich Little's Christmas Carol, Dec. 17-25; Lorrie Morgan, Dec. 30-Jan. 1

Reno Ramada, 788-2000: Entertainment TBA

Silver Club, Sparks, 358-4771: Vamp, Nov. 1-7; David Proud, Nov. 8-14; The Act, Nov. 15-21; Carmon and Duchane, Nov. 22-28; Paradise, Nov. 29-Dec. 5; Silk, Dec. 6-19; Network, Dec. 20-31

Western Village, Sparks, 331-1069: Entertainment TBA

Carson City/Carson Valley

Carson City Nugget, 882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (continental U.S. outside Nevada): Speedy Garfin, Oct. 26-Nov. 7

Carson Station, Carson City, 883-0900: Live entertainment Tues.-Sat.

Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711 or 800-321-6983 (U.S. outside Nevada): Madison Avenue, Nov. 1-6; Carmon and Duchane, Nov. 8-13; Paradise, Nov. 15-20; Tommy Bell, Nov. 22-27; Steve Walker Band, Nov. 29-Dec. 4; Slick Gypsy, Dec. 6-11; The Act, Dec. 13-18; Shake, Rattle and Roll, Dec. 20-Jan. 1

Sharkey's Nugget, Gardnerville, 782-3133

Topaz Lodge, Topaz Lake, 266-3339

Lake Tahoe

Bill's Lake Tahoe, Stateline, 588-2455

Caesars Tahoe, Stateline, 588-3515 or 800-648-3353: *Circus Maximus:* Wynonna, Nov. 26-28

Cal-Neva Lodge, Crystal Bay, 832-4000 or 800-225-6382

Crystal Bay Club, Crystal Bay, 831-0512

Harrah's Lake Tahoe, Stateline, 588-6606 or 800-648-3773: *South Shore Room:* Greg Thompson's "Hollywood," thru Dec. 4 and Dec. 24-May 30; *Stateline Cabaret:* Outlaws, Nov. 25-28; Mickey Thomas' Starship, Dec. 10-12; Roomful of Blues, Dec. 17-19; Classic Rock All-Stars, Dec. 28-Jan. 2; "Beyond Bare Essence," thru Jan. 3 (dark Mon.)

Harvey's, Stateline, 588-2411 or 800-553-1022: *Emerald Theater:* Danny Marona, Nov. 26-27; "Twist and Shout: The Ultimate Beatles Revue," indf.; *Llewellyn's:* Ron Rose Sound, indf.; *Emerald Party Lounge:* Zippers/Reta and the Wizz Kidz, Oct. 25-Nov. 7; Gary and Sandy, Nov. 8-28; Reta and the Wizz Kids, Nov. 22-Dec. 5; Star Dance, Dec. 6-12; Diamonds, Dec. 13-19; Frenz/Vamp, Dec. 20-Jan. 2

Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe, Incline Village, 831-1111

Lake Tahoe Horizon, Stateline, 588-6211 or 800-322-7723 (U.S. outside Nevada): *Grande Lake Theatre:* Entertainment TBA; *Golden Cabaret:* "Babes," dance revue, thru Dec. 31

Lakeside Inn, Stateline, 588-7777: Entertainment TBA

Tahoe Biltmore, Crystal Bay, 831-0660 or 800-BILTMOR: Live entertainment Tues.-Sun.; nightly dancing

GAMING TOURNAMENTS

November

Slots, Oct. 31-Nov. 2, Eldorado, 786-5700

Slots, Nov. 5-7 Fitzgeralds, 785-3381

Slots, Nov. 6, Tahoe Biltmore, 831-0660

Keno, Nov. 12-14, Comstock, 329-1880

Video Poker, Nov. 14-15, Clarion, 825-4700

Slots, Nov. 14-15, Peppermill, 826-2121

Poker, Nov. 15-22, Peppermill, 826-2121

Keno, Nov. 19, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

Dice, Nov. 19-21, Harolds Club, 785-3381

Pai Gow, Nov. 26-28, Comstock, 329-1880

Blackjack/Dice, Nov. 28-30, Peppermill, 826-2121

Blackjack, Nov. 30, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

December

Blackjack, Dec. 1-3, Comstock, 329-1880

Keno, Dec. 3-5, Fitzgeralds, 785-3381

Keno, Dec. 3-5, Harolds Club, 785-3381

Slots, Dec. 5-7 Eldorado, 786-5700

Slots, Dec. 10-12, Comstock, 329-1880

Slots, Dec. 10-12, Fitzgeralds, 785-3381

Blackjack, Dec. 12, Sundowner, 786-7050

Keno, Dec. 17 Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

Blackjack, Dec. 21, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

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HOTELS

Casino Notes

• **Harrah's Lake Tahoe** has started a major remodeling of its retail corridor that when completed will be Harrah's South Shore Galleria. The grand opening for the first project in the remodeling—a Harrah's-owned store called Extended Play—took place in August. The 3,100-square-foot shop is a combination gift, news, sundry, sportswear shop, and children's store. Other stores such as Crazy Shirts, Addi Galleries, Heavenly Sports, and Vario's Salon also are expanded and remodeled.

