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Brian Sugimoto and Twylla Cox-Sugimoto of Merced, California, begin their marriage on the shores of Lake Tahoe.
Photo by DeeDee Roban-Cook/ Cooks Photography Reno

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NEVADA

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LETTERS

From the Ponderosa to the UFO capital.

Art Imitates Life

I just came back from a trip to Las Vegas. My dad, aunt, and myself went out to "open" Treasure Island, watch the demolition of the old Dunes, and visit our cousins in Summerlin. We saw the sun set on the Grand Canyon and Lake Mead from 35,000 feet. Hoover Dam was quite impressive.



When I got home, *Ben and the boys* of *Nevada* was waiting. What a coincidence that you carried stories on the Dunes, St. Thomas, and my favorite Western series of all time, *Bonanza*.

Carol Rose
Lexington, MA

Bonanza Forever

Loved "Back to Bonanza" by Buddy Frank in the Nov/Dec issue. Loved the cover picture of "Ben and the Boys at the Ponderosa." Fantastic article on a show loved by many.

Barb Manley
Las Vegas

St. Thomas: Before the Flood

Thank you for Dennis McBride's article "The Mormon Atlantis," about the town of St. Thomas in the last issue. My husband, Gary W. Adair, was the last child born in the town, on September 5, 1935, according to his mother, now deceased. His mother, whose maiden name was Opal Louise Whitmore, was a granddaughter of Harry and Ellen Gentry. We still have one of the postcards dated June 11, 1938, when Lake Mead covered St. Thomas.

Joyce P. Adair
North Las Vegas

A Slip on the Slipper

Regarding last issue's letter about "when the Silver Slipper was demolished to make room for The Mirage":

The Silver Slipper was located just a few feet north of the Frontier Hotel and later was torn down to be replaced with a customer parking lot. For years the Slipper was a popular place for the lo-

cals to play. I often walked the few feet from my job at the Frontier to join the happy crowd and listen to Cook E. Jarr playing in the lounge. It was a sad day when the slipper sign came down.

The casino that was demolished for the new Mirage was the Castaways, which was several blocks south of the Slipper. Tsk, tsk, editors.

You are right about the Slipper's sign being in storage. Maybe one day it will sparkle again.

Donald A. Conner
Las Vegas

Donald, thanks for pointing out our slip on the Slipper —Ed.

Equal Time for Nonfiction

I recently read Chris Platt's "Murder, She Wrote" and Richard Moreno's "Paperback Writers" in the Nov/Dec issue. While I enjoyed the articles, I can't help wonder why the fiction writers always get the publicity and the rest of us are ignored. It can't be because they're more successful, so maybe it's because no one knows we're here.

For the past four years I've been an author of books about computers and have written approximately 20 titles. One book sold over 400,000 copies.

There are other nonfiction writers in Nevada, too, and I'm sure they'd appreciate some recognition.

Brian Underdahl
Reno

Brian, we appreciate the tip. —Ed.

A Visit to Alien Territory

Before taking a trip to Lake Mead last fall, I read the story about UFOs, "In Rachel, Things Are Looking Up," by Rob Powers in the Sept/Oct issue. On the way home I stopped for a cup of coffee at a restaurant on that long stretch of highway between Alamo and Tonopah. As I got out of my car, I saw a flying saucer in the yard and instantly realized I had landed at the Little A 'Le' Inn in Rachel.

Inside they were showing a video and having a very spirited discussion about the UFO-watching area. Had a great time. The sign outside was right—aliens and earthlings are welcome.

Jim Allander
Silver City

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Desert Aisles

Valentine's Day is the most popular day for a popular activity in Nevada—getting married. With February 14 approaching, Richard Moreno, *Nevada's* publisher and a newlywed himself, takes us to the weird but wonderful world of Nevada-style weddings in "Wed and Wild." As Rich says, "It's amazing what people in this state will do on their wedding day."

Another seasonal sign—snow—is the topic of Mark McLaughlin's "The Big Winter." Mark, a weather historian, describes the devastating blizzards and floods of the winter of 1906-07. Skiers and heroic dogs are prominent in the story.

This issue we're pleased to present "Lenny and the Rhythmette" by novelist Phyllis Barber. In the chapter from *How I Got Cultured: A Nevada Memoir*, Phyllis reflects on Las Vegas when both she and the city were growing up.

Las Vegas has grown into a bargain capital, says Anthony Curtis in "Bargain City," which begins with an excerpt from his new guidebook, *Bargain City*. Anthony should know. As the publisher of the *Las Vegas Advisor* newsletter, he is a pioneer in the study of "couponomy." Reno deals are covered by another expert, Deke Castleman of Sparks, author of *Las Vegas and Nevada Handbook*.

Also in this issue, Kate Butler and Deborah Mawhar point out "Roadside Attractions," and Ann Henderson reports on "Starlight Express." Diane Sims finds humor between jackpots in "The Bold and the Dutiful."

Lin Anderson reviews his hometown's plunge into the ski scene in "Elko Goes Downhill." Marge Knorr presents Pioche artist Larry Williamson, and Jim Andersen helps us pronounce Denio and other "Tongue-Twisting Towns."

Inventive phraseology is frequently heard in Elko during the Cowboy Poetry Gathering, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this January. A regular at the annual gathering of buckaroo bards is C.J. Hadley, the former *Nevada* chief, current boss of *Range Magazine*, and well known storyteller in her own right. In this issue's Nevada Events Gallery, C.J. presents a fond photographic look at a decade of rhymers on the range.

—David Moore

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Other outfitters, like Lake Tahoe Winter Sports Center (916-577-2940) in Tahoe Paradise and the Tahoe Paradise Golf Course (916-577-2121), offer snowmobile tours and on-site track riding by the half-hour. Reservations are recommended.—*Deborah Mawhar*



Snowmobilers can make tracks to Tahoe for great views of the lake.

DINING

Diner Deluxe

RENO—Take a gastronomic trip back to the '50s and satisfy your craving for a meatloaf sandwich or a burger and fries at the 5 & Diner on South Virginia Street. You can sip on a cherry shake and soak up the diner's red-and-chrome decor, which includes a 1950s jukebox that plays tunes from Elvis, the Big Bopper, and other classic rock 'n' rollers. Poodle skirts and sideburns are not required. You can't miss the 5 & Diner's Streamliner architecture at 6350 South Virginia Street, which is four miles south of downtown Reno. Call 702-852-2111.—*Deborah Mawhar*

CASINOS

Wildlife Walk

LAS VEGAS—Waterfalls, palms, and flowers provide the setting for the strange and colorful birds that visitors will find along the Tropicana Hotel's wildlife walk.

African crown cranes, black swans, peacocks, flamingos, Mandarin ducks, and other birds mingle in the hotel's gardens, their year-round home. The Tropicana's five-acre water park also has schools of koi fish. The free wildlife walk, which is located near the hotel's pool, is open daily.

Other exotic birds can be found indoors above the gardens. There, macaws, toucans, cockatoos, and lovebirds perch in a row over floral carpeting and study those guests who try to engage them in parrot talk.—*Kate Butler*



An African crown crane (above) and other birds roost at the Trop.

MUSEUMS



Craig Jones knows the plane facts at the National Air Race Museum.

Museum Takes Flight

SPARKS—Aviation buffs can see *Miss Cosmic Wind*, an airplane once owned by air-racing pioneer and Reno rancher Bill Stead, and a replica of Howard Hughes' 1935 H-1 Racer at the National Air Race Museum and Hall of Fame.

The museum, which opened last May, is the only one of its kind in the United States and houses 16 aircraft, all of which have raced or set aviation records. Air racing's female pilots are well represented, and displays include the title-winning biplane that Patty Nelson of Florida flew last fall in Reno's National Championship Air Races.

An art gallery, gift shop, and 747 Jumbo Jet Theater round out the attractions. The museum is located at 1570 Hymer, just east of Rock Boulevard, and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$4.95 for adults, \$1.95 for children six to 12, and free for kids under six. Call 702-358-0505.—*Deborah Mawhar*

SIDE TRIP

Bitter Is Better

LAS VEGAS—Off-road adventurers will find history and stunning geological formations along the Bitter Springs Trail, a Back Country Byway of the Bureau of Land Management.

The Bitter Springs Trail is a 28-mile jeep road, wide enough for one vehicle, across rocky terrain and through desert washes south of the Valley of Fire.



The road cuts through the foothills of the Muddy Mountains to scenic Bitter Ridge, a sweeping arc that cuts eight miles across Bitter Valley. The trail passes the Buffington

Pockets and the Color Rock Quarry near Hidden Valley, where you'll find petroglyphs and remnants of the American Borax mines. Bighorn sheep, wild horses, and burros wander the area.

The trail is 45 miles northeast of Las Vegas off Interstate 15. The turnoff is 4½ miles east on the Valley of Fire State Park Road. Or you can take North Shore Road along Lake Mead and turn off at Bitter Springs Road.

The Bitter Springs Byway, one of several BLM Back Country Byways in Nevada, is best enjoyed in the winter months. High-clearance vehicles are required, and four-wheel-drive is strongly recommended. The road has light use and little maintenance, and there are sections that require the driver to "walk" the vehicle over rocky terrain. The Bitter Springs Trail takes about four hours to traverse, but a full day allows for more leisurely travel. For a brochure write BLM's Las Vegas District Office at 4765 West Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89126, or call 702-647-5000.—Kate Butler



The rocky Bitter Springs Trail near Valley of Fire takes visitors on the road less traveled.

Photo: Kate Butler Map: Gary Elam



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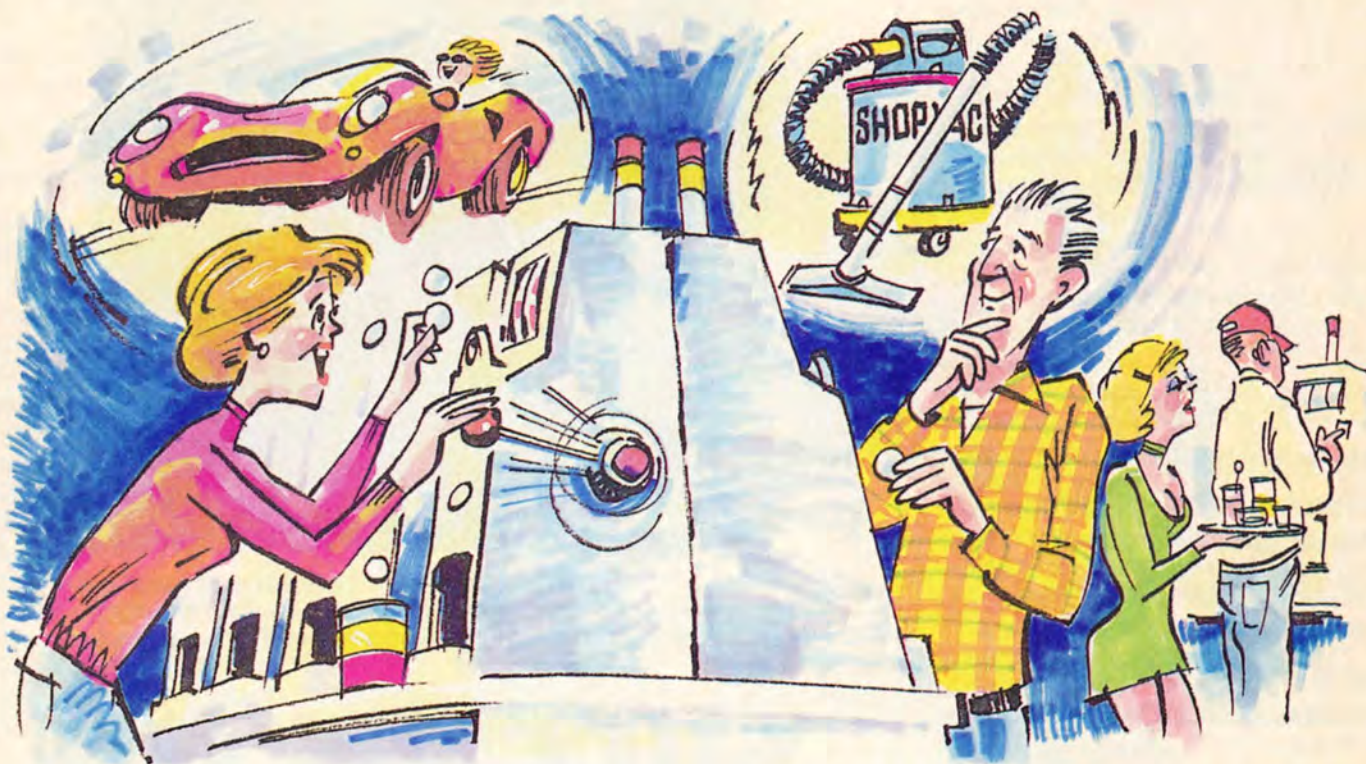
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The Bold and the Dutiful

My husband and I have different gambling styles.
He wins, I hope to, and usually we both hit the jackpot.

By Diane Sims

I had been contemplating a big win—a monstrous jackpot, or maybe driving back to Oregon in a brand-new red Corvette—when I was jolted out of my highway trance. “If I win this weekend,” my husband said as he adjusted the rear-view mirror, “I think I’ll buy a new shop vac.”

Now, his announcement came as no surprise to me because we have always viewed life’s great moments from different perspectives. He takes a practical approach. I come in from left field. In other words, we march in different parades.

This is never more apparent than when we make our fall visit to Reno. When we check into the hotel after a 10-hour drive, he unpacks everything and hangs his clothes in a neat and orderly fashion. Even his toothbrush and shav-

ing kit have special places on the bathroom counter. When he’s finished, the only distinction between the hotel room and our bedroom back home is the number on the door.

I have, over a period of 32 years, come to regard this ritual as a serious waste of time. I prefer to live out of a suitcase, and I can shower, dress, and be on the casino floor at roughly the speed of light. By the time he steps from the elevator, I will have dropped \$10 into a nickel machine and be on my fifth game of keno.

He usually starts by wandering off to cash a traveler’s check. He is a cautious man. (I work without a net, and I cart around a purse so heavy with loose change that it causes me to lurch when I walk.)

Upon returning, he sorts through the

casino fun books and the gaming tabloids, tearing out all the coupons. Nothing escapes his eagle eye. He clips Free Plays (where we stand in endless lines, push a button, and never win the Hawaiian vacation or motor home). He clips coupons for cash drawings, 99-cent shrimp cocktails, two-bit coffees, deals on dining and gaming (show me a Lucky Buck that works!), and free cash to be picked up at hotel redemption centers. When he has enough to carry him through the weekend, he is a happy man.

He attends the free gaming classes offered by the casinos, and if there’s a discount on health club admission, he works out. Show him a \$1.99 dinner coupon and his heart races like the little ball on a roulette wheel, despite the fact that the coupon must be used be-

I have seen him walk past hundreds of slot machines, some with astounding payouts, and never drop so much as a nickel.

tween 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. I hate those deals. OK, sometimes I enjoy a late-night spread. What I really hate are the six blocks we have to hike early the next morning to find the 99-cent ham 'n' eggs.

Often, though, his coupon-mania works to my advantage. In the time it takes him to walk through the Lucky Forest at Fitzgeralds or visit the Welcome Center at Harolds Club I can usually locate a carousel sporting a shiny new Corvette and feed seven or eight pounds of quarters into it like a woman gone berserk.

Even when surrounded by slots, my husband displays nerves of steel. I have seen him walk past hundreds of slot machines, some with astounding payouts, and never drop so much as a nickel. I walk through a casino like a heat-seeking missile zeroing in on its target, which, unfortunately, usually turns out to be the mother of all underachieving slots.

Once I coerced him into going partners on a dollar machine—\$10 each and split the winnings. Since he rarely plays anything other than nickels and keno, this involved several hours of super-human persuasion.

"Hey," I goaded, "no guts, no glory."

"A fool and his money are soon parted," he countered, undoubtedly quoting an ancestor of his, but finally he agreed.

I selected a dollar machine with a payout the size of the national debt. Then I peeled his fingers back one by one and wrenched the coins from his trembling hands. In a little under four minutes we were flat broke.

He was stunned. Fortunately, before he could fold like a deck of cards, I grabbed his arm and headed for the All You Can Eat Buffet at Circus Circus. Armed with plates the size of satellite dishes, we waded through 40 or more selections, thus averting another crisis.

What fascinates me is that, despite his cautious gambling habits, he usually manages to win. He even takes his profits home. It's a noble but annoying habit. Last year he bought a gas barbe-

cue with his winnings. The year before, it was a Hoover upright. Then there were the 13-inch black-and-white television, the Peugeot bicycles (a very lucky year), the oak bathroom fixtures, the Cowtown boots, the retractable water hose for the RV, and more items than I can remember. He is obviously doing something right.

Yet, in many ways we both go home winners. He will have a bag laden with key rings, dice, pens, postcards, coffee mugs, a T-shirt, and a Harolds Club hat. In his billfold will be enough jackpot money to buy a new shop vac.

While he usually hits a home run, I seldom get to first base, but each year I go home with a stronger resolve. It's a simple matter of being between wins, and I know that ultimately Lady Luck will smile on me. One of these days a certified-loose slot machine will be playing my song and sending me home in a brand-new set of wheels. Boy, is that going to feel good. □

Diane Sims, a freelance writer from Albany, Oregon, says she is planning a special Reno trip with her husband, Lee, when this issue hits the newsstands.



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Natural Nuptials: Sylvia Kong and Raymond Yang of Santa Clara took the plunge at Lake Tahoe.

Wed and Wild

Valentine vows in Nevada are a cake walk—and anything goes.

BY RICHARD MORENO

The young couple stood nervously holding hands. The minister didn't have a Bible, so he held a tattered cookbook. The bride and groom didn't have rings, so they wrapped silver spoons around their fingers. The setting was Gold Canyon, near present-day Dayton. The year was 1853.

The unusual ceremony was Nevada's first reported wedding, according to the history books. It also was an auspicious start for what would become a symbol of Nevada's optimistic spirit—the marrying business. Each year more

than 100,000 couples are married in the state's churches, courthouses, and wedding chapels. February is an especially romantic time. In Las Vegas the greatest crush of brides and grooms takes place on Valentine's Day, when up to 800 couples heed Cupid's call. Valentine's is a major marrying day for Reno and Lake Tahoe, and President's Day weekend—the first three-day weekend after New Year's—also is a popular time to get hitched.

Since that first unique ceremony in Gold Canyon, Neva-



Auto Altar: A Little White Chapel introduced the drive-up method of marriage to Las Vegas.



Sign of the Chimes: Roberta Fuglsang and Lee Kaub of Montague, California, tied the knot in Reno and hit a keno ticket using their wedding date.



Icing: Hockey players Camie Finch and Todd Noll skated into wedlock during a ceremony before a Las Vegas Aces game at the Santa Fe Ice Arena.



King of Hearts: Elvis impersonator Norm Jones holds court at the Graceland Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas. Portraying the bride is Rebecca Garman, a teacher at K.O. Knudson Elementary School. Portraying the groom is C.J. Graham, who owns the gourmet coffee shop L A Espresso. He also played the masked stalker, Jason, in the sixth *Friday the 13th*.

da has been fairly laissez faire when it comes to wedding regulations. While other states fuss with waiting periods and blood tests, Nevada offers marriage on demand, with few restrictions.

Perhaps inspired by the original "cookbook" wedding, oddball nuptials in Nevada have become a source of pride for many couples. Some go to great lengths to find the most unique—you might even say weird—way to get married.

In 1982, a pair of window washers tied the knot while dangling outside the 15th floor of Reno's Sands Regency. Last November, two Southern Nevada hockey players, Todd Noll of the Las Vegas Aces and Camie Finch of the Lady Aces, skated into wedded bliss before an Aces game at the Santa Fe Ice Arena. The bride skated to "Here Comes the Bride" in a full-length gown; the groom wore hockey gear.

Wedding chapels are famous for skating on the edge when it comes to matrimonial innovations. At the Graceland Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas, named by a previous owner who went to school with Elvis Presley, couples can be married in an Elvis-theme ceremony for an extra \$100. The ceremony includes entertainment, of course, by an Elvis impersonator.

"We've had them dress up in jailbird outfits. We've had the groom and his best man dressed up as women. We've had a couple exchange their rings with their toes. In this busi-

ness, when you say you've seen it all, something new always comes up," says Norm Jones, general manager at Graceland. "We had a guy who wouldn't say 'I do' unless the bride would take off her bra in the middle of the ceremony."

She did.

On Halloween, Charlotte Richards, owner of five chapels in Las Vegas, married a couple dressed as gorillas ("the bride was the pink gorilla"). Richards also has married celebrities like Bruce Willis and Demi Moore ("it was total romance") and Mickey Rooney ("I married him four different times at four different locations").

Richards, who has been marrying people in Las Vegas for more than three decades, has probably pioneered more

I've done weddings before where the ex-boyfriend busted in and tried to break it up—I've had the father of the bride do that, too.'

unusual ways to be married than any other chapel owner in Nevada. She recently began offering helicopter nuptials. Now couples can be married in a whirlybird high above their favorite hotel on the Strip.

Three years ago Richards introduced the drive-up wedding to Las Vegas. It's somewhat like a visit to Burger King, except more romantic: The bride and groom drive up to a window and sit in the car while a minister leans out and recites the vows. A couple of "I do's" later, and the newlyweds are on their way.

George Flint, owner of Reno's Chapel of the Bells and a lobbyist for the wedding chapel industry, says most Nevada weddings are pretty normal affairs. Still, he's married couples in hot-air balloons, in the middle of the Truckee River, and in the labor room of the maternity ward at Washoe Medical Center.

"I've had everything possible happen to me during a ceremony except someone die," he says of his 32 years as a chapel minister. "I've done weddings where the ex-boyfriend busted in and tried to break it up—I've had the father of the bride do that, too. I've had artificial limbs fall off. I've had a bridesmaid lose her lunch."

During the past 20 years Gordon Gust, owner of the Candlelight Wedding Chapel and the Little Church of the West, both in Las Vegas, has married a host of celebrities such as Richard Gere and Cindy Crawford, but he says his strangest wedding experience was with a party of English gymnasts.

"The bride and bridesmaid were wearing pants-type outfits and did somersaults all the way down the aisle," he recalls. "Then they jumped in the air and landed in the arms of the groom and best man."

Despite such inspired antics at the altar, chapel owners often point out that most Nevada marriage ceremonies are quite traditional. Take the wedding music. The most re-



Wedding Wheels: Garrett Scheper and Cindy Swyt of Modesto, with their '41 Chevrolet, were wed during Hot August Nights in Reno.

quested music is "Here Comes the Bride" (from Wagner's "Bridal Chorus"), followed by the Carpenters' "We've Only Just Begun" and Elvis' "Hawaiian Wedding Song."

The typical wedding chapel is rather traditional—most look like churches. Many chapels have vaulted ceilings, white walls, wooden pews, stained-glass windows, and altars, but they lack distinctive denominational touches such as crucifixes or menorahs.

Wedding ceremonies in chapels can be equally generic, although the bride and groom are encouraged to personalize their vows, which sometimes leads to unique inquiries. "One question I'm frequently asked is, 'Do you have to put

State of Matrimony

By Kate Butler and Carolyn Graham

Nontraditional weddings are a tradition in the Silver State. Here's a sampling of offbeat marriage options in Nevada.

Falling for Love: This is the ultimate plunge—a bungee jump. A.J. Hackett Bungy of Las Vegas operates from an 18-story tower on the Strip next to Circus Circus. About 30 guests can assemble at the top and then, after the ceremony, watch the happy couple take a fall. Call A.J. Hackett Bungy, 702-385-4321.

Window of Opportunity: For couples on the go, A Little White Chapel on the Las Vegas Strip offers a drive-up wedding chapel. The bride and groom simply pull up to the window exchange vows, and fasten their seat belts for the ride ahead. Call 702-382-5943.

Weddings in the Woods: At Lake Tahoe a skiing minister will wed couples on cross-country or downhill trails. Outdoorsy types



Helicopter Vows: Charlotte Richards (right) married Charles Kerr and Helene Fortin in a flight over the Strip.

also can get married while mountain biking or scuba diving. Call the Dream-Maker in Incline Village at 702-831-6419.

Racing to the Chapel: If you're looking for a marriage of convenience in Reno, you and your betrothed can get a license at the Washoe County Courthouse and zip across Virginia Street to one of a half-dozen chapels in the neighborhood. The Riverside Crystal Bells Chapel also conducts weddings on the banks of the Truckee River.

Wedlock in Lovelock: Because of its name, Lovelock is a hot spot for wedlock. There's no chapel in town, but Justice of the Peace Gordon Richardson will marry couples in the Pershing County Courthouse, one of only two round courthouses still in use in the United States; call 702-273-2208. *Cheers* and *Frasier* star Kelsey Grammer and Leigh-Anne Csuahany were married in Lovelock in 1992.

