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NEVADA

THE MAGAZINE OF THE REAL WEST

DECEMBER 1995 ■ \$3.50

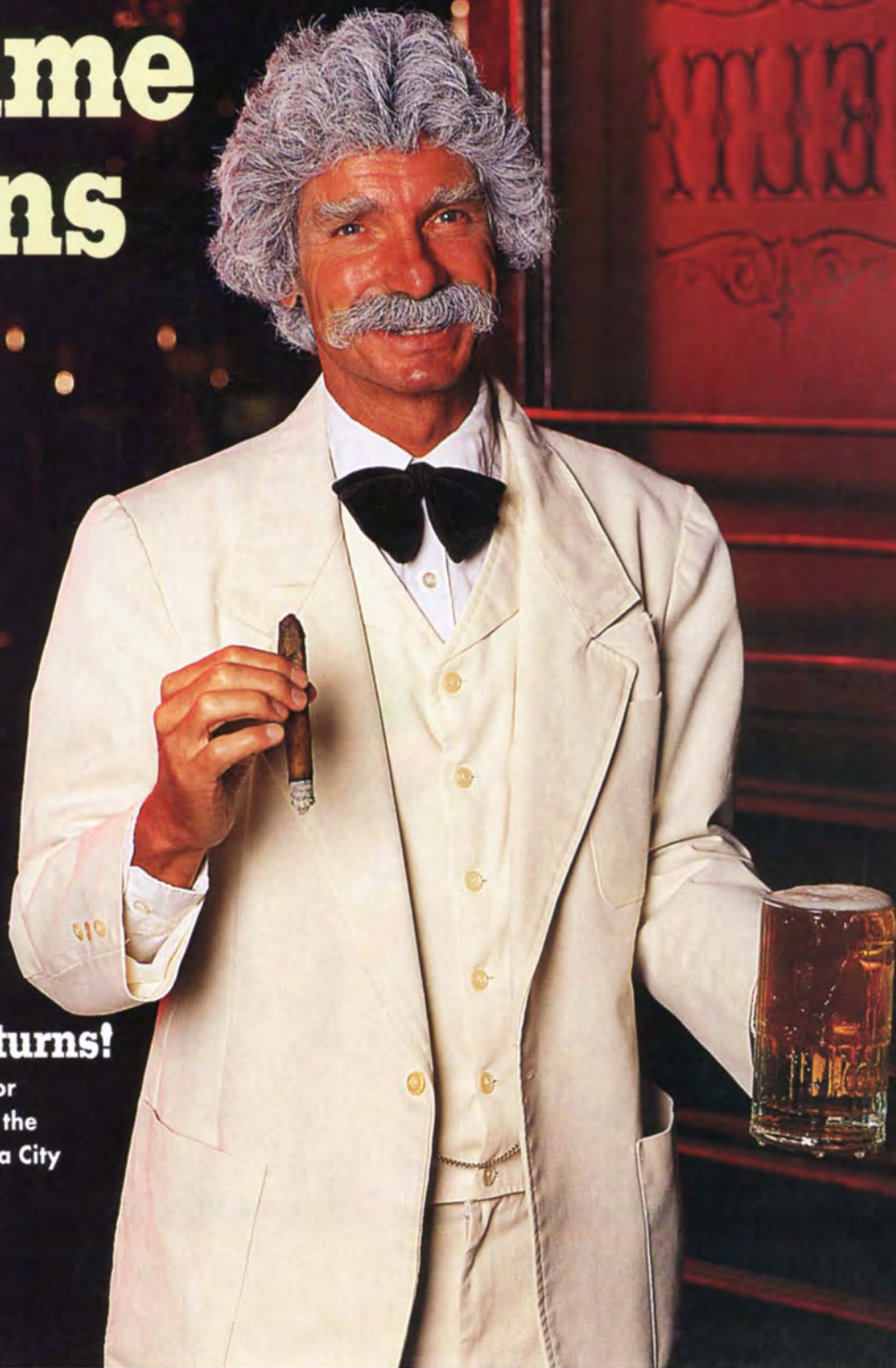
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Pioneers

Reno author **Sally Zanjani** first heard about Ferminia Sarras while researching a book on Goldfield. This issue, in "The Copper Queen," Sally tells the story of Ferminia, a notable Nevada prospector and femme fatale.

"Ferminia is interesting because she's one of the only Hispanic pioneer women whose story has come to light," Sally says. "And why would a well-born Nicaraguan lady choose a life of hardship and danger in the desert?"

Ferminia also lured Sally into her current project—a book on women prospectors. "The project has gotten totally out of hand," she laughs. "I now have 76 definite women prospectors all around the West, with another possible 20 waiting in the wings."

Sally, who has written several works on Nevada history, saw her book *Goldfield: The Last Gold Rush on the Western Frontier* win the Westerners International award for the best nonfiction Western history book of 1992. That was the project that led to Ferminia—and a new book.

It seems appropriate that Mark Twain impersonator **McAvoy Layne** is standing in front of a saloon on this issue's cover. After all, some historians say Sam Clemens' pen name derived from his habit of ordering two drinks, for a friend and himself, by shouting, "Mark twain!" in Virginia City taverns.

McAvoy has three important roles in this issue. First, the Incline resident is the subject of "Mr. Layne and Mark Twain" by **David W. Toll**. "McAvoy's amazing," says David, author of *The Complete Nevada Traveler*. "When he puts on that white suit, he is Twain."

Second, McAvoy himself presents "10 Great Mark Twain Quotations."

Third, McAvoy offers a roguish subject for Reno photographer **Ira Mark Gostin**, who took the cover photo on Virginia City's busy boardwalk. The cover story, "Old-Time Saloons," was written by Nevada Publisher **Richard Moreno**. Rich says the research was "highly stimulating," and we trust you'll find his story is, too.

Also in this issue **Waddie Mitchell**, the esteemed cowboy poet from Elko, presents "Christmas at the Cross," and **K. J. Evans** recalls the Las Vegas ritual of "Cruising Fremont." —*David Moore*

Features

- 10 **Old-Time Saloons**
Where to find genuine, old-fashioned Nevada thirst parlors and the people who keep them that way.
By Richard Moreno
- 16 **The Winners**
The top finishers in this year's Great Nevada Picture Hunt persevered through dust, clouds, and wind. By Kate Butler
- 22 **The Copper Queen**
Ferminia Sarras showed that a woman prospector could climb to the top in frontier Nevada. By Sally Zanjani
- 86 **Mr. Layne and Mark Twain**
With his white suit and unlit cigar, McAvoy Layne brings the hallowed Virginia City reporter back to life. By David W. Toll

Departments

- 4 **Editor's Note:** This issue's contributors.
- 7 **Letters:** Desert lovers and political correctness.
- 8 **Roadside Attractions:** Sub dudes and Christmas shops.
- 69 **Recreation: Advice for the Snowbound**
A nonskier's guide to having a (snow) ball in the Tahoe Basin.
By Lorna McDaniel
- 74 **First Person: Cruising Fremont**
As a high-tech canopy covers downtown Las Vegas, the author recalls the old Fremont Street experience. By K.J. Evans
- 76 **Hotels: Silver Strike**
Reno's new Silver Legacy coins a familiar theme.
By Carolyn Graham
- 78 **Holidays: Christmas at the Cross**
How the holiday spirit unexpectedly invaded our bunkhouse.
By Waddie Mitchell
- 90 **10 Great: Mark Twain Quotations**
Old Sam had a few choice words about Nevada.
By McAvoy Layne

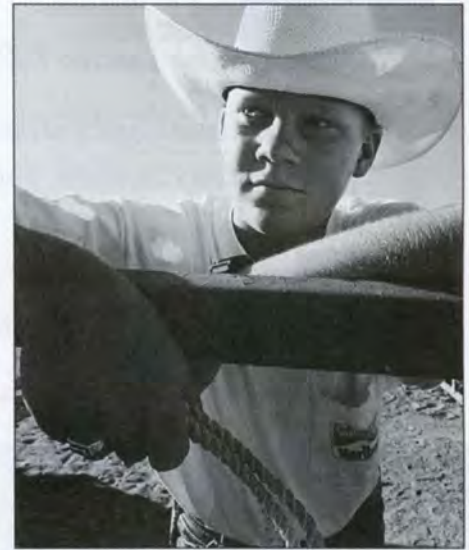
Nevada Events & Shows

- E-3 **Spotlight:** Holiday parades in the Silver State. By Lorna McDaniel
- E-6 **Las Vegas Events:** NFR nights and Crystal Gayle
- E-20 **Reno-Tahoe Events:** Buckaroo bards and a new Skier's Guide
- E-33 **Rural Events:** Cow Pattys in Eureka
- E-42 **Review:** "Bye Bye Bijou" at Harveys at Lake Tahoe

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Old-Time Saloons: Page 10



The Winners: Page 16



Snow Fun: Page 69



On the Cover:
Mark Twain
impersonator
McAvoy Layne at
the Delta Saloon
in Virginia City.
Photo by
Ira Mark Gostin

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Publisher: Richard Moreno
Editor: David Moore
Art Director: Denise Barr
Associate Editor: Carolyn Graham
Events Editor: Katherine McDonnell
Las Vegas Representative: Ann Henderson
Production Editor: Gary Elam
Production Assistant: Melissa Cronin Loomis
Circulation Manager: Debi Frame
Retail Coordinator: Isabel Espinoza
Accountant: Jacqueline Morgan
Intern: Lorna McDaniel
In a Category by Herself: Sandy Short
Special Assistance: Nevada State Library and Archives, OARC, Christina Morgan, Daniel Morgan
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Advertising Offices

Advertising Director: Patty Noll
Advertising Assistant: Denise Madera
Advertising Support: Ruth Buechel
Main Advertising Office: 1800 Hwy. 50 East, Suite 200, Carson City, NV 89710-0005, (702) 687-5888
Las Vegas Advertising Office: Dianna Simpson, 555 E. Washington, Suite 5600, Las Vegas, NV 89101, (702) 486-2434
Kelley-Rose, Inc.: Cynthia Kelley, Mark Sexton, 1105 Terminal Way, Ste. 202, Reno, NV 89502, (702) 322-7770

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LETTERS

Desert lovers and political correctness.

Less Is More

The excerpt from *Earthtones: A Nevada Album* by Ann Ronald and Stephen Trimble in the Sept/Oct issue struck several familiar chords. My love of the desert is often questioned by those whose vision of the desert is limited by their inability (or refusal) to see beyond the superficial first impressions of apparent barrenness.

In truth, it is the very absence of indistinguishable homogeneous blankets of foliage that makes the desert landscape an ideal natural museum in which to showcase its spartan plants and creatures. It's all there. All people need to do is take a more thoughtful look.

Howard Siegel
New York, NY

Book Tour Detour

The "Book Tour" article about sports books in Sept/Oct was sadly lacking in research. Specifically, the Hyatt is not the only sports book at Tahoe's North Shore. The Tahoe Biltmore has had a sports book for three years. In fact, we recently enlarged our book when we moved it into the Kegger, our new pub and grille. Our sports book is run by Leroy's Sports Book, which also was not mentioned.

Dave Wilson, Marketing Manager
Tahoe Biltmore, Crystal Bay
Dave, thanks for the correction. —Ed.

The More the Merrier

I have been taking *Nevada Magazine* for 20 years, and I like the advertisements of all the casinos. I disagree with E. Butler ("Letters," Sept/Oct). I am visiting Las Vegas for 12 days, staying at four different casinos, and going to five different shows. You can see what advertising can do.

Elva Jean Curbello
Pasadena, TX

A Shad Disappointing

I have been fishing Lake Mohave since 1966. Recently, I read "Reeling in Fish Tales" by Paula J. Del Giudice in the July/August issue. In the sidebar, the statement "Lake Mohave's striped bass are growing quickly thanks to abundant shad" is completely incorrect and very misleading. Anyone can check with a

Nevada Department of Wildlife biologist, as I did, and will be informed there hasn't been any shad present in Lake Mohave for many years. The stripers in Lake Mohave are surviving on trout, carp, humpback suckers, and any small fish that happen to be around. They also will eat an occasional small duck or mouse.

Bill Dettrey
Las Vegas

Bill, appreciate your view on shad and the striper's appetite. Paula says, "Yes, that statement was made in error. Lake Mohave's stripers are growing large on other food sources besides the threadfin shad, a small forage fish that was introduced into the Colorado River in the mid-1950s. There still are shad in Mohave, but their populations are low. They began to decline in the late 1980s, presumably, according to fisheries biologists, due to growing numbers of striped bass. However, recent surveys by the lake's biologist indicate that shad populations are increasing."

Calendar Politically Correct?

Thanks for the copy of the "politically correct" 1995 Nevada Historical Calendar. Judging from the photograph of Anne Martin on the cover and the photos for February and December (women suffragists and Nevada's first woman doctor respectively), I see that, in making your selections from the tens—if not hundreds—of thousands of available photographs, you decided to promote a political agenda. If you wish to propagandize, please do it to someone else.

Edward S. Slagle
Falls Church, VA □

Nevada e-mailbag

Thanks to all those readers who have sent letters by e-mail (nevmag@aol.com) as well as to our old-fashioned fax (702-687-6159) and street address (*Nevada Magazine*, 1800 Hwy 50 East, Carson City, NV 89710). Please remember to include your address and, if you wish, a daytime phone number with your letter.

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ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS

Sub dudes and Christmas shops.



Laser battles are a highlight at the Reno Hilton's Fun Quest arcade.

AMUSEMENT

A Quest for Fun

RENO—While grown-ups play in the casino, kids can escape to **Reno Hilton's Fun Quest**.

The 35,000-square-foot super arcade has several high-tech games. Players of all ages can enter new dimensions at Reality Check, which has four virtual-reality games and two motion rides. The four-minute games cost \$4

each or \$10 for three. Or players can attack interplanetary enemies with a laser gun during a 15-minute game of Q-Zar, which runs \$6 per game and is played with up to 40 people in a 5,000-square-foot black-and-neon arena.

The \$1.7-million arcade also has more than 200 video games as well as carnival-style ticket-and-redemption games, where players can cash in tickets for prizes. A large portion of the center is dedicated to Kid

Quest, an indoor soft playground for kids under eight years old (entry fee is \$5). The area has slides, swings, ropes, giant building blocks, an air pillow, and balls.

Auto racers can drive recklessly in the bumper cars or Ace Driver, a video game with a seat that simulates the motion of a Grand Prix race.

Fun Quest, on the Reno Hilton's mall level, is open every day from 10 a.m. to midnight. Call 702-789-2FUN.—Lorna McDaniel

SIGHTSEEING

Eat! Drink! Dive!