• In July, Wilma Jean Kerr of Vacaville, California, became the latest Quartermania millionaire at **Harrah's Reno** when she lined up four Quartermania symbols to win $1,626,436. She had put about $20 into the machine before hitting the jackpot.

• **Harvey's** now has nonsmoking poker tables. "The general feeling about poker rooms is that they are a smoke-filled back room," says Ron Allegrini, Harvey's poker room manager. "Today, poker is coming out of the closet. A greater segment of the population is playing poker." On busy nights, Harvey's will have at least one nonsmoking poker table open. During non-peak hours, nonsmoking tables will be opened as needed.

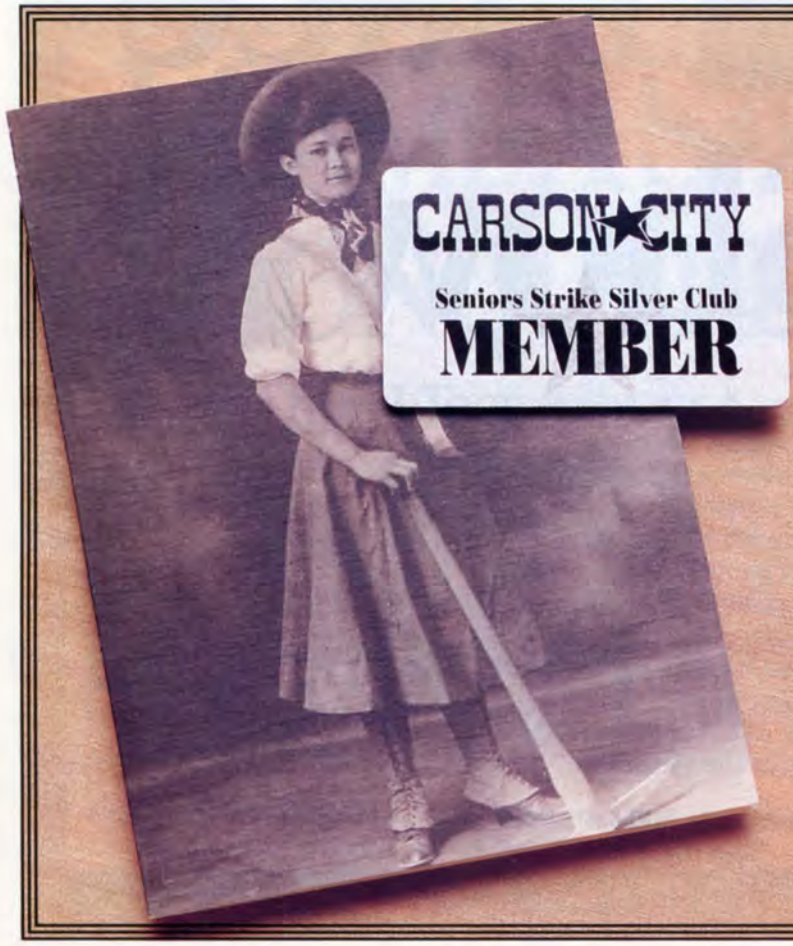
• Bob Cashell's **Horseshoe Club** in downtown Reno has opened the Boots Bar, Grill, and Dance Hall. Boots offers free dance lessons nightly and live Western bands and DJs.

• For the third year in a row the Steakhouse Grill at **John Ascuaga's Nugget** has won the "Best Place for a Steak" title in the *Reno Gazette-Journal's* "Best of Reno" survey The Nugget's Steppin' Out Package won in the "Best All-Around Entertainment Value" category.

• A live-remote radio sports program is broadcast from the lobby at **John Ascuaga's Nugget** in Sparks from 4 to 6 p.m. every Thursday. Host Ken Hopkins from 1270 KPLY-AM along with sports guru and coach Carl Vinci and the Nugget's own sports book manager John Falenski give their opinions on the week's college and NFL games.

• There's a new wedding chapel at the **Lakeside Inn** at Stateline. The chapel has an indoor garden setting and seats up to 120 guests. The Reverend Yvonne Watcher has joined the staff to oversee the weddings. The Lake Tahoe resort provides everything, including flowers, rehearsal dinner, and honeymoon suite.

• The **Reno Hilton** started its $84-million renovation with work on guest rooms and hotel corridors. The goal is to finish a floor a week to meet the targeted completion date in December. Work is under way on the 100,000-square-foot casino, where themes from the Western United States will be represented.