A Whirly Gig: Las Vegas Helicopter, Inc. teams up with A Little White Chapel to offer weddings and vow renewals 500 feet above the lights of Las Vegas. The chopper chapel lifts off from a pad across from the

Nevada's popularity as a marriage mecca dates back to early in this century when California instituted its so-called "gin law."

"obey" in the ceremony?" laughs Charlotte Richards.

Many newlyweds from out of state ask whether a Nevada marriage license is legal in other states.

"What I always tell them," says Gordon Gust, "is, 'Yes, it is, and it will take a judge to get you out of it.'"

In 1992 more than 120,000 weddings were conducted in Nevada. Most took place in Las Vegas—about 79,000 last year. Reno and Lake Tahoe, with about 30,000 and 7,000 respectively, also are popular with wannabe newlyweds.

While Valentine's Day is the most popular day to be married in Nevada, particularly when it falls on a weekend, other dates stand out, too. President's Day weekend is big in the Reno-Tahoe area. A major day is New Year's Eve, which, besides being a holiday, offers tax advantages: You can deduct a spouse for the whole year even though you've been married less than a day.

Leaders of the wedding chapel industry estimate that 12 to 15 percent of Nevada's \$9-billion tourism economy can be linked to the marriage business. And contrary to Nevada's image as a divorce capital, last year there were nearly 10 times as many weddings (120,000) as divorces (13,100) in the state.

Because Nevada has no waiting period and doesn't require a blood test (in contrast to California, which generally requires both), it is one of the most popular places for weddings in the U.S. In the last census, Nevada ranked fifth in

(Continued on page 74)

A Wedding Primer

Getting married in Nevada is a cinch. There's no waiting period, no required blood test, and you can do just about anything during the ceremony. The basic steps:

- ♥ Go to a courthouse in one of Nevada's 17 counties. At Lake Tahoe you can go to county offices in Stateline and Incline Village.

- ♥ Provide proof that the bride and groom are at least 18 years old (or have parental consent if they are between 16 and 18). Driver's licenses are accepted as proof of age.

- ♥ Pay \$35 in cash for a license, except in Carson City, where the fee is \$40, and at Stateline, where it is \$42.

- ♥ Find a licensed minister, judge, or marriage commissioner.

- ♥ Provide witnesses, although you can rent them at many chapels.

- ♥ Promise to love and honor your betrothed until death do you part.

Some courthouses offer extended hours. In Las Vegas, the Clark County Courthouse is open from 8 a.m. to midnight Monday through Thursday and then continuously from 8 a.m. Friday to midnight Sunday. In Reno, the Washoe County Courthouse is open from 8 a.m. to midnight every day.

Prices at chapels range from basic packages for \$40 to \$50 (not including license cost) to elaborate ceremonies costing hundreds of dollars that include photographs, video, flowers, canned or live music, limousine service, and champagne.

Most Nevada chambers of commerce and visitor centers will mail wedding information, including the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, 711 East Desert Inn Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89109, 702-735-1616; the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority 4590 South Virginia St., Reno, NV 89502, 800-FOR-RENO; and the Tahoe-Douglas Chamber of Commerce, Box 7139, Stateline, NV 89449, 702-588-4591.

—Richard Moreno



Hitched: JoAnn Anderson and Bill Orcutt rode into wedlock at the Mount Charleston Lodge.

Aladdin Hotel and cruises over the Strip and Glitter Gulch. Call Las Vegas Helicopter, Inc., 702-736-0013.

Grape Expectations: You can tie the knot at the state's only winery, Pahrump Valley Vineyards, 65 miles west of Las Vegas. Rose bushes surround the garden gazebo, and birds sing from nearby branches. The bride and groom can request a private wine la-

bel that includes their wedding photo. Call 702-727-9600.

Love Boats, South: In Laughlin you can set a course for wedded bliss aboard the U.S.S. *Riverside* on the Colorado River. Call the Riverside Resort at 800-227-3849 or 702-298-2535. The *Desert Princess*, moored at Lake Mead Marina, 25 miles east of Las Vegas, also has matrimonial excursions; call 702-293-6180.

Love Boats, North: At Lake Tahoe the M.S. *Dixie II* (702-882-0786), *Tahoe Queen* (916-541-3364), and *Woodwind* trimaran (702-588-3000) offer wedding cruises.

Silver Bells: In Virginia City, where the historic mansions and gardens are naturals for nuptials, the chapel at the Silver Queen saloon-hotel is a unique spot. A wedding package with old-time photos, champagne, and wedding garter is \$95, and you can rent a Victorian wedding dress for \$20 extra. Call 702-847-0468.

Up, Up, and A-Wed: A wedding flight in a hot-air balloon lasts about an hour and offers great views. Call Nevada High, Inc. at 702-873-8393 in Las Vegas. In Minden-

Gardnerville, call Alpine Adventures Aloft at 702-782-7239 or Aerovision Balloons at 702-265-5177.

Snowy Ceremony: Northwest of Las Vegas, the Mount Charleston Restaurant and Lodge has sleighs to carry the couple and guests to a wooded area underneath Cathedral Rock. Horse-drawn wagons roll in the summertime. Call 702-386-6899.

A Capitol Affair: The hallowed halls and rose garden of the State Capitol in Carson City present a tranquil matrimonial setting. Interested couples can call the Nevada Department of Museums, which oversees weddings at the Capitol, at 702-687-4811.

The Love Train: You can start your marriage on the right track by exchanging vows aboard the Nevada Northern's Twilight Special in East Ely. The historic diesel train can carry up to 175 guests as it chugs through scenic Steptoe Valley. The depot is available for receptions; call 702-289-2085.

Kate Butler of Las Vegas is a contributing editor of Spectrum. Carolyn Graham is Nevada Magazine's associate editor.



As more snow fell in Reno in early 1907 (above), residents shivered and coal supplies ran low.

THE BIG WINTER

Nevada's amazing winter of 1906-07 produced prodigious snows, floods, and heroes.

BY MARK McLAUGHLIN

As storm after storm swept across Nevada in January 1907, two miners were trapped in an abandoned cabin where they had taken refuge from the snowy gales. Chris Jepperson and Jack Reynolds had floundered helplessly in 15-foot snowdrifts, and now they were stranded at the Winters Mine, located in the mountains east of Gardnerville.

Without food and feeling desperate, the men turned to their one possible savior—Jepperson's cocker spaniel. They tied a message around its neck, offered a few encouraging words, and forced the dog out into the drifts to die or reach

Gardnerville, about 20 miles away. Seven days later the heroic canine struggled into town, and then it wandered around for two more days before someone noticed the message and its plea for help.

To the rescue, three friends of the miners trailed the exhausted but loyal dog into the mountains. Arriving at the site on snowshoes, the rescuers dug down to the cabin and found Jepperson and Reynolds huddled together, emaciated and freezing, but still alive.

Like the two miners, Nevadans rarely suffered such hardship as they did in the winter of 1906-07. It was a remark-

able winter that produced more than its share of snow, rain, destruction, and heroism.

Bitter cold invaded the northern part of the state in November, and vicious blizzards weren't far behind. Rural towns braced for the cold while the brand-new community of Las Vegas saw its mild climate disrupted by rain and snow storms.

The Reno area took the brunt of the severe weather. Shivering residents ran out of wood and coal. Schools were closed, and train tracks were wrecked. A record 884 inches of snow—which is still a record—fell in the Sierra. Then

the snowpack melted in the warm rains of March, generating what the *Truckee Republican* called "the greatest flood ever witnessed."

The big winter was not entirely unexpected, for it had been predicted by weather prophets around the country. Many turn-of-the-century towns had weather prophets, old-timers who observed the growth of men's whiskers, the thickness of goose down, and other signs to forecast the weather.

To these wizened seers, the signs were unmistakable in the latter months of 1906. Farmers in Pennsylvania claimed their cornhusks were thick and stalks were leaning west. In West Virginia stories circulated of rabbits attacking moonshiners. Kansas prophets talked of prairie dogs migrating to Oklahoma. Even the staid *Los Angeles Times* reported that "horned toads may be heard gnashing their teeth in the treetops." Indeed, many Americans gnashed their teeth at the weather that winter, which was severe throughout the country.

The *Reno Evening Gazette* noted, "Prophets in various sections of the country and Nevada are foretelling a long, hard winter, beginning immediately after Thanksgiving." True to the prophets' predictions, cold air and heavy snow invaded the northern part of the state on November 21, 1906, the day before Thanksgiving.

As temperatures fell, the citizens of Western Nevada were forced to burn coal and wood around the clock, and fuel supplies dwindled rapidly. When Sierra blizzards blocked the commercial woodcutters' harvest, the winter began to look grim indeed.

Day after day, morning temperatures remained below zero. Near Lovelock, passengers on a west-bound Southern Pacific train urged train employees to light a coal stove in the chilly dining car at breakfast. An excess of pressure caused the iron stove to explode, striking passengers with pieces of red-hot metal and filling the car with gas and smoke.

Desperate for air, the panicked diners hurled their breakfast dishes through the windows as the train lurched to a stop. Dozens of people were hurt, including several women and children who were trampled in the stampede to escape. One man, badly burned, died 11 days later.

Two weeks after Thanksgiving, a tremendous storm snapped the power lines over the Sierra, plunging Reno, Carson City, and Virginia City into an



Long snowsheds protected tracks and enabled trains to cross the Sierra.

eerie darkness. Two seasoned Southern Pacific linemen, Peter Robinson and Fred Rogers, were ordered to find and repair the breaks in the mountains west of Reno near Donner Summit. They finished their task near dusk and prepared to ski down the mountain, but the sun had set, leaving a hard, icy crust on the snowpack. When Robinson began his descent, his long pole slipped from his grasp, and he soon was hurtling 60 miles per hour down the slope. Rogers sped recklessly after his friend. Nearing the bottom of the hill, both skiers aimed for a 20-foot-high snowdrift. The deep snow buried them completely but saved them from serious injury.

Two other men used skis to good advantage in the backcountry, according to newspaper accounts. Will Morton and L. Muran were caught by a sudden snowstorm on Peavine Mountain, west of Reno, so they sought shelter in a small cabin. Unwilling to stay and freeze to death, they ripped four boards from the cabin walls and whittled two pairs of skis with their penknives. Cutting strips of leather from their shoes, they cleverly fashioned bindings to buckle over their feet. Using long poles to steer and control their speed, they schussed over the

eight-foot snowpack, skiing 16 miles to safety in less than two hours.

The deep snow and miserable road conditions around Reno offered exactly the challenge that auto agent W.S. Everts desired. Everts, a representative of the National Motor Vehicle Company, journeyed up from San Francisco to prove the mettle of the company's new 60-horsepower, six-cylinder Model E touring car. Everts raced from Reno to Fallon through snow more than a foot deep. He made the 73-mile trip in about four hours, averaging nearly 20 miles per hour while proving that the car could, in fact, be driven on snowy roads.

Still, traveling conditions were difficult for most motorists. Bank cashier A.H. Smith and three companions were caught in a blizzard while driving a gold consignment from Manhattan to Tonopah,

a distance of 50 miles. They became stuck in snowdrifts, but Smith displayed great stamina and determination. He shouldered the \$20,000 in gold coins, broke trail, and led the others six miles to the safety of an abandoned cabin at Spanish Springs. The stranded travelers, and the gold, were rescued the next day.

In Tonopah, the lightweight boxing championship between Joe Gans and

Desperate for air,
the panicked diners
hurled their breakfast
dishes through the
windows as the train
lurched to a stop.

underdog "Kid" Herman was held despite a raging blizzard. Proclaimed the "First Fistic Battle in a Snow-storm," the prizefight was staged inside a huge tent. The canvas arena withstood the winds and snow, but zero-degree temperatures forced sportswriters to wear lambskin gloves while penning their stories. Several writers expected a first-round knockout and quick end to their chilly assignment, but the contest went to the eighth round before Gans knocked out the Kid.

Snowy weather continued in the northern part of the state throughout January, and nighttime temperatures stayed below zero for almost two weeks. The cold and lack of fuel closed the schools, forcing parents to keep their children home in bed, wrapped in quilts and blankets for warmth. Homeless refugees from San Francisco's earthquake of April 16, 1906, stood shivering around bonfires in Reno's frozen streets and alleys. H.M. Yerington, general manager of the Virginia and Truckee Railroad, called upon local men to dismantle the Union Bridge



Residents watched the flood-swollen Truckee River roar through downtown Reno in March 1907

in Virginia City for the 200 cords of wood it would produce.

Communities pleaded with Governor John Sparks for help. Sparks finally ordered emergency trainloads of coal to be sent from Southern Pacific's fuel depot in Oakland. When the first coal shipment arrived in Reno, the governor spent all night diverting the load to suffering towns around the state. Reno's two newspapers organized wood-relief efforts, and soon most residents were breathing easier.

As warm Pacific air moved into the region in February, the snowpack began to melt, transforming frozen roads into impassable avenues of mud. Intense rainstorms accelerated the melting. During the first four days of February, more than seven inches of rain soaked the Sierra's 20-foot snowpack. After 13 inches of rain hit the mountains in March, the Truckee, Carson, and Walker rivers reached record levels.

In Reno, crowds watched from the Virginia Street bridge as flood waters inundated the downtown district. Scores of small buildings were swept away, and the low-lying Chinatown neighborhood suffered extensive damage.

Twenty miles upriver, the Truckee rose eight feet in 12 hours at the Floriston spillway. The backed-up water eroded more than 200 yards of nearby track and shut down all rail traffic.

Truckee District Roadmaster Samuel Cupples was dispatched to the scene. He discovered that the Floriston Paper Company had neglected to open a vent

WINTER UNTRACKS LAS VEGAS

When a strong cold front blasted Las Vegas with snow for several hours on December 1, 1906, the young town's residents knew that winter had arrived. The storm blanketed the mountains in white, and horse-drawn stages arrived in town hours late, plastered with snow. Prospector Fred Pertris told the *Las Vegas Age* he had seen such a snow only two or three times in the past 40 years.

Las Vegas, founded as a railroad town only a year and a half before, was spared the brunt of the winter of 1906-07. After all, Las Vegas has a mild climate and seldom experiences even a dusting of snow. But rains drenched the valley that December, and soon citizens were weary of muddy streets and the cold, damp air.

The big blow came in February when floods washed out the tracks of the San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad in the Meadow Valley Wash between Moapa and Caliente, a disaster that isolated Las Vegas from points east. Then floods carried away large sections of track near Barstow, California, which cut off train traffic from the south.

As food became scarce, Las Vegans made the best of the situation. Enterprising farmers sold their old cows and oxen for meat. On March 7 the *Age* noted, "The last ham and eggs were eaten yesterday, and the chickens in town are hiding in the sage brush."

Shortages affected even the saloons, which ran out of



A railroad car served as the Las Vegas depot in 1905, two years before floods isolated the town.

beer. Fortunately there was plenty of locally distilled whiskey available in the valley.

The SPLA&SL dispatched repair trains packed with hundreds of crewmen to fix the ruined tracks. It was a dangerous project: An engineer, a crew member, and four repair workers died in accidents. Heavy rains in the third week of March caused even more flooding and destruction.

The line reopened at last on April 12. When more than 1,400 freight cars, backed up by the long delay, rumbled into the Las Vegas shipping yards that week, residents cheered the end of their isolation. The sun and beer had finally arrived. —Mark McLaughlin

The raging
Carson and Walker
rivers washed out
every bridge between
Gardnerville and the
Carson Sink.

in its hydroelectric dam, creating the dangerous backup. At that point the only solution was to dynamite the dam, so Cupples and his crew rushed explosives to the site, intent on blowing it up. The mill's superintendent, Mr. Russell, confronted them with a loaded shotgun, but Cupples and his men subdued the obstinate Russell, exploded the charges, and breached the dam.

Seconds after the explosion a wall of water and debris swept down the Truckee River Canyon. The mighty surge ripped out water and gas lines and swept bridges away. Whole houses tumbled to destruction as they were caught in the rampage.

In Reno, on his way to work, District Attorney Thomas F. Moran observed a small cabin bobbing down the river. His surprise turned to horror when he saw a man standing helplessly in the doorway of the half-submerged house. Moran recalled the pitiful sight in an interview published in a special "Flood Edition" of the *Reno Evening Gazette*: "He seemed to think the cabin could pass under the bridge, for he did not leap. However, the cabin struck the bridge and was dashed to pieces. I saw nothing more of the man. the water was so swift he could not swim ashore."

In Western Nevada the rising water covered thousands of acres of prime ranch land to a depth of six feet. The Carson Valley was transformed into a lake, and the bodies of drowned cattle, dogs, and horses floated over the countryside. The raging Carson and Walker rivers washed out every bridge between Gardnerville and the Carson Sink.

The water slowly receded as Nevadans embraced the arrival of spring. The winter of 1906-07 would prove to be one of the toughest on record, resulting in human hardship to rival the epic winters of 1889-90 and 1951-52.

Precipitation across the state was well above normal that winter, and Reno's 11.27 inches of water was nearly 175 percent of normal. The 884 inches of

snow that fell at Tamarack, located south of Lake Tahoe at 8,000 feet, remains a California record for seasonal snowfall. The water level in Lake Tahoe reached 6,231 feet in elevation—eight feet over the lake's normal maximum and still the highest level on the books since record-keeping began in 1888. The climatic drama served to remind Nevadans who live in snow country that behind every glorious summer lurks a determined Old Man Winter.

While the determined winter of 1906-07 caused its share of hardship, it also presented many moments of triumph—

or, in the case of rancher John Kleppe, relief. During the spring floods Kleppe had to evacuate his ranch near Reno, and a few days later he returned at the helm of a small wooden raft. Kleppe paddled into his flooded house, searching for his prized hunting dog. He found the dog hungry but happy, relaxing on the family piano as it floated in the living room. □

Mark McLaughlin of North Lake Tahoe is a university lecturer and freelance writer. He is writing a book on the weather history of the Sierra Nevada.

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Outfoxed

A gray fox retreats up a cottonwood near Lake Mead after a narrow escape from a coyote. The coyote is a fox's worst enemy in the desert, and both animals are common in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. "The gray fox is a good tree climber. He'll do it pretty regularly," says San Stiver with the Nevada Department of Wildlife. "He has long, sharp claws and can climb a tree just like a cat." Boulder City photographer Bob McKeever captured this image near Boulder Beach. □



Great deals: Binion's million-dollar photo, the Rio's Carnival World (top), and the Cal-Neva's 99-cent breakfast (bottom right) are some of the bargains recommended by Las Vegas and Reno experts.

Bargain City

These Las Vegas deals have passed the test of time.

By Anthony Curtis

Western civilization appears in its most concentrated form in Las Vegas—an orgy of buildings, arches, fountains, statues, and ads, striking the eye with the abandon and wanton nature of the merry-making going on there. All this rolls before your eyes in a searing ball of fire, 24 hours a day.

—Pravda, Moscow

EXACTLY! I've been trying to convey this point for years. Rest assured, the forces that make America great are alive and well in Las Vegas. Competition, the free market, supply and demand—we've got it all, and that's good.

But there's a flip side. In the great American tradition, you are bombarded with ads and come-ons from the moment you step off the plane or wheel your car within 100 miles of the Las

Vegas city limits. The resultant sensory overload can leave you lost. You need direction.

Following is your bargain map. These are the tried and true values—the deals that have passed the test of time and have played their part in establishing the Las Vegas value standard. No doubt, you'll discover great deals of your own, but in the meantime here are the reigning best values in Bargain City.

Best Las Vegas Bargain: New York Steak Dinner, \$2, Binion's Horseshoe. A 10-ounce New York steak, big baked potato, salad, and roll served 10 p.m. to 5:45 a.m., 365 days a year. Any way you cut it, this is the greatest Las Vegas value of the decade. Longer, really. It was the meal that everyone talked about when I first came to Las Vegas in 1979, and it's the one they still talk about today. The magic, of course, is the \$2 tab. The price was

raised to \$3 in mid-1983, then rolled back to \$2 in '85. In '87, it was again raised to \$3 and rolled back one year later, where it has remained ever since.

Best Loss Leader: Free Money, Four Queens. What a concept. You go to a casino, and it gives you money! The Four Queens is famous for dispensing special non-negotiable tokens that play like real coins in slot and video poker machines. Not promotional machines with reduced return percentages, but the best-paying machines in the casino. You can get free money by subscribing to certain periodicals (like the *Las Vegas Advisor* or *Casino Player*), by picking up vouchers at tourist centers in Barstow, by buying a prime-rib dinner in the Queens' coffee shop, and by getting your name on lists at the Four Queens.

Best Breakfast: Old Guard: Binion's Natural, \$2.50, Binion's Horseshoe. New

Guard: Steak and Eggs, \$2.99, Rio. Although scores of others have come and gone, the Natural has held the title of Las Vegas' Best Breakfast the longest. Two eggs, a piece of ham that covers the entire plate, sliced potatoes (not hash browns), toast, and the best coffee and service in town. Quality, quality, quality. The Rio is the most recent (and most serious) challenger for the title with its big T-bone steak, two eggs, hash browns, and toast. Quantity, quantity, quantity.

Best Buffet: Carnival World, \$3.25-\$7.25, Rio. The Feast, \$3.95-\$7.95, Palace Station. These two stand together atop

the Las Vegas buffet hierarchy. The Rio's Carnival World is an incredible spectacle, a mini food city with fare ranging from cherry fritters for breakfast to a Mongolian barbecue for dinner. Palace Station's Feast is the innovative, working-man's buffet, where hamburgers and pizza coexist alongside quiche and Szechwan eggplant.

Best Place to Drink: Nostalgic: Binion's Horseshoe. Classy: Golden Nugget. Cheap: Vacation Village. Friendly: Palace Station.

Every visitor should grab at least one beer at one of the Horseshoe's three long wooden bars to get a feeling for the way

Get your picture taken
at the Horseshoe in front
of 100 \$10,000 bills,
the coolest mil you'll ever be
photographed in front of.

it was in the old Las Vegas. Then walk across the street for the best of the new—the Golden Nugget's drinks at all bars for \$1.25. You won't find cocktails or beer for 10 bits at any other four-star four-diamond hotel in the world. Vacation Village is Las Vegas' lone throwback to the quarter-beer days of the '80s. Put a buck on the bar and relax. Palace Station is the favorite hangout for locals and after-shift casino workers, due in no small part to the best 99-cent margarita special in the city's history.

Best Meal: King Crab Leg Dinner, \$10.95, Palace Station. No doubt: No contest. If you eat only one dinner in Las Vegas, this should be it. A full pound of king crab legs worthy of any seafood gourmet house. Combine the crab legs with the Palace Station's 24-hour margarita for a cyclopean-cracked-crustacean-and-tequila combo.

Best Place For Dinner: Pasta Pirate, California Hotel. Of the 200-plus casino restaurants in Las Vegas, this one will satisfy more people than any other. First, the restaurant has three specialties—seafood, steaks, and pasta—so most culinary tastes are covered. Second, the room is upscale, but you can dine in casual dress—so most aesthetic and fashion senses are appeased. Third, prices are great—so everyone else will be happy. The Pasta Pirate is home to one of Las Vegas' best and most consistent on-going steak dinners, a fantastic filet mignon for only \$9.95.

Best Way to Remember the Best Vacation On Earth: Free Photo, Binion's Horseshoe. Take your entire group to the Horseshoe between 4 p.m. and midnight and get your picture taken in front of 100 \$10,000 bills. That's a million dollars, the coolest mil you'll ever be photographed in front of.

Best Story to Tell: 59-cent Dinner at Boardwalk. It's a dark and stormy night in the summer of 1993. Two high rollers stroll into a Las Vegas Strip casino for dinner. One orders baked chicken, which comes with a side of spaghetti, two pieces of garlic bread, and a cup of red, white, or rosé wine. The other or-

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ders roast beef, which comes with mashed potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables, dinner roll, and wine. It's not fancy by any means—the dinners are served on styrofoam plates and the drinks in plastic cups. But the food is good and the plates are sooo full that one has a hard time finishing. Then the bill comes: \$1.27! They fight like animals for the check. The end.

The Boardwalk's 59-cent dinners (which reportedly will be 29 cents this winter) rotate on and off, and may not be available in the future. But don't worry. There'll be some other incredible special at another Las Vegas casino. It was upon such deals that the Bargain City legend was built. And that's no fairy tale.

Anthony Curtis is the publisher of the Las Vegas Advisor newsletter. The preceding is an excerpt from his book Bargain City: Booking, Betting, and Beating the New Las Vegas, published last summer and based on his investigations for the Las Vegas Advisor. The 240-page, softcover Bargain City is \$11.95 in bookstores and \$13.45 (\$15.45 for first-class postage) through the publisher, Huntington Press, 5280 S. Valley View Blvd., Suite B, Las Vegas, NV 89118.

Laughlin Bargains

THE RIVER town of Laughlin was built on bargains. Following are a few examples of the deals you'll find on Casino Drive.