LAS VEGAS—Sightseers cruising the Strip can scope out the sub sandwiches and special effects at **Dive!**, the latest entertainment restaurant to sail into town.

Dive! is docked at the Fashion Show Mall, where the nose of a life-size yellow submarine hangs over shoppers. Rock 'n' roll music plays to passers-by, and a wall of water splashes into a pool that periodically erupts with depth charges.

Inside, sub personnel serve sub sandwiches amid sub decor. Periscopes offer a view of the Strip, and underwater scenes of marine life play on a video wall. Every 45 minutes, lights flash during a simulated submarine dive, staged to escape a humorous "emergency" situation.



Diners can submerge in a giant sub at Dive!

The eatery is the creation of movie executives Steven Spielberg and Jeffrey Katzenberg, businessman Skip Bronson, casino executive Steve Wynn, and the Levy Restaurant chain. Dive! is open 11 a.m. to midnight Sunday through Thursday and till 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Call 702-369-DIVE.—Ann Henderson

SHOPPING



Angelic spirits dwell in the Comstock's Christmas shops.

Tree-Trimming Town

VIRGINIA CITY—Holiday shoppers here will find a sleighful of gift shops, including two where it's Christmas year-round.

On the north end of town Forever Christmas has a festive array of ornaments. Pine garlands, which hang from the ceiling in the shapes of Christmas trees, are decorated with themes, from angels to Mickey Mouse. Also popular at the shop are the glass-ball ornaments that have Virginia City and other scenes painted on the insides of the balls.

Near the center of town is the Yuletide Village Christmas Shoppe, which specializes in miniature Christmas villages. Also, sportsmen will find holiday ornaments celebrating the great outdoors with miniature fishing poles and wooden trout.

Forever Christmas (702-847-0110) is open daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Yuletide Village (702-847-0580) is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Both shops are open year-round.—Carolyn Graham

THE BARGAIN ADVISOR

By Deke Castleman

More than a million intrepid thrill-seekers have made the pilgrimage south on I-15 from Las Vegas to **Buffalo Bill's** (702-382-1111) at State Line to experience Desperado, the tallest and fastest roller coaster in the world. It would be hard to classify a ride that plummets 225 feet at a 60-degree angle as a bargain at any price, but there's no denying that for a mere \$4 Desperado provides a sensation that is unique to this planet. Luckily, the other attractions at the three-casino amusement park are both tame and free. By parking at Whiskey Pete's, you can ride a monorail over I-15 to the Primadonna, which has a Ferris wheel and a merry-go-round. From there, catch a kiddie choo-choo to Buffalo Bill's.

If you're in downtown Las Vegas between 4 p.m. and midnight, drop in the Second Street entrance of **Binion's Horseshoe** (702-382-1600) to have your picture taken in front of one hundred \$10,000 bills. Your photo in front of this million-dollar display, hanging at the Horseshoe since the early 1950s, not only is the best souvenir of Las Vegas, but it also is free.

Just because something isn't cheap doesn't mean it's not a bargain. The stews, steamers, and pan roasts at John's Oyster Bar at **John Ascuaga's Nugget** (702-356-3300) in Sparks are in the \$8 to \$10 range and worth every nickel. The seafood is consistently high quality and generous in



Binion's Horseshoe offers a million-dollar souvenir photo.

quantity Served straight out of the steam pots, the food stays hot till the last bite. You'll be licking your lips till breakfast. ▽

Deke Castleman is the managing editor of the Las Vegas Advisor, a monthly newsletter on the Las Vegas bargain scene.

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Old-Time

Where to find genuine, old-fashioned Nevada thirst parlors and the people who keep them that way.

BY RICHARD MORENO

Tucked away in small towns across Nevada are a few dozen old-time saloons. They are more than places to grab a drink. They are colorful retreats where deals are sealed, politicians scrounge for votes, privacies become public, and fish stories grow larger than life. These establishments serve as community confessionals, with high stools, maraschino cherries—and a barkeep in lieu of a priest.

They are saloons like the Crystal Bar in Virginia City, where owner Margaret Marks, 77, foregoes an electric blender to hand-shake her legendary mint juleps in the same worn, brass container that has been used at the Crystal since 1900. They are outposts like Joe's Tavern in Hawthorne, where owner Joe Viani Jr. will pour you a draught and then tell the stories behind the assortment of strange items—ranging from rusted firearms and old election posters to a

'A great saloon has a touch of the classic—an indefinable character that you feel instinctively.'

tin bathtub—that hang from the walls.

What makes an old-time saloon? Veteran saloon-goers say it's the atmosphere, the clientele, and a good bartender. Raymond M. Smith, author of *Saloons of Old and New Nevada*, says an old-time Nevada saloon has to have a "touch of the classic—none of those gaming devices cut into the bar—as well as a certain subdued museum-like quality." He adds that a knowledgeable bartender who knows when to talk—and

when not to—also helps make a saloon special.

"A great saloon has an indefinable character that you feel instinctively," he says.

Some old-time Nevada saloons are found in former mining camps that briefly flared into existence—like Belmont, Manhattan, Gold Hill, and Goldfield—and then found the future wasn't so bright after the ore was gone. Saloons and mining towns are closely linked. In early Virginia City, Mark Twain wrote, "the cheapest and easiest way to become an influential man and be looked up to by the community at large was to stand behind a bar, wear a cluster-diamond pin, and sell whiskey."

In some towns, a saloon was the first business to open. The establishment might not have a name, and it might be located in a canvas tent with a dirt floor, but niceties weren't important to men



The Pioneer Saloon is said to be the oldest and largest stamped-metal building in the U.S. Above: Dick Ashton at his Belmont bar. At right: Helen and Giff Parlet in Manhattan.

Saloons





This corner of the Belmont Saloon has a warm stove and hot card games.

interested in quenching their thirsts after a hard day of digging rock.

The following are a few of the Silver State's surviving old-time saloons. While there are others worthy of attention, these possess the special qualities, that "indefinable character," you find when you happen upon a genuine Nevada thirst parlor.

Santa Fe Saloon, Goldfield—One look at the Santa Fe and you know you've found the real deal. With its Western false front, wooden sidewalk, and uneven floorboards, the Santa Fe creaks with authenticity. The saloon was built in 1905 on the edge of Goldfield's mining district and has an impressive Brunswick back bar. (Many classic 19th-

and early 20th-century back bars were manufactured by the Brunswick Company of Brunswick, Maine.)

If you don't like drinking alone, pull up a chair next to the saloon's mascot, a mannequin dressed as Wyatt Earp. He's kind of quiet, but you'll probably meet plenty of more-animated types willing to tell you about the glory days of Goldfield, which was Nevada's biggest city in 1908.

If you want to stay overnight, the Santa Fe has the only rooms in Goldfield, at \$30 to \$48 a night.

Sometimes during the summer, when tourists are around, a local acting troupe shows up at the Santa Fe dressed as desperados. Harsh words fly, and several

Clark Gable drowned his sorrows at the Pioneer in 1942 after the DC-3 carrying his wife, Carole Lombard, slammed into Mount Potosi.

gunslingers stage a mock shoot-out in the dusty street out front.

Pioneer Saloon, Goodsprings—Clark Gable drowned his sorrows here in January 1942 after search crews brought back the news that his wife, actress Carole Lombard, died when the DC-3 she was traveling on slammed into near-by Mount Potosi.

The saloon, one of the oldest in Southern Nevada, was built in 1913 in this former mining camp 34 miles southwest of Las Vegas. Constructed of tin stamped to resemble bricks, the Pioneer is said to be the oldest and largest stamped-metal building in the country. Rust on the exterior walls is really paint that was applied during the 1982 filming of the Cheech and Chong movie *Things Are Tough All Over*. Inside, the saloon has a large cherrywood back bar built in the 1860s and an antique potbelly stove. Bullet holes in the metal walls tell of earlier, rowdier times.

Saloon manager Ann Reeder can point you to a collection of old newspaper clippings on the back room wall that describe the Lombard plane crash as well as a 1966 fire that destroyed many of Goodsprings' original buildings.

Dick's Belmont Saloon, Belmont—This classic watering hole is the sole business in the near-ghost town of Belmont, and it's open only on weekends or when owner Dick Ashton feels so inclined. The town, located about 45 miles north of Tonopah, was once a thriving silver camp and served as Nye County seat from 1867 to 1905.

The saloon is full of stuff picked from the town's bones, including a bar and century-old piano that were once in Belmont's Cosmopolitan Saloon, which collapsed a few years ago. Popular barroom topics include the town's building boom—Las Vegans have started building summer homes in the area—and the time Charles Manson carved his name in the wall of the Belmont Courthouse.

Manhattan Bar, Manhattan—Twelve

miles down the road from Belmont is the mining town of Manhattan, where the false-front Manhattan Bar serves as the town laundromat, library, and pool hall. Offering "Wet Goods for Dry People," the Manhattan Bar has an elaborate back bar once used in Goldfield and is housed in a building moved to Manhattan in 1927 from another mining town, Silver Peak.

The saloon is easy to spot. "We've got an old safe out front, a parking meter, a fire hydrant—and an old outhouse for a phone booth," explains owner Giff Parlet, who runs the bar with his wife, Helen.

The Manhattan is famous—in Central Nevada, at least—as the home of the "Chicken Hit," a unique game of chance. It involves placing a chicken in an eight-by-eight-foot cage, the bottom of which is painted with numbers like a giant keno board. Participants place bets on which number they believe the chicken will relieve itself.

"There's only 20 people in town now, so we don't do it as much as we used to," Parlet notes. But he'll be happy to set up a game if you bring the crowd.

Winnemucca Hotel, Winnemucca—The picon punch wasn't invented here, but the Winnemucca Hotel has transformed the drink into a work of art. The hotel serves fistfuls of these powerful concoctions—the semi-official Basque drink in Nevada—which are made of picon liqueur, a splash of brandy, and a twist of lemon.

Built in 1863, the two-story hotel is the oldest building in Winnemucca. It originally served as a stage stop and later became a boardinghouse for Basque shepherders. The 38-room hotel has



Former soap star Joe LaDue serves 'em at the Mountain Springs Saloon.

Historic Saloon Sites

Other noteworthy, old-time saloons can be found scattered across the Silver State, including:

Old Globe Saloon, Carson City—This capital city institution opened in the 1880s but closed during Prohibition. It was reborn in 1951 (cofounder Virgil Bucchianeri Sr.'s family owns it today) and moved to its current quarters, a block west of the Carson Nugget, in the 1970s. The Globe has managed to maintain its old-time ambience in the new setting on Curry Street.

Gold Hill Hotel, Gold Hill—The Gold Hill Hotel, just south of Virginia City, opened in 1859 and is Nevada's oldest continuously operated hotel. Tucked in a corner of the hotel is an intimate rock-walled bar that caters to hotel guests, tourists, and residents.

Outdoor Inn, Jarbidge—They really like their graffiti here. The walls of this rustic saloon in the tiny Northeastern Nevada town of Jarbidge are covered with scrawled signatures, clever phrases, and drawings. Feel free to add your own. You also can admire the 1880s gold-leaf bar and back bar that once stood in the Gold-nugget in downtown Las Vegas.

Green Shack, Las Vegas—"They used to say that more deals were consummated inside the Green Shack than at City Hall," laughs one longtime Las Vegas. In 1930 the restaurant-bar, which is near the Showboat Hotel, started serving Hoover Dam workers and is one of the few places you can still find a slice of the old Las Vegas, before the pyramids and pirates.

Mountain Springs Saloon, Mount Potosi—Located on State Route 160 about midway between Las Vegas and Pahrump, this

saloon, which opened in 1950, is a magnet for unusual characters. Owner-bartender Joe LaDue is a former soap opera actor—five years on *The Young and the Restless*—who occasionally entertains customers by playing the spoons. One patron recalls: "On New Year's Eve a few years ago, a guy came in who was about six feet, nine inches tall, 350 pounds, and he was wearing nothing but a diaper. It set the tone for the evening."

Coney Island, Sparks—A Rail City landmark since 1946, this hangout has an eclectic clientele ranging from politicians to casino workers. The Coney Island is equal parts old-time card room, family restaurant, and neighborhood bar.

Bucket of Blood, Virginia City—With a picture window overlooking Sugarloaf Peak and Six Mile Canyon, the Bucket of Blood offers a great view from its rear tables. The saloon, around since 1876, combines Western and Dixieland motifs with its Victorian crystal lamps, be-gartered bartenders, and banjo music.

Delta Saloon, Virginia City—Home of the "Suicide Table"—so named because several gamblers reportedly took their lives after losing money at the table—the Delta is an authentic albeit tourist-oriented Old West saloon. Make sure to check out the excellent historic photos on display.

Washoe Club, Virginia City—This drinking establishment, opened in 1875, is favored by locals who can play pool or enjoy the club's boisterous environment. The Washoe Club recently opened a Museum of the Macabre featuring Doc Holliday's dental chair and other gunfighter artifacts.—Richard Moreno



Two European visitors pause to explore Goldfield's 1905 landmark.



Picon-punch master Mike Olano presides at the Winnemucca Hotel. The Genoa Bar (above) may be the state's oldest.

been owned by the Olano family for the last 30 years.

In addition to feasting on family-style Basque meals, visitors can belly up to the bar and admire the elaborate oak back bar, which is more than 100 years old and came around the Horn. But beware of those picon punches.

McGill Club, McGill—Time has a way of moving slowly in the McGill Club. While the town has seen plenty of changes in recent years—the Kennecott smelter closed in the early 1980s, leaving the town in an economic hole that it has been climbing out of only recently—the club has remained just about the same.

In the club's entryway, you can find several hundred black-and-white photos of McGill GIs who served in World War II. The huge, intricate back bar, transported to McGill by ship, train, and wagon, has been in the club since 1910.

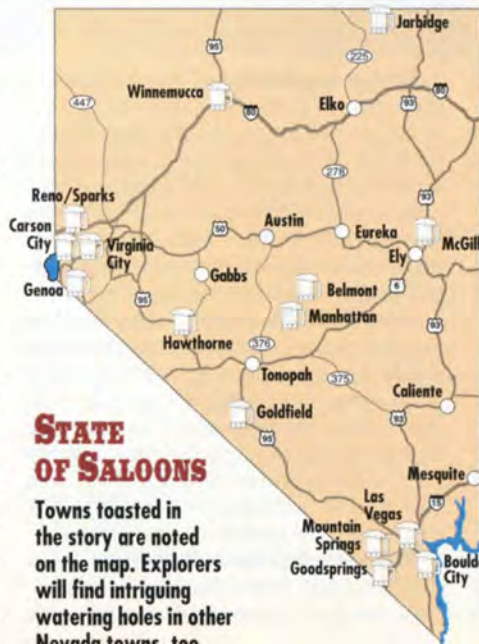
For more than a half century one of the club's main attractions has been bartender-manager Norm Linnell, who has a treasure trove of stories about Eastern Nevada. Linnell, born in McGill in 1922, started working at the club when he was 15 years old.