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CARSON CITY

Carson City Convention & Visitors Bureau
1900 South Carson Street, Suite 200, Carson City, NV 89701

ATTRACTIONS, TOURS & MUSEUMS

Carson City

Great Basin Wildlife Center: 3770 Butti Way, 887-2172
Kit Carson Trail: Self-guided walking tour, 882-1565 or 800-638-2321
Nevada State Archives: Exhibits, State Library, 100 Stewart St., 687-5210
Nevada State Capitol: 687-5030
Nevada State Museum: 600 N. Carson St., 687-4810
Nevada State Railroad Museum: S. Carson St. at Fairview Dr., 687-6953
Roberts House Museum: 1207 Carson St., 882-1805
Stewart Indian Museum: 5366 Snyder Ave., 882-1808
Warren Engine Co. No. 1 Museum: 111 N. Curry St., 887-2210

Genoa

Genoa Courthouse Museum: 782-4325
Mormon Station State Historic Park: Seasonal, 782-4325, 687-4379
Walley's Hot Springs: 2001 Foothill Rd., 782-8155

Lake Tahoe

Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park: 2005 Hwy. 28, Incline Village, 831-0494
***M.S. Dixie* Cruiseship:** Dry-docked; new ship arrives in May, Zephyr Cove, 588-3508
Ponderosa Ranch: Seasonal, Incline Village, 831-0691
***Tahoe Queen* Sternwheeler:** South Lake Tahoe, CA, 916-541-3364
Tahoe Rim Trail: 916-577-0676
U. S. Forest Service Visitors Center: Tours, 916-573-2600
Vikingsholm: Tours, 916-525-7232

Reno

Bull Creek Ranch: Verdi, 345-7600
Fleischmann Planetarium: UNR, 784-4811
Harolds Club Gun Collection and Museum: 329-0881
Liberty Belle Slot Collection: 4250 S. Virginia St., in Liberty Belle Saloon, 825-1776
Mackay School of Mines Minerals Museum: UNR, 784-6052
Nevada Historical Society Museum: 1650 N. Virginia St., 688-1190
Nevada Museum of Art, E. L. Wiegand Gallery: 160 W. Liberty St., 329-3333
Numana Hatchery Visitors Center: Pyramid Lake, 574-0290
Raymond I. Smith Truckee River Walk and Wingfield Park Amphitheater: 334-2077
Reno Tahoe Gaming Academy: Tours, 300 E. First St., Suite 103, 329-5665
UNR Anthropology Dept. Research Museum: UNR, 784-6704
Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden: Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-4153
Wilbur D. May Great Basin Adventure: Seasonal, Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-4064
Wilbur D. May Museum: Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-5961
William F. Harrah Foundation National Automobile Museum: 10 Lake St., 333-9300

Sparks

National Air Museum and Hall of Fame: 1570 Hymer, 358-0505
Sparks Heritage Foundation and Museum: 820 Victorian Ave., 355-1144
Wild Island: Wild Island, Adventure Golf and Raceway, 250 Wild Island Ct., 359-2927

Virginia City

Chollar Mine: Tours, seasonal, 847-0155
1869 Territorial Prison Museum: Tours, 847-0500
Fourth Ward School Museum: Seasonal, 847-0975
Julia C. Bulette Red Light Museum: 847-9394
Liberty Engine Co. No. 1 Comstock Firemen's Museum: Seasonal, 847-0717
Mackay Mansion: 847-0173
Mark Twain Museum of Memories: 847-0454
Nevada Gambling Museum: 847-9022
Piper's Opera House: 847-0433
Ponderosa Mine: Tours, 847-0757
Territorial Enterprise Mark Twain Museum: 847-0525
The Castle: Seasonal, 847-0275
The Way It Was Museum: 847-0766
Virginia and Truckee Railroad: Seasonal, 847-0380
Wild West Museum: 847-0400

Washoe Valley

Bowers Mansion Park: Pool, 4005 U.S. 395 North, 849-1825
Davis Creek Park: located near Bowers Mansion on valley's west side, 849-0684
Washoe Lake State Park: E. Lake Blvd., in Washoe Valley, 687-4319

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The Rural Territories

COWBOY COUNTRY



November

A Common Thread, thru Nov. 30, traveling show of crafts made by Nevadans, Year of American Craft exhibit, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Voices of the West: Poems, Stories, and Songs from Nevada Buckaroo Country, Nov. 5, concert to launch "Buckaroo: Visions and Voices of the American West," a book and CD from Simon and Schuster, performers featured in the book and concert will be cowboy poets, singers, and musicians including Waddie Mitchell, Don Edwards, and Elko-area artists, 8pm, Western Folklife Center Music Hall, Elko, 800-748-4466

Elko Bull Sale, Nov. 5-6, all-breeds bull sale, fairgrounds, Elko, 752-3040

Soroptimists' Christmas Craft Festival, Nov. 6, handmade items and decorations, Pershing County Community Center, Lovelock, 273-7144

NNCC Dinner and Dance, Nov. 6, cocktails 6:30pm, dinner and dancing 7:30pm, Northern Nevada Community College Foundation, Elko Convention Center, 753-2237

Turkey Shoot, Bingo, and Chili Feed, Nov. 7, Carlin Riding Club, Carlin, 23 miles west of Elko, 754-6601

Veterans Powwow, Nov. 12-14, Owyhee, 757-3161

Blackjack Tournament, Nov. 13-14, Red Garter Casino, Wendover, 664-2111

Blackjack Tournament, Nov. 19-20, Silver Smith, Wendover, 664-2231

Eagles Turkey Bingo, Nov. 20, treats and refreshments served, activities for all ages, Pershing County Community Center, Lovelock, 273-7144

Elko Chamber of Commerce Pre-Holiday Show, Nov. 20-21, Elko Convention Center, 738-7135