Buffet Capital: The dining deals are everywhere. Try both buffets and regular menus at the Laughlin 10: The Colorado Belle, Edgewater, Flamingo Hilton Laughlin, Gold River, Golden Nugget Laughlin, Harrah's Laughlin, Pioneer, Ramada Express, Regency, and Riverside.

Wonder Wiener: Colorado Belle regulars recommend the club's 99-cent quarter-pound hot dog. The fabulous frank can be found at the casino hot-dog cart and at Huckleberry's on D deck.

Free Poker: On Sunday and Thursday afternoons the Gold River hosts video poker tournaments with no entry fee. First prize is \$400 and a stylish Gold River satin jacket.

Film Capital: It's movie heaven on the second floor of the Riverside Resort, where the three screens of the Riverside Cinema show first-run movies from 8:45 a.m. to midnight. Admission



Laughlin visitors relish the deals at buffets like the Riverside's (above).

is just \$4 for adults (on weekdays, \$3 before noon) and \$3 for children 12 and under. The concession has what the hotel proudly calls "the only full-service bar in a movie house in the nation."

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simply want to rest your feet, you can ride *The Gambler*, a human-scale train that chugs between the casino and parking lot at the Ramada Express.

Prime Time: Coupon clippers can score two prime-rib dinners for \$7.95 at the Golden Nugget Laughlin. The first dinner in the River Cafe is \$6.95, and with a coupon you get the second for only a buck. —David Moore

Rural Bargains

NEVADA'S rural clubs have inexpensive food and low room rates. Locals' specials also mean good deals for visitors. A couple of examples:

Jumpin' Java: Travelers on Interstate 80 will find a sweet-smelling deal at Stinker Station in Wells. The coffee there—honest—is free.

Breakfast Under a Buck: Nevada Crossing in Wendover has a good breakfast special: scrambled eggs with melted cheese, hash browns, and toast for 95 cents. The special runs 24 hours a day.

Silver Steak Special: Tonopah's Station House has something to sink your teeth into: a 12-ounce top sirloin steak dinner for \$5.95 from 5 to 11 p.m. daily.



The Eldorado's early special includes a lavish salad bar

Reno Bargains

By Deke Castleman

BARGAINS abound in Reno-area casinos, and they could get even better as the National Bowling Stadium, the Project C megaresort, and hotel expansions move toward completion. Here are some notable deals.

Sports Special: Downtown, the Sports Deli at the Club Cal-Neva offers a big

eight-ounce prime rib with all the trimmings for a mere \$3.95 at the venerable little Nugget (not to be confused with John Ascuaga's venerable *big* Nugget in Sparks). And, of course, the Circus Circus dinner buffet is four bucks.

Landmark Breakfasts: The granddad of Reno's bargain breakfasts is the 99-cent bacon-and-eggs special served 24 hours a day in the Top Deck restaurant at the Cal-Neva. More than a million of these breakfasts are served annually—that's about 3,000 a day. Both the Pep-

hot dog and bottle of Heineken for \$1.50. The club claims to sell more Heineken than any other single location west of the Mississippi.

Meal Deals: The Sun-downer has a filling \$1.99 spaghetti special in the coffee shop 24 hours a day. For lunch, Baldini's in Sparks serves a meaty sandwich and beer or large soft drink for \$2.29. Reno's Pioneer grills a graveyard \$2.89 steak-and-eggs from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. All day Wednesday you can enjoy an

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If you're hankerin' for a dinner-show combo, John Ascuaga's Steppin' Out package is a good bet, with dinner in the steak house and a seat in the Celebrity Showroom.

permill and Eldorado charge a low, low \$2.99 for their big breakfast buffets.

Early-Dinner Deals: Western Village in eastern Sparks has a \$7.95 steak-or-prime-rib deal in the Steak House between 5 and 7 nightly. During the same hours, the Peppermill's Le Moulin, one of the finest rooms in town, offers prime rib and a six-ounce lobster tail for \$10.95. But the best early-bird bargains can be found between 5 and 6:30 p.m. at the Grill and Rotisserie at the Eldorado: For \$8.99 you have your choice of a 10-ounce prime rib, or spit-roasted pork loin, leg of lamb, or half a chicken. It comes with one trip to a giant salad bar (which costs \$8.50 by itself and is worth it).

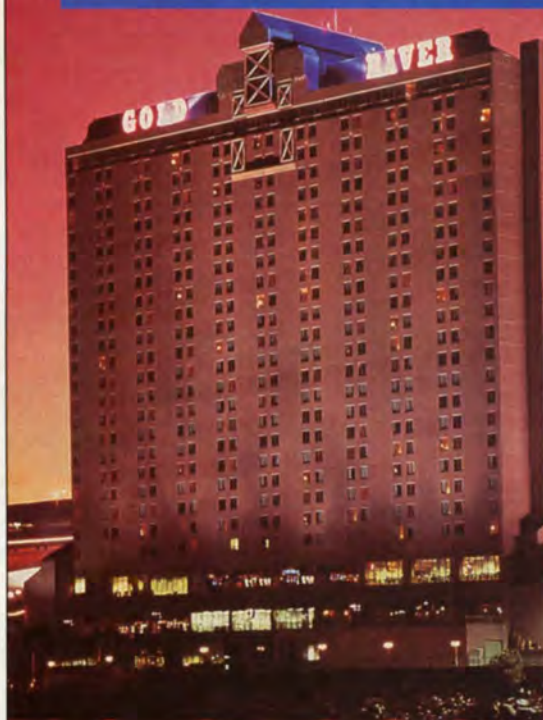
Night Out: If you're hankerin' for a dinner-show combo, John Ascuaga's Steppin' Out package is unbeatable in the Reno area. For \$21.95 (includes tax) you get dinner in the Nugget's excellent steak house and a seat (plus two drinks) in the Celebrity Showroom. Enjoy an early dinner before the 7:30 p.m. performance, and then ask the maitre d' if you can return after the show for your baked Alaska and coffee.

Free Show: The new American Bandstand nightclub on the second floor of Harolds Club has happy hour from 5 to 8 p.m. on Fridays with no cover. Gracing the walls are hundreds of rock 'n' roll tour posters, concert programs, and stars' instruments from Dick Clark's personal collection.

Low Rolling: Reno was once the \$1 blackjack capital, but only the Cal-Neva and the Nevada Club now offer this minimum, along with plenty of \$2 games. The Cal-Neva also deals dime roulette with a single zero and quarter craps. The Nevada Club and Old Reno both have penny slots. Old Reno's penny jackpot is \$25,000. □

Deke Castleman of Sparks is author of the Nevada Handbook and the Las Vegas guide. He also works with Anthony Curtis on the Las Vegas Advisor, where he is managing editor

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Elko Goes Downhill

The year-old SnoBowl is a down-home ski area.

By Lin Anderson

Until last winter, if you wanted to go downhill skiing in the Elko area, you had two choices. You could chopper into the pristine slopes of the Ruby Mountains and ride the wild snow. Or you could take a four-wheeler into the foothills to ski a sagebrush-mottled slope. Then, of course, you had to hike back to your starting point, the kind of trek loved by the producers of *Rescue 911*.

Faced with those alternatives, most Elko skiers opted for out-of-town resorts, stuck to cross-country, or just rented a lot of Warren Miller videos—all the time wishing for a down-home downhill ski area they could call their own.

The community's hankering to ski snowballed, and a new ski area was born last year. The dream-child of local ski enthusiasts, Elko SnoBowl—comprised of two mountain peaks in the Adobe Range that gently slope into a natural, bowl-shaped valley—is one of Nevada's most unique community projects: a private, non-profit ski area developed and maintained by volunteers and bankrolled by donations.

While the World Cup likely won't be calling for some time, SnoBowl's rope tows—a throwback to skiing's humble beginnings—dutifully haul skiers to the top to schuss its 100 acres. There is no ski lodge yet, and the setting is high-desert snow-covered hills in the middle of nowhere. Snowboarders are welcome alongside skiers. Aiming to please all snow lovers, SnoBowl provides a separate area for tobogganers, tubers, and cardboard-boxers.

"Last year was



SnoBowl volunteer Wes Walker (left) mans the cash box as Samala Singer and Daniel Warbrick line up.

fabulous," says Charlie Chester, chairman of the SnoBowl project. "But it's going to be better this year. We've removed a lot more rocks and sagebrush, and the slopes are all groomed." Chester adds that the road to SnoBowl has been

improved with volunteer help, much of it from local mines, construction outfits, and the phone company.

The SnoBowl champion—who is seldom seen around town in anything but a pair of overalls with a million pens in the breast pockets—has operated Charles Chester Plumbing and Heating for decades in Elko, and he's had the ski-resort bug just about as long. But was the bespectacled Chester among the first to schuss SnoBowl when it opened this season?

"Oh, no," he laughs. "I don't ski at all. Maybe the bunny hill once in a while. I'm just doing this to give something back to the community. It's been awfully nice to me."

It's not just Elkoans like Charlie Chester who have gotten the SnoBowl spirit. Some major ski areas have, too.

"I wrote letters to the owners of the big Utah ski resorts asking for donations," says Glen Guttry, another SnoBowl organizer. The owner of Elko's Good Morning Furniture, Guttry says he told the resort owners that by helping

SnoBowl, they would be helping themselves.

"Kids around Elko have never had a place to learn to ski," says Guttry. "I made the point that a ski area here would develop skiers who might get tired of a little mountain after a while and want to try their areas."

The approach worked. Utah's Solitude sent 300 pairs of skis for rentals. The Deer Valley resort near Park City, Utah, donated teal-green uniforms for SnoBowl personnel.

A recent acquisi-



Where to Schuss

For a complete listing of the state's ski resorts, see page E-22 in this issue's Nevada Events.

Skiers naturally gravitate to the renowned slopes of the **Tahoe Basin** and the 15 downhill resorts in the area. Call 900-776-5050 (\$1 per minute) for current ski conditions.

Lee Canyon Ski Area is 47 miles northwest of Las Vegas. Call 702-646-0008.

Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski, headquartered in Lamoille, 20 miles south of Elko, lifts skiers into the Ruby Mountains. Call 702-753-6867

tion was a rope tow, a gift from the sprawling Alta ski resort in Utah. The tow will join two existing rope tows donated by local businessman John Lostra and members of the Elko Ski Club—which is going great guns now that there's a place to ski.

A rope tow, for the uninitiated, is a motorized pulley system that yanks skiers from the bottom of the hill to the top. You grab the rope and get set for the kind of cheap thrill enjoyed by youngsters who grab onto car bumpers and skid down snowy streets. Except in this case you're skidding uphill, and there's the matter of keeping your skis straight.

Fundraising for SnoBowl has had a distinct small-town air about it. In November, residents carboled at a big benefit spaghetti feed. On February 5 SnoBowl will host the annual Elko Canoe Races, during which all manner of

normally aquatic conveyances will race down the slopes. The Canoe Races probably will make a lot of money because Elkoans like nothing better than using objects in a manner inconsistent with their manufacture.

While some aficionados may argue that a rope tow allows two



Daniel Warbrick rides up the hill the old-fashioned way.

runs—uphill and downhill—for the price of one, the system is not precisely the height of comfort. SnoBowl supporters are now raising funds to acquire a double-chair lift, with everyone from grocery stores to the Chamber of Commerce backing the drive.

"We're real hot on a chair lift from the Caribou resort in Idaho," Guttry says, noting that resort has been shut down since 1985, a victim of the region's years of drought. "It's the perfect size for us. It's rough-looking, but all it really needs is a little paint and some tender loving care."

Guttry says organizers hope to have the double chair in place at SnoBowl by the 1995 ski season. "Once we get a chair lift up there," Guttry says, "people are going to look at it and say, 'Hey, they weren't kidding!'" □

Lin Anderson, a newsman with KELK Radio in Elko, calls the bunny slopes of Elko's SnoBowl home.

Let It Sno: Ski Scene at SnoBowl

The Elko SnoBowl's second season is tentatively scheduled to last from December 24 till March 31. Lift—or rather, rope tow—tickets are \$6 per person, \$100 for a season pass, and \$175 for a family ski season.

SnoBowl has a top elevation of 7,000 feet and a vertical drop of 620 feet. It has 100 acres of open-bowl skiing for all skill levels, and a sledding area, too. Ski rentals are available at P-M Supply

and Cedar Creek Clothing in downtown Elko. Free ski lessons are offered by volunteers on selected weekends. For more information (or to make a donation) call Charlie Chester at 702-738-6125.

From Elko, SnoBowl is reached by taking Fifth Street north for 6½ miles. The road is good, but snow tires, chains, or four-wheel-drive often are required during bad weather.—Lin Anderson

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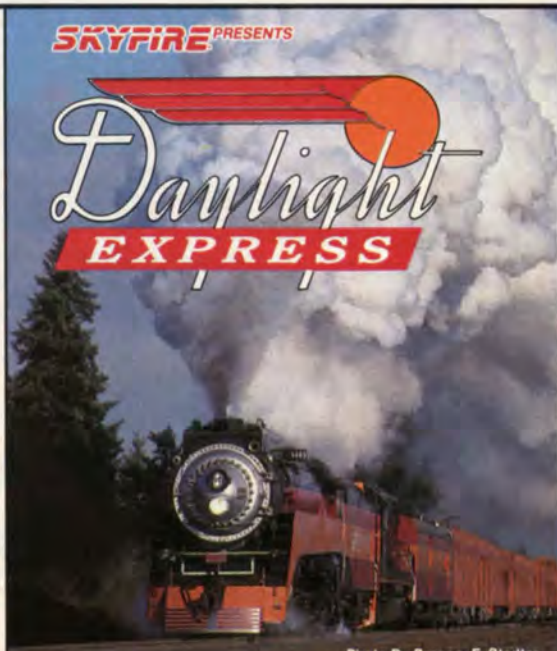


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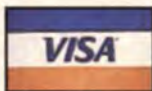
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Greeting Lenny are (from left) Valerie Thomas, Karen Sarret, Phyllis Barber, Cheryl Henry, Joan Fisher, Mary Lynn Ashworth, along with Edwin Adamson of the symphony society (left) and Mayor Oran Gragson.



The author takes an official's desk as a Nevada representative to Girls' Nation.

Lenny and the Rhythmette

When Leonard Bernstein played Las Vegas,
the Rhythmettes and I were there to greet him.

BY PHYLLIS BARBER

I watched the New York Philharmonic as they gathered on the makeshift platform. Some of the musicians looked as if they could use a transfusion. They'd probably been out all night gambling and who knows what else. After all, they were in Las Vegas.

Even though I was disillusioned from my encounter with Lenny the night before, I was excited for his baton to start the music that was supposed to be purer than anything I'd ever heard. I sat with the Young Friends of the Symphony in the balcony tier of the convention center's round auditorium dressed in white gloves and a black velvet frock. We sat behind the orchestra, face to face with Leonard Bernstein, rubbernecking to get a good look at this God of the East and All Things Musical.

"Lenny's such a man," Mrs. Dickinson had told us the week before at the Young Friends of the Symphony meeting held in her living room. "He's such a lion," she added, almost growling as she spoke. She was the choral director at Las Vegas High School and the driving force behind the Young Friends.

"We've pulled off the greatest coup this side of the Mississippi!" She was backlit by an oriental lamp with a gathered fabric shade and was almost dancing in front of us 30 some high school students recruited from the marching band, orchestra, and choir at Las Vegas High School. We'd been promised an A for the term if we joined up. Not a bad deal, especially if we'd be cleansed of our cultural impurities as the choir director, Mrs. Dickinson, said we would.

The conductor, who had walked past

me like a specter the night before, lifted his baton higher, but neither the noise nor the light in the convention hall was dying out. People were pointing, laughing, and turning every which way in their folding chairs. I imagined the audience had imprisoned the New York Philharmonic and herded them into the center of this Roman coliseum to play for their lives. For a minute, they seemed bigger lions than Lenny, waiting to devour him and the orchestra. They were dressed in everything from net shawls and red tuxedos to bell-bottoms with fringe sewn down the sides, bolo ties, leather vests, a few cowboy hats, peacock feathers poked in stiffly sprayed bouffants.

I had a good view of the tense muscles in his cheeks, the raptor eyes glowing as the raised baton failed to hush

"He's really handsome," I said. I imagined myself walking down the stairs with Lenny, my white glove over his tan hand.

the unruly crowd. None of the woodwind players, string players, or percussionists were moving a muscle, totally attentive to their leader, but the audience wasn't following suit.

He lifted the baton even higher, trying to stand taller in his shiny patent-leather shoes, trying to subdue Las Vegas, if not with the tapered baton, then with the force of his imperial self.

The Young Friends of the Symphony had been trained when and when not to clap; we'd been taught to say "Bravo" if we especially liked the performance (though we all said "Brave-O" at the meeting to scare Mrs. Dickinson). We were all trying hard to sit at attention on the turquoise-colored cushions, our hands folded in our velvety laps, our attention riveted on the conductor. I was trying not to feel superior to those who didn't know symphony etiquette or to the technicians who'd left the overhead lights shining brilliantly on the conductor and his orchestra. This was the basketball crowd, after all.

A week before the concert, I heard Mrs. Dickinson talking to Miss Stuckey, in the Rhythmette office.

"Could you send at least 10 of your girls," Mrs. Dickinson was asking, "to greet the maestro when he arrives this Sunday, eight thirty p.m., special charter, Trans World Airlines?"

Miss Stuckey had often received similar requests. Even Ed Sullivan telephoned her when he heard about Las Vegas' wholesome honor students and real live girls, who actually danced together in the windblown valley.

"I need 10 Rhythmettes to go to McCarran and greet Leonard Bernstein's airplane on Sunday night," Miss Stuckey announced at our Monday morning rehearsal. The early morning light reflected on the sheen of the waxed gymnasium floor, setting the stage for the shadows that would play on the wood throughout the day. Some of the high windows were effervescing with the



The Rhythmettes pose at Las Vegas High. The author is second from right, second row.

glare of the rising sun. Miss Stuckey shaded her eyes.

"Who's Leonard Bernstein?" one of the junior girls asked.

"The director of a famous orchestra," Miss Stuckey said.

"He's really handsome," I said, having seen his picture in the Sunday paper and having heard Mrs. Dickinson describe his silvering hair, his fierce eyes, the way he *was* music, the fire, the soul, the passion of music. I imagined myself walking down the airplane stairs with Lenny, my white glove over his tan hand. I had olive skin, too.

"I'll go," I raised my hand.

"I thought I'd ask you anyway, Phyllis," said Miss Stuckey. "Since you're a concert pianist."

Miss Stuckey had called me a concert pianist ever since she heard me play "Malagueña" with the jazz band drummer, Charley Steele, at the high school talent show. I'd pounded out massive chords of Spanish passion on the school's Steinway to make students sit up and pay attention, but I knew I was a slight fraud. "Malagueña" was really a showboat piece, a fake classic. I was tired, however, of being earnest and unnoticed.

"Girls, remember," Miss Stuckey said as she half-sat on the drab gray, school issue table next to the record player and stack of Rhythmette records. "The Clark County Sheriff's Mounted Posse and Mayor Gragson will be there, but you

are the real representatives of Las Vegas. Most out-of-state people have no idea there are *real people* here. Show those New Yorkers that we're not just specks of dust or whistle-stop creatures little better than the lizards. Do us proud!"

On Sunday evening, I polished my boots, dusted off my black hat, and dressed in my Rhythmette outfit—a one-piece coral jumpsuit with fringe dangling from the yoke and the bottom of the short shorts. I checked myself in the mirror. My long black hair curled under in the official Rhythmette page-boy; my lips were outlined with the patient strokes of a lipstick liner; my eyelashes stood straight up after I'd curled them with my eyelash curler. I powdered my already oily nose, though I'd just washed my face. Anxiety, maybe.

Karen honked the horn of her large-finned Chevrolet at 6:45, and we drove to Sill's Drive-Inn for a cherry lime rickety. I fished for the maraschino cherry until my fingers were numb from the ice. It evaded me, clinging to the very bottom of the glass.

"I wish we didn't have to do this," Karen said. "I've got tons of homework."

"I do, too," I said, "but this is the New York Philharmonic. Who could pass up the opportunity?"

"What do you know about them that you didn't know before five days ago?" She made a loud sucking noise with her straw.

"Everybody's heard of the New

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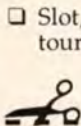
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RENO, NEVADA

We picked up three other Rhythmettes and drove out to McCarran Airport—a long, low, sleepy adobe building.

York Philharmonic."

"Sure, Phyllis. What do you know about them besides their name?"

I dug deeper into my crushed ice, almost grasping the cherry, but not quite, having to eat more ice before I could.

"That they're an orchestra from New York. What's wrong with that?"

"You're acting different, that's all."

"Maybe I am different. Maybe I'm more like the people in this philharmonic than I am like a Rhythmette. Maybe I want to be music. Maybe I want to go somewhere besides Sill's Drive-Inn. You know?"

"Hurry up and finish. We're almost late."

We picked up three other Rhythmettes, Nancy, Cheryl, and Valerie, Cheryl wearing too much perfume, and drove out to McCarran Airport—a long, low, sleepy adobe building. The parking lot was full for a Sunday night as the five of us marched in step and tossed a few high kicks to the muscular clouds wallpapering the sky. We said "hi" to the two skyscapes who saluted us back.

"You girls with the Rhythmettes?" one of them asked, the gold on his front tooth reflecting spokes of light as he talked. "I see you in the paper time to time."

"Yes," Karen answered, but then we heard a plane descending on the airport runway. "We've got business with that plane right there."

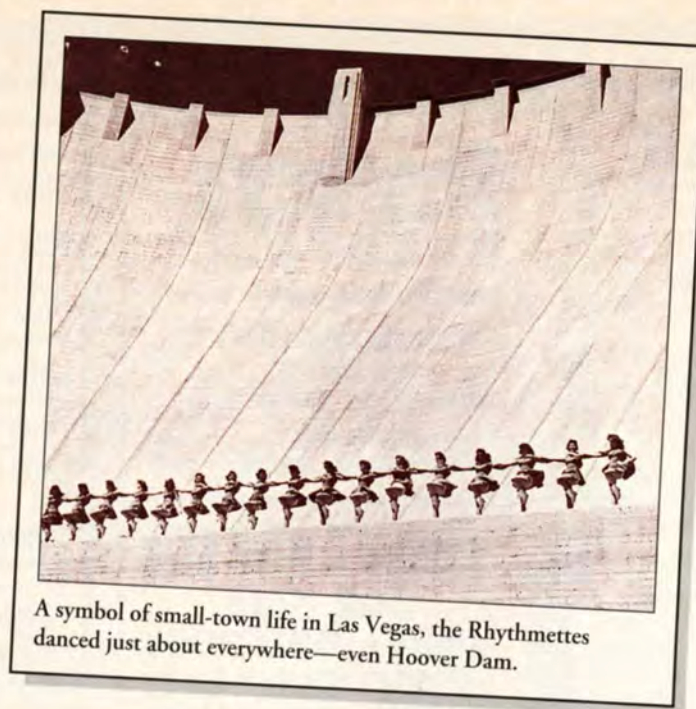
The five of us ran through the almost empty lobby and through the French doors to find the other Rhythmettes and watch the plane taxi in. We shouldered through the crowd, saying "Excuse me," and stood behind a man in a dark blue shirt and pants holding his arms high in the air, narrowing them to parallel as the plane closed in. Then a crew of two wheeled a stair ramp tight against the cabin.

All day, I'd thought about how I'd posture myself next to the conductor. Casual? Dramatic? My leg almost touch-

ing his on the stairs? Me waving to the crowd as if I'd just flown in myself. But there wasn't much of a crowd.

We watched the silver door swing open against the side of the silver plane which was silhouetted against the melodramatic sky. Great mounding clouds glowed an end-of-the-day rose as the stewardess appeared in her red lipstick, pillbox hat, tailored suit, and white gloves. She motioned the mayor, who held the key to the city, the president of the Las Vegas Symphony Society, and the 10 Rhythmettes up the stairs. As we climbed, I strained for a glimpse of the conductor's black hair streaked with premature gray and his sharkskin gray suit with the black knit tie.

Then he appeared. He was framed by the arch of the airplane door. The Embodiment of Music. My heart riddled my chest as he lifted both arms above his head and made two Vs with his fingers. I watched his beautiful teeth emerge in a smile for the photographers.



A symbol of small-town life in Las Vegas, the Rhythmettes danced just about everywhere—even Hoover Dam.

I looked at his deep olive skin, the powerful lines in his face, the intensity of his expression. And for a moment, I stood in a faraway field of green and yellow—me at one end, Lenny at the other—and both of us lifted our arms and ran through anemones and dandelions

me, but he seemed distracted, other things on his mind. Maybe music filled every fold in his brain so he couldn't see me standing there.