Old Genoa Bar, Genoa—Owner Bob Carver does smile occasionally. Locals claim that Carver enjoys being cranky, so don't take it personally. One thing guaranteed to annoy him, though, is taking photographs inside the saloon—apparently he's shared too many Kodak moments.

For nearly 30 years, Carver and his family have operated this landmark,

**Everyone at the
Backstop gets a free
drink any day
the sun doesn't shine
in Boulder City.**

which is a Nevada classic. The walls are covered with Nevada memorabilia, including faded newspapers, dust-covered snowshoes, paintings, and yellowing playbills, and the plank floor,



worn smooth from years of use, is original. In the winter an ancient potbelly stove provides heat.

Originally called the Monitor Saloon, the bar is more than 130 years old—Genoa was settled in 1851 and is the state's oldest permanent community. Since not much has changed at the Old Genoa Bar, those early settlers would feel very much at home.

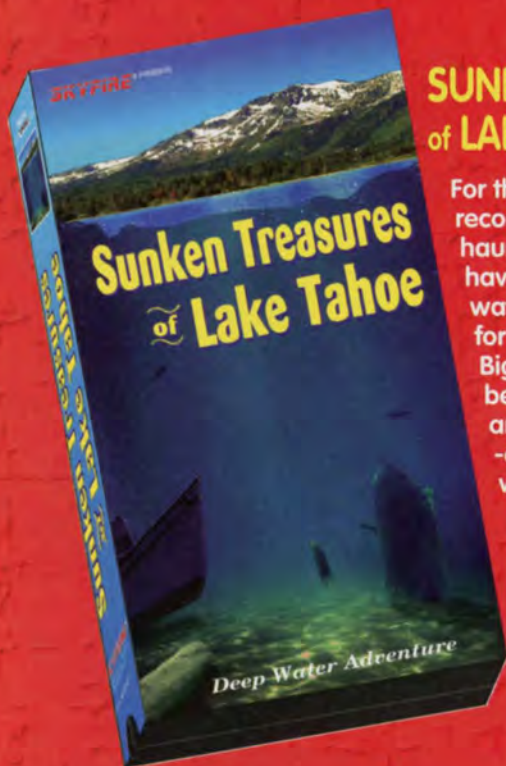
Backstop Sports Bar, Boulder City—Despite its current name, the heart of a real old-time Nevada saloon beats inside this nondescript storefront in Boulder City's downtown business district. Known as Herb's Recreation Tavern for many years, the bar has an ornate mahogany back bar built in 1904 and originally used at a Los Angeles saloon owned by heavyweight boxing champion Jim Jeffries. The back bar was so massive that when it was sold, it was cut in half. One half ended up in Boulder City while the other is reportedly somewhere in California.

With a nod toward its current incarnation as a sports bar, a bank of television screens spew sports throughout the day. The Backstop, however, has maintained a tradition that started when former owner Herb Knauss bought the place in 1951—everyone gets a free drink any day the sun doesn't shine in Boulder City.

Pray for rain.

Joe's Tavern, Hawthorne—Joe's is like no other saloon in the state—part museum, part neighborhood bar, part
(Continued on page 82)

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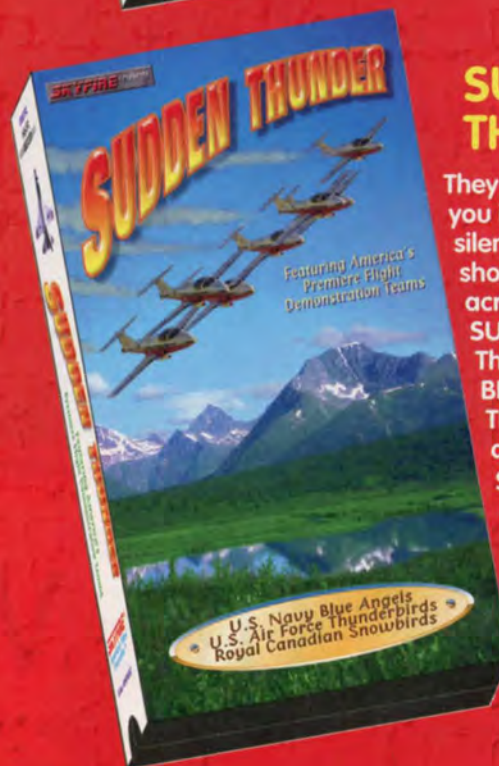
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First Overall, First Ghost Towns and Historical Landmarks

"A Late Supper" by Larry Angier Jackson, CA

The Winners

The top finishers in this year's Great Nevada Picture Hunt persevered through dust, clouds, and wind. By Kate Butler

While visiting Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, Larry Angier spotted a winner in a window "A Late Supper," the result of a beautifully lit setting he discovered in a Berlin miner's cabin, placed first overall in *Nevada Magazine's* 18th annual Great Nevada Picture Hunt.

"It had a nice feeling with all the dust on it and the light coming in through the window," says Angier, a photographer and graphic designer who lives in Jackson, California. His exposure was a hand-counted 30 seconds on Professional Ektachrome film. Angier says the film lent a



Third Overall, First Outdoor Recreation

"Every Sailor's Nightmare," by Kurt Molnar South Lake Tahoe, CA

darkened ambiance to his still life of a bygone era.

Jess W Smith, a consulting engineer who moved from Denver to Winnemucca in 1985 "with the mining boom," won two awards in the magazine's annual photo contest. His second-place photo shows the jeans of sheep shearers dancing on a clothesline as dust rises from the hooves of sheep returning to pasture at the Dufurrena Ranch, north of Winnemucca. Smith also finished fifth with "Hot Saxophones," which he snapped during Winnemucca's Hot August Nights.

Kurt Molnar of South Lake Tahoe, California, took third with his photo of a sailboat crew caught in what he titled "Every Sailor's Nightmare." Molnar, a widely published marine photographer turned entrepreneur, used his Nikon motor drive to capture the drama during a Windjammer Yacht Club race on Lake Tahoe. The skipper and crew were able to right the sailboat, but not before they had a monumental scare.

"A crew member was trimming the spinnaker just when the boat was hit by a violent gust of wind," Molnar recalls. "The boat rounded up so violently that it literally launched him over the boat and headlong into the water on the other side. Then the boat rolled over on top of him."

"Skipper Joe Rosa has his hands straight up trying to keep the rudder in the water and get the boat righted. The crew member midship, obscured by the sail, is reaching down, trying to pull the catapulted crew member back into the boat."



First Wildlife

"Hawk With Kill, Floyd Lamb State Park,"
by Edward A. Tomchin, Las Vegas



Second Overall, First Rural

"Herder's Flock and Shearer's Laundry at Spring Shearing," by Jess W. Smith, Winnemucca



First Roadside Attractions

"Dolphins at the Mirage," by William Nevison, Mississauga, Ontario

Tom Jones IV of Las Vegas won fourth overall with his thoughtful portrait of a "Bright-Eyed Cowboy" at Horseman's Park in Las Vegas. Jones took third last year with his photo of the late Clara Hillygus at her Texaco station in Yerington.

Judges for the photo contest were Minden photographer Jay Aldrich, Nevada Production Editor Gary Elam, and myself. We debated hundreds of photo subjects, lighting, and the quality of the morning's doughnuts. Jay and I agreed with Gary's assessment that the caliber of entries was among the best of recent years. We also admired the winners' ability to use a little Nevada wind and dust to good advantage.

Kate Butler of Las Vegas is a regular Nevada contributor. She wrote and photographed "Characters, Cracker Barrels, and Country Stores" in the July/August issue.

1995 Great Nevada Picture Hunt Winners

First Overall, First Ghost Towns and Historical Landmarks: Larry Angier, Jackson, CA, "A Late Supper," Color Transparency (\$200)

Second Overall, First Rural: Jess W Smith, Winnemucca, "Herder's Flock and Shearer's Laundry at Spring Shearing," Color Slide (\$100)

Third Overall, First Outdoor Recreation: Kurt Molnar, South Lake Tahoe, CA, "Every Sailor's Nightmare," Color Print (\$80)

Fourth Overall, First People: Tom Jones IV, Las Vegas, "Bright-Eyed Cowboy," Black and White Print (\$60)

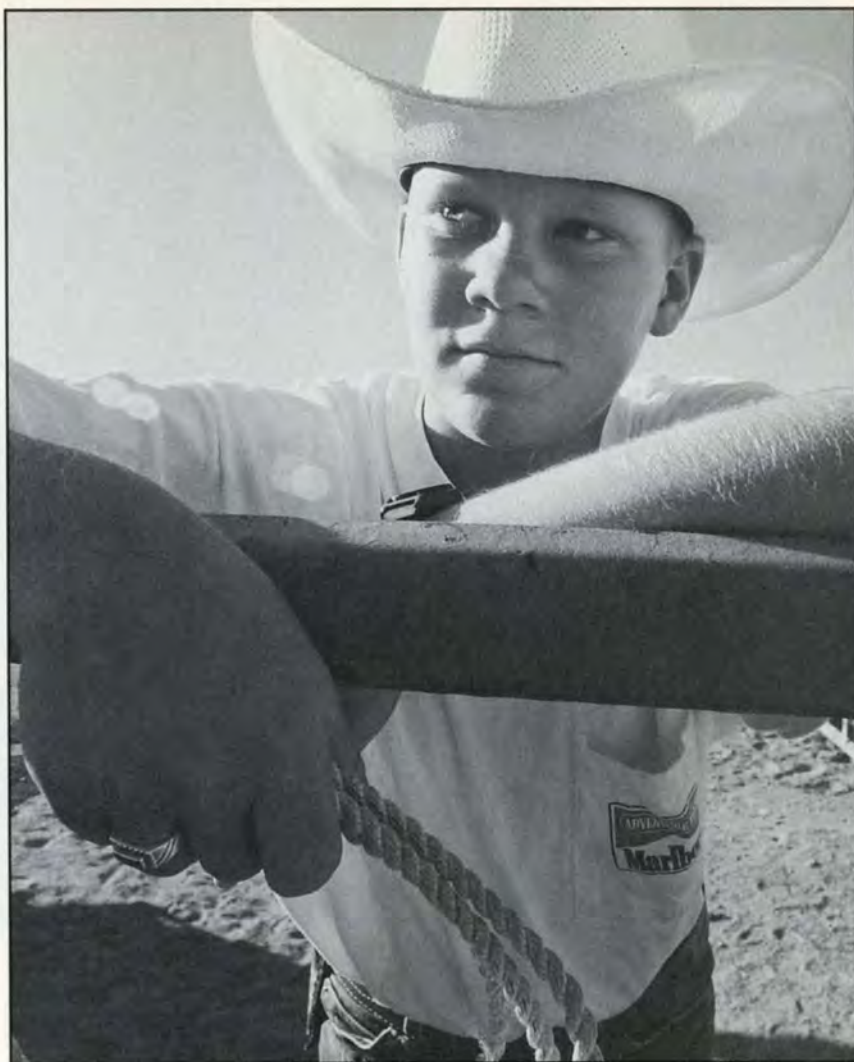
Fifth Overall, First Events: Jess W Smith, Winnemucca, "Hot Saxophones," Color Slide (\$40)

Other Category Winners

(Prize: T-shirt, Suspenders, or 1996 Nevada Historical Calendar)

Hotel-Casinos: Chris Leedham, Henderson, "Reflections of Vegas," Color Slide

Humor: Bob Rosenquist, Sparks, "Nevada: 125 Years of Vision," Color Print
Plantlife: Doug Bruha, Elko, "Moss on Pine Burl, Galena Creek," Color Slide



Fourth Overall, First People
"Bright-Eyed Cowboy," by Tom Jones IV Las Vegas



First Hotel-Casinos
"Reflections of Vegas," by Chris Leedham, Henderson



First Humor
"Nevada: 125 Years of Vision,"
by Bob Rosenquist, Sparks



First Urban

"Electric Avenue," by Chris Leedham, Henderson



First Scenic

"Golden Glow on the Pyramid at Pyramid Lake,"
by Jane Thompson, Reno

First Special Effects

"Circumpolar Star Trails,
Mesquite,"
by Richard Cummins,
Hemet, CA



Roadside Attractions: William Nevison, Mississauga, Ontario, "Dolphins at the Mirage," Color Print
 Scenic: Jane Thompson, Reno, "Golden Glow on the Pyramid at Pyramid Lake," Color Print
 Special Effects: Richard Cummins, Hemet, CA, "Circumpolar Star Trails, Mesquite," Color Slide
 Urban: Chris Leedham, Henderson, "Electric Avenue," Color Slide
 Wildlife: Edward A. Tomchin, Las Vegas, "Hawk With Kill, Floyd Lamb State Park," Color Print

Honorable Mention

Louis Basso, Reno, "Thunderstorm Over Reno," Color Print
 Robin Daugherty, South Lake Tahoe, CA, "Line Dancing, Cottonwood Ranch, Wells, Nevada," Black and White Print
 Carolyn Fox, Jackson, CA, "Abandoned Wringer," Color Slide
 Steve Gessler, Reno, "Night at Berlin, Nevada," Color Slide
 Peggy Hamlen, Las Vegas, "Lone Climber, Calico Hills," Color Slide
 Stephen Johns, Carson City, "Snow Plants at Lake Tahoe," Color Slide
 Doug Keister, Oakland, CA, "Black Rock Golf," Color Transparency
 Aaron Lynch, Reno, "Silver Stage, NV," Color Print, and "Reno Rodeo," Color Slide
 Marilyn Matylinsky, Reno, "Rumpus Room Reflections," Color Print
 Linda Nevison, Mississauga, Ontario, "Luxor Hotel," Color Print
 Mona Noakes-Whalen, Elko, "Shades of the West," Black and White Print □



Fifth Overall, First Events
 "Hot Saxophones," by Jess W Smith, Winnemucca



First Plantlife
 "Moss on Pine Burl, Galena Creek,"
 by Doug Bruha, Elko

THE COPPER QUEEN

Ferminia Sarras showed that a woman prospector could climb to the top in frontier Nevada • By Sally Zanjani

Few women dared to venture into the rough and dangerous mining camps in the Candelaria Hills in the 1880s. A resident of Pickhandle Gulch observed in the *True Fissure*, Candelaria's newspaper, "the presence of no less than 20 ladies in our midst, a fact which, next to the great American game of draw poker, causes more rustling, contention and petty jealousies than all other causes combined."