December

Winter Festival, Dec. 1-28, annual juried show sponsored by Elko County Art Club, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

"The Nutcracker," Dec. 2, performance by Nevada Festival Ballet, 7pm, Laurena Moren Theatre, Elko Convention Center, 738-4091 or 329-2552

Festival of Trees, Dec. 2, Christmas celebration with an assortment of trees decorated by area businesses, Elko Convention Center, 738-4091

Photography Exhibit, Dec. 2-Jan. 19, studies of the land, ranching, animals, and nature by noted Nevada photographer Linda Dufurrena, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Keno Tournament, Dec. 3-4, State Line Hotel, Wendover, 664-2221

Christmas in the Nighttime Sky, Dec. 4, fireworks, Christmas music, chili feed, handbell ringing, Kimberly Nurseries, Elko, 738-8011

Carlin's 125th Birthday Celebration, Dec. 4, celebration of the oldest community in Elko County, 10am ceremony for cancellation stamp commemorating Carlin's birthday, cake and refreshments, costume contest, beard contest, parade of lights at dusk, fireworks, Carlin, 754-6915

Elko Nurses Bazaar, Dec. 4-5, handmade arts and crafts, Elko Convention Center, 738-4091

Slot Tournament, Dec. 4-5, Red Garter Casino, Wendover, 664-2111

Slot Tournament, Dec. 6-7 Peppermill, Wendover, 664-2255

Ansel Adams and Edward Weston Photo Exhibit, Dec. 29-Jan. 19, museum collection of 25 photographs by two of the best-known American photographers, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418



American Family Theater performs "Beauty and the Beast" at Yerington Intermediate School November 6.

PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY



November

Arts and Crafts Christmas Faire, Nov. 13, sixth annual, live piano music, Santa and Mrs. Claus, free admission, Dayton Elementary School, 246-5783

Holiday Fashion Show, Nov. 13, Ely Convention Center, 289-8877

Hidden Cave Tours, Nov. 13 and 27 9:30am, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677

San Francisco Consort, Nov. 19, costumed group plays medieval and Renaissance music using replica instruments, Western Nevada Community College, Fallon campus, 423-1440

December

Christmas Parade and Merchants' Bazaar, Dec. 4, Ely Convention Center, 289-8877

Kiwanis Christmas Parade, Dec. 4, nighttime parade down Aultman St., Ely, 289-8877

Hidden Cave Tour, Dec. 11, 9:30am, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 885-6100

Firemen's New Year's Eve Ball, Dec. 31, open to all, Ely Convention Center, 289-3720

PIONEER TERRITORY



November

Berlin-Ichthyosaur Fossil House and Berlin

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 phone numbers, see page E-6

Ghost Town Tours, ranger leads tours of 225-million-year-old ichthyosaur fossils and the Berlin ghost town site, call for times and days, Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, near Gabbs, 964-2440 or 867-3001

Beatty '49ers Annual Burro/Flapjack Race and Competition, Oct. 30-Nov. 1, Beatty parks and surrounding BLM lands, 553-2424

"Beauty and the Beast," Nov. 6, musical, American Family Theater, Yerington Intermediate School Auditorium, Yerington, 463-3066

St. Anne's Holiday Bazaar, Nov. 13, craft fair, homemade food, children's games, picture can be taken with Santa Claus, Catholic Center, Yerington, 463-3842

San Francisco Consort, Nov. 20, medieval and Renaissance music using replica instruments, Catholic Center, Yerington, 463-3066

Christmas Bazaar, Nov. 20, convention center, Tonopah, 482-3558

Walker Lake Fishing Derby, Nov. 26-28, ninth annual, prize money for different categories ranges from $50-$500 ($10,000 for one tagged cutthroat if caught during derby), Walker Lake, Hawthorne, 945-5896

Christmas Party, Nov. 27 Community Center, Pahrump, 727-5800

December

Christmas Craft Bazaar, Dec. 4, 10am-4pm, Community Gym, Round Mountain, 377-2611

Tonopah Children's Christmas Parade and Party, Dec. 4, downtown and convention center, Tonopah, 482-3558

Pahrump Station Christmas Party, Dec. 4, Chamber of Commerce, Pahrump, 727-5800

Firemen's Ball, Dec. 11, convention center, Tonopah, 482-3558

Firemen's New Year's Eve Ball, Dec. 31, 9pm dance, midnight buffet, Wellington Community Hall, 465-2620

SHOWGUIDE

Cowboy Country

Battle Mountain: Owl Club, 635-5155

Elko: Commercial Hotel, 738-3181. Red Lion, 738-2111 or 800-545-0044 (Western U.S. outside Nevada): The Diamonds, Nov. 2-11; Williams and Ree, Nov. 11-13; Glen Williams/Danny Marona Band, Nov. 16-21; Daryl and Don Ellis, Nov. 23-28; Branson Brothers, Nov. 30-Dec. 5; Marcy Brothers, Dec. 7-12; McCarter Sisters, Dec. 14-19; Marty Haggard, Dec. 21-26; Dr. Hook, Dec. 28-Jan. 2. Stockmen's Hotel, 738-5141

Jackpot: Barton's Club 93, 755-2341. Cactus Petes, 755-2321 or 800-821-1103: Donna Fargo, Nov. 2-7; T.G. Sheppard, Nov. 9-14; Four Freshmen, Nov. 16-21; Williams and Ree, Nov. 25-27; Sonny Turner, Nov. 30-Dec. 5; Yesterday: A



Elko's Christmas season starts off with a bang December 4.