One step below me he accepted the key to Las Vegas; one step below me he paused for photographers. The mayor,

until we stood toe to toe gazing into each other's eyes. I imagined him stroking my hand and saying it was an artist's hand, and that he wanted me to play "Malagueña" with the New York Philharmonic. He'd talk to the percussion section right away. We'd have castanets, maracas, the tapping tips of the snare drummer's sticks for accompaniment. And then I returned to the warm Las Vegas evening, feeling more alone than before, looking up at The Lion as the hot wind swirled the tips of my hair.

He descended the first three stairs in an aureole of light—the setting sun burnishing him with magnificence, even holiness. I held my breath as he brushed past

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the Symphony Society's president, Karen, Nancy, Valerie, and Cheryl were with me on the stairs, but I felt alone, as if I were the only one who counted for this man. I knew Bach, Scarlatti, symphony etiquette. But more than that, I understood the artist—the world behind the eyes, the elegance of nuance. The conductor and I had more in common than he could know.

But he looked through me and the other Rhythmettes as if we were a surrealist painting—the lights of Las Vegas flashing against the fish-scale sky behind our black cowgirl hats, distant neon traveling its circuitry, a hot wind blowing across our cheeks, the air overheated from a 110-degree day. We were mere strokes in a painting, no one in particular to him.

Lenny, Lenny, don't you see me Lenny? I know music. I know sforzandos and crescendos. I've had three piano teachers.

He descended a few more stairs, past the other Rhythmettes, and flung one arm high for the photographers. The Rhythmettes were now a receding

Getting Culture

"Lenny and the Rhythmette" is an excerpt from Phyllis Barber's *How I Got Cultured: A Nevada Memoir* and reprinted by permission of the University of Georgia Press. In *How I Got Cultured* the author recalls her Mormon upbringing, drive-ins and dances, and coming of age in the 1950s in Boulder City and Las Vegas. Published in 1992, *How I Got Cultured: A Nevada Memoir* (189 pages, \$24.95 hardcover) is available from the University of Georgia Press, 330 Research Drive, Athens, GA 30602-4901, 706-369-6130, and at bookstores. Also, this January the book is being released in paperback (\$12.95) by the University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV 89557

frame, a background for Lenny. Photographers shouted and flashbulbs popped. He was now five steps below me, waving to the Jaycees and the Sheriff's Posse, stretching his silver suit jacket away from his hips. My eyes were riveted on his form, and I kept hoping he'd walk back to me and let his hand fall to my shoulder, that he'd look at me and say, "Talk to me."

When the photographers turned to go, Lenny could have changed direc-

tions and put one black shoe on the stairs. He could have reached out and said, "There you are," if only he'd been sympathetic to the high velocity vibrations quivering behind him. But he only looked straight ahead.

Suddenly, he seemed an enlarged photograph, a powdery man, a substitute for the real thing which was still back in New York composing music. I felt as if I could reach out my hand and put it through him, as if he were the projected movie halfway between the screen and the projectionist's booth.

He tossed his graying hair, walked through the gate in the cyclone fence, and left us in his wake. □

Phyllis Barber, Las Vegas High School class of '61, is a freelance writer, professional pianist, and member of the faculty of Vermont College's MFA in Writing program. Her published works include And the Desert Shall Blossom, The School of Love, and two books for children. How I Got Cultured won the Associated Writing Programs Award for Creative Nonfiction.

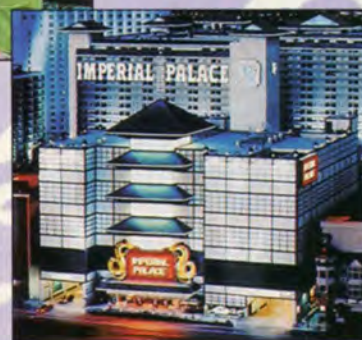
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Wed and Wild

(Continued from page 15)

total number of marriages and first in marriage rate—with an amazing 100.4 marriages per 1,000 citizens.

Nevada's popularity as a marriage mecca dates back to early in this century, according to Phillip I. Earl of the Nevada Historical Society in Reno. In 1912 California instituted its so-called "gin law," which mandated a three-day waiting period between the time a couple could apply for a wedding license and be married.

"The law was to prevent people from getting married while they were drunk, then finding out later what they'd done—which was why it was called the 'gin law,'" says Earl. "People from California wanting to avoid the law soon discovered they could come to Nevada and be married without the waiting period." The lure of Nevada's court-houses and chapels increased further when California and other states passed legislation requiring blood tests, to check for venereal diseases, prior to issuing a marriage license.

Today, more than 90 wedding chapels provide marriage services in Nevada. In Las Vegas, the business is so competitive that chapels boast toll-free numbers and make such claims as: "Since 1942, more celebrities have been married here than any other one place in the world" (Little Church of the West) and "The Who was married here! Blue Oyster Cult was married here!" (A Little White Chapel).

Reno's chapels are also aggressive about offering perks: "Free 'Full Stretch' Limousine Service" (Reno Wedding Chapel) and "Free Wedding Parking" (Park Wedding Chapel).

A new wrinkle was added last year when Lake Tahoe business leaders persuaded the Nevada Legislature to allow marriage licenses to be issued at two Tahoe locations: the Washoe County Administrative Complex in Incline Village and the Douglas County Administration Building in Stateline. Previously, couples could be married on the California side of the lake (14,000 licenses issued in 1992), but those wishing to marry in Nevada had to drive down to the county courthouse in Reno or Minden.

"I'd estimate we will issue 10,000 Nevada license sales at the lake next year, compared to 4,300 last year," says

Douglas County Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Rice-Reed optimistically.

In fact, on October 1, 1993, the day the new law took effect, 118 couples purchased marriage licenses at Stateline. The first couple, who lined up at 4 a.m., received an armload of presents. The first five couples received free marriage licenses. The *M.S. Dixie* paddlewheeler played "Here Comes the Bride" on its horn, and a 20-foot-long banner, imprinted as a marriage license, was suspended from two hot-air balloons over the Nevada-California state line.

There were no reports that day of couples using silver spoons for rings, but the spirit of 1853 was definitely in the air.

Richard Moreno is publisher of Nevada Magazine and a recent newlywed. Elvis did not make an appearance at his wedding.



Honeymooners: Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme were married in Las Vegas in 1957

Celebrity Weddings

Famous couples have walked down Nevada's aisles since the days of California's "gin law" (see previous page). In 1938 the state's lack of a waiting period made it convenient for silent-film star Malcolm McGregor to divorce

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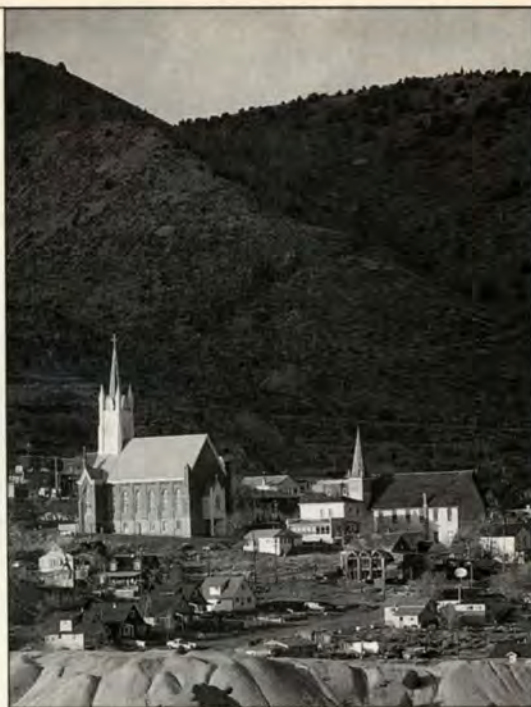
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his wife, Genevieve, and marry Aimee Christine Sivertsen on the same day. Other celebrities like the publicity—or lack of it. Privacy was so important to Tom Selleck and Jillie Mack that they booked their 1987 wedding in Incline Village under the name "Tom Jenkins."

Following are some of the celebrities who have said "I do" in Nevada:

Las Vegas

Lew Ayres and Lola Lane, 1931
Clara Bow and Rex Bell, 1931
Johnny Weissmuller and Lupe Velez, 1933
Andy Devine and Dorothy Irene House, 1933
Nelson Eddy and Ann Franklin, 1939
Helen Wills Moody and Aidan Roark, 1939
Tommy Dorsey and Pat Dane, 1943
Linda Darnell and Peverell Marley, 1943
Betty Grable and Harry James, 1943
Dinah Shore and George Montgomery, 1943
John Huston and Evelyn Keyes, 1946
Zsa Zsa Gabor and George Sanders, 1949
Kirk Douglas and Ann Buydens, 1954
Fernando Lamas and Arlene Dahl, 1954
Joan Crawford and Alfred Steele, 1955
Carol Channing and Charles Lowe, 1956 (Boulder City)

Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme, 1957
Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward, 1958
David Janssen and Ellie Graham, 1958
Billy Martin and Gretchen Winkler, 1959
Mary Tyler Moore and Grant Tinker, 1962
Betty White and Allen Ludden, 1963
Jane Fonda and Roger Vadim, 1965
Xavier Cugat and Charo, 1966
Ann-Margret and Roger Smith, 1967
Elvis Presley and Priscilla Beaulieu, 1967
Lesley Ann Warren and Jon Peters, 1967
Wayne Newton and Elaine Okamura, 1968
George Hamilton and Alana Collins, 1972
Chill Wills and Novadeen Googe, 1973
David Cassidy and Kay Lenz, 1977
Robert Goulet and Vera Novak, 1982
Bette Midler and Harry Kipper, 1984
Bruce Willis and Demi Moore, 1987
Lorenzo Lamas and Kathleen Kinmont, 1989
Richard Gere and Cindy Crawford, 1991
Jan Berry and Gertrude Filip, 1991
Redd Foxx and Ka Ha Cho, 1991
Martha Raye and Mark Harris, 1991
Roxanne Pultizer and John Hoggan, 1992
Melinda Saxe and Lance Burton, 1993

Reno-Tahoe-Rural

Barbra Streisand and Elliott Gould, 1963, Carson City
Patty Duke and Michael Pearce, 1986, State-line
Tom Selleck and Jillie Mack, 1987, Incline
Ted Nugent and Shemane Deziel, 1989, Reno
Reba McEntire and Narvel Blackstock, 1989, Lake Tahoe
LaToya Jackson and Jack Gordon, 1989, Reno
Kelsey Grammer and Leigh-Anne Csuahany, 1992, Lovelock

—Ann Henderson and Jackie Ruffin

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Flying Colors: Larry Williamson's whirligigs, like "Shaman Lady in Star Dress" (above), evolved because he wanted to give his unique sculptures a sense of movement. "I flashed on the idea because clay is so stoic," he says.

Larry Williamson

This Pioche sculptor carves his art from the landscape.



Larry Williamson says some people just tolerate the desert. "With others," he says, "it gets in the blood."

Williamson, who is one of the latter, lives in the old mining town of Pioche. His fascination with the desert led him to pursue an unusual art form he calls "Sculpture From the Great Basin."

During his daily run Williamson picks up pieces of weathered wood, bone, and horsehair. With a pocketknife as his major tool, he assembles the materials into unconventional sculptures. He calls them "wind pieces," and they involve the viewer in a rhythmic, whirling dance with outstretched hands, feet, tongues, and wings.

While the sculptures at first may appear simply whimsical, up close

they are mystical and dreamlike. Williamson has described his work as what author Joseph Campbell calls "participating in the joyful sorrows of life."

The 52-year-old artist is well acquainted with the Nevada desert.

Raised in Hawthorne, he worked as a wrangler in the High Sierra and served in Vietnam.

Williamson taught high-school art in the Reno area before moving to Pioche in 1979. Since then he has taught art at Lincoln County High School in nearby Panaca.

Williamson's sculptures are on exhibit at Stremmel Gallery in Reno and Sun Mountain Artworks in Virginia City. He will have a one-person show October 6-29 at Stremmel Gallery. —Marge Knorr



In a Round: "'Great Basin Circle' is a way of pulling part of the desert into my heart," Williamson says.

Tongue-Twisting Towns

Experts have pronounced these Nevada place names to be favorite fumlbers.

By Jim Andersen

Most of us learn to pronounce strange words through phonetics, the method of sounding out each syllable and then stringing the whole thing together. Unfortunately, that method doesn't always work with Nevada place names. Break down Owyhee phonetically, for example, and you end up with something that starts out wrong and gets even worse.

Worry no more. The following guide to Nevada tongue twisters will help you avoid embarrassing yourself in front of the locals.

Maybe.

1 Owyhee. as promised. The town and river named Owyhee are located up on the Idaho border and are pronounced like "Hawaii" except the *h* is moved to the third syllable. The name Owyhee derives from an incident in which natives of the Sandwich Islands were killed at the river's mouth in the early 1800s. The resulting place name was a phonetic spelling of Hawaii. Of course, some people claim it was vice versa, that the missionaries to the Sandwich Islands just couldn't spell Owyhee correctly. Stranger things have happened, I suppose.

2 Ely. This is the most abused place name in the state. You'd think something with three letters wouldn't pose that much of a problem, but Nevadans are the only ones who correctly say "Eel-ee" for Ely, the seat of White Pine County. To everyone else, Ely is what a lamprey looks through: "Eel-eye."

3 Pahrump. West of Las Vegas and east of Death Valley, Pahrump got its name from the Paiute word for "water rock." (Speculation has it there was once a spring flowing out of solid rock.) Not that Pahrump is hard to pronounce or anything like that—it just seems so, well, reluctant. I included it in this list because it looks like a nifty little community and not at all like the stubbed toe it suggests.



4 Toiyabe. This was once a settlement next to Gabbs, but Toiyabe is best known as the name of a major mountain range and a national forest. If the Forest Service wanted you to pronounce Toiyabe the way the Shoshone do, they would have left the "i" out: Toyabe = Toy-ah-bee, which is accurate. But for most people Toiyabe comes out Tie-oh-bee, which really grinds on the nerves after a couple decades.

5 Ichthyosaur. As in Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, south of Austin. This is your basic ghost town-dinosaur tourist combination, which for some reason never got as big as Disneyland. Anyway, an ick-thee-uh-soar was a prehistoric ocean-swimming reptile. You can view its petrified bones amid the sagebrush and sand and rocks coated with desert varnish, and it is jarring, as if you arrived in the middle of the movie. The ichthyosaurs are embedded near Toiyabe National Forest land, which seems appropriate.

6 Beowawe. In the Crescent Valley area west of Elko, Beowawe lies off the beaten path, thankfully, so not

many tourists need to attempt pronouncing Bee-oh-wah-wee. One source says the name comes from the Shoshone "beowaive," which means "pass" and which looks suspiciously like "bee-oh-wave," which looks suspiciously to be the way it should have been pronounced in the first place.

7 Cortez. No, it's not. The accent is on the first syllable, if you want to blend in with the locals. Cor-tez is south of Beowawe. Somebody really dropped the ball over in that area.

8 Sarcobatus Flat. North of Beatty, the soil of Sar-kaw-but-us Flat is mostly alkali and therefore supports only the lowly greasewood plant. But why call it Greasewood Flat when you could just as easily look up the Latin name for greasewood—which turns out to be *Sarcobatus vermiculatus*—and use that? And I wonder what idiot decided to drop *vermiculatus* from the name?

9 Denio. Up near the Oregon border, Denio has one of my favorite names. Once you get the hang of it, Den-eye-oh rolls off the tongue like crystal. I don't know the origin of the name, and I'm not alone on that, but it has a calypso ring to it. Maybe Harry Belafonte would know.

10 Pioche. There are precedents for this one, such as pinochle, and once you get past that, Pioche sounds just like it looks: Pee-oach. Named for a French banker from San Francisco who sank a lot of money into the town, Pioche had a population of 10,000 in 1871. They needed all they could get, too, because 75 people died from gunshots before the first natural death was recorded, legend says. □

Jim Andersen pronounces Austin, where he lives, the same way they do in Texas except with a Central Nevada accent. He recommends Helen S. Carlson's Nevada Place Names (University of Nevada Press) for place-name buffs.

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NEVADA *Events*

Section of Nevada Magazine

**'STARLIGHT
EXPRESS'
ROLLS
INTO
LAS
VEGAS**

Includes
Events and Shows
For Jan. and Feb. 1994

The Skating Stars of Andrew Lloyd Webber's Musical

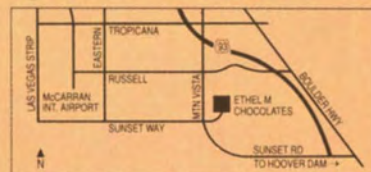
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NEVADA Events

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January/February 1994 events

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On the Cover:
From left: Rusty
(Steven Michael
Skeels), Pearl (Reva
Rice), and Electra
(Tony Perry) from
"Starlight Express"
at the Las Vegas
Hilton.
Photo by
John Gurzinski

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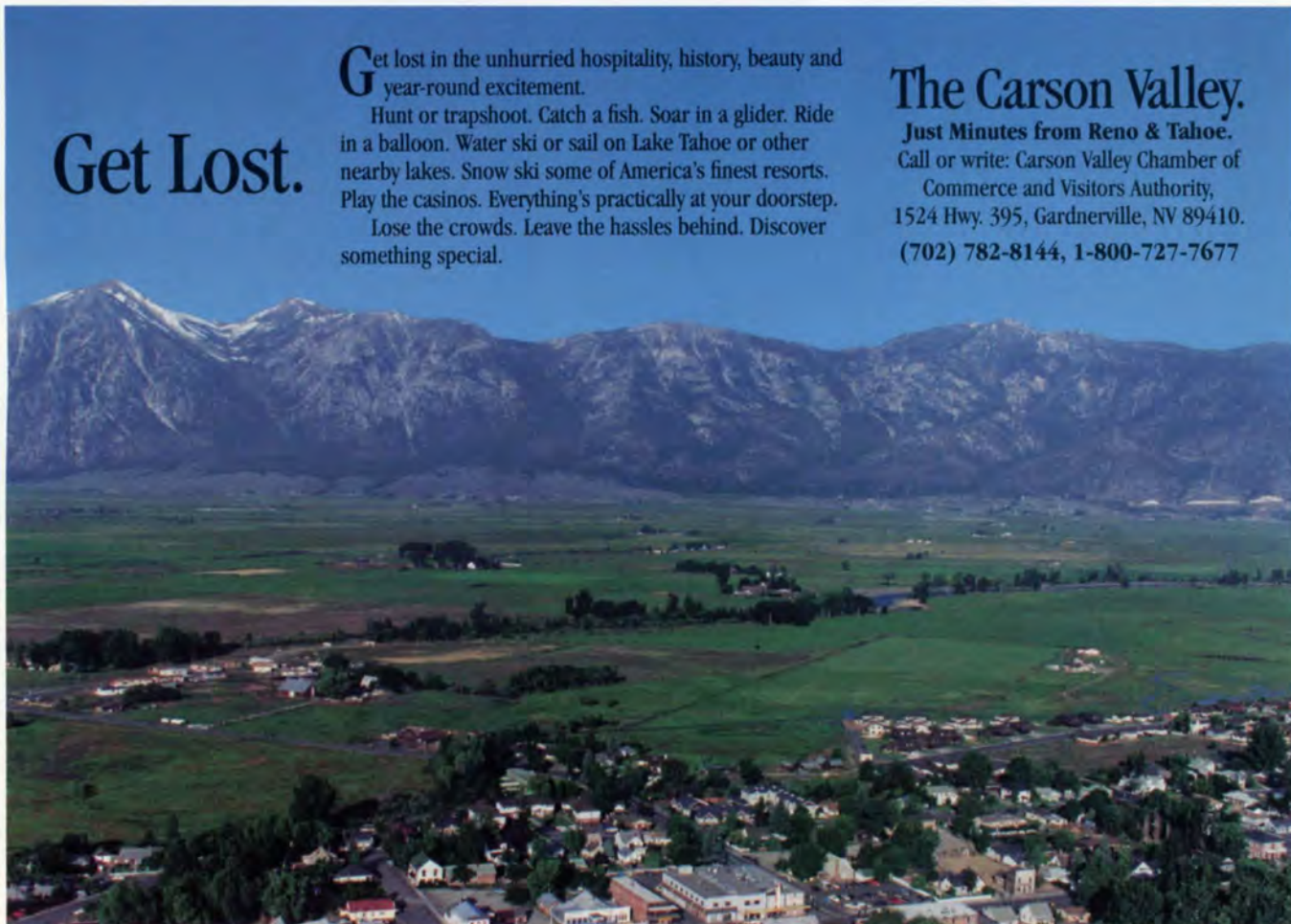
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STARLIGHT EXPRESS

Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical fairy tale rolls into Las Vegas.

By ANN HENDERSON

From the moment the show begins, you know "Starlight Express" is not the typical jewels-and-jiggle spectacular that is so familiar to Nevada audiences. The cast members perform on roller skates—they sing, dance, and race while doing handstands, backflips, and a few Evel Knievel-style jumps. The actors portray railroad trains, and there is nary a feather in sight.

This pop-rock musical is the latest of more than 30 productions—from "Pajama Game" to "Ain't Misbehavin'" that have made their way from Broadway to the Silver State, this time to the Las Vegas Hilton. The show's creator is Andrew Lloyd Webber, who brought us "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Evita," "Cats," and "Phantom of the Opera."

"Starlight" is a young boy's fantasy about a great train race across North America. Lloyd Webber says the show is his own fairy-tale version of "Cinderella," while others have likened it to "The Little Engine That Could."

The story revolves around Rusty, a sweet but sappy steam engine who has a major confidence problem. The love of his life is Pearl, a foxy observation car who toys with his affections. Rusty also suffers emotional bumps and bruises at the hands of his fellow rolling stock. "They cheated me when I was fighting fair," he laments during the show's theme song, "Starlight Express."

Rusty's father, Poppa, is a show-stopping steam engine who sings "Poppa's Blues" and joins Rusty for a memorable duet in the theme song. It's Poppa who encourages Rusty to enter the climactic race against the other engines.

Rusty's main competitors are a pair of pretty scur-



Love in locomotion: Rusty (Steven Michael Skeels) and Pearl (Reva Rice).

rilous engines named Greaseball and Electra. Greaseball, a muscle-headed Elvis look-alike, sets up one of the show's best numbers when he dumps Dinah, the ditzsy dining car. With a

country-western twang, Dinah sings that she's been "U.N.C.O.U.P.L.E.D."

Electra is arrogant and unlikable. But, as often happens in fairy tales, justice prevails, and Greaseball and Electra are involved in a wreck that leaves them whining about "One Rock 'n' Roll Too Many."

Another star attraction of this production is the Hilton Theatre itself, which was built specially for "Starlight Express." In an unprecedented move, hotel officials closed the showroom for more than two months, and after gutting it spent \$12 million to create a 1,600-seat oval room with ramps, raceways, embankments, and a balcony. The ramps divide the room into sections, so some parts of the audience are surrounded by the skating action. You might want to watch your fluid intake if you are sitting in those "bowl" seats on the lower level because, as a safety precaution, showgoers in those areas are asked not to leave during the 90-minute show. (Cocktail service is available beforehand in all sections but is limited to the balcony after the performance begins.)

During the show skaters are moving above the audience, skating off banked curves, and performing movements usually reserved for 11-year-old boys on roller blades. All of this is punctuated by a special effects system that delivers an array of colors, pyrotechnics, lasers, and optical effects.

"Starlight" also is unusual in that all of the actors—not just the principal performers—are singing live, not lip-syncing.

London-based Arlene Phillips, the show's director, has had a longstanding working relationship with

CALLING ALL ABOARD

"Starlight Express" pulls into the Las Vegas Hilton Theatre at 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and at 9 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday (dark Monday). Tickets are \$43.45 for adults and \$27.50 for ages four to 12. Prices include tax but not beverages. A suggestion: Pick up your tickets early in the day and avoid pre-show congestion. For information call 800-STARLIGHT toll-free or 702-732-5755.

Lloyd Webber. She choreographed "Starlight Express" in London and on Broadway and has staged numerous theatrical and film features.

Tony Award-winning designer John Napier created "Starlight's" costumes, which are futuristic, metallic, and heavy; Greaseball's is 45 pounds. Because the costumes are so bulky and take so long to dry between performances, a \$200,000 climate-controlled room was built to speed the process and protect the 25 costumes, each of which cost between \$10,000 and \$20,000.

"Starlight" has opened up new job opportunities at the Hilton—a skate mechanic to overhaul skates after every performance, and a physical therapist to overhaul the skaters. There is a risk of injury, particularly during the race segments when eight people are skating fast, in close quarters. As a precaution, an ambulance is on call, and standby skaters are waiting in the wings.

After years of a star policy, the Hilton has booked the production for five years, which would make it the longest running Broadway musical to play Nevada. Hilton officials say they are confident that "Starlight" will work for Las Vegas audiences. Indeed, in its first month, ticket sales exceeded \$2 million.