Women prospectors were highly unusual in Nevada, but Ferminia Sarras stood out even from that group. The Belleville woman customarily prospected in the mountains alone and on foot, carrying a pack on her back. Later in her life the *Goldfield Review* called her "one of the best prospectors in the state" and added that her advancing years had not halted her journeys into the wilderness: "Dressed in khaki and leggings, she hikes over the hills all day long, and in spite of her age and effeminacy can outwalk the ordinary prospector."

By then, people were calling her the "Copper Queen." She eventually would leave her mark as the namesake of the railroad town of Mina and as one of the region's most colorful and mysterious characters.

The story of Ferminia Sarras must be reconstructed from scanty and sometimes inconsistent records, in which her name was spelled numerous ways. She was born in Nicaragua in July, 1840, but the year when she emigrated to America, either 1867 or 1876, varies in the censuses. She first appears in the Esmeralda County tax rolls in 1881 as "Ferminia Sarraris, Spanish Lady, Belleville." On that point Ferminia always made herself clear: She was a Spanish lady of royal blood. Indeed, she looks very much the Spanish lady in her portrait, an oil painting of a handsome, white-skinned woman in a severe, high-necked black



Ferminia Sarras, the Copper Queen, made and lost a fortune in the mining game.

dress. She wears a gold cross on a heavy gold chain, and it is not difficult to imagine the unflinching gaze of those brown eyes beneath the plumed helmet of a conquistador. Ferminia's son, Joseph Marshall, later gave the portrait to his foster son, Harlow Kiblinger of Hawthorne, with the enigmatic admonition, "Never let this out of your

hands." Kiblinger did as he was told.

Joseph Marshall, Ferminia's fifth child and only son, was born in Candelaria in January 1881, the year Ferminia turned 41. Although his father has never been identified, Esmeralda County records offer several possibilities, the most lurid of which is Charley Marshall, a 25-year-old wood chopper from Louisiana and a brutal killer lynched by vigilantes two months before Joseph's birth. If the body that swung from the crane behind the Belleville blacksmith's shop was, in fact, that of Joseph Marshall's father, it would conform with the rumor that all but one of Ferminia's husbands died violently. Their number, somewhere between three and six, remains a matter of conjecture.

Ferminia staked her first mining claim, the Central American, in the Belleville district in April 1883. The gale-force winds, rain, and late snowstorms that struck the Candelaria Hills that month no doubt multiplied the hardships she endured, but the quest that was to consume the rest of her life had started.

She named one of her claims the Amant. The name had meaning, if one could read the riddle, and indications are that the new Amant ("lover" in Spanish) was Archie McCormack, Canadian born and 12 years younger than she. Although McCormack evidently prospected, he had another quality that may have enhanced his appeal. According to a *Los Angeles Times* story in 1914, Ferminia chose him because he was a gunman who could defend her claims. Besides which, to the end of her life Ferminia had a taste for handsome young men.

After the mining camps in the Candelaria Hills declined in the late 1880s, Ferminia shifted her operations south to Silver Peak, a quiet mining town of

**DURING SPREES SHE
WOULD STAY IN THE BEST
HOTELS, HIRE A GIGOLO, AND
DINE AND WINE "RIGHT UP TO
THE FIRST CLASS."**



The railroad's water tower offered a panorama of Mina, named for Ferminia, about 1910.

adobes on the edge of the Clayton Playa. The *Western Nevada Miner* later recounted that she had made a fortune in the palmy days at Belleville and Candelaria, only to lose it through bad mining investments and stocks—by no means an unusual reversal among the mining-camp crowd. Ferminia's generosity may also have depleted her funds. So long as she had something to give, according to newspaper stories, she never turned anyone hungry or destitute away from her door.

A *Reno Evening Gazette* article related that during those hard times the proud woman was reduced to working as a laundress, although county records fail to confirm this. It seems more likely that she rented the homestead she had acquired at Sand Springs and derived a small income from the toll road she owned in Tule Canyon, where the sporadic operations of placer miners created some traffic. Throughout those lean years, many ridiculed the starry-eyed stories Ferminia told about her valuable mining claims.

In 1899 she abandoned Silver Peak and moved north to prospect in the mountains east and west of Soda Spring Valley. After 1900 the mining excitement at Tonopah and Goldfield reversed Nevada's long depression, and investor interest in mining properties quickened. Ferminia's first major mine sale came in June 1902, when investors bonded 25 of her copper claims.

Doubtless, in the prospector tradition, Ferminia soon celebrated with a grand spree. In interviews with the author in 1988-89, Ferminia's great-

grandson, Albert Bradshaw of Tonopah, said that during such sprees she would go to San Francisco or Los Angeles, buy the finest clothes, stay in the best hotels, hire a limousine and a gigolo, and dine and wine "right up to the first class." When her money was gone, she would

**DISTRUSTING NEVADA'S BANKS,
FERMINIA STASHED HER
GOLD COINS IN A SAFER PLACE—
THE CHICKEN COOP.**

head back to Nevada, where she would "take to the hills again and find another mine."

The growing fame of the Copper Queen brought her recognition of a kind rarely given to a Hispanic woman in Nevada. By the summer of 1905, railroad construction to serve the Central Nevada mining boom led to the creation of a new town southeast of Hawthorne. The *Walker Lake Bulletin* reported that the town would be named Mina, after Ferminia, the owner of valuable copper mines in the nearby mountains.

A month after railroad officials named Mina in her honor headlines announced the sale of 40 of Ferminia's "famous" copper claims to a Boston syndicate. She found the syndicate's cash offer more attractive than others because she preferred payment in

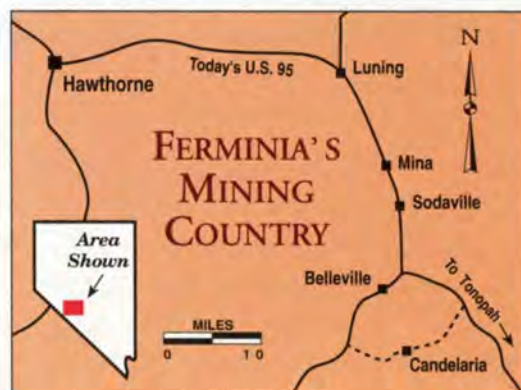
gold. One of her granddaughters told of watching a buyer count out thousands of dollars in \$20 gold pieces on the kitchen table in Ferminia's shack in Luning, a small town north of Mina. Rightly distrusting Nevada's unreliable banks, Ferminia stashed the gold coins in a safer place—the chicken coop. She knew that if anyone disturbed the chickens, they would squawk and raise a fuss.

More mine sales and more heaps of gold on the kitchen table followed, but in the end Ferminia's better judgment deserted her. Meanwhile, McCormack, her sometime husband, disappeared from the Nevada records, reputedly killed about 1906 by a trespasser at one of Ferminia's mines.

In 1914, the *Los Angeles Times* regaled readers with the scandalous story of one her subsequent liaisons. A young man named Domingo Velasco had worked as her servant for several years and eventually became her lover. When Ferminia optioned another group of claims in 1914, she deposited the funds in a Los Angeles bank. As it turned out, she would have done better to have stashed the money in her chicken coop. On vacation in Los Angeles, Velasco managed to withdraw the entire sum and ran away to South America with a woman his own age. Ferminia traveled to Los Angeles, apparently far more anxious to find Velasco than to recover the stolen money.

A photograph of Ferminia in the *Times* showed the ruined remnants of beauty in a face with large, tragic dark eyes, juxtaposed with colorful headlines: "Life's Lessons Go for Naught," "Much-Married Copper Queen Victimized by Lover," "Here on Trail of Him and of Vanished Thousands," "Bride of Five Gunmen; Past 70 Years Old."

Ferminia had less than a year to live, but the Velasco affair was not the last of her follies. Her descendants believe that she married yet again. Probate records suggest that her last husband was Fermine Arriaga, a Mexican





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immigrant 35 years younger than she.

When Ferminia died in her Luning home on February 1, 1915, the *Western Nevada Miner* recalled the fortunes that had passed through her hands and eulogized her as a pioneer: "She is one of the last of those brave spirits who dared the desert's fierce glare in Nevada's primitive days and blazed the trails that others might follow"

What became of all the gold coins counted out to Ferminia remains a mystery. Perhaps Velasco stole the last of it. When Arriaga learned after her death that Ferminia had left no money, he swore in his rage that he would cut the gold teeth from her mouth. Her family kept him away from the body and buried her in the tiny Luning cemetery beneath an imposing monument worthy of the Copper Queen.

The monument, stolen by vandals, has disappeared, and for years Ferminia's story was lost as well. The town

**"SHE IS ONE OF THE LAST
OF THOSE BRAVE SPIRITS
WHO DARED THE DESERT'S
FIERCE GLARE IN NEVADA'S
PRIMITIVE DAYS."**

that was named Mina in her honor, a tiny hamlet now, survives, although Ferminia's place in it has faded from view. One author has ascribed Mina's name to a railroad official's niece, another to a Spanish word for "mine."

So far as can be determined, the best of Ferminia's many mining claims were in Giroux Canyon. A few believe that somewhere in the mountains she knew so well, or perhaps in Luning, the lost gold of Ferminia Sarras lies buried. Plans have been made to locate her chicken coop with a metal detector, and one eager fortune hunter ripped away the backing of her portrait in search of a treasure map. No map was uncovered, nor any clue to why the fine lady of the portrait chose a life of hardship and danger in the Nevada desert. □

Sally Zanjani's most recent book is *Ghost Dance Winter and Other Tales of the Frontier*. An earlier work, *Goldfield: The Last Gold Rush on the Western Frontier*, won the *Westerners International* award for the best nonfiction Western history book of 1992. The Reno historian is currently writing a book on women prospectors in the West.

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Advice for the Snowbound

A nonskier's guide to having a (snow) ball in the Tahoe Basin.

By Lorna McDaniel



Snowshoers have made great strides in the Lake Tahoe wilderness. Equipment can be rented at shops and ski resorts.

When the snow falls at Lake Tahoe, it's a wintry paradise for skiers, who have 15 downhill resorts and a half-dozen Nordic areas to choose from.

But how can the nonskier take advantage of the mountains of white stuff in the Tahoe Basin? Here are ways to frolic in the snow at different levels of skill and exuberance.

Radical Adventures

Adrenaline addicts can go **bungee jumping** at Squaw Valley's High Camp. If you are at least 10 years old and weigh between 80 and 240 pounds, you can take the leap from Squaw's bungee tower. The first jump is \$45 and each additional jump on the same day is \$15. Eric

Brandt, co-owner of High Mountain Bungee, says even though the actual drop is 65 feet, it is "a mental 500-foot jump" because the bungee tower overlooks a cliff. Call 916-583-4000.

Folks who are in good physical shape might be ready for **snow camping** or **ice**

Eric Brandt says even though the bungee jump is 65 feet, it is a "mental 500-foot jump" because it overlooks a cliff.

climbing. Because of the extra demands of the cold, novices should seek the company of an experienced snow camper. Guided tours are available through Alpine Skills International, which offers a six-day Sierra camping trip that allows participants to hike and ski peaks between 10,500 and 13,000 feet. The ASI lodge, Donner Spitz Hütte, where you can get a bunk and breakfast for \$23 per night, is based at the top of Donner Pass off Interstate 80. Call 916-426-9108 for a catalog of excursions and prices. At South Shore, you can hire a guide from Vertical Sports. Call 916-542-1411.

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Diamond Peak offers guided snowshoe picnic tours, and Northstar has a mile-long snowshoe track.

seat. If you have your own snowmobile, check with the Toiyabe National Forest's Carson Ranger District (702-882-2766) for its free off-road maps with detailed snowmobile trails.

You can rent everything, right down to warm boots and gloves, at the Zephyr Cove Snowmobile Center (702-588-3833) on Tahoe's east shore four miles north of Stateline. Daily two-hour scenic tours are \$69 for single riders and \$99 for double riders.

During full moons Northstar-at-Tahoe offers snowmobile tours with lake views on Friday and Saturday evenings. Located on California Route 267 between Truckee and Kings Beach, Northstar (916-562-1010) also has sunset tours. Two-hour tours at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. cost \$76 for one rider and \$96 for two.

Tahoe Paradise Golf Course (916-577-2121), on U.S. 50 in South Lake Tahoe, has a half-mile groomed snowmobile track. On Friday through Monday snowmobiles rent by the half-hour for \$25 single and \$35 double.

You can go dashing through the snow in a **sleigh** or on **horseback** at Crystal Peak Equestrian (702-345-7600) in Verdi, 10 miles west of Reno. Guided tours cost \$20 per hour per person.

City slickers can rent horses (or ponies for children under seven) at Northstar, where stables are open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (916-562-2221). Rides of 45 minutes cost \$15.

Winter Gliding

You can **ice skate** at the outdoor Olympic Pavilion at Squaw Valley's High Camp overlooking Lake Tahoe (800-545-4350 or 916-583-6985). The cable-car ride, skate rental, and two hours of skating cost \$18 for adults and \$10 for kids 12 and under.

When the pond freezes over at Davis Creek Park in Washoe Valley, you can skate for free at the county park (702-849-0684). Bring your own skates.

Snowshoeing is possible anywhere there's snow, but it's also offered at certain resorts. Diamond Peak (702-831-



Tram riders at Heavenly Ski Resort have bird's-eye views of Lake Tahoe's south shore and the Sierra snowscape.

3211) in Incline Village has rentals of \$10 per day, lessons, and guided snowshoe picnic tours of the Carson Range between 8,400 and 9,100 feet. Snowshoers can tramp anywhere at Northstar (916-562-1010), but the resort also has a mile-long snowshoe track. Daily rentals are \$15.

A good place to go **sledding** is the hill at the south entrance of Galena Creek Snow Play Area, 7½ miles west of U.S. 395 on State Route 431. Park rangers supervise the hill daily (702-849-2511). Another place to give the old inner tube a try is Spooner Summit near the intersection of U.S. 50 and State Route 28. If you don't have a sled or tube, you can rent one at Hansen's Resort (916-544-3361) in South Lake Tahoe and use its hill for \$6 per hour per person.



Snowmobilers find trails and group tours at the lake.

View Finders

Air tours let you see Tahoe's snow country without actually having to get cold or wet. At the South Lake Tahoe Airport, Alpine Lake Aviation offers narrated, 40-minute tours of Lake Tahoe and the Desolation Wilderness or Carson Valley, including a look at Carson City and Virginia City, for \$99 per person. From the air you can see Tahoe's ski resorts and the dramatic changes in the color of the lake's water from aqua to deep indigo where its depth changes. Alpine Lake Aviation (916-544-4343) is five miles west of the Stateline casinos on U.S. 50.