PREVIEW

Claus For Celebration

The weather might be chilly, but there will be plenty of warm holiday cheer December 4 during Elko's Christmas in the Nighttime Sky festivities.

About 3,000 people are expected to gather at 5 p.m. at the Kimberly Nurseries at 2223 North Fifth Street for free chili and beverages, live entertainment, and a visit with Santa Claus. Sponsors suggest you dress warmly and bring a portable radio for the 7 p.m. fireworks, which are set to music.

Admission to the event is free, but gifts for the Toys for Tots Program are welcome. For information call 702-738-8011.

Photo: *Elko Daily Free Press*

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1994 JANUARY THRU LABOR DAY EVENTS

JANUARY
Elko: Cowboy Poetry Gathering
Wells: Hole in the Mountain Cross Country Ski Race

FEBRUARY
Wells: Invitational Chariot Races

MARCH
Winnemucca: Shooting the West VI (A Nevada Photography Experience)

APRIL
Elko: Int'l Collegiate Mining Competition
Wells: She's a Screamer Motorcycle Race Wells to Wendover

MAY
Winnemucca: Barrel Racing Futurity & Derby, Senior Pro Rodeo
Lovelock: Portuguese Fiesta

JUNE
McDermitt: Red Mountain Indian Pow Wow and Rodeo
Winnemucca: Mule Show & Races N.A. Basque Festival
Elko: Mining Exposition, Cowboy Music Gathering

JULY
Elko: National Basque Festival
McDermitt: Ranch Hand Rodeo
Jackpot: Carl Hayden Daze
Jarbidge: Nevada Days
Winnemucca: IFCA World Championship Roping
Wendover: Bonneville Land Speed Opener
Battle Mountain: Mining Madness & Bed Races

AUGUST
Wendover: Bonneville Speed Week
Winnemucca: Hot August Nights, Hot Air Balloon Festival
Battle Mountain: Lander County Fair
Elko: Silver State Stampede & Rodeo
Lovelock: Frontier Days
Wells: Railroad Recital, International Off-Road Motorcycle Race

LABOR DAY WEEKEND EVENTS
Elko: County Fair & Livestock Show & Pari-Mutuel Racing, Western Art Show & Auction
Winnemucca: Buckaroo Heritage Western Art Roundup, Tri-County Fair & Winnemucca Rodeo

Write or Call: Nevada's Cowboy Country, 50 West Winnemucca Blvd. Winnemucca Nevada 89445 (702) 623-5071

RURAL EVENTS

Tribute to the Beatles, Dec. 7-12; Sh-Boom, Dec. 14-19; Bill Haley's Comets, Dec. 21-30; Mickey Gilley, Dec. 31-Jan. 1. Horseshu Casino, 755-2331

Mill City (on I-80): Burns Bros. Casino, Mr. B's Lounge, 538-7306

Wendover: Nevada Crossing, 664-4000. Peppermill, 664-2255 or 800-648-9660 (U.S. outside Nevada): Band on the Run/Synergy, Nov. 1-7; The Act/The Lelands, Nov. 8-14; The Lelands/Gregg Peterson, Nov. 15-21; Gregg Peterson/St. Romain, Nov. 22-28; Inside Out/Freeway, Nov. 29-Dec. 5; Inside Out/Tammy Allen and RSVP, Dec. 6-16; Tammy Allen and RSVP/Real Surreal, Dec. 13-19; Real Surreal/Levi John, Dec. 20-26. Red Garter, 664-2111 or 800-982-2111 (continental U.S. outside Nevada): Mon. Night Comedy at 9pm, live music Tues.-Sun. Silver Smith, 664-2231 or 800-648-9668: Nightly entertainment. State Line, 664-2221 or 800-648-9668: Nightly entertainment

Winnemucca: Winners Hotel, 623-2511

Pony Express Territory

Fallon: Bonanza Inn, 423-3111 ext. 47 Fallon Nugget, 423-3111

Pioneer Territory

Hawthorne: El Capitan, 945-3321: Entertainment TBA

Pahrump: Saddle West Casino, 727-5953 or 800-522-5953

Tonopah: Mizpah Hotel, 482-6202; Station House, 482-9777

Yerington: Casino West, 463-2481: Blue Flame, indf. Dini's Lucky Club, 463-2868: Music Fri. and Sat.