The musical was selected for the resort because of its durability and appeal to all ages, according to spokeswoman Kathy Shepard. Lloyd Webber will regularly update the music to keep



The audience loves it when Greaseball (Rod Webber) preens during "Pumping Iron."

it fresh and contemporary. Also, the Hilton has an exclusive—the hotel is the only place in North America where you can see "Starlight Express."

Lloyd Webber expressed the same confidence during a pep talk to the cast last fall.

"I was surprised because I didn't think Las Vegas was the place for it, but it [the Hilton's version] is really very good," he commented during a press conference. The Hilton had licensed "Starlight" through an independent producer, and Lloyd Webber says he had not intended to become personal-

ly involved. But after seeing the show shortly after it opened in September, he predicted he could take the show further "and make it quite fabulous here."

"Of all the shows I've written, 'Starlight Express' was written for my children and for people who don't normally go to theater," Lloyd Webber said. "It is meant to be nothing other than fun with a tiny heart of gold beating among all its trappings."

Ann Henderson is the Las Vegas representative for Nevada Magazine.

NEVADA'S GREAT WHITE WAY

Here is a sampling of the Broadway musicals that have played Las Vegas, Reno, and Lake Tahoe.

"Guys and Dolls," 1955, Royal Nevada
 "Pajama Game," 1957 and 1958, Riviera
 "Damn Yankees," 1958, Riviera
 "Flower Drum Song," 1961, Thunderbird
 "Bye Bye Birdie," 1962, Riviera
 "Flower Drum Song," 1962, Harrah's Lake Tahoe
 "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," 1964, Riviera
 "Hello, Dolly!," 1965, Riviera
 "Sweet Charity," 1966, Caesars Palace
 "Odd Couple," 1967, Caesars Palace
 "Funny Girl," 1967 and 1968, Riviera
 "Fiddler on the Roof," 1967, Caesars Palace
 "Mame," 1968, Caesars Palace

"Little Me," 1968, Harrah's Lake Tahoe
 "A Chorus Line," 1978, 1981, 1982, Desert Inn
 "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," 1981, 1982, Desert Inn
 "Dream Street," 1983, Desert Inn
 "42nd Street," 1983, Caesars Palace
 "A Chorus Line," 1985, Sahara
 "Cats," 1989, Bally's Reno
 "Sweet Charity," 1990, Harrah's Lake Tahoe
 "Ain't Misbehavin'," 1991-92, Harvey's
 "The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber," 1992, Bally's Reno
 "Mame," 1992, Harrah's Lake Tahoe
 "Jesus Christ Superstar," 1993, Aladdin
 "George M.," 1993, Harvey's
 "Me and My Girl," 1993, Harrah's Lake Tahoe
 "Dreamgirls," 1993, Aladdin—AH



Dick Shawn and Eileen Rodgers starred in "Anything Goes" at the Thunderbird in Las Vegas in 1963.

GALLERY



Cowboy Statesmen

During the Cowboy Poetry Gathering, poets from the same state sometimes perform together on stage. This is the Colorado poets session, with Tom Sharpe of Grand Junction taking the mike for a serious one.

These Boots Are Made for Talkin'

Buckaroos recite the classics at Elko's 10th Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

Photos and words by C.J. Hadley

Who would have dreamed back in 1985 that there would be a demand for doggerel—over and over and over again—for 10 straight years? Who could possibly know that Elko and the buckaroos who travel there could dish up day after day of poetry, music, and dance, and share it with thousands of die-hard fans?

This is not Willie, Garth, Wynonna, or Reba. It's not even Tennyson or Keats. But some of the stars of the show, seldom on stage before, have been reading the cowboy poetry of Bruce Kiskaddon, Badger Clark, and Curley Fletcher, and can knock your boots off with rhyming tales.

The Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko celebrates its 10th anniversary event January 25-30. If you're lucky

enough to get a room and some tickets (both sell out early), you'll hear a lot of stories about bad horses and wild rides and rank cattle and the indelicacies of the action around a branding fire. You'll also hear poignant poems about horses and God, women and the land, and the solitude out on the range.

But that's not all there is.

The Cowboy Poetry Gathering offers formal events, evening concerts, Western dances, and jam sessions that merge night into day and cause a rather ragged look on the faces of the masses come Sunday.

Gathering-goers will find the headquarters at the Western Folklife Center in Elko's historic Pioneer Hotel. Advance registration for events and lodging is strongly recommended.

If traditional lodging isn't your bag, you can spend two days and one night at a local ranch and get a first-hand look at ranch life—not as a guest but working alongside buckaroos. This may mean feeding livestock or busting ice or helping to serve breakfast at 6 a.m. For information and event tickets call 702-738-7508 or 800-748-4466. Be sure to bring your boots and hankies.

C.J. Hadley of Washoe Valley is publisher-editor of Range Magazine and is a former editor-publisher of Nevada Magazine. During the gathering she will be signing her book, Trappings of the Great Basin Buckaroo, at the Northeastern Nevada Museum in Elko on January 26 from 6 to 8 p.m. Her photo show will appear at the museum from January 25 to March 15.



Hat Trick

Peggy Godfrey of Moffat, Colorado, dons a strange hat and glasses for a very funny poem.



Lots of Laughs

Jo Casteel is a rancher from South Dakota whose verses about ranch life from a woman's point of view never fail to entertain her listeners—particularly her black-hatted husband, Tom.



Songbirds

Folk singer Katie Lee and Western-music star Michael Martin Murphey sing a duet at an evening performance.



Shop Till You Drop

The foyer at the Elko Convention Center is constantly abuzz during the gathering. There are autographs to get, gear to buy, and a few thousand people to meet. Even Baxter Black (striped shirt) finds time to pick up some rare cowboy items while chatting with fans.



The Organizers

Trail bosses of the Cowboy Poetry Gathering include Tara McCarty, Hal Cannon, and Meg Glaser (from left). Hal is coeditor of *Buckaroo*, a new book on cowboy poetry that includes poems from Elko County buckaroo-reciters such as Waddie Mitchell and Larry Schutte.



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

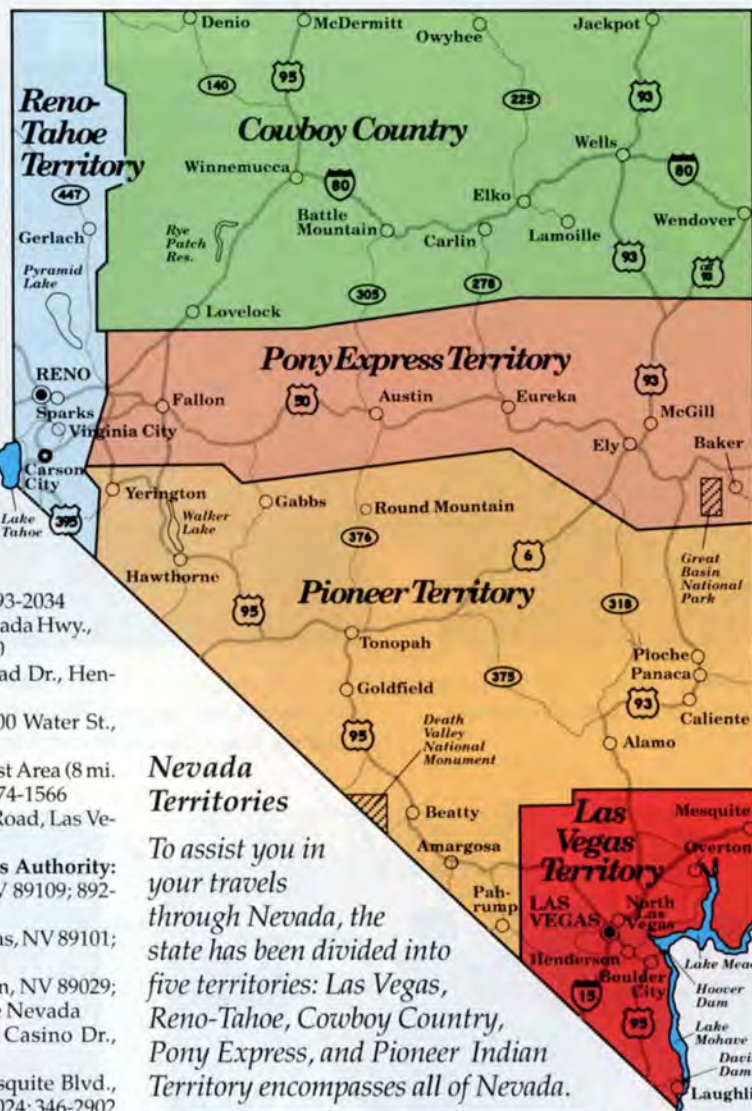
Nevada Commission on Tourism:
Capitol Complex, Carson City,
NV 89710; 687-3636 or 800-
NEVADA-8 anywhere in U.S.
and Canada

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:



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.

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.

Jarbridge Community Assn.: c/o Trading Post, Box 260072, Jarbridge, 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 or 800-426-6862 outside Nevada

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

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
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Las Vegas Territory

EVENTS

January

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

Four Seasons of Native American Hands Exhibit, thru Jan. 8, spotlights traditional and contemporary artwork by Native American artists living in Nevada, Winchester Community Center, 455-7340

Samplers From the Lightner Museum Exhibit, thru Jan. 8, historical craft art including pieces from 1791, Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955

Art Show, thru Jan. 12, pencil drawings by Las Vegas artist James Stanford, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 229-6211

Clark County Student Art Show, thru Jan. 18, at various area libraries, for schedule call 733-3601

Art Show, thru Jan. 31, watercolors and pottery by Lisa Faulkner-Wright, West Las Vegas Library, 647-2118

Art Educators of Southern Nevada Art Show, thru Feb. 1, West Charleston Library, 878-3682
"Evita," Dec. 28-Jan. 3, Cashman Field, 386-7100
Paintings and Ceramics Show, Jan. 2-31, by Carol Tanner and Sally VanErt, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

"A Common Thread," Jan. 6-Feb. 23, part of the traveling show of crafts made by Nevadans, Sunrise Library, 453-1104

"A Common Thread," Jan. 7-Feb. 20, Green Valley Library, 435-1840

Far West Ski Race, Jan. 8-9, Lee Canyon Ski Area, Mount Charleston, 893-8700

King Week Festivities, Jan. 8-15, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee of Las Vegas presents a week of activities in remembrance of Martin Luther King, Jr.; schedule includes: breakfast at Moulin Rouge Jan. 8, reception at Chez's Place Jan. 9, community forum at West



Theatreworks/USA presents the musical "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" on February 18 at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas campus.

Las Vegas Library Jan. 10, "The Dreamer" play location TBA Jan. 11, youth night at Fitzgerald Elementary School Jan. 12, interfaith service at St. James Church Jan. 13, jazz reception at Bally's Jan. 14, 10am parade on Las Vegas Blvd. and 6pm banquet at Bally's Jan. 15, 631-1913

during the Depression, exhibit organized by the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955

The Dam Era Remembered: 1930s Southern Nevada, Jan. 15-March 26, photographs taken during the 1930s on Southern Nevada's

Elvis Birthday Tribute Show, Jan. 9, Elvis look-alikes perform the King's songs, 3pm show is \$15, 6pm and 9pm shows are \$17 each, children under 12 are half price, production of EP Impersonators International Assn., Imperial Palace, 714-971-2200

African-American Art Show, Jan. 9-30, reception Jan. 9 from noon-3pm, Las Vegas Art Museum, 647-4300

Photo Show, Jan. 9-Feb. 16, Nancy Hutchinson's photographic series, "Simulated Wood," Charleston Heights Arts Center, 229-6383

Caesars Challenge TV Show Taping, Jan. 10-12, free, NBC-TV game show hosted by NBC sportscaster Ahmad Rashad, for ticket info. call 731-7865 or 800-634-6698

Vienna Boys Choir, Jan. 13, \$12 adults, \$9 students, Virgin Valley High School, Mesquite, 346-5295

Povungnituk: Inuit Art, Jan. 14-Feb. 26, Eskimo folk art, Winchester Art Gallery, 455-7955

Klezmer Conservatory Band, Jan. 15, eclectic brand of Yiddish vocal and instrumental music, 7:30pm, \$15, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801

Lora and Sukutai Marimba and Dance Ensemble, Jan. 15, traditional African performance troupe combines music, dancing, and storytelling, Las Vegas High School, 455-8200

Official Images: New Deal Photography, Jan. 15-March 26, photographs recorded during the 1930s

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, Jan. 7-8 v. Aspen Leafs, Jan. 14-15 v. Chicago Chargers, Jan. 21-22 v. St. Paul Parkers, Jan. 28-29 v. Team Duluth, Feb. 4-5 v. Warroad Lakers, Feb. 11-12 v. New York St. Nicks Hockey Club, Feb. 18-19 v. Greensboro Eagles, Feb. 25-26 v. Long Island Chiefs, March 4-5 v. St. Paul Champps, Santa Fe Hotel Ice Arena, 658-4991 or 800-457-2882

Las Vegas Thunder: International Hockey League, Jan. 2 v. Phoenix Roadrunners, Jan. 7-8 v. Kansas City Blades, Jan. 14 v. Phoenix Roadrunners, Jan. 21 v. Salt Lake City Golden Eagles, Jan. 23 v. San Diego Gulls, Jan. 28 v. Salt Lake City Golden Eagles, Feb. 9 v. Peoria Rivermen, Feb. 11 v. Central Red Army, Feb. 13 v. Peoria Rivermen, Feb. 18 v. Phoenix Roadrunners, Feb. 20 and 23 v. Atlanta Knights, Feb. 25 v. Salt Lake City Golden Eagles, Feb. 27 v. Atlanta Knights, March 4-5 v. Cincinnati Cyclones, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV 798-PUCK (798-7825)

Nevada Division of State Parks: hikes, tours,

stargazing, campfire programs at 21 parks, District VI, Las Vegas, 486-5126

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

UNLV Basketball: Jan. 3 v. Virginia, Jan. 17 v. New Mexico State, Jan. 20 v. University of Nevada, Reno, Jan. 22 v. Utah State, Jan. 24 v. UC Santa Barbara, Feb. 7 v. Long Beach State, Feb. 17 v. Cal State Fullerton, Feb. 19 v. UC Irvine, March 3 v. San Jose State, March 6 v. Paci-fic, Thomas and Mack Center, 739-3267

UNLV Concerts: music and dance, 739-3101
For chamber of commerce and convention center phone numbers, see page E-6

Great Depression experiences, Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955
Art Show, Jan. 16-Feb. 23, Kirk Pedersen's acrylics and watercolors, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 229-6211

"Hay Fever," Jan. 21-23 and Jan. 26-30, comedy, New West Theatre and UNLV Dept. of Theatre Arts, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 229-6383

Nevada Symphony Orchestra Concert, Jan. 22, 8pm concert, pre-concert lecture at 7:15pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801

Peppermill Gran Prix, Jan. 22, cross-country motorcycle race around Mesquite, starts at Peppermill parking lot, 346-5232

Lied Discovery Children's Museum's Science Tower Grand Opening, Jan. 22-23, eight-story science tower includes weather station, fiber-optics display, and echo tubes, 382-3445

Binion's Slot Tournament, Jan. 24-26, \$1,000 entry fee, \$50,000 top prize, Binion's Horseshoe, 382-1600

Art Show, Jan. 24-Feb. 27 paintings by Los Angeles artist Karen Carson, Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery, UNLV 895-3801

I Musici Concert, Jan. 25, Performing Arts Center, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801

Art Show, Jan. 25-Feb. 20, ceramics by Larry Brosi, Summerlin Library, 256-5111

Ms. Senior Clark County Pageant, Jan. 28, \$5, Alexis Park Resort, 455-8200 or 455-7513

Snow Box Derby, Jan. 29, wacky event with homemade snowboxes raced down the slopes of Lee Canyon, YMCA fundraiser, 9am-1pm, Lee Canyon Ski Area, Mount Charleston, 877-9622

Far West Ski Race, Jan. 29-30, Lee Canyon Ski Area, Mount Charleston, 893-8700

Super Bowl Sunday Run, Jan. 30, 10K and two-mile run, meet at Green Valley Athletic Club, Tri-A-Run, 870-8269

Las Vegas Civic Symphony Concert, Jan. 30, classical works by African-American composers with coloratura soprano Susheel Bibbs, 2pm, free, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 229-6211

February

International Coffee Tasting Extravaganza, Feb. 1-2, more than 100 exhibits relating to all types

of coffee and related accessories, samples of coffee, liqueurs, desserts, finger food, and chocolate products, demonstrations of the latest in coffee industry technology, Make-A-Wish Foundation of Nevada fundraiser, open to public from noon-6pm Tues., noon-4pm Wed., Tropicana, 887-3702 or 356-5466

"Sound of Music," Feb. 1-6, Cashman Field, 386-7100

Art Show, Feb. 1-28, paintings, embossings, and handmade paper art by Marion Brinker, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

State Symphony of Russia, Feb. 2, formerly called the USSR State Symphony, 8pm, Ham Hall,

PREVIEW



The Las Vegas Thunder hockey club has begun its first electrifying season in Vegas.

A Cold War?

This winter the Las Vegas Thunder will try to take Las Vegas by storm during the team's first season in the International Hockey League. The Thunder will play such clubs as the San Diego Gulls, the Kansas City Blades, and the Russians.

The Russians are coming February 11 for a sporting version of the Cold War as the famous Central Red Army team takes on the Thunder at UNLV's Thomas and Mack Center. The Thunder, which is comprised of a gaggle of Canadians, two Americans, and a 17-year-old Czechoslovakian, will take on the Central Red Army team from the Commonwealth of Independent States. The Russian team is coached by Viktor Tikhonov, who has won three Olympic gold medals and eight world championships. More than 20 of his former players are now playing on teams in the National Hockey League.

Last year the International Hockey League selected the Thunder to become its 13th team, a number promoters see as lucky for the gambling mecca. Team owners Hank and Ken Stickney are banking on the brawling, fast-action sport becoming addictive—that nobody can see just one game. (The father and son also purchased the Las Vegas Stars triple-A baseball team.)

So far, fans (and scouts) are turning out to see the Thunder and watchable Radek Bonk, the teenager who moved from Czechoslovakia to Las Vegas to become the first under-age European player to sign a North American pro contract. Most experts think Bonk, who speaks no English, is likely headed for the NHL in June, after he and his teammates take on the advancing Red Army in February.

For Thunder ticket information call 702-798-7825.—Ann Henderson

TERRITORY MAP



UNLV 895-3801
Chamber Music Southwest Concert, Feb. 3, with contralto Doris Brunatti, 7:30pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801
Utah Ballet Company, Feb. 3, Virgin Valley High School Auditorium, Mesquite, 346-2902
"The Trojan Women," Feb. 3-6 and 9-13, Dept. of Theatre Arts, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 895-3801
Las Vegas Youth Orchestra, Feb. 4, 7pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 385-8948
"I Don't Have to Show You No Stinking Badges," Feb. 4, El Teatro Campesino performance, 8pm, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 229-6211
African-American Cultural Arts Festival, Feb. 4-5, gospel, blues, jazz, reggae, and rap bands,

food, poetry, storytelling, 140 booths with African attire, crafts, and prints, kickoff for the fund for the first African-American museum to be built in Nevada, H and Van Buren streets (future site of the museum), 647-2242 or 878-7676

Challenge of Champions, Feb. 4-6, fifth annual pro-am and international pro ballroom and Latin dance competition, all age categories, admission TBA, Harrah's Las Vegas convention center, 367-8194

Las Vegas International Marathon, Feb. 5, 28th annual, 26-mile and 13.1-mile foot races, \$60,000 in prize money, runners from the U.S. and more than 20 foreign countries, Nevada Easter Seal Society fundraiser, host hotel

Vacation Village, 876-3870

Mardi Gras Galore: Queen Ida and Her Zydeco Band, Feb. 5, spirited music, dancing, costumes optional, Cajun cuisine sampling buffet \$6, no-host bar, 8pm, \$10 adults, \$8 students, seniors, and persons with disabilities, Charleston Heights Arts Center Ballroom, 229-6383

Bridal Spectacular Show, Feb. 5-6, Cashman Field, 876-8355

Art Show, Feb. 6-27, oils by Laura Mann, watercolors and mixed media by Gerri Braun, artwork by Doris French Elementary School students, reception Feb. 6 from noon-3pm, Las Vegas Art Museum, 647-4300

Auto Show, Feb. 11-13, Great Basin Motorsports, Cashman Field, 253-6400

Senior Fishing Derby, Feb. 12, for ages 55 and over, Sunset Park, 455-8200

Far West Ski Race, Feb. 12-13, Lee Canyon Ski Area, Mount Charleston, 893-8700

Southwest Weapon Collectors Gun and Knife Show, Feb. 12-13, Henderson Convention Center, 565-2171 or 602-855-8095

Going to Pieces Puzzle Contest, Feb. 14-19, for all ages, sponsored by Clark County Parks and Recreation and The Gamekeeper, 455-8200

Tommy Tune Moonlighting, Feb. 15, nine-time Tony Award-winning star sings and taps through more than 20 musical numbers from Broadway and movies, accompanied by singer-dancers Robert Fowler and Frantz Hall and backed by a 26-piece orchestra, general admission \$30-\$75, patrons' tickets at \$125 include a reception on stage, and tickets at \$250 include dinner with Tommy Tune, Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801

Duke Ellington Orchestra, Feb. 17, directed by Mercer Ellington, Ham Hall, UNLV, 455-8200

"Anna Karenina," Feb. 17-20, ballet, Las Vegas premiere, 8pm Thurs.-Sat., 2 and 7pm Sun., tickets from \$13-\$30, Nevada Dance Theatre, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 895-3838 or 895-3801

"The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe," Feb. 18, new musical based on C.S. Lewis' adventure of four children transported to the fabled land of Narnia, 10am, Theatreworks/USA, Ham Hall, UNLV 800-497-5007

"Wizard of Oz," Feb. 18-20, part of 1993-94 tour of the full-scale Broadway-style musical based on the classic film, includes full orchestra and creatures by Big Nazo Puppets, Aladdin Theatre for the Performing Arts, Aladdin Hotel, 736-0111

Nevada Symphony Orchestra Concert, Feb. 19, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801

Purgatory Plainsmen Rendezvous, Feb. 19-21, recreation of a pre-1840s trading camp, with blackpowder shooting, vendors, and raffles, three miles north of Indian Springs on U.S. 95, near Cactus Springs, 879-5234 or 879-3469

"Bridge to Terabithia," Feb. 20 and 26-27, The Rainbow Company, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 229-6211

Art Show, Feb. 20-March 30, hand-painted black and white photographs by Mary Roth, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 229-6383

Iris Watercolor Prints Show, Feb. 22-March 28, by photographer Mark Andrews, Spring Valley Library, 368-4411

Pajaud Art Show, Feb. 23-March 10, watercolors by nationally renowned artist William Pajaud, West Charleston Library, 878-3682

"Peyote Jokes," Feb. 24-27 and March 2-6, Department of Theatre Arts, Black Box

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PREVIEW

Prairie Home Klezmer

The Klezmer Conservatory Band offers music that fills the aisles "with a laughing, percolating mobile quasi-conga line," says the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. The Klezmer, known for its performances on the radio program "A Prairie Home Companion," will make its first Nevada appearance at 7:30 p.m. on January 15 in the Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Klezmer is a type of Jewish popular music rooted in Eastern Europe that was brought to America at the turn of the century. The genre grew alongside American popular music and produced songs as varied as Eddie Cantor's ragtime tune "Lena From Palesteen" and the swing "Bay Mire Bistu Sheyn."

The 10-member group has recorded six albums, including "Yiddishe Renaissance," "Klez!", "A Touch of Klez," and "Old World Beat." Their music also can be heard in the film *Enemies, A Love Story*.



The Klezmer Conservatory Band performs January 15.

Concert tickets are \$15. For more information call UNLV's Performing Arts Center Box Office at 702-895-3801. Packages that include hotel rooms and concert tickets may be available. Call City Wide Reservations at 800-733-6644, extension 99, for more information.