In Carson Valley, you can float like a snowflake in a **hot-air balloon** with Dream Weaver (702-265-1271) or fly like an eagle in a sailplane at Soar Minden (702-782-7627).

Another scenic vantage point is from the **tram** at Heavenly Ski Resort (702-586-7000 or 916-541-1330). The one-mile, four-minute ride takes you to mid-mountain, where you can meet friends for lunch at the Monument Peak Restaurant and sit on the deck. The tram runs 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays and 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekends. Cost is \$10.50 adults and \$6 children.

You can star gaze or catch snowflakes on your tongue in one of the three open-ceiling **hot tubs** at Nephele's restaurant on Ski Run Boulevard in South Lake Tahoe. You can also order hot toddies from the bar by intercom. Rentals, including towels and showers, are \$20 per hour for two people and \$7.50 for each additional person. Nephele's is open 2 p.m. to 2 a.m. Call 916-544-8130.

Other places to get into hot water in snow country include the hot tubs at Squaw Valley's High Camp, Carson Hot Springs in Carson City, Grover's Hot Springs near Markleeville, and Walley's Hot Springs near Genoa. □

Lorna McDaniel, a journalism student at the University of Nevada, Reno, has never bungee jumped but has rappelled out of helicopters for the U.S. Forest Service.

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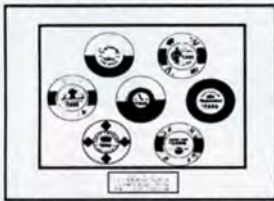
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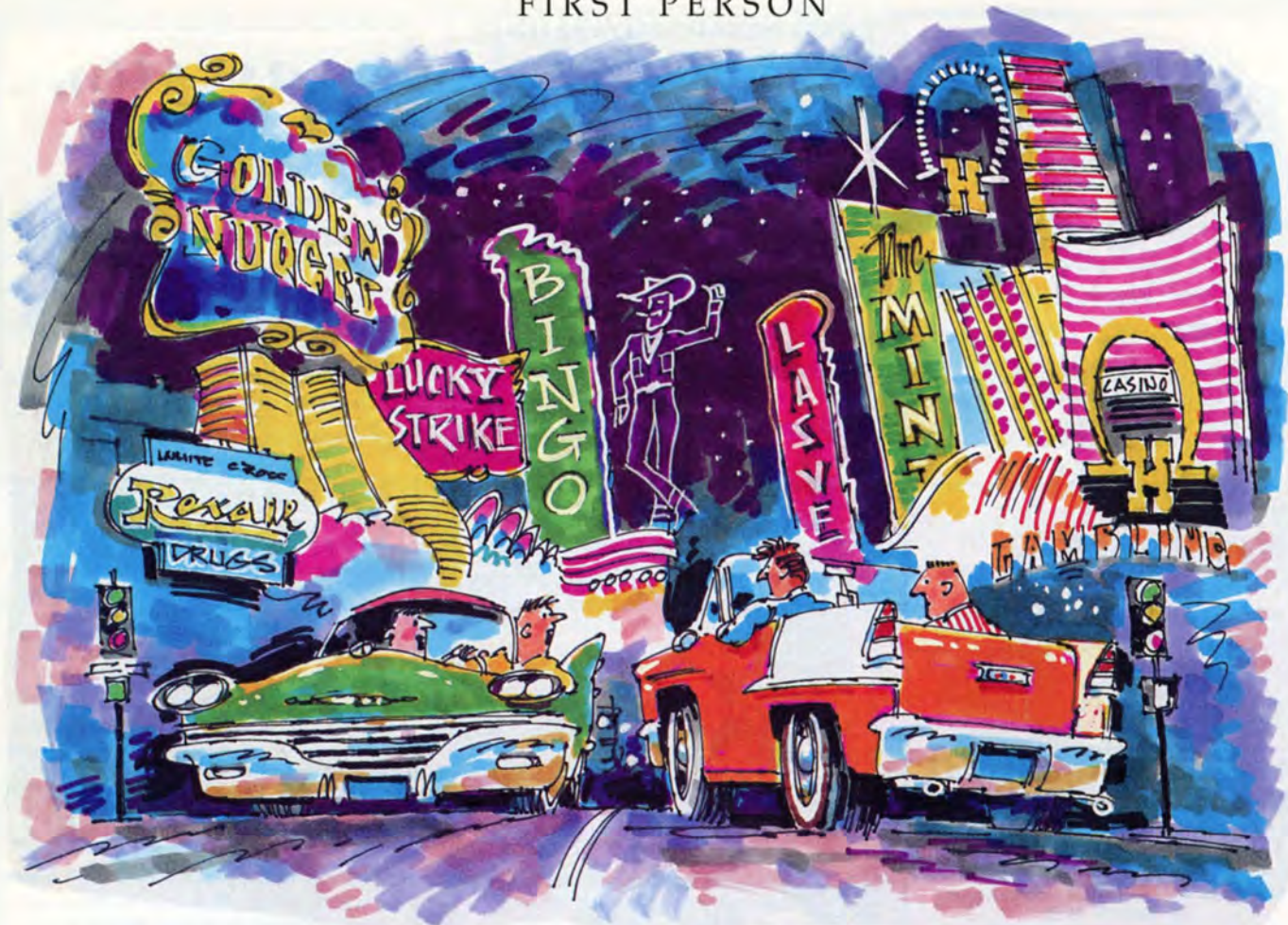


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Cruising Fremont

As a high-tech canopy covers downtown Las Vegas, the author recalls the old Fremont Street experience.

By K.J. Evans

Long ago, veiled now by the dim mists of antiquity, around 1966, Las Vegas wasn't much different than, say, Modesto. Sure, there were casinos downtown, but there also was regular middle-American stuff. Retail stores like Sears and Penney's and dozens of other smaller places held Moonlight Madness Sales and painted Santa Clauses on their windows at Christmas time. Locals lingered over coffee and swapped gossip at little cafes, places long gone like King's, Tip's, and the Melody Lane. There were parking meters and actual empty parking spaces right there on Fremont Street.

And, just like Modesto, there were kids cruising the main drag. The only difference was that in Las Vegas the main drag had better lighting.

During the 1950s and part of the '60s the town had only three high schools: Rancho, Las Vegas, and Western. Students from each school regarded Fremont Street as their private pre- and post-game parade ground and vigorously defended it against intruders. Before and after sporting events, the street was filled with horn-honking, banner-waving, pompon-shaking kids, packed 18 to the car and spilling out all the windows.

The Fremont Street cruise circuit began at the Blue Onion drive-in and ended about 25 blocks west at the Union Pacific train depot. The Blue Onion was a standard 1950s-era drive-in, with burgers and shakes and car hops in tight pedal-pushers, but it had one unique feature. Each parking stall had a vacu-

um cleaner-like hose that carried air from an enormous evaporative cooler. At the end of the hose was a flat nozzle that hooked over the inside of the car window. Its only disadvantage was that the huge volume of cold, wet air transformed hot French fries into soggy strips of leather in about 45 seconds.

Just as rock 'n' roll went pretty much downhill after Buddy Holly died, so did cruising on Fremont Street after the Union Plaza Hotel was built in the early 1970s. Prior to that, the loop drive in front of the Union Pacific depot handily routed cruisers back onto Fremont. When the turnaround was gone, one tended to hang a left and cruise out to the Strip. The number of times one could make the Fremont Street circuit in a night was no longer a point of honor,

and guys like the legendary Frankie Monteleone, who is reputed to have made 166 full circuits in his '55 Chevy, relying on friends with gas cans stationed at stoplights to refuel him, have quietly faded into obscurity

The coolness of a '55 Chevy is beyond measure. This was true in the 1960s, and it is true today

Also, '55 Chevys were rare. In fact, any real cool car was rare. Cruising was done with what you had, but the least cruisable car was a four-door sedan. Even a two-door Rambler was preferable to a four-door Chevy, no matter what kind of hubcaps it had.

In cruising, there were certain protocols to be observed, especially among males. For instance, if you saw another guy cruising by, and if he was of a lower caste, such as a dork, wimp, twerp, or just someone you knew you could pound, the exchange went like this:

"Hey, you seen Ray?"

"No, he hasn't been around tonight."

"Well, if you see him, tell him I'm looking for him."

This sequence served two functions. First, it demonstrated that you were not at all interested in socializing with the dork, wimp, or twerp but that you were very tight with Ray, who was known to be exceptionally cool.

It was important to end the conversation by accelerating smartly away, even if you were driving the old man's Plymouth Belvedere.

Incidentally, all car-to-car conversations were held at the top of one's lungs, since turning the radio down was out of the question.

Cruising is definitely history with the advent of the Fremont Street Experience, which ended all vehicular traffic on the street in September 1994. The huge lighted canopy, which will have laser shows and outdoor cafes, is a step forward, of course. It will attract tourists, and people on the sidewalks will no longer have to suck carbon monoxide.

But I think it would be nice if, somewhere on that grand new pedestrian boulevard, there were some sort of plaque or monument—something that acknowledges that for several generations of Las Vegas kids, Fremont Street always looked its finest from the driver's seat of a '55 Chevy.

It should be chrome. With fins. □

K.J. Evans, the media relations manager for the Nevada Commission on Tourism, once owned a 1957 Chevy. He sold it for \$150 and gets depressed now every time he thinks about it.

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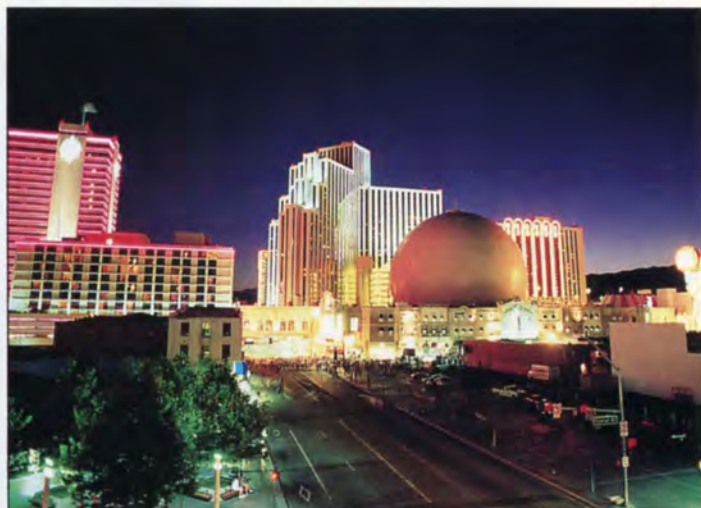
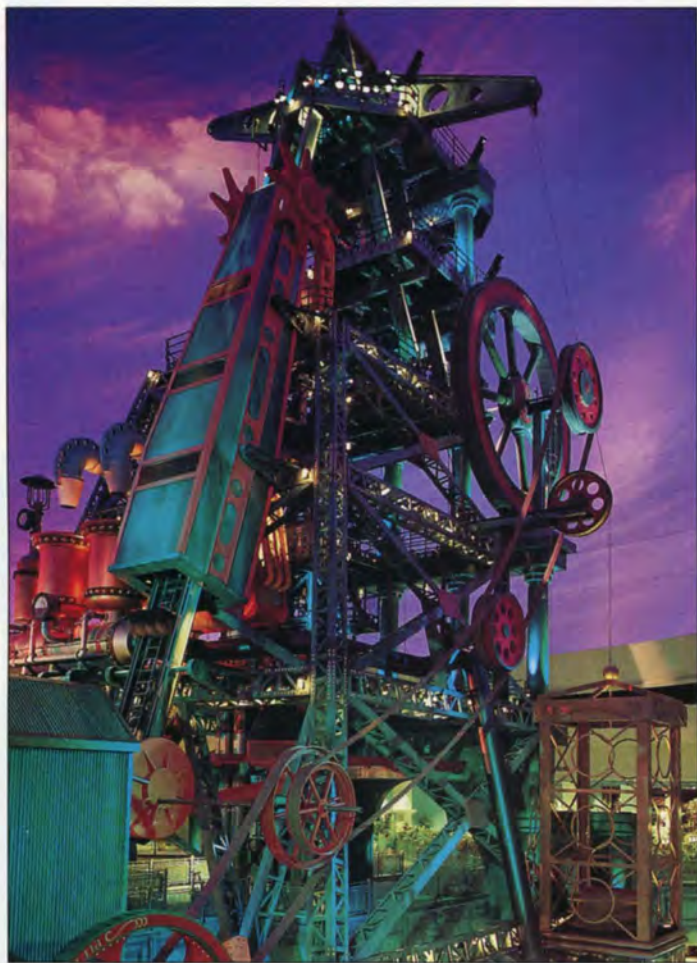


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The massive mining rig (left) is the centerpiece of the casino and mezzanine. At night, the Silver Legacy's dome (top right) glows like a moon rising on the Reno skyline (top right). Visitors are greeted by employees dressed in period costumes (bottom right).

Silver Strike

Reno's new Silver Legacy coins a familiar theme.

By Carolyn Graham

The couple stood at the rail, staring and pointing skyward at the green monolith. The crowd pressed in as the giant machine began to move. Wheels turned, arms pumped, carts creaked up the tracks. As sparks flew from the top, the couple laughed at the spectacle of a mining rig towering over a casino. The woman turned to the man and said, "Honey, I don't think we're in Reno anymore."

Actually, the creators of the Silver Legacy want you to believe you are in Reno, except that it's the 1890s and you're strolling through a mythical metropolis that reflects the lavish

lifestyle of the Comstock bonanza kings. The Reno resort opened last summer with the mining rig as its centerpiece

The 37-story hotel is
the biggest in downtown
Reno. It has the
tallest hotel tower—400 feet
high—in the state.

and a new kind of theme. In Las Vegas you find pyramids and castles, but the Silver Legacy's theme—mining and silver barons—is undeniably Nevada.

The 37-story hotel is the biggest in downtown Reno. It has the tallest hotel tower—400 feet high—in the state. It has 1,720 hotel rooms, making it second in size in the Truckee Meadows to the 2,001-room Reno Hilton. The Silver Legacy even has the state's biggest dome, 180 feet wide, which is strange-looking from the outside but the reason the casino and walkways seem airy and open on the inside.

It's fun to explore the hotel like a

prospector, seeking out thematic traces. Nevada place names appear at restaurants like the Sweetwater Cafe and on old-time signs advertising the Nevada Central Railroad and the Territorial Opera House, which claims to offer "Opera lessons for the timid."

First-time visitors should begin in the hotel lobby, with its marble floors and mahogany walls. Antique collectors will notice the vases, old clocks, and other artifacts. Visitors line up to climb into an oversized Victorian chair and then snap photos of each other looking like small fry in the big seat.