ATTRACTIONS, TOURS & MUSEUMS

Cowboy Country

Bonneville Speedway Museum: Seasonal, 1000 E. Wendover Blvd., Wendover, 801-665-7721

Buckaroo Hall of Fame: 50 Winnemucca Blvd. W., Winnemucca, 623-2225

Giant Tufa Park: Seven miles west of Lovelock, 273-7213

Humboldt Museum: Jungo Rd. and Maple Ave., Winnemucca, 623-2912

Jarbidge Wilderness Area: 208-543-4129

Marzen House Museum: Marzen Ln., Lovelock, 273-7213

Northeastern Nevada Museum: 1515 Idaho St., Elko, 738-3418

Western Folklife Center: 501 Railroad St., Elko, 738-7508

Wild Horse State Recreation Area: 65 miles north of Elko, 758-6493

Pioneer Territory

Belmont Courthouse State Historic Site: 867-3001

Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park: 22 miles east of Gabbs, 964-2440 or 867-3001

Cathedral Gorge State Park: Panaca, 728-4467

Central Nevada Museum: Logan Field Rd., Tonopah, 482-9676

Death Valley National Monument: Via Beatty, 619-786-2331

Lincoln County Museum: Main St., Pioche, 962-5207

Lyon County Museum: 215 S. Main St., Yerington,



Linda Dufurrena, noted Nevada photographer, will be exhibiting photos reflecting ranch life at the Northeastern Nevada Museum in Elko December 2-January 19.

463-3341 ext. 255 or 463-3721
Million Dollar Courthouse: Seasonal, Lacour St., Pioche, 962-5182
Mineral County Historical Museum: 400 10th St., Hawthorne, 945-5142
Pahrump Valley Winery: Tours, 3810 Homestead Rd., Pahrump, 727-6900 or 800-368-WINE
Rhyolite Bottle House and Historic Site: 553-2424
Spring Valley State Park: Pioche, 962-5102
Walker Lake Recreation Area: Hawthorne, 945-5896

Pony Express Territory

Cave Lake State Recreation Area: 15 miles south of Ely, 728-4467
Churchill County Museum and Hidden Cave: Tours, 1050 S. Maine St., Fallon, 885-6100
Dayton State Park: 687-5678
East Ely Railroad Depot Museum: 289-1663
Eureka Sentinel Museum: Eureka, 237-5010 or 237-5484
Fort Churchill State Historic Park: Silver Springs, 577-2345
Great Basin National Park: Baker, 234-7331
Hickison Petroglyph Recreation Site: 24 miles east of Austin on U.S. 50
Nevada Northern Railway Museum: Seasonal, East Ely, 289-2085
Sand Mountain: 20 miles east of Fallon, U.S. 50, 885-6000
Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Site: 16 miles (11 dirt) south of Ely
White Pine Public Museum: 2000 Aultman St., Ely, 289-4710

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.*

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Photo: Linda Dufurrena

DINING DIRECTORY

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.

LAS VEGAS

AMERICAN

Riviera Hotel/Kady's Coffee Shop—794-9318. Deli-style restaurant open 24 hours with daily specials, deli, and kosher items. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

Sam's Town/Mary's Diner—5111 Boulder Hwy., 454-8073. A '50s flair. Blue plate 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.

FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

Las Vegas Hilton/Le Montrachet—732-5111. Gourmet French cuisine, jackets required, reservations suggested. D. $$$$, major.

INTERNATIONAL

Riviera Hotel/Mardi Gras Food Court—Nine quick-service restaurants serving food from around the world. B, L, D. $, no CC.

Riviera Hotel/World's Fare Buffet—794-9400. Features a different international cuisine every day. B, L, D. $, major.

ITALIAN

Imperial Palace/Pizza Palace—794-3261. Pizza, pasta, and salads. L, D. $, major.

Las Vegas Hilton/Andiamo—732-5111. Northern Italian cuisine prepared in an exhibit kitchen, fish and poultry specialties. D. $$, major.

Riviera Hotel/Ristorante Italiano—794-9363. Vermicelli salsa bella vista, lobster Francaise, and fresh seafood. D. $-$$$$, major.

MEXICAN

Las Vegas Hilton/Margaritagrille (formerly Paco's)—732-5111. Fajitas, burritos, chimichangas, and tostadas. D. $$, major.

Sam's Town/Willy and Jose's Mexican Cantina—5111 Boulder Hwy., 454-8044. Authentic Mexican dishes in Old Mexico setting. D. $, major.

ORIENTAL

Imperial Palace/Ming Terrace—794-3261. Mandarin and Cantonese cuisine, abalone, kung pao shrimp, roast duck. D. $$, major.

Las Vegas Hilton/Benihana Village—732-5111. Two traditional-style Japanese restaurants: hibachi and robata. D. $-$$$, major.

Riviera Hotel/Rik'Shaw—794-9537. Pineapple duck, orange roughy with black pepper sauce. Beef, shrimp, chicken, and pork sautéed with Chinese vegetables in oyster sauce. D. $-$$, major.

STEAK AND SEAFOOD

Imperial Palace/Seahouse—794-3261. Alaskan King crab legs, hot and cold appetizers, seafood salads. D. $$, major.

Las Vegas Hilton/Hilton Steak House—732-5111. Steaks and fresh seafood prepared over mesquite wood. D. $$$, major.

Riviera Hotel/Kristofer's—794-9233. Steak, seafood, and chicken. Complete dinners include glass of house wine, vegetable tray, breads, salad, entree, and dessert bonbons. D. $$, major.

Sam's Town/Diamond Lil's—5111 Boulder Hwy., 454-8009. Fresh fish and seafood daily. D, Sun. brunch. $-$$, major.