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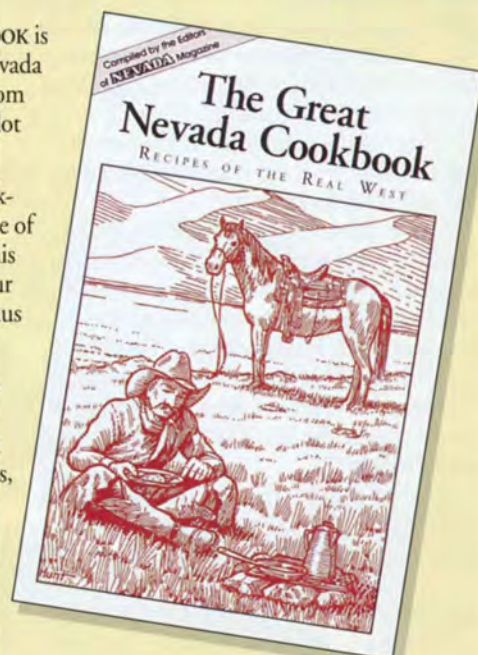
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Theatre, UNLV, 895-3801
Art Show, Feb. 24-April 3, chalk pastel paintings of whimsical animals by Linda Stout, Green Valley Library, 435-1840

Antique Bottles and Collectibles Show and Sale, Feb. 25-27, Jackie Gaughan's Plaza, 452-1263

African-American Exhibit, Feb. 25-April 24, artist Harold Bradford's watercolors, oils, and pencil works provide a visual perception of the role African-Americans played in settling the West, Sunrise Library, 453-1104

Far West Ski Race, Feb. 26-27 Lee Canyon Ski Area, Mount Charleston, 893-8700

Chili Cook-off, Feb. 27 ninth annual, International Chili Society sanctioned, music, children's rides, Sam's Town, 454-8048

Original Prague Syncopated Orchestra, Feb. 27 from Czechoslovakia, dancing, 2pm, \$8 adults, \$6 students, seniors, and persons with disabilities, Charleston Heights Arts Center Ballroom, 229-6383

Sculpture Show, Feb. 27-April 6, by Richard Kimelman, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 229-6211

Desert Chamber Players Moonlight Concert, Feb. 28, 8pm, \$8 donation for general admission, at the Shrine of the Most Holy Redeemer, 55 E. Reno Ave. (in back of the Tropicana, across from the Luxor), 895-3327



The Vienna Boys Choir brings its world-renowned sound to Virgin Valley High School in Mesquite January 13.

"Orfeo ed Euridice" and "La Serva Padrona," March 11-13, UNLV Opera Theatre, Black Box Theatre, UNLV, 895-3801

A.C. Reed and the Spark Plugs Concert, March 12, blues band, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 229-6211

Far West Ski Race, March 12-13, Lee Canyon Ski Area, Mount Charleston, 893-8700

Yo-Yo Ma Concert, March 14, cellist Yo-Yo Ma is a six-time Grammy Award winner, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801

Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, March 20, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801

Clark County Fair, April 7-10, Logandale, 398-3247

Silver State Art Exhibition and Auction, April 8-10, Las Vegas, 293-3131

Henderson Industrial Days, April 15-24, 565-8951

Boulder City Spring Jamboree, April 29-May 1, 456-6695

Clark County Artists Show, May 7-8, Boulder City, 456-6695

Rhythm and Ribs Concert and Rib Burn-Off, May 14-15, Las Vegas, 455-8200

Liberace's 75th Birthday Celebration, May 15-16, Las Vegas, 798-5595

Helldorado, May 20-29, Las Vegas, 870-1221

Mesquite Days, May 26-28, 346-5295

Damboree, July 4, Boulder City, 293-2034

Las Vegas Jaycees State Fair, Sept. 30-Oct. 9,

COMING EVENTS

A Caribbean Carnival with Jeannine Remy and New Steel-Drum Band, March 4, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801

Hoover Dam Square Dance Weekend, March 4-5, 293-4918

Mummenschanz, March 9, mime troupe, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801

Spring '94 One-Act Play Festival, March 9-13, Bob May's play "Guts," Jennifer Laird's "The Dock," and Ken Umland's "Poem of Ecstasy," Dept. of Theatre Arts, Paul C. Harris Theatre, UNLV 895-3801

NIGHTLIFE

Mr. Mellow

By JACKIE BRETT

Chances are—to recall one of his most popular songs—Johnny Mathis' smooth, silky voice has been part of his fans' romantic lives.

"My voice seems to fit that mold," he admits. "But no one likes to be pigeon-holed too much."

Even after 35 years of crooning, Mathis gives at least 100 concerts and records a new album every year. He has had Top 40 hits in each of the last four decades. His hit single "Too Much, Too Little, Too Late," recorded with Deniece Williams, came more than 20 years after early hits like "Chances Are" and "Misty."

Mathis credits discipline for his success. "In order to work as a cabaret artist, you have to learn to do what you do. It's hard to maintain the quality and voice as you get older. The voice goes away, and you have to work smarter," he says.

"I love to go on stage and show people how much I've learned," Mathis adds. "At 19 on stage, I was only guessing. I never knew what was coming out."

Besides music, his other passions are golf and cooking.

"Golf is good for the voice," he says. "You have fresh air and exercise. It's wonderful."

Mathis, whose mother and father were professional cooks, developed his interest in cooking at age 19 while performing in Europe. "There you shopped for every meal. When I met Sammy [Davis, Jr.] in the market, he said it all: 'I don't stay at fancy hotels with no kitchens.'"

When Mathis performs in Las Vegas, he stays at a small hotel where he can have his TV and books and cook for himself. Seafood and vegetables are his mainstays.

A good diet is only part of his healthy



Johnny Mathis, singer and cook, appears at Caesars Palace February 24-27

lifestyle. "I stayed away from Las Vegas for 12 years because people smoked in the showrooms," he says. Five years ago he returned to an exclusive Caesars Palace contract when the showroom became nonsmoking.

Mathis says he tries not to overwork so he can always perform at his best. He'll do concerts for three or four days, and then take three to five days off.

457-8832

Art in the Park, Oct. 1-2, Boulder City, 293-2034
Las Vegas Blues and Heritage Festival, Oct. 8,
 Las Vegas, 455-8200

**North Las Vegas Fairshow and Hot-Air Balloon
 Races**, Oct. 28-30, 642-1944

Mesquite Arts Festival, Nov. 4-5, 346-5295

National Finals Rodeo, Dec. 2-11, Las Vegas, 731-
 2115

Sky Festival Air Show, Dec. 10, Mesquite, 346-
 5295

SHOWGUIDE

Jean

Gold Strike Hotel, 477-5000 or 800-634-1359:
 Sound Chaser, thru Jan. 10; Sound Splash, Jan.
 12-31; Ego Maniacs, Feb. 2-21; Metro, Feb. 23-
 March 14

Nevada Landing, 387-5000 or 800-628-6682: Tease,
 Jan. 6-Feb. 1; Sound Splash, Feb. 3-22; Ego Ma-
 niacs, Feb. 24-March 15

Las Vegas

Aladdin, 736-0240: "Country Tonite," revue, indf.
 (dark Tues.); *Theatre for the Performing Arts*:
 "Wizard of Oz," Feb. 18-20

Arizona Charlie's, 258-5200: "Naughty Ladies,"
 thru Jan. 2; showroom closed for remodeling,
 Jan. 3-Sept. 1994

Bally's, 739-4567 or 800-237-SHOW: *Jubilee The-
 ater*: "Jubilee!" indf. (dark Fri.); Catch a Ris-

ing Star: comedy/variety club, indf.

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

Caesars Palace, 731-7333 or 800-445-4544: Sheena
 Easton, thru Jan. 1; George Burns, Jan. 20-23;
 Howie Mandel, Jan. 28-30; David Copperfield,
 Feb. 1-14; Vince Gill, Feb. 18-20; Johnny Math-
 is, Feb. 24-27

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

Continental, 737-5555: Nightly lounge enter-
 tainment

Debbie Reynolds Hollywood Hotel, 733-2243:
 Debbie Reynolds and Rip Taylor with the Up
 Town Country Singers, indf. (dark Mon.)

Eldorado, Henderson, 564-1811: Pam Nickels thru

Jan. 2 (dark Mon.-Tues.)

Excalibur, 597-7600: "King Arthur's Tournament,"
 indf., entertainment nightly in Minstrel's The-
 atre Lounge and Wild Bill's Saloon and Steak-
 house

Fitzgeralds, 388-2400 or 800-274-LUCK (U.S. out-
 side Nevada and in Alaska): Don Cloe and
 Laura Garlick/Anthony Micco and Peggy Mic-
 co, indf. (dark Thurs.)

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

Four Queens, 385-4011 or 800-634-6045: B.J.
 Thomas thru Jan. 2; Monday Night Jazz, indf.

Gold Coast, 367-7111: Randy Anderson thru Jan.

"My attention span is about four
 days, and then I need to do some-
 thing else," he says.

Since 1984, when his manager Ray
 Haughn died, Mathis has managed
 his own career and life. He lives a
 modest and private life and is sel-
 dom in the news. Since 1964 he has
 lived in a Hollywood Hills home that
 was built by Howard Hughes.

Mathis, who has earned more than
 60 gold and platinum records, ap-
 parently was destined to be a singer.
 In 1954 he went to San Francisco State
 intending to become a physical edu-
 cation and English teacher. While
 there, he set a high-jump record of
 six feet, five-and-a-half inches, just
 two inches short of the Olympic
 record at the time. In 1956 he was
 asked to attend the Olympic trials.

Simultaneously, Columbia Re-
 cords asked him to come to New York
 to prepare for his first recording ses-
 sions. The rest is history—he chose
 to go to New York.

Johnny Mathis performs at Caesars
 Palace February 24-27 and May 5-8.

Jackie Brett is an entertainment critic
 and oversees the Las Vegas office of the
 Nevada Commission on Tourism.

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3; Marcia Wise and Enterprise, thru Jan. 2; Gary Hohman, thru Jan. 3

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

Hacienda, 739-8911: Lance Burton: World Champion Magician, indf. (dark Mon.)

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/Phlash/Bob Kelly, indf.

Joker's Wild, Henderson, 564-8100: Stolen Faces, Jan. 5-9 and 12-16; Fast Company, Jan. 19-23 and 26-30; Wanted, Feb. 2-6 and 9-13; Launi Kristopher, Feb. 16-20 and 23-27

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, 732-5755 or 800-STARLIGHT: Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Starlight Express," indf. (dark Mon.)

Luxor, 262-4000 or 800-288-1000: "Winds of the Gods," musical production, indf. (dark Wed.); *Nefertiti's Lounge*: Next Movement, thru Jan. 22; Bob Anderson, Jan. 1-28; Cornell Gunther's Coasters, Jan. 24-Feb. 19; Denise Clemente, Jan. 25-Feb. 20; Earl Turner, Feb. 21-March 19; Sidro's Armada, Feb. 22-March 20

Maxim, 731-4300 or 800-634-6987: "Comedy Max," Dave Goodman hosts Steve Mittleman/Spike Rizzo thru Jan. 2; Willie Tyler and Lester/Brad Upton, Jan. 3-9; Barry Diamond/John Graiman, Jan. 10-16; Johnny Dark/John Mc-



Next Movement, "the best group in Chicago," according to Oprah Winfrey, appears at the Luxor through January 22 and at the African-American Cultural Arts Festival February 4-5.

Dowell, Jan. 17-23; Mick Lazinski/Jerry Miner, Jan. 24-30

The Mirage, 792-7777: Siegfried and Roy, magic spectacular, indf. (dark Jan. 20-25 and Feb. 24-March 1)

Palace Station, 367-2411: Sidro's Armada, Jan. 1; Coasters/Del Vikings, Jan. 1-2 and 4-9; Sylvester Smith III/Magical Mystery Tour,

Jan. 11-16; Jerry Tiffe/Kristine and the Sting, Jan. 18-23 and 25-30; Vince Cardell/Jonathan and the Music Magic, Feb. 1-6 and 8-13; Vargas/Far East, Feb. 15-20 and 22-27; "Roby Turner's All Star Variety Show," Mon. nights

Rio Suite Hotel, 252-7776 or 800-888-0400 (continental U.S. outside Nevada): *Mambo's Bar*: Sergio Alberti, Jan. 1-2; showroom closed for expansion Jan. 1-mid Feb. when the *Copacabana Supper Club Theater* will open with "Conga," a musical production

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 Mon.); "An Evening at the Improv," comedians, indf.

Sahara, 737-2515: "Boylesque," starring Kenny Kerr, indf. (dark Wed.); the Rich Little Show, indf. (dark Thurs.); *Casbar Lounge*: "Seduction," afternoon musical revue, 1 and 3pm, indf. (dark Sat.-Sun.); *Pacific Rim Restaurant*: "Island Magic," indf. (dark Thurs.)

Sam's Town, 456-7777: Live entertainment nightly

San Remo, 597-6028: Live entertainment nightly

Sands, 733-5453 or 800-446-4678: *Grand Ballroom*: Evening entertainment TBA; "Viva Las Vegas!" afternoons at 12:30, 2, and 3:30pm, indf. (dark Sun.)

Santa Fe, 658-4900: Live entertainment

Sheraton Desert Inn, 733-4444: Gladys Knight/Carl Strong, Dec. 28-Jan. 2

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

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Tues.); "Star Odyssey, A Laser Light Adventure," afternoon production at 1, 2, and 3pm (dark Tues.)

Treasure Island, 894-7111: "Mystère," circus theater, indf.

Tropicana, 739-2411: "Folies Bergere," indf. (dark Thurs.); "Comedy Stop," comedians, indf.

Vacation Village, 897-1700 or 800-658-5000: Irish Show Band, thru Jan. 2; lounge entertainment nightly TBA

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 '94," adult comedy revue, indf. (dark Tues.)

Golden Nugget Laughlin, 298-7175 or 800-237-1739 (U.S. outside Nevada): Sandy Hackett's Comedy Club, Mondays; Nightly entertainment TBA

Harrah's Laughlin, 298-4600 or 800-447-8700: Sandy Wyatt, thru Jan. 9; Mariachi Estrella, strolling musicians, daily, indf.

Ramada Express, 298-4200: Live entertainment Tues.-Sun.; Karaoke Mon.

Regency, 298-2439: Entertainment TBA

Riverside Resort, 298-2535 or 800-227-3849 ext. 616 (U.S. outside Nevada): Entertainment TBA

Mesquite

Peppermill Resort, 346-5232: Real Surreal/Greg Peterson, Jan. 3-9; Del Vikings, Jan. 10-23; Le-lands, Jan. 24-30; Hollywood Argyle, Jan. 31-Feb. 13

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

State Line

Primadonna, 382-1212: Helen Reddy, Feb. 11-12

Whiskey Pete's, 382-1212 or 800-367-7383: Crystal Gayle, thru Jan. 1; Pat Boone, Jan. 21-22; Louise Mandrell, Feb. 4-5; Mickey Gilley, Feb. 18

GAMING TOURNAMENTS

January

Queens Poker Classic, Jan. 2-22, Four Queens, 385-4011

Slots, Jan. 6-9 and 20-23, Westward Ho, 731-2900

Slots, Jan. 10-12, Sam Boyd's Fremont, 385-3232

Slots, Jan. 10-13, Harrah's Las Vegas, 369-5000

Slots, Jan. 16-19, Imperial Palace, 794-3160

Slots, Jan. 16-21, Riviera, 794-9371

Slots, Jan. 24-26, Binion's Horseshoe, 382-1600

February

Keno, Feb. 4-6, Harrah's Las Vegas, 369-5000

Slots, Feb. 6-9, Imperial Palace, 794-3160

Slots, Feb. 9-13, Westward Ho, 731-2900 ext. 7104

Slots, Feb. 12-16, Riviera, 794-9371

Slots, Feb. 17-20, Sahara, 737-2550

Slots, Feb. 18-21, Palace Station, 367-2411

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

Hoover Dam: Tours, Bureau of Reclamation, 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, 458-8855

Kidd Marshmallow Factory: Tours, 8203 Gibson Rd., 564-3878

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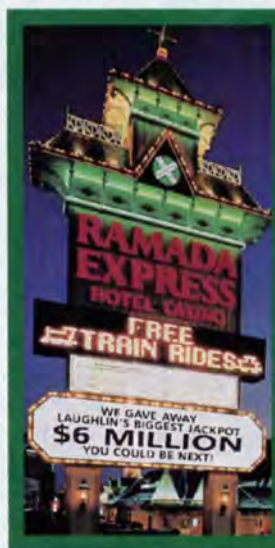
From its 1,500 comfortable "berths" (1,100 new guest rooms and suites opened September 1993) to the locomotive-shaped pool and spa, Ramada Express is "on track" with the most authentically themed resort in Laughlin.

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HOTELS



An actress poses in front of Marilyn Monroe's Lincoln at the Imperial Palace.

Casino Notes

- William S. Boyd, chairman of the board and CEO of the **Boyd Gaming Corporation**, has been inducted into the Gaming Hall of Fame. The Boyd Group operates six area casinos: the California, Stardust, Sam's Town, and Fremont in Las Vegas, and the Jokers Wild and Eldorado in Henderson. During the World Gaming Congress and Expo inductees are honored for their contributions and achievements. Previous honorees include Boyd's father, the late Sam Boyd, who was named to the Hall of Fame in 1991.

- ITT Sheraton plans to turn the **Desert Inn** into a \$1-billion, 5,000-room mega-resort. The first phase calls for adding a 1,200-room tower to the 820-room hotel and quadrupling the size of the casino. The D.I. is Sheraton's first Nevada gaming property.

- An Ecorse, Michigan, man has an extra \$2 million in the bank thanks to a slot jackpot he won at the **Excalibur**. Robert Long, a retired steel-mill worker, was visiting Las Vegas for the first time when his \$1 progressive machine hit for \$2,293,640.

- If you're aching to learn the line dances that are in vogue, the **Gold River Gambling Hall** in Laughlin has free lessons every Tuesday from 5 to 10 p.m. in the Palace Theatre.

- "Spellbound: A Concert of Illusion," playing at **Harrah's Las Vegas**, was named the "1993 Best Magic Review" by the International Magic Awards. One of the show's stars,

Jeff Hobson, also was named "1993 Best Comedy/Magician."

- The **Holy Cow!**, a casino, cafe, and brewery located at the Strip and Sahara, may have an unusual bovine theme, but its beer is a serious matter. The brewery was awarded the Gold Medal in the Classic English Pale Ale category during the 12th annual Great American Beer Festival held recently in Denver. Some 955 beers from 208 breweries competed in 32 categories during the event.

- Marilyn Monroe's 1955 Lincoln Capri convertible has been added to the **Imperial Palace** Auto Collection. The car is coral pink with a pink and white interior and has 26,000 original miles.

- **Las Vegas Hilton** officials say the hotel's massive marquee is the largest and tallest free-standing sign in the world. At 362 feet tall and 192 feet wide, the sign marks the completion of a \$230-million remodeling project. The sign has 77,000 incandescent lamps and when lit can generate enough candlepower to light 660 homes.

- Holidays and diamonds paid off for a Mesa, Arizona, woman at the **Ramada Express** in Laughlin. Betsy Grandlich, a mother of eight, won \$100,000 on Mother's Day after hitting a royal flush in diamonds on a video poker machine. History later repeated itself for Grandlich when she won \$100,000 with the same winning combination—this time on Labor Day.

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

**Debbie Reynolds Hollywood Hotel, Casino,
and Movie Museum:** 305 Convention Center
Dr., museum opens in early 1994, 734-0711

Desert Demonstration Gardens: Tours, 3701 W.
Alta, 258-3205

Elvis, Elvis, Elvis, Inc.: Elvis mementos, 3765 Las
Vegas Blvd. S., Suite C, 798-3036

Floyd Lamb State Park: Ponds, 9200 Tule Springs
Rd., 486-5413

FunTazmic: 4975 Polaris, 795-4FUN

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: 900 Las Ve-
gas Blvd. N., 384-DINO

Liberace Museum: 1775 E. Tropicana, 798-5595

Lied Discovery Children's Museum: 833 Las Ve-
gas Blvd. N., 382-KIDS

Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History:
UNLV 739-3381

Mirage Dolphin Environment: The Mirage
Hotel, 791-7111

Mount Charleston Area: Rec. info., 222-1597

Nevada State Museum and Historical Society:
Lorenzi Park, 486-5205

Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort: Las Vegas Blvd. N.
at Washington, 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. Ran-
cho Dr., 648-5955

Spring Mountain Ranch State Park: Red Rock
Canyon, 875-4141

World Boxing Hall of Champions: 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 South-
ern 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 Winery
Rd., 727-6900

Searchlight

Searchlight Historic Museum: Community Cen-
ter, 455-7955

*A Reminder: To confirm dates and times, use the phone
number listed with each event. For out-of-state callers,
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Reno-Tahoe Territory

EVENTS

January

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

Art Show, thru Jan. 21, mixed media, ceramics, and photography, Sheppard Galleries, Church Fine Arts Complex, U of N, 784-6658

Art Show, thru Jan. 22, works by Jan Vance, Town Center Mall, 333-2826

Nevada Heritage Quilt Project Exhibition, thru Jan. 23, Nevada Museum of Art, E.L. Wiegand Gallery, 329-3333

A Brush with Disney: The Art of Herbert Dickens Ryman, thru Feb. 6, includes artworks

from Ryman's long career with Disney, Nevada Museum of Art, E.L. Wiegand Gallery, 329-3333

Beyond Gum San: The Chinese in Nevada, thru April 30, 1995, show details the importance of Chinese immigrants in the development of Nevada, Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 687-4810

Tahoe Snowboard Series, Jan. 2 and Feb. 13, Ski Homewood, 525-2992

Snow Flaky Festival, Jan. 3-31, paintings of snow and related works of art, on Jan. 15 snow-rain dance in the parking lot, Artists Co-Op Gallery, 322-8896

Water Media Works, Jan. 3-Feb. 11, Sierra Arts Center, 329-1324

Sharkey's Serbian Christmas Dinner, Jan. 7, traditional Serbian Christmas dinner provided free of charge at Sharkey's Nugget by owner Sharkey Begovich, Gardnerville, 782-3133

Winter Celebration, Jan. 7-30, fireworks and torchlight ski parade on Jan. 7 at Heavenly, other events at ski resorts and properties include: Men's Pro Racing, U.S. Snowboard Tour events, barrel stave-snowshoe race, hot-drink contest, No Sand-No Sweat Volleyball Tournament, and various ski races, South Lake Tahoe, 586-7000

Snowboard Races, Jan. 8-9, Boreal, 916-426-3666

Far West Ski Races, Jan. 8-9, Squaw Valley, 916-583-6955

Dealer Downhill, Jan. 10, casino dealers from South Lake Tahoe compete, Heavenly, 586-7000

Harlem Globetrotters, Jan. 13, Lawlor Events Center, U of N, 784-4444

Snowshoe Thompson Race, Jan. 14, Sierra at Tahoe, 916-659-7453

"Cheaters", Jan. 14-15, 21-23, and 28-29, comedy, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Celebrity Sports Invitational, Jan. 14-16, ski races between celebrities from TV, film, music, and sports, Squaw Valley, 916-583-6955

Sing the Dream, Jan. 14-17, celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, keynote speaker



South Lake Tahoe's Winter Celebration, January 7-30, begins with a fireworks display at Heavenly.

er is attorney Thomas Todd, Youth Achievement Essay Contest Award, Reno, 329-8990

"Cabaret", Jan. 14-29, musical, 8pm, Proscenium Players, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Truckee Lions Sierra Sweepstakes Sled Dog Races, Jan. 15-16, more than 50 teams in speed trail events, amateur weight pulling, up-close viewing of dogs, 9:30am-4pm, dress warmly, no pet dogs, Truckee-Tahoe Airport, 916-587-3276

National Brotherhood of Skiers Winter Carnival, Jan. 15-17, Alpine Meadows, 916-583-4232

Fantasy Wedding Faire, Jan. 16, 11am-4pm, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 322-7064

TERRITORY MAP



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

University of Nevada Basketball: Jan. 3 v. San Jose State, Jan. 5 v. Pacific, Jan. 15 v. UC Irvine, Jan. 17 v. Cal State Fullerton, Jan. 29 v. Utah State, Feb. 3 v. Long Beach State, Feb. 5 v. UC Santa Barbara, Feb. 17 v. New Mexico State, Feb. 19 v. UNLV Lawlor Events Center, U of N, 348-PACK

University of Nevada Music Department: concerts, recitals, 784-6145

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

Park Program: Donner Party Escape, Jan. 16 and Feb. 6, lecture on the Donner Party ordeals, bring snowshoes, meet 10am at Donner Memorial State Park Museum, 916-582-7892

Robert Bluestone Concert, Jan. 19, master of the Spanish technique for classical guitar, 8pm, Gold Hill Hotel, Gold Hill, 847-0111

"Betrayal," Jan. 20-30, Daring Explorations Theatre Company, 8pm Thurs.-Sat., 2pm Sat.-Sun., Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 348-4600 or 800-225-BASS

USSA Snowboard Event, Jan. 21-22, Squaw Valley, 916-583-6955

California-Oregon Emigrant Trail of 1841-1870 Exhibit, Jan. 21-May 30, photographs by Greg MacGregor, lecture on Feb. 25 at 7pm, Nevada Historical Society, 688-1190

Reno Chamber Orchestra Concert, Jan. 22, with violinist Alyssa Park and cellist John Lenz, 8pm, Nightingale Hall, U of N, 348-9413

Chrysler Celebrity Ski Classic, Jan. 22, autograph seekers can watch their favorite stars ski at Heavenly, bleacher seating is free, 586-7000

Dr. Schaeffer and Mr. Stern, Jan. 22, dancers with a mix of theater and drama present their ensemble program, 7:30pm, Carson City Community Center, 883-1976

Pedigree Petathalon, Jan. 23, dress-up your pooch, dog impersonations, prizes, Heavenly, 586-7000

Full Moon Ski Tours, Jan. 24 and Feb. 22, Sorensen's Resort, Hope Valley, 916-694-2203 or 800-423-9949

Jeep/Eagle Tournament of Champions Ski Series, Jan. 25-27, skiing legends such as Franz Weber, Bill Johnson, Tamara McKinney, and Christin Cooper compete, Heavenly, 586-7000

David Friesen Concert, Jan. 26, jazz bassist, 8pm, Nightingale Hall, U of N, 784-6847

Far West Ski Assn. Auction and Wine Tasting, Jan. 29, Tahoe Nordic Ski Center, 916-583-0484

Park Program: Winter Survival, Jan. 29, bring lunch, warm clothes, and cross-country skis, meet 10am at Sugar Pine Point State Park Day Use Area, 916-525-7982

Telemark Race and Celebration, Jan. 30, 17th annual, Northstar, 916-562-1010

Harvey Reid Concert, Jan. 30, string guitar, banjo, steel guitar, and autoharp, 7:30pm, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

February

Art Show and Sale, Feb. 1-28, on Feb. 13 Valentine's Day party from 1-4pm, Artists Co-Op Gallery, 322-8896

Art Show, Feb. 3-March 10, drawings by Jim Pink and ceramics by Mark Burns at Sheppard Gallery, work by Jon Nelson-Kortland at McNamara Gallery, opening reception on Feb. 3 from 5:30-7:30pm, Church Fine Arts, U of N, 784-6658

Affair of the Heart Gala, Feb. 4, dinner and dance for the American Heart Assn., Reno Hilton, 322-7064

"Betrayal," Feb. 4, Daring Explorations Theatre Company, 8pm, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Loren Kahn Puppet Theatre, Feb. 4-5, advance ticket prices are \$10 adults, \$5 students, 7:30pm Fri., 11am Sat., Cal-Neva Lodge, Crystal Bay, 916-446-002

Tom Ball and Kenny Sultan Concert, Feb. 5, Ball is a blues harpist and vocalist, Sultan is a ragtime and "good times blues" guitarist, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Cat Show, Feb. 5, annual show for household pet



Snowfest's Dress-Up-Your-Dog Contest isn't just for dogs anymore.