People press their noses to a glass case that displays pieces of a silver service that belonged to real-life Virginia City silver baron John Mackay. The collection, on loan from the University of Nevada, Reno, includes Mackay's ornate candelabra.

The \$350-million hotel is linked by walkways to its parent properties, Circus Circus and the Eldorado, which is owned by the Carano family. At the Circus Circus entrance, you'll find face painters and kids toting stuffed animals earned from the games in the carnival midway. On the Eldorado side, you're greeted by the "Fountain of Fortune" with Neptune and other mythological

When the rig is fired up,
an event that takes place
three times a day,
people stampede out of
the restaurants and shops.

creatures. Beer connoisseurs can tap into Brew Brothers, a microbrewery-pub named for the four Carano brothers.

Nearby, the mezzanine overlooks the mining rig and the first-floor casino. The airy ambiance is similar to that of Caesars' Forum Shops in Las Vegas. People stroll along a sidewalk beneath a sky that changes from day to night over a span of two and a half hours.

But when the rig is fired up, an event that takes place three times a day, people stampede out of the restaurants and shops to watch. Thunder cracks, lights flash, and the machine grinds into motion. When the 10-minute spectacle is over, visitors stroll away, rubbing their necks and checking the exposures on their cameras.




Visitors also jockey for a spot on the glass elevator, which promises more of a thrill than it delivers. But you can hop off at the casino level, where at Silver Baron's Bar and Lounge you can relax and have a drink directly under the legs of the rig. Casino workers look as though they walked straight off the set of *Bonanza*—dealers in fancy vests with skinny neckties and cocktail waitresses in green satin and black lace petticoat dresses.




Back on the mezzanine, you can look down on the Mint, a bank of slot machines fed by the mining rig. Visitors often stop to admire the machine as it appears to make silver dollars.

On a recent visit, security guards stationed there told a group of onlookers to prepare for fanfare if someone hits the Mint's progressive jackpot. Tons of silver dollars, the security guards said, will shower from the mining rig's copper spigot, into the top of the bank of slot machines, and out of the winner's tray. The crowd waited expectantly, cameras poised, around the big spigot as one visitor shook his head, smiled, and said, "Only in Nevada." □

Carolyn Graham is Nevada Magazine's associate editor.


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CHRISTMAS AT THE CROSS

How the holiday spirit unexpectedly invaded our bunkhouse.

BY WADDIE MITCHELL



We were camped at the Cross
Where the buckaroos stayed
In the winter, kind of out of the way
Of the rosin-jaws' sight
With their wagons and teams
In the days when men fork'd all the hay.

We were ridin' the feed grounds
And doctor'n a few
But shackin'-up when the weather got strong.
There were six of us there
Varying greatly in age
And by 'n large all the crew got along.

The holiday season
Was on us again
With festivities startin' around,
And the bunkhouse was busy
With five buckaroos
Sprucin'-up for the big dance in town.

All but Charley was goin'
An' I didn't understand,

So I look over at Jim and I say,
"What's wrong with Ol' Charley?
He ain't comin' agin.
I believe he's Scrooge'n this great holiday."

"I've noticed that too,"
Was Jim's quick reply.
"He's been about as much fun as a bone.
And lately, durin' our
Bull sessions at night,
He's been lock'd in his room all alone."

"I've noticed it too.
He's been actin' some strange,"
We were both interrupted by Ron.
"I got up in the night
Sometime last week
And the light in his room was still on."

"Let him brew in himself
An' just leave him be,"
Harold said with a jig in his gait.
"It's time we was headin'

In town to the dance
To show the girls how we all celebrate!"

"These guys are all calling you
Scrooge, Charley Boy.
Better come dance'n and prove 'em all wrong."
"Thanks, Gary, but no,"
Was Charley's reply,
"You boys best be gettin' along."

It was long in the mornin'
'Fore we made it back home
On that Christmas day long ago,
With our blistered feet
An' our heads in a fog
An' a new six inches of snow.

Charley met us with a smile
An' a spring in his step,
That he made sure none of us missed.
"Good mornin' fellas.
I'll tend to the chores.
Oh, by the way, Merry Christmas."

"He's rubbin' it in,"
I thought to myself
As I went down the hall to my room.
All I could think of
Was the day off in bed
To help me get over this gloom.

I flopped on my tarp
Not bother'n to
Even rid myself of my coat.
My stomach's a mess
And my head's throbbin' now
An' there's a blow torch lit-up in my throat!

In addition to the discomfort
I already felt
I laid on something that made my face hurt,
So I push myself up,
Try to focus my eyes
To see a bran' new rawhide quirt.

It was of curious workmanship
Shot loaded to boot
An' balanced just right for my hand.
My name was on a tag
That was tied to the lash
Signed by "Santa, the jolly ol' man."

In a dumbfounded stupor
I go to the hall
To see Jim look'n dumb as a bell.
He was holdin' a real nice
Mane hair McCarty
With slobber straps tool'd up real well.

Then out came Harold
Then Gary then Ron
All holdin' gifts from Ol' Saint Nick.
Every piece was handcrafted
Especially for him
And each man thought that his was the pick.

"So this is what he's
Been doin' of late,"
Harold said. "We should all be ashamed.
He's give of his talents
Effort and time
And then didn't even sign his own name."

"And here we all thought
He's been actin' like Scrooge
Cuz' some dancin' and parties he's missed,
While all of the good will
We've all shown combined,"
Gary moaned, "wouldn't start a small list."

Well, about that time
Charley comes through the door
Havin' done all the chores for the day.
And there in the hall
Stood five hung-over punchers
Gulpin' hard to find something to say.

"I'll shoe your string for you."
"I'll oil your rig."

"I'll wrangle your turn for six weeks."
"Now hold on there, boys,
I didn't do this for that.
You've just all got a case of the meeks.

"If you'll give me a minute
And open your ears,
An' stop feelin' you should do somethin' for me,
I'll tell you my motives.
They're selfish as hell,
An' if you try it someday you will see.

"As you know I never married
Nor had me no kids.
'Twas a saddle I chose for my life.

But I'm older now,
And my ideas have changed,
And I regret never takin' a wife.

"But be as that may
I've learned to live
With the situation I've bought,
And in the last few years
I've come to realize
That you're the only family I've got.

"Now the Lord, you see,
He gave up his life
So that mankind wouldn't perish,
An' durin' Christmas it's a tribute

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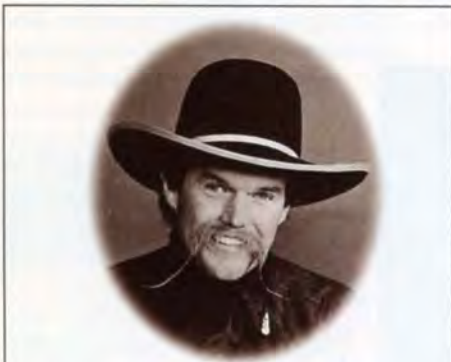


To give of ourselves
To the folks that we most cherish.

"So a few years ago
For the first time in my life,
I gave of myself just a bit,
An' the reward I got
From the good feelin's inside
Was more than I dreamed I would get.

"So now I look forward
Each year to the time
When I get to play Santa's elf,
An' do a little somethin'
For the folks I hold dear
Thus assurin' rewards for myself."

That was the last Christmas
I ever spent around Charley,
But I'm sure I will never forget it.
For that was the year
Five of us buckaroos
Learned a little about true Christmas spirit. □



A Cowboy Christmas

Waddie Mitchell of Elko is a well known cowboy poet and a regular balladeer at the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko in January. "Christmas at the Cross" is an excerpt from his *Waddie Mitchell's Christmas Poems: A Cowboy Celebrates Christmas*, with illustrations by Elko County artist Larry Bute. Originally published in 1987 the collection of 10 poems is available at bookstores or can be ordered (\$8.50) by calling 702-753-8311.

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The Backstop back bar (left) in Boulder City was once Jim Jeffries' Joe's Tavern is vintage neon and old Nevada.

Old-Time Saloons

(Continued from page 14)

tourist attraction, part honky-tonk, and part pool hall. Virtually every square inch of wall space is covered with such items as a small metal bathtub from the ghost town of Rhyolite, letters from former governors, license plates, chaps, and old campaign posters.

"My dad was a miner, and he was in the hills all the time. He just picked up this stuff—he was interested in it," says owner Joe Viani Jr. His late parents, Joe Sr. and Julia, began displaying the memorabilia when they opened the club in 1943, and the collection has grown over the past half century.

"We add things all the time," Viani says. He admits he's thinking of adding dummy bombs from the nearby U.S. Army ammunition depot—which might give new meaning to getting blasted at Joe's Tavern.

Crystal Bar, Virginia City—You can learn a lot about Virginia City by sitting for a spell at the Crystal Bar. Owner Margaret Marks is a living encyclopedia about the town. She's conversant in everything from the town's history to what it takes to make a perfect mint julep.

"This is not a drink—it's a production," she jokes while carefully spooning a secret concoction of sugars and spices into a mixing cup. She adds various fluids and ice and shakes the cup by hand before pouring the contents into a glass. She garnishes her cre-

ation with an orange slice and a sprig of mint from her garden.

"It's a secret recipe that we've used for 95 years," she confides.

Margaret, who is a former school

At Joe's, the walls are covered with Nevada memorabilia.

nurse, still works three days a week at the saloon that has been associated with the Marks family since 1901. William H. Marks, her father-in-law, began working at the Crystal that year. He bought the bar in 1914 and operated it until his death in 1953. Her husband,

William L. (Bill) Marks, who served as a Storey County commissioner for 17 years, held court there until his death last year. Sadly, Margaret notes that the Crystal is for sale, although she's waiting for the right offer before parting with the business that has been part of her life for so many years.

The Crystal Bar is pure saloon—it doesn't beckon passersby with blinking slot machines or racks of logo T-shirts. One wall is covered with historic photographs of the mines, trains, and people of the 19th-century Comstock. On display is a 1946 spread from *Life Magazine* naming the Crystal one of America's five most famous bars.

Margaret points out that the saloon's gold-plated chandeliers and the back bar lamps were made in Germany in the 1870s and contain handcut Bohemian glass. The huge, mirrored back bar also dates to the mid-1870s. Of more recent vintage is the Crystal's "Mystery Clock," a timepiece built in 1915 into the back mirror.

When the clock's hands are spun, they always return to the present time.

After experiencing the pleasant time warp of the Crystal and other ageless Nevada watering holes, you might begin to see the clock as more than a curiosity. Perhaps it's really a metaphor for old-time saloons. Say, what *was* in that mint julep? □



Margaret Marks pours one of her famous mint juleps at the Crystal Bar, a haven for Virginia City hoops fans.

Richard Moreno is publisher of Nevada Magazine. His most recent book is *The Nevada Trivia Book*, published by Gem Guides Book Company.

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☞ Please use the handy merchandise order form on page 85



Wild in Nevada

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“Even after I’d learned the material, so that I could articulate Twain’s words in a passable fashion, I was reluctant to stick my neck all the way out as a performer. That came when I finally spent \$400 for a white suit. Josephine Baldassare made it for me in Carson City. Once I had that suit, there was no holding back.”

Mr. Layne and Mark Twain

With his white suit and unlit cigar, McAvoy Layne brings the hallowed Virginia City reporter back to life.

By David W. Toll

Last summer a miracle occurred at the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe in Incline Village during a convention of librarians from Nevada, Nebraska, and the Dakotas. The librarians were at dinner, and the miracle happened right after dessert.

Mark Twain came back to life.

He was suddenly standing there in the doorway, looking the way we always "remember" him in his white ice cream suit and a dark velvet bow at his throat, that outburst of gray-white hair, the brushy mustache and brows that bristle even when he smiles. He walked slowly to the microphone at the head of the room, and all conversation stopped as the librarians instinctively shushed themselves, already an eager audience. He began to speak, gently waving his big Honduran cigar like a wand.

"Seeing you here this evening, I am reminded that it was Benjamin Franklin who opened the first public library in the United States. That was in Philadelphia, in 1731.

"It was Benjamin Franklin who instructed us, in Poor Richard's Almanac, that 'Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.

[Pause. .]

"I don't see it."

All right, it wasn't really Mark Twain but an Incline Village man named McAvoy Layne, who has been performing this impersonation professionally since 1989. The miracle had actually begun an hour and a half earlier when Layne dressed himself in the white suit, sprayed his hair and mustache, and headed off to work.

The Missouri drawl continued:

"I'm always pleased to be here at Lake Tahoe. My first visit was in 1861—that's more than 130 years ago now. I was in the timber ranching business then, but I was not successful. But I did learn that three

months of camp life at Lake Tahoe will restore an Egyptian mummy to its pristine vigor. Oh, I don't mean the oldest mummies, of course, but the fresher ones.

"I knew a man who came here to die, but he made a failure of it. He came here like a skeleton, and within three months he was eating all he could hold and chasing game up 3,000-foot cliffs for recreation.


"This is not a fancy sketch I'm telling you, but the Truth—the Petrified Truth."

Layne first met Mark Twain where most of us did, at school, during his Northern California boyhood. But he didn't really get to know him until the winter of 1975. By that time Layne had been more or less educated at the University of Oregon, where he ran long-distance track. In his athletic enthusiasm he had attended the Tokyo Olympics in 1964, traveled on to teach school and coach basketball in Hong Kong, and finally settled into a life of pleasure and ease on Maui. He worked mornings as a disc jockey at KNUI and afternoons as the track coach at Baldwin High School, where the athletes skip practice when the surf is up.

His first true encounter with Twain came during a Lake Tahoe skiing vacation, when he became snowbound at Tahoma on the west shore for six days. To the eager athlete it seemed like six months.

"It snowed endlessly," he recalls. "At first I tried to keep the doorways shoveled out, but after the second day I gave up. I had food and firewood, so I was perfectly safe." As the snow drifted up over the doors and windows, he started playing darts to work off nervous energy "until my arm was stiff and my brain was soft."

When he finally sat down, Layne noticed two books on the coffee table.



McAvoy Layne strikes a Twainian pose in Virginia City. In 1863, Sam Clemens adopted the pen name "Mark Twain" while working as a reporter for the Territorial Enterprise.

One of them was *The Collected Works of Mark Twain*. Layne picked it up and was immediately beguiled. He read nonstop until he had finished it, gathering in the process a glimmer of Twain's unique greatness.

"That's when the seed was planted in me," he says. "And if there was ever a great stroke of good luck in my life, it's that I didn't pick up the other book instead, which was William Shirer's *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*."

When he finally dug out from the Tahoe snowdrifts, Layne returned to Maui. "Twain said that the Sandwich Islands are a paradise for an indolent man, and they are. I spent 10 years there and never missed a single party. But I didn't want to be an indolent old man, and I began to realize it was time for me to leave."