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LAUGHLIN

Colorado Belle/Orleans Room—298-4000. Sunset supper menu. D. $, major.

Edgewater/The Hickory Pit Steak House–298-2453. Steak, seafood, prime rib, barbecue ribs, and chicken. D. $$, major.

Gold River Resort/Cafe Victoria Coffee Shop–298-2242. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. $, AE, MC, V.

Gold River Resort/Opera House—298-2242. Buffet. B, L, D. $, AE, MC, V.

Gold River Resort/Pasta Cucina—298-2242. Italian dinners. $$, AE, MC, V.

Gold River Resort/The Lodge—298-2242. Steakhouse. D. $-$$$, AE, MC, V.

Ramada Express/Dining Car Coffee Shop—298-4200. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. $, major.

Ramada Express/Passaggio Italian Gardens—298-4200. Homemade sauces, pastas, pizzas. D. $, major.

Ramada Express/Roundhouse Buffet—298-4200. B, L, D. $, major.

Ramada Express/The Steakhouse—298-4200. Specializing in flame-broiled meats. D. $, major.

MESQUITE

Peppermill Resort/Coffee Shop--346-5232. Open 24 hours. American food. B, L, D. $, major.

Peppermill Resort/Paradise Buffet—346-5232. American food. Specialty seafood buffet. B, L, D. $, major.

Peppermill Resort/Peggy Sue's Restaurant--346-5232. A '50s diner. American food and pizza. B, L, D. $, major.

Peppermill Resort/Peppermill Steakhouse—346-5232. American food. D. $$, major.

RENO-CARSON AREA

AMERICAN

Carson Nugget/Buffet—882-1626. Sun. champagne brunch, Sat. breakfast buffet, Fri. seafood buffet. B, L, D. $, major.

Carson Nugget/Coffee Shop—882-1626. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. $, major.

Carson Valley Inn/Fiona's—Minden, 782-4347. Steaks, seafood, veal, soup and salad bar. L, D, Sun. brunch. $-$$, major.

Carson Valley Inn/Katie's—Minden, 782-9711. Four-course prime rib dinner, steak and lobster, half-pound burgers. B, L, D. $, major.

Fitzgeralds Reno/Molly's Garden—785-3300. Omelets, prime rib, sandwiches, salads. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. $, major.

Fitzgeralds Reno/Starlight Buffet—785-3300. Open daily. 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. L, D, Sun. brunch. $-$$, major.

Riverboat Restaurant and Coffeeshop—323-8877. Chicken and ribs, Cajun-baked chicken with beef or pork ribs, open 24 hours. 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

Eldorado/The Vintage—786-5700. Continental cuisine, daily specials, choice dry-aged beef, mesquite-grilled. Complimentary wine tasting from award-winning wine list. D. $$, major.

INTERNATIONAL

Eldorado/Choices—786-5700. An express cafe with hofbrau, deli, bakery, ice cream. B, L, D. $, major.

Eldorado/Tivoli Gardens—786-5700. Multi-ethnic, 24-hour restaurant and entertainment attraction. Italian, South American, Caribbean, Thai, Szechwan, Vietnamese, Cantonese, and American cuisine. B, L, D. $, major.

ITALIAN

Eldorado/La Strada—786-5700. Northern Italian cuisine with veal, chicken, and seafood entrees plus homemade pasta, sauces, and desserts. Award-winning wine list. D. $$, major.

ORIENTAL

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Trader Dick's—Sparks, 356-3300. Cashew chicken, Szechwan specialties, flam-

ing dagger brochette. L, D. $$, major.

STEAK AND SEAFOOD

Carson Nugget/Oyster Bar—882-1626. L, D. $, major.

Carson Nugget/Steak House—882-1626. Veal scaloppini, scampi in dill sauce, chicken picata, escargot. D. $$, major.

Circus Circus/Hickory Pit—329-0711. One-pound prime rib, New York steak. D. $$, major.

Eldorado/Grill and Rotisserie—786-5700. Mahogany-fueled rotisserie and grill, fresh fish, fowl, lamb, and USDA choice dry-aged beef. 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.

Riverboat Oyster Bar—323-8877. Riverboat cioppino, bay shrimp cocktail. L, D. $, major.



Willy and Jose's serves Mexican food at Sam's Town in Las Vegas.

LAKE TAHOE

AMERICAN

Caesars Tahoe/Cafe Roma—Stateline, 588-3515. Lamb chops, prime rib. B, L, D. $-$$$, major.

Lake Tahoe Horizon/Four Seasons—Stateline, 588-6211 ext. 2437. Prime rib and New York steak. Complete dinners $7.99. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

ITALIAN

Caesars Tahoe/Primavera—Stateline, 588-3515. Linguini carbonara, tenderloin pizzaiola, pollo allo spumante. D. $$, major.

Harvey's/Llewellyn's—Stateline, 588-2411. Specializing in international and contemporary cuisine. Sun. brunch, L, D. $-$$, major.

Harvey's/Pizzeria—Stateline, 588-2411. Pizza baked in a brick oven, lasagna, salads. L, D. $, major.