PREVIEW

Snowfest Hits the Spot

Slightly embarrassed dogs and their proud owners will entertain crowds of winter celebrants during the popular Dress-Up-Your-Dog Contest, part of the entertainment offered during North Lake Tahoe's and Truckee's annual Snowfest Winter Carnival March 4-13.

The festival offers more than 120 unusual events—everything from a tea dance to a wild game and fish cook-off.

A torchlight ski parade, laser light show, and fireworks kick off the celebration on Friday evening, March 4, at Squaw Valley, site of the 1960 Winter Olympic Games.

Other events include a "polar bear" swim in the icy waters of Lake Tahoe, an authentic Hawaiian luau, the Tahoe Localman Triathlon, ice carving, snow sculpture, a colorful community parade, an outdoor street dance, ski races, and an arts and crafts fair. Family and children's events are prominent, including an ice cream eating contest, a children's parade, family fun days, children's theatre, and a penny carnival.

For more information and complete calendar of events, contact the Snowfest office at 916-583-7625 or write Snowfest, Box 7590, Tahoe City, CA 96145.

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\$198

Sun-Fri; Sat \$298
1/2 6/16/94

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Deluxe Aspen Tower Room, double beds, 1 or 2 persons, economy rental car, unlimited mileage, \$50 value Funsheet

\$69

Sun-Fri; Sat \$109
1/2 6/16/94

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Deluxe Aspen Tower Room King or Double, one lift ticket per person, discount ski rental, \$50 value Casino Funsheet

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Feb & March 1994
Sun-Thurs, \$69
Fri & Sat, \$89

Sun-Thurs; Fri & Sat \$89
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1994 Downhill Skier's Guide

Area	Phone	Top Elevation	Vertical	Lifts	Rating Bg-Int-Adv	Lift Price Adult/Child	Rental Adult/Child	Snowboards
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
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*Resorts with special snowboarding parks and/or half-pipes

1994 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				
Elko SnoBowl Ruby Mountains (Elko)	702-738-6125 702-753-6867	New rope-tow ski area seven miles north of Elko. Ruby Mt. Heli-Skiing in Lamolite 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.

Getting a Lift at Tahoe

Lake Tahoe-area ski resorts got a lift from last winter, one of the snowiest in years. Following are some of the improvements that Tahoe resorts have made this season. Ski packages also are noted.

Alpine Meadows has spent more than \$3 million on improvements such as lift upgrades. The Roundhouse triple chair was replaced by a new high-speed detachable quad chair, and the old Roundhouse chair will replace the Sherwood double chair. This winter, two new programs are being offered in the resort's ski school: telemark skiing and "Fat Boys" skiing, which refers not to the size of the skiers but to the width of the skis. Ask about the Family Pack ski program.

Diamond Peak opened 20 acres of terrain in Solitude Canyon for advanced skiers looking for a challenge. The resort also plans to upgrade its snow-making equipment and add a three-acre Snowboard Park designed and built by Incline Village teenagers at the top of the quad lift. Ask about the Ski P.E. program for kids and various family specials.

Donner Ski Ranch has a new double-chair lift. Skiers will find five new runs and 50 more skiable acres for a total of 500 acres.

Heavenly has made more than \$15 million in improvements in the past three summers. This year Heavenly remodeled skiers' facilities and added two buses to its shuttle fleet and five snow cats to its snow-grooming program. Heavenly officials also are working on a new master plan that involves connecting the ski resort to the South Shore with a gondola.

Kirkwood created a new learn-to-ski center and a new ski school format. Kirkwood also upgraded two double chairs to triple chairs. Ask about the new Avid Skier program, young-adult lift tickets, and season passes for Sunday through Friday skiing.

Mount Rose replaced Nevada's oldest ski lift, the 29-year-old Ponderosa double chair, with a new high-speed quad chair that moves 1,500 more skiers up the mountain every hour. Ask about the resort's "Runs-N-Roses" family ski package.



Skier Rob DesLauriers shows off some high-flyin' moves at Squaw Valley.

Northstar embarked on a \$5-million improvement program last summer. The Schaffer Camp triple-chair lift was replaced with the Backside Express, an express quad chair. There's a new mountain-top food and beverage facility with views of Lake Tahoe from its 5,000-square-foot deck. Northstar also opened two new runs on the backside of Mount Pluto.

Ski Homewood upgraded its snow-making for the lower five lifts and added two snow cats to its grooming fleet. The resort hopes to open more advanced terrain by transporting skiers to the top of Ellis Peak via snow cat. This winter three snowboard camps "by women, for women" will be offered; cost is \$140. Ask about the Ski and Play program for kids.

Squaw Valley spent \$2.5 million on improvements, including a new facility for kids and teens next to the Big Red lift. Squaw Valley also installed an awning over its year-round ice-skating rink at the top of the mountain and added the new Olympic High trail.

Sugar Bowl increased its snowmaking operations and enclosed the skiers'

entrance to the main lodge. Sugar Bowl is offering an early-departure credit this season for skiers who want to leave early to beat the traffic.

For a free copy of the 1993-94 Reno-Tahoe Skier's Planning Guide, write Box 20935, Reno, NV 89515 or call 800-588-SNOW.—Reno News Bureau





Drivers turn to mush at the Truckee Lions Sled Dog Races January 15-16.

cats, proceeds benefit animal welfare programs, the Silver Cats, Holiday Inn, 1000 E. Sixth St., 322-7456

Reno Chamber Orchestra Concert, Feb. 5, with guest conductor Emil De Cou, 8pm, Nightingale Hall, U of N, 348-9413

Sweetheart Dinner and Dance, Feb. 5, Douglas County Family Support Council, Carson

Valley Inn, Minden, 782-8692

Winterfest, Feb. 5, Mount Rose Ski Area, 849-0704

Carson Valley Bridal Show, Feb. 6, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

Ski the Huts Marathon Tour, Feb. 6, Royal Gorge Cross-Country Ski Resort, 916-426-3871

International Chile Pepper Festival, Feb. 8, taste chile pepper dishes prepared by local chefs,

5:30pm, Washoe Remedies Restaurant, Washoe Professional Building, 328-4015

Faustwork Mask Theater, Feb. 9, contemporary mask-movement performance, 7:30pm, the Commons, Virginia City High School, 847-0111

Contra Dance, Feb. 12, traditional line and circle dancing, 7pm, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Washoe County High School Honor Orchestra Concert, Feb. 12, free, 7:30pm, Nightingale Hall, U of N, 689-2590

Valentine's Day Ski Race, Feb. 13, Northstar, 916-562-1010

Poet Maya Angelou, Feb. 14, ASUN Auditorium, U of N, 784-6589

President's Cup Race, Feb. 14, 15K ski race, Tahoe Donner, 916-587-9484

Valentine's Day Ski, Feb. 14, tickets for \$14, Diamond Peak, 832-1177

Art Show, Feb. 14-March 31, paintings by Anita Lappi, opening reception Feb. 14 from 5-7pm, Sierra Arts Center, 329-1324

Washoe County Honor Chorus Concert, Feb. 16, sixth grade, middle school, and high school honor choirs, free, 7:30pm, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 689-2590

Women's Pro Ski Race and Fashion Show, Feb. 17-18, Squaw Valley, 916-583-6985

Nevada Landscape Conference and Trade Show, Feb. 17-18, open to public, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 851-0423

"A Few Good Men," Feb. 17-19 and 24-26, drama, 8pm, "E" Theater Company, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

"Oh, Coward!" Feb. 18-19, 25-26, and March 2-6,

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Mickey Gilley performs at Cactus Petes in Jackpot December 31-January 1, John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks January 20-February 2, and Whiskey Pete's in State Line February 18.

words and music by Noel Coward, dinner-cabaret theater presentation by the Nevada Repertory Company, 8pm, Redfield Studio Theatre, U of N, 784-6847

Snow Sculpture Contest and Party, Feb. 21, Tahoe Biltmore Lodge, Crystal Bay, Lake Tahoe, 831-0660 or 800-245-8667

Celebrate America With Wit and Wisdom, Feb. 22, MacAvoy Lane and Clay Jenkinson present an evening with Mark Twain and Thomas Jefferson, 7:30pm, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

La Forza del Destino, Feb. 24 and 26, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 786-4046

Pheasant Hunt, Game Feed, and Sporting Clays Shoot, Feb. 24-27 eighth annual, Red Hills Hunting Preserve at Topaz Lake and Carson Valley Inn in Minden, 782-9711

"Tribute," Feb. 25-26, March 4-6, and March 11-12, comedy-drama, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Saturday Brass Quintet, Feb. 26, winner of 1990 Naumburg Chamber Music Award, 8pm, Nightingale Hall, U of N, 784-6847

National Football League Ski Challenge, Feb. 26-27, silent auction, fun ski race, food, Tahoe Adaptive Ski School fundraiser, Alpine Meadows, 916-581-4161

USSA Far West Masters Ski Race, Feb. 26-27 Donner Ski Ranch, 916-426-3635

Seattle Mime Theater, Feb. 27, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Emigrant Trail Tour, Feb. 27 cross-country ski along the historic Emigrant Trail from Summit Station to Rainbow Lodge, meet at Royal Gorge Cross-Country Ski Resort, 916-426-3871

Carson City Chamber Orchestra Concert, Feb. 27, Carson City Community Center, 883-4154

Gourmet Cross-Country Ski Tour, Feb. 27, Northstar, 916-562-1010

International Police Winter Games, Feb. 27-March 4, sixth annual, 400 peace officers from around the world compete, Heavenly, 586-

7000 or 305-271-2774

Firefighter Winter Games, Feb. 28-March 3, Northstar, 916-562-1010

COMING EVENTS

U of N Jazz Ensemble, March 4, big band jazz featuring Larry Engstrom on trumpet, 8pm, Delta Saloon, Virginia City, 847-0111

Snowfest, March 4-13, winter carnival with torch-light ski parade, ski races, arts and crafts, photo contest, Dress-Up-Your-Dog Contest, North Lake Tahoe and Truckee, 916-583-7625

The Great Ski Race, March 6, Tahoe Nordic Ski

Center, 916-583-0484

Cowboy Music Weekend, March 11-12, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711 or 800-321-6983

Doctors' Spouses Rummage Sale, March 12, Reno Livestock Events Center, 829-1303

Stewart Indian Museum Mother Earth Awakening Powwow, March 18-20, Carson City, 882-1808

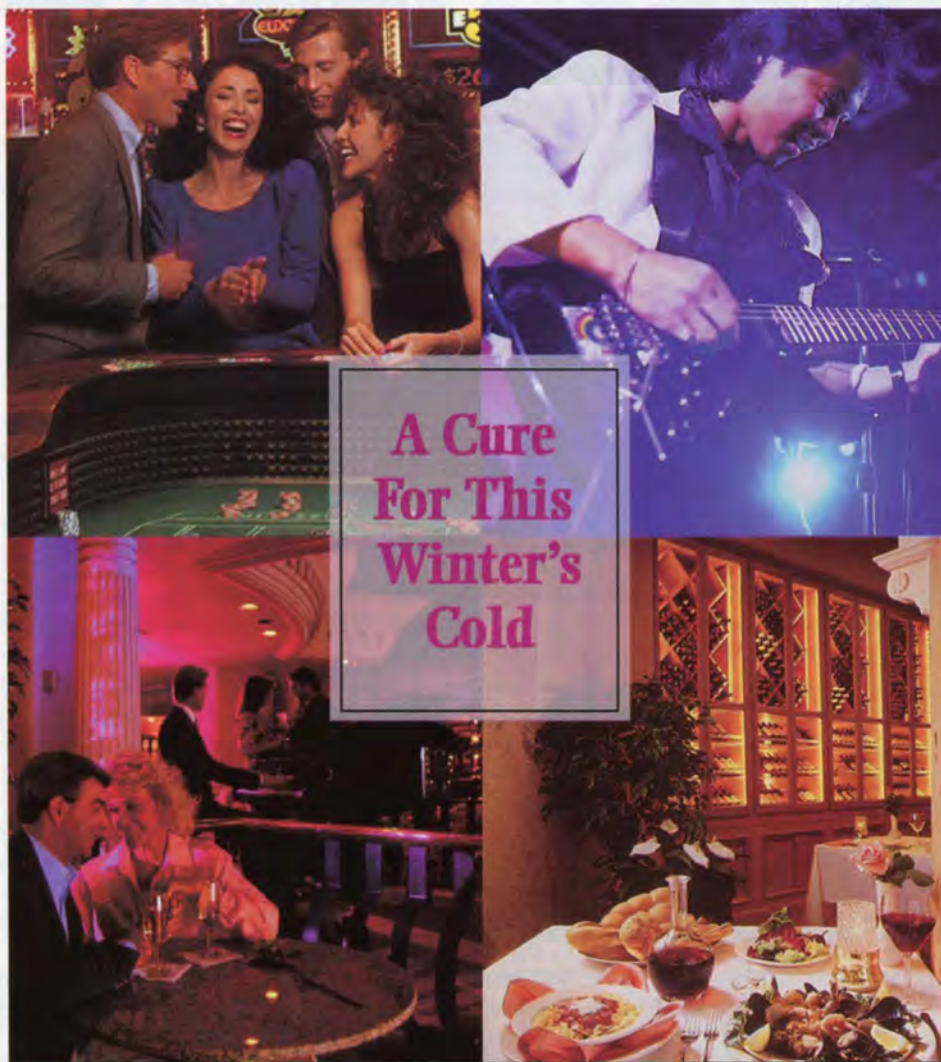
Silver State Square and Round Dance Festival, April 29-May 1, Reno, 322-0027

Cinco de Mayo, May 5-8, Sparks, 353-2284

Chili Cook-Off and Cinco de Mayo, May 7-8, Virginia City, 847-0500

Comstock Historic Preservation Weekend, May 13-15, Virginia City, 847-0975

Asian-Pacific Festival of Fortune, May 21-22,



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Sparks, 353-2291 or 800-843-2427 ext. 3312
Reno West Coast Wine Competition Tasting and A Taste of Nevada, June 3, 827-7636
Downtown A-Fair, June 4, Carson City, 885-0411
Kit Carson Rendezvous Wagon Train, June 9-11, Reno and Carson City, 884-3633
Kit Carson Rendezvous, June 10-12, Carson City, 884-3633
Reno IndyCar Grand Prix: Rolling Thunder II, June 10-12, 789-2285 or 800-648-3568
Carson Valley Days, June 10-12, Minden/Gardnerville, 782-9828
Stewart Indian Museum Powwow, June 17-19, Carson City, 882-1808
Reno's Country Junction, June 17-20, 827-7676 or 800-367-7366
Reno Rodeo, June 17-26, 329-3877
Nugget Jazz Festival, July 2-4, Sparks, 356-3300
Sports Cars and All That Jazz, July 8-10, Reno, 786-3030 or 800-648-5966
Carson Valley Heritage Day Chili Cook-Off and Art and Crafts Faire, July 9, Minden/Gardnerville, 782-8144
Capital City Fair, July 29-31, Carson City, 882-4460
Shakespeare at Sand Harbor, Aug. 1-21, Lake Tahoe, 916-583-9048
Hot August Nights, Aug. 4-7 Reno and Sparks, 829-1955

Carson Valley Fine Arts and Street Celebration, Aug. 20-21, Minden, 782-8144
Nevada State Fair, Aug. 24-28, Reno, 688-5767
Numaga Indian Days, Sept. 2-4, Reno, 329-2936
Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off, Sept. 2-5, Sparks, 356-3300
Virginia City International Camel Races, Sept. 9-11, 847-0311
Great Reno Balloon Race, Sept. 9-11, 826-1181
Reno National Championship Air Races, Sept. 15-18 (tentative), 972-6663
Genoa Candy Dance, Sept. 24-25, 782-8696
World Championship Chili Cook-Off, Sept. 30-Oct. 2, Reno, 829-2810
Snow Dance Festival, Oct. 1-3, Incline Village, 468-2463
Italian Festival, Oct. 8-9, Reno, 786-5700
Wa She Shu Powwow, Oct. 28-30, Carson City, 883-6431
Nevada Day Parade, Oct. 31, Carson City, 882-2600
Celtic New Year Celebration, Nov. 4-6, Reno, 786-3030
National Senior Pro Rodeo Finals, Nov. 7-13, Reno, 688-5751
Christmas on the River, Nov. 26, Reno, 334-2077
Silver and Snowflakes Tree Lighting Ceremony, Dec. 1, Carson City, 885-0411
Sparks Hometowne Christmas, Dec. 3, 353-2338

SHOWGUIDE

Reno/Sparks

Circus Circus, 329-0711 or 800-648-5010: Free circus acts, 11am-midnight
Clarion, 825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Live bands nightly
Eldorado, 786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside Nevada), or 800-648-3024 (Canada): Doug Ker-shaw, Dec. 26-Jan. 1; Honolulu, Dec. 28-Jan. 16; Danny Marona, Feb. 1-20; Rob Hanna, Feb. 22-March 13
Fitzgeralds, 785-3300: 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*: Jennifer Nam, thru Jan. 9; Laura St. Romain, thru Jan. 24; The Act, Jan. 25-Feb. 7; Jennifer Nam, Feb. 8-21; Zella Lehr, Feb. 22-March 7
Harolds Club, 329-0881 or 800-648-5022 (U.S. outside Nevada): Entertainment TBA
Harrah's Reno, 788-3773 or 800-648-3773: *Sammy's Showroom*: Della Reese, Dec. 26-Jan. 2; Desert Rose Band, Feb. 8-20; Phyllis Diller, Feb. 22-March 6; Greg Thompson's "Stagestruck" and "High Voltage," Dec. 24-

NIGHTLIFE

Change of Heart

BY GUY RICHARDSON

On July 1, 1991, Tommy Bell's life changed. Actually, Bell's life damn near ended. The change came later.

That day Bell and his band were on the way to Tahoe's North Shore for a gig. He's always on his way to a gig—Bell, who lives in Reno, works almost every casino in Northern Nevada, and he's hugely popular.

At the time Bell had a reputation as a work-hard, live-fast, drink, smoke, and stay-up-till-dawn guy. Suddenly he said, "I've got to go to the hospital."

Later he said, "It felt like an elephant sat on my chest."

Elephant, nothing. Twenty-five years of raising hell sat on his chest.

He got to the hospital. The emergency-room doctors hauled out more electronic widgey than is found at your average Radio Shack, got Bell's heart stabilized, and saved his life. Then they sent him to a hospital room to recover.

For most of us, that would be enough to bring on a little self-assessment. Not

Bell. "I figured life goes on. I'd be back to work in a few days."

Ho ho, smirked Fate. Ho ho ho. "In the hospital room I was talking to my wife, and I said, 'You'd better get those people back in here.'" He'd had another heart attack, a gigantic one.

"That was the most scared I ever was," Bell recalled. He had to wait a couple of days before a bypass operation. "Each night I wondered if I'd wake up tomorrow. I tried to be peaceful." The only way he found peace was thinking about life. "And the drugs didn't hurt."

But seriously, folks. Tommy Bell looked his mortality in the eye. He went through a five-way bypass that sliced his chest and cracked his ribs. He came out a changed man.

I talked to him a week later. "It's a hard thing to describe, but I'm a different guy," Tommy said. "I care about the smell of flowers. It sounds corny. I think about the things you overlook daily and the people you love. This has a way of showing you what's



This winter Tommy Bell performs at Harvey's and the Peppermill.

important and what's not."

The old Tommy Bell, he said, was dead. "Now I want to concentrate on being healthy. I'll always be cocky, but the cloud of smoke is gone."

The cigarettes had been Bell's trademark on stage. His fans knew him as a raspy-voiced guy with a plume of smoke over his head.

"It became a monster," he said. "It became my thing on stage. It worked for me. The crowd was smoking and drinking, and so was I. I rode that horse and used it as much as I could." He quit smoking. He stopped and smelled the roses.

In three months he returned to work.

Jan. 2 (dark Tues.)

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3304 or 800-648-1177 (U.S. and Western Canada): *Celebrity Showroom*: Herb Reed and the Platters/Fielding West, Dec. 26-30 and Jan. 1-12; Charo/Fielding West, Dec. 31; Billy Joe Royal, Jan. 13-19; Mickey Gilley, Jan. 20-Feb. 2; Boxcar Willie and the Texas Trainmen, Feb. 3-16; *Casino Cabaret*: Flashback, indf.

Peppermill, 826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Tommy Bell/Cameron, thru Jan. 2; Lelands, Dec. 27-Jan. 9; Silk, Jan. 3-9; Madison Avenue, Jan. 3-16; Dynatones, Jan. 10-16; Brother to Brother, Jan. 10-23; Jerry Zu, Jan. 17-30; Power House, Jan. 24-30; Cheryl Cotten, Jan. 24-Feb. 6; Johnny Baron, Jan. 31-Feb. 6; Freddy Powers, Feb. 7-20; Tommy Bell, Feb. 14-27; David Brenner, Feb. 18-19

Reno Hilton, 789-2285 or 800-648-3568 (U.S. outside Nevada): *Ziegfeld Theatre*: The Neville Brothers, Jan. 1

Reno Ramada, 788-2000: Entertainment TBA
Silver Club, Sparks, 358-4771: Foreign Affair, Jan. 1-3; Brother to Brother, Jan. 1-7; George Pickard/Mark Donovan, Jan. 4-10; The Act/Mark Donovan, Jan. 11-17; Chappel and James/Mark Donovan, Jan. 18-24; Perfect Circle/Mark Donovan, Jan. 25-31; Carmon and Duchane/Mark Donovan, Feb. 1-7; Mark

That was two years ago. Now Bell is 43. Recently I asked him if he was still a changed man.

"Yeah. I'm still not smoking, and I don't drink very much at all," he said. "I'm still a wise-ass—just a more cautious one."

He happily works on old cars, which he calls "terrific therapy." He's now restoring a '37 Nash for his wife Cindy. As an entertainer, he still works the till-dawn shifts because he likes the artistic freedom, and he likes other entertainers dropping by when their shifts are over.

I asked if he'd be happy if stardom never came. "Heck, yes," Bell said. "Let's face it, the only way I'm going to make it is if someone hands it to me. I still love to perform, but it's safe to say the fire has burned down. It's a youthful market."

A changed man with banked fires, but still: "Of course, when you're not looking for it, then it may happen. I just don't want to climb on a band bus."

Tommy Bell plays at Harvey's at Stateline, Lake Tahoe, January 31-February 13 and at the Peppermill in Reno February 14-27

Guy Richardson is an editor and entertainment writer for the Reno Gazette-Journal and a regular contributor to Nevada Magazine.

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RENO-TAHOE

Donovan, Feb. 8-14; City Slickers/Mark Donovan, Feb. 15-28

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): Entertainment TBA

Carson Station, Carson City, 883-0900: Live entertainment Tues.-Sat.

Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711 or 800-321-6983 (U.S. outside Nevada): Shake, Rattle and Roll, thru Jan. 1; Paradise, Jan. 3-8; Lelands, Jan. 10-22; Eddie Dunbar, Jan. 24-Feb. 6; Big Tiny Little, Feb. 7-12; Slick Gypsy, Feb. 14-26; Edy Gainer and Dezire, Feb. 28-March 5

Sharkey's Nugget, Gardnerville, 782-3133
Topaz Lodge, Topaz Lake, 266-3339

Lake Tahoe

Bill's Lake Tahoe, Stateline, 588-2455

Caesars Tahoe, Stateline, 588-2044 or 800-648-3353: *Circus Maximus*: Huey Lewis and the News, Dec. 31-Jan. 1; George Carlin, Feb. 4-6

Cal-Neva Lodge, Crystal Bay, 832-4000 or 800-225-6382

Crystal Bay Club, Crystal Bay, 831-0512: Live entertainment Tues.-Sun.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe, Stateline, 588-6606 or 800-648-3773: *South Shore Room*: Greg Thompson's "Hollywood," Dec. 24-May 30; "E-ROCK-TICA," Dec. 26-May 30; *Stateline Cabaret*: Classic Rock All-Stars, Dec. 28-Jan. 2; "Beyond Bare Essence," thru Jan. 2 (dark Mon.)

Harvey's, Stateline, 588-2411 or 800-553-1022: *Emerald Theater*: "Twist and Shout: The Ultimate Beatles Revue," indf.; *Llewellyn's*: Ron Rose Sound, indf.; *Emerald Party Lounge*: Unity, Jan. 3-16; Reta and the Wizz Kidz/Steel Breeze, Jan. 17-30; Art Vargas and Two Sweet/Tommy Bell, Jan. 31-Feb. 13; Sonny Turner/The Act, Feb. 14-March 6

Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe, Incline Village, 831-1111

Lake Tahoe Horizon, Stateline, 588-6211 or 800-322-7723 (U.S. outside Nevada): Williams and Ree/Billy Joe Royal, Dec. 31-Jan. 1

Lakeside Inn, Stateline, 588-7777: Entertainment TBA

Tahoe Biltmore, Crystal Bay, 831-0660 or 800-BILTMOR: Big Brother-N-Me, thru Jan. 2; Kicks, Jan. 4-9; Cream Fillin' Jan. 11-23; Diamond Peak, Jan. 25-Feb. 6; Steppin' Stonz, Feb. 8-20; Powerhouse, Feb. 22-March 6; bands Tues.-Sun.; nightly dancing

GAMING TOURNAMENTS

January

Slots, Jan. 7-9 and 17-19, Fitzgeralds, 785-3381

Dice, Jan. 21-23, Harolds Club, 785-3381

Slots, Jan. 23-24, Peppermill, 689-7282

Slots, Jan. 28, Club Cal-Neva, 323-1046

February

Slots, Feb. 4-6, 18-20, and 21-23, Fitzgeralds, 785-3381

Blackjack, Feb. 11-12, Peppermill, 689-7101

Slots, Feb. 13-14, Peppermill, 689-7282

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If you're fishing for dinosaurs or hunting for ghosts, check out Mineral County. We're home to a number of ghost towns and right next door to the Ichthyosaur a giant dinosaur fish that once roamed the area. But say you're into more "sedate" activities like water skiing, wind surfing or jet skiing —we have them too!

Mineral County

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For more information call—
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The Faustwork Mask Theater will bring its contemporary mask-movement performance to Virginia City High School February 9.

Slots and Keno, Feb. 15, Tahoe Biltmore, Crystal Bay, 831-0660
Slots, Feb. 25, Club Cal-Neva, 323-1046

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: outdoor hot tubs, 2001 Foothill Rd., 782-8155

Lake Tahoe

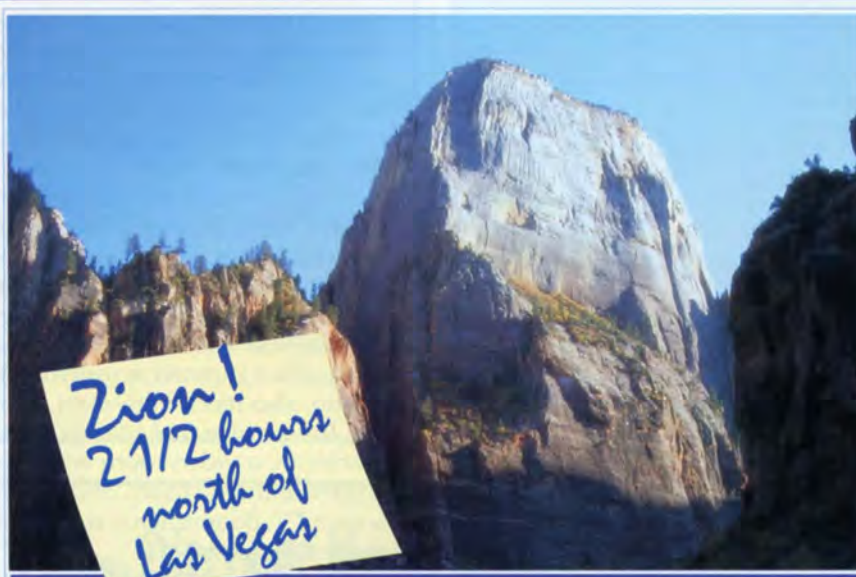
Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park: 2005 Hwy. 28, Incline Village, 831-0494
M.S. Dixie Cruiseship: Dry-docked; new ship arrives in May, Zephyr Cove, 588-3508
Ponderosa Ranch: Seasonal, Incline Village, 831-0691

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: U of N, 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
U of N Anthropology Dept. Research Museum: U of N, 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



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*\$39.00 after April 30, 1994.

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	Value
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4 \$1.00 Gaming Tokens.....	\$ 4.00
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1 Night <u>per couple</u>	\$41.00
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Your Price Only	\$33.00*

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Both must be 21 years of age. This offer, in all or part, is subject to cancellation or revision at any time. Rooms subject to availability.



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**City Center
MOTEL**

800 N. Carson St., Carson City, Nevada 89703

1-800-338-7760

HOTELS

Casino Notes

•Slot players at **Bill's Lake Tahoe Casino** don't have to leave their slot machines when they get hungry since the casino now offers Meals on Reels. Hungry customers can make selections from the McDonald's or Bennigan's menus set up in the casino's slot sections, turn on the change light, and give their orders to a change person. McDonald's or Bennigan's delivers meals right to the gamblers at their machines.

•The newest addition to **Boomtown's Truck Stop** in Verdi is a 165-seat restaurant. The restaurant has a buffet, a full menu, and credit-card telephones that truckers can use at their tables. The Truck Stop, which opened last summer across from the casino, also has a mini-mart, showers, full-service fuel islands, 65 slot machines, a video room with overstuffed lounge chairs, and a giant-screen TV. Boomtown is seven miles west of Reno on I-80.

•The **Carson Valley Inn** in Minden has installed \$1, \$5, \$10, and \$20 bill acceptors on more than 30 percent of the slots and video machines. When the bills are inserted into a machine, credits appear on the screen.

•Diners at the **Eldorado's La Strada Restaurant** in Reno can now see a mural of Sonoma County's Alexander Valley in California from an outdoor balcony. Muralist Terry Peterson of Los Angeles created the landscape of the view overlooking the Ferrari-Carano Vineyards, which is owned by the Eldorado's Carano family. A former artist for Walt Disney productions, Peterson also will be hanging 18 murals in the new MGM Theme Park in Las Vegas.

•**Harrah's Lake Tahoe** has created a new themed gaming area. Players in the Classic Rock Casino can play blackjack, multiple-action blackjack, and roulette while listening to classic rock hits by such artists as the Rolling Stones, the Beatles, and Bob Dylan. "We want to create theme areas which are like small casinos



The new Classic Rock Casino at Harrah's Tahoe is for rock 'n' rollers.

within our main casino," said Games Manager Rogene Paullo.

•**Harrah's Reno** has a new non-smoking area in the middle of its Sports Casino. Included in the smoke-free zone are the front half of the race book, the entire sports book, the Sports Deli, and a slot machine section. Nearly 37 percent of the hotel's rooms are nonsmoking, as is the 420-seat Sammy's Showroom.

•**Harvey's** is celebrating its third year of recycling. Since 1990 the Lake Tahoe resort has recycled 40 tons of paper, 160 tons of corrugated cardboard, and 158 tons of glass per year. Harvey's officials estimate that the program has saved 3,315 trees, 488 barrels of oil, and 1,365,000 gallons of water annually.

•**John Ascuaga's Nugget** in Sparks is again giving away a new home during its Home Sweet Home Sweepstakes, January 18 to March 17. Anyone 21 and older can register free every day to be eligible to win a \$150,000 home in Reno or Sacramento. There will be \$500 in daily prizes, and the grand drawing will be on St. Patrick's Day.



Autograph seekers can watch their favorite stars race down the slopes of Heavenly during the Chrysler Celebrity Ski Classic, January 22.

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: 849-0684

Washoe Lake State Park: E. Lake Blvd., 687-4319

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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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
Jarbridge: 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



The Rural Territories

PREVIEW

Winter Golf

The folks in Spring Creek have a cure for cabin fever this winter: indoor golf.

The first Spring Creek "Blizzard Open" will take place January 10-16 inside the Spring Creek Horse Palace, 12 miles south of Elko. The horse arena will be transformed into a scaled-down golf course. Golfers will use limited-flight golf balls and regular clubs and play on a nine- or 18-hole course with "green" tees, fairways, and putting greens. Water—or rather ice hazards—and sand traps and old Christmas trees will provide challenges on the course.

Golfers will be able to play all week and enter a stroke-play tournament



Get out of the cold: Spring Creek has indoor golf to help ward off cabin fever

with awards and banquet on the weekend. Tee-time reservations are advised for the open play during the week, and preregistration is required for the tournament. The cost will be \$5 for

nine holes and \$9 for 18. The registration fee for the tournament is \$40. Call the Spring Creek Association office at 702-753-6295 for more information or tee times.

COWBOY COUNTRY



January

Linda Dufurrena Photo Show, thru Jan. 19, studies of the land, ranching, and animals, by noted Nevada photographer Linda Dufurrena, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Ansel Adams and Edward Weston Photo Exhibit, Dec. 29-Jan. 19, museum collection of 25 photographs, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Great Nevada Picture Hunt Winners Show, Jan. 7-30, exhibit of Nevada Magazine's 16th annual photo contest winners, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Chariot Racing, Jan. 9, 16, and 23, chariot track, Wells, 752-3544

Blizzard Open, Jan. 10-16, equestrian center will be transformed into an indoor golf course, open to public, spectators welcome, Spring Creek Horse Palace, 12 miles south of Elko, 753-6295

Hole in the Mountain Cross-Country Ski Race, Jan. 22, 5K and 10K races, women's, men's, and children's divisions, refreshments, race is on Angel Lake Road, Wells, 752-3540

Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Jan. 25-30, 10th anniversary, celebrates the rise of cowboy poetry as a popular American art form, includes poetry recitations, dances, exhibits, workshops on ranch cooking, cowboy crafts, visual arts, cowboy poetry writing, and outdoor photography, Elko Convention Center and Elko Junior High School, 738-7508 or 800-748-4466

Trappings of the Great Basin Buckaroo Exhibit, Jan. 25-March 15, photographs of Great Basin buckaroos by C.J. Hadley of Washoe Valley from her recently published book, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

February

SnoBowl Canoe Races, Feb. 5, family-oriented

event to raise money for SnoBowl, a recreation and snow-skiing hill, event includes racing canoes, boats, and tubes, snow games for children, and skiing, 10am-3pm, SnoBowl Ski Area, six-and-a-half miles north of Elko, 738-5106

Eagles Annual Crab Feed, Feb. 5, public invited, Lovelock Community Center, 273-7144

Wells Invitational Chariot Races, Feb. 5-6, chariot track, Wells, 752-3544

Lincoln Day Dinner, Feb. 11, speaker and dinner, Lovelock Community Center, 273-7144

Celebrate You V, Feb. 11-12, fifth annual women's conference, sponsored by Family Resource

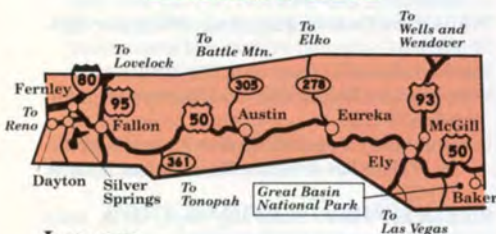
HOT LINES

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 telephone numbers, see page E-6

Center of Elko, speakers, luncheons, and booths, Elko Convention Center, 800-248-3556
Chariot Racing, Feb. 13, 20, 27, and March 6, chariot track, Wells, 752-3544

PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY



January

Hidden Cave Tours, Jan. 8 and 22, 9:30am, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677

Jimmy Dawkins Blues Band, Jan. 15, Chicago blues, Fallon Convention Center, 423-1440

February

Art Exhibit, Feb. 1-28, paintings by Carolyn Schneider, Churchill Public Library, Fallon, 423-1440

Bristlecone Birkebeiner, Feb. 5, cross-country ski races, 5K and 10K events for adults, 2.5K race for children 10 and under, Ward Mountain, six miles southwest of Ely, 289-8877 or 289-3065

Hidden Cave Tours, Feb. 12 and 26, 9:30am, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677

PIONEER TERRITORY



January

Berlin-Ichthyosaur Fossil House and Berlin 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

Dr. Schaffer and Mr. Stern: A Dance Ensemble, Jan. 21, this dance ensemble describes itself as humorous, unpredictable, and accessible; they often perform in tennis shoes, with basketballs, or boxing gloves, 7:30pm, Catholic Center, Yerington, 463-3066

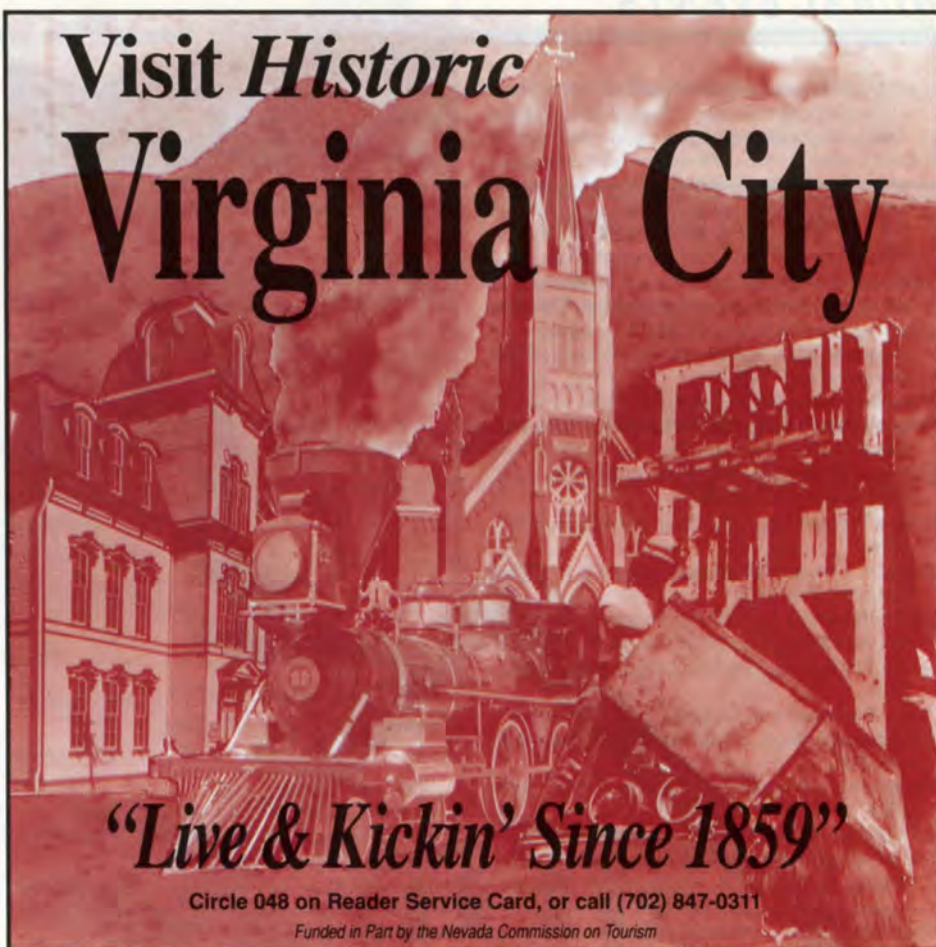
Silver City Shooters Society Shoot-Out, Jan. 21-23, Beatty, 553-2424

February

Blast from the Past, Feb. 3-5, classic car show, sock hop, dinner with car hop service, Golden Memories Car Club, Beatty, 553-2424

Great Nevada Picture Hunt Winners Show, Feb.

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 85 E. Fifth Street, Winnemucca, NV 89445
 or call (702) 623-6388



RURAL EVENTS

4-27, exhibit of *Nevada Magazine's* 16th annual photo contest winners, Central Nevada Museum, Tonopah, 482-9676

COMING EVENTS

An Evening with the Arts, March 5, dinner and auction, Fallon Convention Center, 423-1440
Shooting the West, March 11-13, photography seminar, guest speakers, workshops, Winnemucca, 623-6388

Rhyolite Festival, March 19, 486-7234

Desert Oasis Bluegrass Festival, May 6-8, Fallon, 423-7733

BluBlocker Nevada 100, May 13-15, auto race, host city is Ely, 289-8877

Armed Forces Day, May 21-22, Hawthorne, 945-5896

Lincoln County Homecoming, May 27-30, Caliente, 726-3333

Jim Butler Days, May 27-30, Tonopah, 482-3859

Portuguese Festa, May 28-29, Lovelock, 273-7213

Senior Pro Rodeo, May 28-29, Winnemucca, 623-2225

Denio Barbecue and Roping, June 4, 941-0357

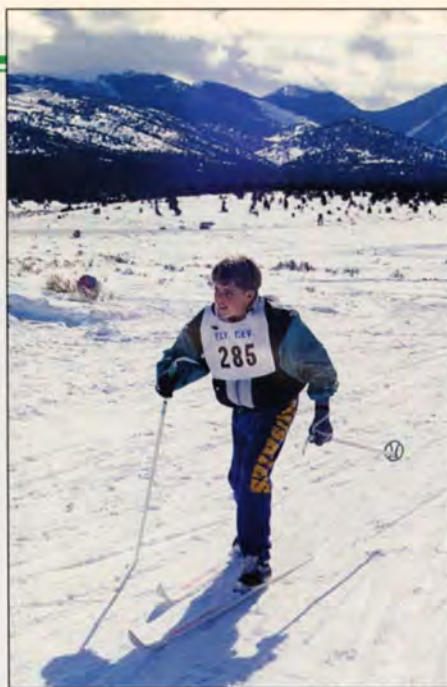
Winnemucca Mule Show and Races, June 4-5, 623-2225

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

Cowboy Music Gathering, June 23-26, Elko,



The Bristlecone Birkebeiner cross-country ski race near Ely is February 5.

738-7508

Lamoille Country Fair, June 26, 753-6603

Silver State International Rodeo, June 30-July 3, Fallon, 423-4674

National Basque Festival, July 1-3, Elko, 738-7547

All-Indian Rodeo, July 15-17 Fallon, 423-6075

Panaca Pioneer Day, July 23, 726-3333

Pioche Heritage Days, July 27-30, 726-3333

Winnemucca's Hot August Nights, July 31-Aug. 2, Winnemucca, 623-2225

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

Pony Express Horse Racing, Aug. 20-21 and Aug. 27-28, Ely, 289-8877

White Pine County Fair, Aug. 27-28, Ely, 289-8877

Pioche Labor Day, Sept. 2-5, 726-3333

Winnemucca Rodeo and Tri-County Fair, Sept. 3-5, 623-2225

Pinenut Festival and All-Indian Rodeo, Sept. 15-18, Walker River Indian Reservation, Schurz, 773-2306

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

Meadow Valley Days, Sept. 23-24, Caliente, 726-3333

Wendover Air Show, Oct. 1-2, 664-3901

Walker Lake Fishing Derby, Nov. 25-27, 945-5896

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

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Nevada): 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: Mickey Gilley, Dec. 31-Jan. 1; Bill Pickney's Drifters, Jan. 18-23; Diamonds, Feb. 8-16; Boxcar Willie, Feb. 17-20. 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). 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 800-354-3671: 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
Jarbridge 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, 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 Winery 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

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.



Step Back Into History!

A stroll down Main Street in Eureka will take you back 100 years ago when Eureka was a thriving mining camp.

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Eureka County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Authority
P.O. Box 14 • Eureka, Nevada 89316

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—732-5111. Fajitas, burritos, tacos, 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 roughly 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.

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.

Carson Valley Inn/Michael's—Minden, 782-9711. Rack of lamb and fresh seafood creations. D. Closed Tuesdays. \$, 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 Coffeshop—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.

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ORIENTAL

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Trader Dick's—Sparks, 356-3300. Cashew chicken, Szechwan specialties, flaming 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, escar-got. 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, soup and salad bar. 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.



The Carson Nugget offers a Sunday champagne brunch.

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. 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

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.

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 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,

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CARSON CITY

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1900 South Carson Street, Suite 200, Carson City, NV 89701



The stars of "Hollywood" shine for a Technicolor tribute to the tunes of Tinseltown.

Hooray for Hollywood

BY CAROLYN GRAHAM

Seeing Greg Thompson's "Hollywood" at Harrah's Lake Tahoe is like going out for an evening at the movies—in overdrive.

Once you find your seat and send the waiter off for strawberry daiquiris, the show whisks you away on a frantic tribute to six decades of the movies, from *Singin' in the Rain* to *Dirty Dancing*.

Among the stars of this high-energy show are the "Hollywood" singers—David Adams, Mark Francis, Kirsten Kite, Joanna Martin, and Tamara Thorkelsen. The five singers double as "ushers" and mingle with the audience, blending a medley of Tinseltown tunes so well that it's hard to tell where "Hooray for Hollywood" begins and "That's Entertainment" ends. Comedian Tony D'Andrea joins the scene with megaphone and cigar as the stereotypical Mr. Big to "direct" the controlled chaos on stage.

The show opens with the Golden Age of Hollywood. The stage becomes a revolving wax museum of well known scenes from *The Wizard of Oz*, *Some Like It Hot*, and other hits. Gene Kelly, Shirley Temple, and Judy Garland look-alikes step out to tap dance or sing a few bars. The act comes to an abrupt end when King Kong carries off Marilyn Monroe.

The "Hollywood" singers then offer a tuneful tribute to all the Oscar-win-

ning songs from 1934 to 1992. To help the audience, each song's year and movie are projected onto the stage.

While the five ushers duck out for oxygen, the stage is transformed into a 21st-century special-effects playground. Mutant Klingons play intergalactic laser tag. Random explosions keep the audience jumping (don't try to take a drink during this scene), and hairy creatures hover over the shoulders of unsuspecting showgoers.

During a brief reappearance by Tony D'Andrea, who impersonates John Wayne impersonating Madonna (eye patch and pointy bra included), the lasers are replaced with pink chiffon for a tribute to the Fred and Ginger era. The dancers sing "Putting on My Top Hat" while walking up and down a revolving staircase. The centerpiece is a nest of dancers covered in pink feathers.

If the thought of a medley of love songs makes you roll your eyes, you

will be pleasantly surprised by the way musical director Scott Farrell scores the next scene. The ushers pair up to sing the themes from *Sleepless in Seattle*, *Robin Hood* (the Kevin Costner version), and *The Bodyguard*—in a round. Remember trying to sing "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" as a kid? Try it with three different songs. The group does it and miraculously ends in unison with "love you."

It's a tough act to follow, but soon the stage is consumed by a tribute to the disco steps and leg warmers of the '70s and early '80s, from *Saturday Night Fever* to *Flashdance*. Then the entire cast returns for one more rousing chorus of "Hooray for Hollywood."

The extravaganza is produced by Greg Thompson, who shares the limelight with the show's choreographer, Mistinguett, whom you might spot near the stage with her six-foot frame (not including the two-foot-tall hairdo) and see-through outfits. Thompson also produced "Stagestruck" and "High Voltage" at Harrah's Reno and a new show, "E-ROCK-TICA," as a companion to "Hollywood." "Hollywood" is another example of Thompson's flair for musical shows—it's energetic, colorful, and even a little educational. I guess you could say, "That's entertainment."

Carolyn Graham is Nevada Magazine's associate editor

Hollywood Herald

Greg Thompson's "Hollywood" plays December 24-May 30 in the South Shore Room at Harrah's Lake Tahoe. Showtimes are 7:30 nightly, dark Tuesdays. Prices are \$20 and \$25 and include one drink.

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