On a later Tahoe ski vacation he met a man on a chairlift, and their conversation led to his becoming the morning disc jockey on KLKT at the north shore. Lake Tahoe was a second paradise for Layne. He skied through the winters and ran through the summers, and in 1986 he bought a tape recording of one of actor Hal Holbrook's famous Mark Twain performances to listen to while bicycling through Jack's Valley.

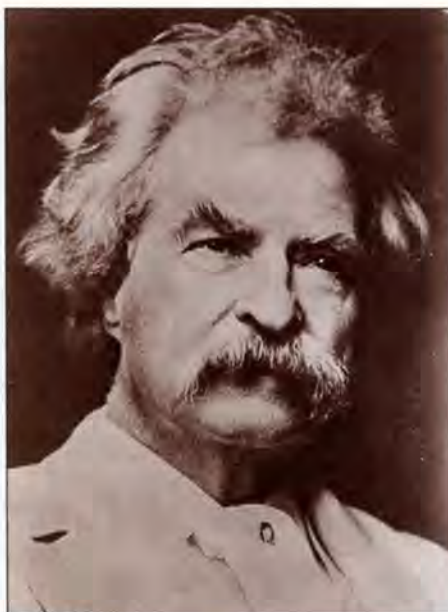
As he listened to Holbrook's recording, pedaling at 40 mph through Genoa and along the foothills of the mighty Sierra, he thought, "I could do that."

From that day forward Layne studied Mark Twain seriously. Immersing himself in the author's life and work, he practiced as Twain in front of his bedroom mirror. Day after day he read Twain, and hour after hour he rehearsed Twain. He made pilgrimages to the locales Twain had frequented from 1861, when he stepped out of a stagecoach in Carson City, until 1864, when he departed Virginia City.

But it was a long time before he could bring himself to face an audience. "Even after I'd learned the material, so that I could articulate the master's words in a passable fashion, I was reluctant to stick my neck all the way out as a performer. That came when I finally spent \$400 for a white suit. Josephine Baldasare made it for me in Carson City. Once I had that suit, there was no holding back.

"And still today, every time I put it on, I have the feeling that something good is going to happen."

Layne's first stand-up appearance as Mark was before the Incline Village Rotary Club in February 1988. He began



Layne read Twain while snowbound.

making volunteer appearances at Tahoe schools, service-club luncheons, and library events. Three years after the fateful bike ride a convention coordinator hired Layne to perform at a spouse's luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe—his first paying job.

In the process of learning his craft, he made two promises. He committed himself to presenting the entire Mark Twain, the social critic as well as the funny man. And he vowed to avoid the grueling three-hour makeup procedure that Holbrook followed.

Holbrook is a masterful actor who established a high standard for presenting Twain on stage. Layne treasures a note from him that says, "Keep the torch burning!" but his approach to presenting Mark Twain is different. Holbrook performs Twain with compelling stagecraft—wafting a plume of cigar smoke out ahead of him as he returns to the stage after intermission, for instance, and toying with a white linen handkerchief—folding it, unfolding it, tugging it, rolling and wadding it—while hypnotically droning on and on with the story of "Grandfather's Ram."

The flight attendant wrenched the door open, revealing McAvoy in his ski mask. When he rushed out to explain, the airplane erupted in screams.

Of course, Layne knows a few tricks himself (although he doesn't light up the cigars he uses in his performances) but he's not really an actor. He's a self-taught scholar, impersonator, and professor of Twain.

"It's not an avocation that you choose. The person chooses you. I only do Twain," he says. "I'm never Stanley Kowalski, or Hamlet or Superman."

Layne has perfected a makeup process that takes just 30 seconds. He found a mail-order source in Hollywood for the bright-gray spray that colors his hair and mustache. The hair was easy, but the mustache was hard because of overspray. After considerable experimentation, he perfected the technique of pulling on a ski mask, poking his mustache through the mouth-hole, and spritzing away.

This makeup method led to some tense moments a couple of years ago when Layne returned to Hawaii to perform Twain's "Letters from the Sandwich Islands." He wore his white suit for the flight because he was to be greeted formally as a visiting dignitary upon arrival, and as the plane began its descent toward Honolulu, Layne went into a lavatory to get ready.

He sprayed his hair. Then he pulled the ski mask over his face and sprayed his mustache, which is when the smoke alarm went off.

So every eye on the plane was riveted to the restroom door when the flight attendant wrenched it open, revealing McAvoy standing there wearing his ski mask, spray can in hand. When he rushed out to explain, the airplane erupted in screams.

Through those first years Layne was careful to keep his day job, and he's still not sure he'd ever have taken the plunge as a professional performer if there hadn't been a sudden change at KLKT. "They moved the station down to Reno, and they didn't invite me to go along," he explains. "Without their help I don't think I'd have had the courage to do it."

But he did do it, and as his reputation grew, the jobs materialized. He has performed in every conceivable venue, from Piper's Opera House in Virginia City to the Silver Legacy Resort in Reno. He has presented Twain in storefront theaters, saloons, meeting rooms, and casino stages in Reno, Carson, and Lake Tahoe, and at schools and on street corners all around Nevada.

With no background in stagecraft Layne felt woefully out of place at

Piper's Opera House when he performed there in the summer of 1988. "I wanted to make sure I could be heard, so of course I kept my volume up loud, and I moved right up to the lip of the stage. And I'd stand there teetering back and forth with my feet hanging off the edge, emoting like mad," he says. "Nobody could keep track of what I was saying because they were so certain I was going to fall into the orchestra pit."

Under the tutelage of Reno drama teacher Patricia Mathews he learned to walk, talk, and stand without danger, and his audiences now listen without distraction.

"I don't assume the character," Layne says. "The character assumes me. Once I'm in that white suit, I'm Mark Twain in two steps—the phone rings before I get out the door, it's Mark who answers it, not McAvoy."

As he translates the static page to the living stage, and ranges from Twain's time to ours, he inevitably speaks words Twain never wrote. "Young people now grow up in a different world from Tom, Huck, and Becky Thatcher," he observes. "Just last week I was asked by a junior high school student about safe sex. 'In my day, I said, 'safe sex was making sure the pitchfork wasn't sticking out of the haystack the wrong way

In the course of his self-education, Layne has visited all the great landmarks and shrines of the master's life. "In fact," he says, "I'm one of the very few mortals to have slept in Mark Twain's bed."

Layne was at Quarry Farm, Twain's summer refuge in Elmira, New York, for a Discovery Channel filming. He was so enchanted with being there that he asked permission to stay the night. While "approved scholars" may stay in the house, permission was granted only after a written request and formal deliberation by the farm's directors.

"In the morning I woke to a tap on my shoulder—it was either Sam or the house cat that got me up that day. I like to think it was Sam."

Layne's depth of understanding of Twain's life and writings has led to a greater involvement with the world of scholarship. At first he was



Layne defends *Huckleberry Finn* at the University of Nevada, Reno.

considered a novelty at seminars and professional conferences, but he is now recognized as a serious student as well as an engaging impersonator of Twain.

Lately he has been especially busy in the schools, where he defends himself in public trial on the charge of racism. Efforts to ban *Huckleberry Finn* began in 1885 ("too coarse for our youth" was the charge), and they continue today. In the trial's debut at Incline Village, members of the high school debate team served as prosecutors.

Mark Twain presented his own defense, waxing eloquent, philosophical, and funny. Twain's summation: "Compare me to Malcolm X. As a boy he was a black racist. I was a white racist in my youth. But over the course of my life I changed my ideas, just as Malcolm X changed his. *Huckleberry Finn* reflects these changed understandings, and it is *not* a racist book."

While he appears regularly at conventions and parties, more and more of Layne's bookings are coming from out

McAvoy and Mark

McAvoy Layne makes a public appearance as Mark Twain at the Brewery Arts Center in Carson City on Friday, January 5. His subject will be Twain's *Letters From the Earth*. Time is 7:30 p.m., admission \$12 (\$10 seniors, students, and B.A.C. members). Call 702-883-1976 for information.

"The program will focus on the dark side of Mark Twain," says Layne, who promises, "This one will outrage public decency."

of state. He stages "The Trial of Mark Twain" all over the country now, at colleges and universities as well as high schools. During one busy week last summer he flew to St. Louis to bring Twain to life on the Mississippi River for the Discovery Channel and then back to Virginia City to meet a crew coming in from Hollywood to shoot a segment of Kenny Rogers' *The Real West*.

Recently he received a call from Westport, Connecticut, where Twain never lived. Westport is nevertheless near the

heart of the New England's Mark Twain Territory—as distinct from our Mark Twain Territory, New York's Mark Twain Territory, and Missouri's Mark Twain Territory—and it has a tax-free entertainment zone (a la Branford, Missouri) on the drawing board. All they're missing is Mark Twain.

"It would be ironic if Mark Twain left Nevada and moved to Connecticut again, wouldn't it?" Layne asks with a smile. "But I love it here, and I love being Nevada's Mark Twain. As long as people want to hear the words of the master, I'll be here to say them.

"I guess I'm living proof that Twain was right when he said, All that's necessary for success is ignorance and confidence. And isn't it lucky I'm impersonating a man who lived to 75? If I don't make it that far myself, I'm going to be very, very angry."

"It was in 18-hundred and 35 when I came along that Halley's Comet was lighting up the sky. The Almighty up above must have said, 'Now here are these two undefinable freaks, these two unaccountable frauds, Halley's Comet and Mark Twain. They came in together and they must go out together. And it was 74, almost 75 years later in April of 19-hundred and 10, that Halley's Comet raced across the heavens again. And I rode it out—the day after the perihelion passage.

[Pause. .]

"But the good news is—I can still vote in Chicago!"

David W. Toll is the author of *The Complete Nevada Traveler* and publisher of *The Nevada Industrial Directory*. His son John impersonated Mark Twain at last summer's Virginia City Chautauqua.

Mark Twain Quotations

Old Sam had a few choice words about Nevada.

By McAvoy Layne

During his stay in Nevada in the early 1860s, Samuel Clemens earned fame as a Virginia City reporter, took his *nom de guerre*, "Mark Twain," and discovered his literary lodestone. The Bohemian of the Sagebrush, who noted that Nevada was "the damndest country under the sun," called Nevada a lot of other things, too, especially in *Roughing It*, the 1872 account of his Western adventures.

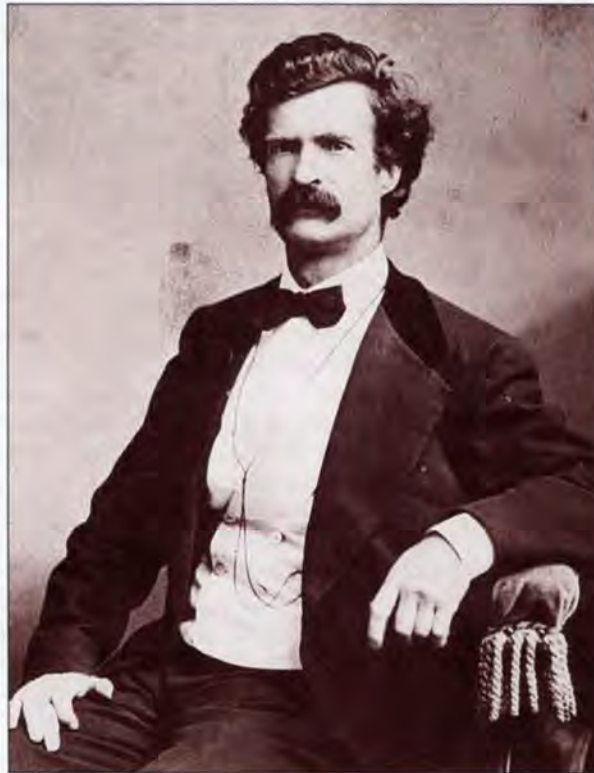
Following are 10 of Twain's quotes about "Silver Land." As Sam said before a lecture in Carson City in 1863, "I promise no amusement but do promise a reasonable amount of instruction."

1 Nevada's Climate: Twain wrote his mother in 1861, "It never rains here, and the dew never falls. The birds that fly over the land carry their provisions with them."

2 The Landscape: Twain's fellow reporter Dan De Quille once wrote of Nevada's landscape: "The granite cropping out through the sagebrush is like the bones of a land sticking out through its rags." Twain merely said it "looks something like a singed cat."

3 The Rivers: "People accustomed to the monster mile-wide Mississippi feel rather disappointed when they stand on the shores of the Humboldt or the Carson," Twain wrote in *Roughing It*. "One of the pleasantest and most invigorating exercises one can contrive is to run and jump across the Humboldt River till he is overheated, and then drink it dry."

4 Carson City: In a letter to his mother in 1861, Sam described standing in the mountains and feeling "their vastness expanding your soul like a balloon when this point is reached, you



It never rains in Nevada, Sam wrote his mother, "but I despise a country where rain and mud are fashionable."

look disdainfully down upon the insignificant village of Carson and in that instant you are seized with a burning desire to stretch forth your hand, put the city in your pocket, and walk off with it."

5 Lake Tahoe: "As it lay there with the shadows of the mountains brilliantly photographed upon its still surface, I thought it must surely be the fairest picture the whole earth affords." —*Roughing It*.

6 Virginia City: "There were military companies, fire companies, brass bands, banks, hotels, theaters, hurdy-gurdy houses, wide-open gambling palaces a whiskey mill every 15 steps a dozen breweries and half a dozen jails and some talk of building a church." —*Roughing It*.

7 Afternoon Winds: "[I]t was two o'clock, now, and according to custom the daily 'Washoe Zephyr' set in; a soaring dust drift about the size of the United States set up edgewise came with it, and the capital of Nevada Territory disappeared from view." —*Roughing It*.

8 Mining: "A silver mine is nothing but a hole in the ground with a fool at the bottom and a liar at the top." —Attributed to Twain the lecturer.

9 Farewell to Virginia City: "It was not without regret that I took a last look at the tiny flag (it was 35 feet long and 10 feet wide) fluttering like a lady's handkerchief from the topmost peak of Mount Davidson, 2,000 feet above Virginia's roofs, and felt that doubtless I was bidding a permanent farewell to a city which had afforded me the most vigorous enjoyment of life I had ever experienced." —*Roughing It*.