Harvey's/Sage Room—Stateline, 588-2411. Rack of lamb Provençal, prime dry-aged cuts of beef, beef Wellington. D. $$-$$$, major.

MEXICAN

Harvey's/El Vaquero—Stateline, 588-2411. Camerones Veracruz, carnita. L, D. $$, major.

ORIENTAL

Caesars Tahoe/Empress Court—Stateline, 588-3515. Szechwan, Mandarin. D. $$, major.

STEAK AND SEAFOOD

Caesars Tahoe/Broiler Room—Stateline, 588-3515. Prime rib, seafood, Cajun specialties. Reservations for large parties. D. $$, major.

Lake Tahoe Horizon/Josh's—588-6211 ext. 2413. Lobster dinner. Reservations recommended. D. $$, major.

Harvey's/Seafood Grotto—Stateline, 588-2411. Seafood selection plus Chinese dishes. L, D. $$-$$$, major.

AROUND THE STATE

Elko: Stockmen's Motor Hotel—738-5141. Casino coffee shop, evening dinner house. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

Ely: Copper Queen—289-4271. Coffee shop, family dining room. Steaks, prime rib, seafood. Family-style Basque dinners Fri.-Sat., 5-10 p.m. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

Fernley: Sturgeon's—575-2222. Coffee shop, family dining room. Steaks, seafood. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

Hawthorne: El Capitan—945-3321. Hamburgers, steaks, seafood; 5 p.m. buffet Wed.-Sun.; Sun. champagne brunch. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

Lovelock: Sturgeon's—273-2971. Coffee shop open 24 hours, family dining room. Fiesta Room Supper Club Tues.-Sat. Steaks, seafood, Mexican dishes. B, L, D. $-$$$, major.

Tonopah: Station House/Mary's Kitchen—482-9777. Casino restaurant, breakfasts, hamburgers, steak, and seafood. B, L, D. $, AE, MC, V.

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A Grand Illusionist

By Mike Weatherford

David Copperfield's greatest feat of magic just might be his display of good taste.

Copperfield has become one of the three most successful illusionists (the others being the teams of Siegfried and Roy and Penn and Teller) by plying his trade to the contemporary tunes of Peter Gabriel and Terence Trent D'Arby, wearing nothing more garish than black jeans and a white shirt.

"The problem with magic in the past has been that people figured out what to expect, not that they figured out the tricks," Copperfield says. "It didn't progress like music progressed. It didn't change with the times." That is, until he and a few others came along.

Magicians will tell you that even in the era of high-tech, there are only 19 basic illusions; the rest are how you dress them up. Many of Copperfield's best pieces owe their success not to the trick itself, which is often similar to what you can see in a smaller-budget show, but to his sense of theater. Copperfield and those who help him with set design, lighting, and choreography have a flair for turning the routine into high drama.



David Copperfield uses his magic to make it snow in Las Vegas.

Gabriel's "Lay Your Hands on Me" sizzles behind a sensuous dance with two women in white. The dancers not only lay hands on Copperfield but eventually pass entirely through his midsection. D'Arby's thumping "Dance Lil' Sister" paces a frantically choreographed "lesson" in how illusions come together, with blueprints comically transforming into blue-and-white stage props.

In his new finale, the 36-year-old magician tells his audience about growing up in New Jersey as an only child, never getting to see a snowfall because his parents wintered in Florida. After encouraging members of the audience never to forget their childhood dreams, Copperfield makes it snow—to reveal the source would spoil the fun—in a sequence so dazzling that one almost forgets there's any illusion involved.

During his Las Vegas show Copperfield balances the bigger set pieces with humor and close-up magic, nightclub traditions that can be appreciated. His card tricks and audience-participation bits reveal an ease in working a crowd that comes with 500 shows a year. He strikes just the right tone of humility, knows exactly whom to pick as hapless volunteers (hint: attractive women, take heed), and shows the timing of a skilled stand-up comedian.

Copperfield, who has become the linchpin of the showroom lineup at Caesars Palace, is building a mansion in the same gated compound in Las Vegas as tennis star Andre Agassi, preparing for the day he finally decides to quit living out of a suitcase.

But it's not likely Copperfield ever will be confused with the city's other titans of magic, Siegfried and Roy. Their revue is a custom-designed spectacle; his is a compact traveling show And while their show changes only subtly, Copperfield is constantly trying new material for his annual network specials on CBS—he's done 14 so far.

If there's any risk in laying down top dollar for Copperfield's 90-minute revue, it's the danger of having seen at least half the show previously on the small screen. The set pieces are like sketches with punch lines: Seeing them on TV is not as dramatic as seeing them live, but knowing what's coming inevitably takes something away

But you can take comfort in knowing Copperfield is driven to work as hard as he can. "I don't have a choice," he says. "It's not a situation where I can sit back and relax. As soon as they think it's the same old thing, or you've done it before, then you're finished."

Magic Time

David Copperfield performs in the Circus Maximus at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas November 16-29. Tickets are $40 for regular seating and $45 for booths (minimum purchase of four tickets required for booths). Price includes tax but not beverages. For information call 702-731-7333 or 800-445-4544.

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



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