10 Reminiscence: In response to Robert Fulton's invitation to join Reno in its Fourth of July celebration of 1905, Twain recalled, "Those were the days! They were full to the brim with the wine of life; there have been no others like them. It chokes me up to think of them. Would you like me to come out there and cry? It would not beseem my white head. Good-bye. I drink to you all. Have a good time—and take an old man's blessing." Fulton's grandson, John Fulton of Lake Tahoe, is in possession of that handwritten response. I tried to beat him out of it but fell miserably short. □

Twain impressionist McAvoy Layne, an Incline Village resident, has been known to shave with a picture of Mark Twain instead of a mirror. McAvoy is the subject of "Mr Layne and Mark Twain" in this issue.

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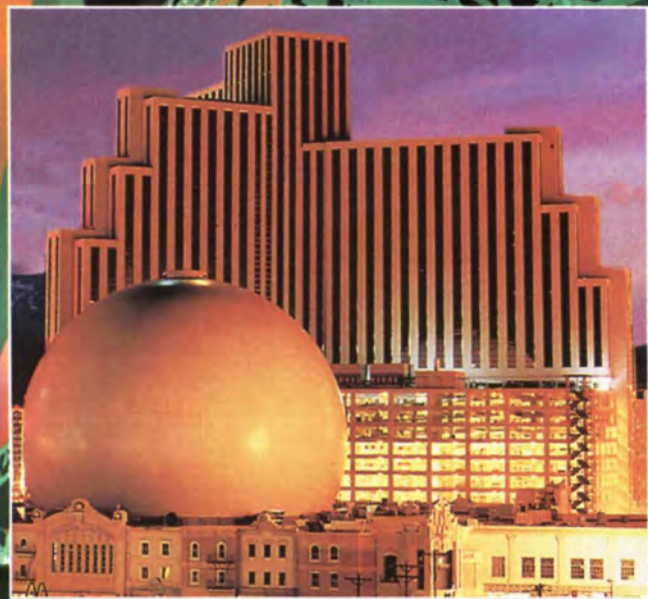
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NEVADA *Events & Shows*

Section of Nevada Magazine

November/December 1995

Winter Nevada Style



Lonnie Peck/Reno News Bureau

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Santa and his reindeer take a Christmas cruise in Lake Mead's Parade of Lights. This year's event is December 9

Festive Floats

The Silver State lights up with holiday parades.

By Lorna McDaniel

Santa Claus, reindeer, and other holiday icons will be shining brightly on Saturday, December 9, during **Lake Mead's Christmas Parade of Lights**. As many as 50 decorated sail and motor boats will form a festive flotilla, their lights dancing in the wake as they cruise the shoreline.

From Lake Mead's boats to Elko's floats, Christmas parades will light up the holiday season throughout Nevada. Following is a sampling of Nevada parades (see events listings for phone numbers). To join the fun you need only a warm jacket and a taste for extravagant holiday expression.

Lake Mead's 19th annual parade is sponsored by the Lake Mead Boat Owners Association and the National Park Service. Launching is at Lake Mead Marina, 30 miles east of Las Vegas and four miles north of Boulder City. The shimmering crafts will set



Toy soldiers march in the Sparks Hometowne Christmas parade on December 2.



Skiers descend the mountain at Squaw Valley in the Christmas Eve Torchlight Parade, and Scooby-Doo greets fans in Sparks.

sail at 6 p.m. on a two-hour cruise. After reaching Hemenway Harbor, the convoy will return to the marina, where most of the ornamented vessels can be seen up close, before and after the event.

Boulder Beach offers good views during the parade. Warm clothes are recommended, as are hot beverages and picnics. Spectators who call ahead for reservations can watch the parade from the Tail o' the Whale restaurant (702-293-3484) at Lake Mead Marina.

North Las Vegas holds its **International Parade and Fine Arts Festival** on November 18. The gathering celebrates the religious and cultural diversity of Las Vegas. Following the parade, the arts festival will be held at the Community College of Southern Nevada, where there will be a choral competition, international exhibits, and food booths.

In Virginia City float builders get creative at the **Christmas on the Comstock Parade and Fireworks** on November 24. Ken Benton, director of the chamber of commerce, says the type of entry is left to the imagination of participants, but he encourages lots of lights. The parade down C Street begins at 6 p.m. at the Fourth Ward School and ends with a Christmas-tree lighting and fireworks at the north end of town.

The highlight of **Sparks Hometowne Christmas** on December 2 is Nevada's official Christmas parade in downtown's Victorian Square. The ninth annual parade is followed by a day of caroling, crafts, and the lighting of a huge tree from Sparks' sister city, Garibaldi, Oregon.

"Miracle in the Desert" is Boulder City's processional theme during **Santa's Christmas Party and Parade**, which rings in the season at 10 a.m. on December 2. The parade route extends from

Central Park to Bicentennial Park.

Elko residents hold their **Parade of Lights** on December 9. The high-wattage caravan begins at City Park and ends downtown with a hot-chocolate warm-up party

The **Northern Lights Festival Parade** in Incline Village is held on State Route 28, Incline's main drag, on December 10 from 3 to 5 p.m.

On Christmas Eve the mountain at Squaw Valley will glow with a serpentine of lights during the **Torchlight Parade**. Squaw employees will ski down KT-22, an advanced run, with sulfur torches in each hand. As the skiers reach the base of the route, a laser show and fireworks will make colorful splashes on the snowy mountain. The free hour-long show can be seen from the Olympic Plaza or the parking lot.

At Donner Summit, intermediate and advanced skiers and snowboarders can join Boreal's **New Year's Eve Extravaganza Torchlight Parade**. Flames will be distributed to skiers at the top of Prospector run at dark, while spectators can watch their descent from the lodge or lounge.

Lorna McDaniel of Reno is a University of Nevada journalism student.

●●●●●●●●●●
**Elko's high-wattage
 Parade of Lights
 begins at City Park
 and ends downtown
 with a hot-chocolate
 warm-up party.**
 ●●●●●●●●●●




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The Grand Opening & Holiday Festival December 14-28



Las Vegas Territory

EVENTS

November

People, Places, and Postscripts: Inside a Reporter's Notebook, thru Nov. 14, b&w photos by Las Vegas reporter Art Nadler, Summerlin Library and Performing Arts Center, Las Vegas, 733-3601

Destiny in Space, thru Dec. 20, 40-minute film exploring the final frontier, IMAX film, Caesars Palace Omnimax Theatre, 731-7900

"Bats," thru Oct. 1996, exhibit featuring species common to Las Vegas Valley and the Spring Mountains, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 486-5205

Jane Goodall Lecture, Nov. 3, 7:30pm, naturalist and chimpanzee expert, \$20 adults, \$10 seniors, Performing Arts Center, Community College of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas, 651-4052

Heavyweight Boxing, Nov. 4, third match between Riddick Bowe and Evander Holyfield, tickets are \$200-\$800, Caesars Palace outdoor stadium, 731-7865 or 800-634-6698

Heavyweight Boxing, Nov. 4, Mike Tyson vs. Buster Mathis Jr., MGM Grand Garden Arena, 891-7777 or 800-929-1111

Nevada Symphony Orchestra Concert, Nov. 4, classical music, Artemus Ham Concert Hall, UNLV 792-4337

Strut Your Mutt, Nov. 4, 10am-2pm, canine contest, obedience and show demonstrations, booths, music, food, \$3 entry per dog for contests, Dog Fancier's Park, Las Vegas, 455-8200

Nevada Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Nov. 9,



Santa's reindeer visit Opportunity Village's Magical Forest, beginning November 25.

7:30pm, 40-piece professional concert band salutes John Philip Sousa, \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, Performing Arts Center, Community College of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas, 651-4052

Alan Jackson Concert, Nov. 11, Thomas and Mack Center, 895-3900

Nevada Jazz Artists Concert, Nov. 12, \$7 general admission, Las Vegas Jazz Society, Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 455-7340

Echoes of Africa, Nov. 17 8pm, blues artists Cephas and Wiggins, tap dancer Lavaughn Robinson, \$7 adults, \$5 students and seniors, Clark County Flamingo Library, Las Vegas 455-8242

Jazz Pianist Concert, Nov. 18, 7:30pm, Adam Makowicz performs, \$7 and \$5, Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 455-7340

North Las Vegas International Parade and Fine Arts Festival, Nov. 18, Lake Mead Blvd. and Community College of Southern Nevada campus, 643-9595

Antique and Collectible Show and Sale, Nov. 18-19, fifth annual, Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 382-7043

Eastman Brass Concert, Nov. 20, \$10, Performing Arts Center, Community College of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas, 651-4052

Christmas Tree Lighting, Nov. 25, Boulder City, 293-2034

Magical Forest Holiday Display, Nov. 25-Dec.

25, six-acre site with animated figures, gingerbread house display for the holidays, Santa's castle, Opportunity Village campus, Las Vegas, 259-3741

Downtown Hoedown, Nov. 30, unofficial kickoff party for the National Finals Rodeo, NFR contestants will be on hand to sign autographs, Miss Rodeo America appearance, Fremont Street Experience, downtown Las Vegas, 382-4404

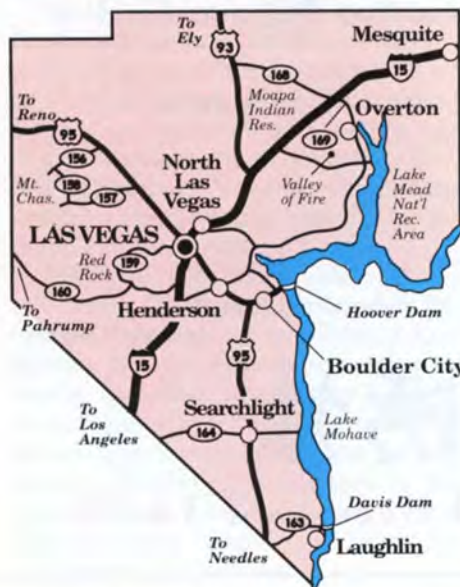
Cowboy Christmas Gift Show, Nov. 30-Dec. 9, 10am-5pm daily, Western-themed trade and gift show, Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 731-2115

December

Juilliard String Quartet, Dec. 1, 8pm, \$20-\$50, Artemus Ham Concert Hall, UNLV campus, 895-3801

Hometowne Christmas Village, Dec. 1-2, Santa,

TERRITORY MAP



Nevada Events & Shows

Nevada Events & Shows is a section of Nevada Magazine. To list an event, contact Events Editor Katherine McDonnell, 702-687-5416, fax 702-687-6159, 1800 Hwy. 50 East, Ste. 200, Carson City, NV 89710. Subscription rates for Nevada Magazine are \$15.95 for one year, U.S.; \$21.95 Foreign. To subscribe call toll-free, 1-800-495-3281.

PREVIEW

Rodeo Days and Nights

Roping the rodeo experience at NFR time.

By Ann Henderson

The National Finals Rodeo, which runs December 1-10 in Las Vegas, is so popular that tickets sell out nine months in advance.

But there are many other ways to get roped into the rodeo experience at NFR time. Casinos trade glamour for true grit during NFR, filling showrooms with country-western stars and holding special events that appeal to rodeo fans. Also, a number of rodeo events are open (and free) to the public.

NFR festivities begin November 30 when the Fremont Street Experience, the \$70-million canopied mall, stages its inaugural event, Downtown Hoedown. Starting at 6 p.m., entertainment will be spread out over the five-block area. Perfect Strangers and John Berry will appear in concert, cowboy poets Waddie Mitchell and Don Williams will share billing with the Sons of the San Joaquin, and rodeo contestants will sign autographs. Wannabe country stars can even enter a country-western singing contest.

Casino headliners will include the Oak Ridge Boys, Charlie Daniels, Clint Black, Brooks and Dunn, and Waylon Jennings. Ventriloquist Jeff Dunham, a Nashville Network comedian, will costar with his puppets, Peanut and Jalapeño on a Stick, at the Riviera. The production shows "Country Tonite," at the Aladdin, and "Country Fever," at the Golden Nugget, will add to the Western atmosphere. (See this issue's Las Vegas Showguide for details.)

The Stardust's conference center will become a raucous saloon for Ricky and the Red Streaks November 29-December 10.

The band is a favorite of the pro-rodeo cowboys, who often join the musicians on stage. There is a \$5 cover charge for the party, which goes from 11 p.m. until it's over.

If your boots are looking to scoot, try your moves on the dance floors at Gold Coast, Sam's Town, and Wild Bills Steakhouse in the Excalibur.

During the day, rodeo fans can shop. More than 300 exhibitors sell

Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; admission is free. Across town, the Western Emporium at Sam's Town will hold its annual tent sale from November 16 to December 25.

At the Gold Coast, fans can rub elbows with contestants during the nightly awards ceremony at 11 o'clock in the hotel's dance hall. Admission is free. At the Rio on December 6, Wrangler and Justin teams will battle for bragging rights in the Celebrity Blackjack Challenge. Spectators are welcome. The action begins around midnight, after the rodeo.

Looking for a particular rodeo star? Bareback riders will be staying at the Showboat, barrel racers at the Hotel San Remo, rodeo clowns in the bullfighting events at the Las Vegas Club, bull riders at Binion's Horseshoe, calf ropers at the Gold Coast, saddle-bronc riders at the Golden Nugget, and steer wrestlers at the Rio. The team ropers will be split between Palace Station and Nevada Palace.

The Flamingo Hilton will host the Miss Rodeo America Pageant. For information and tickets to the coronation luncheon, where Miss Rodeo will be crowned on December 2, call 719-948-9206. (The horsemanship event will be at the Excalibur.)

Rodeo contestants will take their final bows on December 10 during the awards banquet for the all-around winners, which is open to the public.

For information on National Finals Rodeo special events call Las Vegas Events, 702-731-2115.

Ann Henderson is Nevada Magazine's Las Vegas representative.

At the Gold Coast, fans can rub elbows with contestants during the nightly awards ceremony.

their wares at the Cowboy Christmas Show, November 30-December 9, at Cashman Center. The show will have autograph sessions with the athletes and a rebroadcast of the previous night's rodeo action on big-screen TV



Brooks and Dunn headline at Caesars Palace December 7-10.

NIGHTLIFE

Country Crystal

Crystal Gayle helped make country cool.
By Mike Weatherford

In a sense, Crystal Gayle says, she has only herself to blame for getting crowded out of today's country music industry

"I can't be upset with country being as popular as it is, after opening the doors that myself and Olivia Newton-John first opened," says the singer known for her wistful voice and impossibly long hair. "I'd hope that maybe people would look at me as someone who helped broaden the appeal of country."

Gayle, who appears in Laughlin in November, was one of the first singers cited as a "crossover" act when her 1977 single "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue" became a No. 2 pop hit. "I've had people say 'I never really cared for country until I heard you. Thanks for opening the door for me,'" she says.

But country was a more rigid and limited genre then, and it accounted for a much smaller percentage of the record industry. "When I made my mark, country music and Nashville were developing artists as well as wanting hit records," she says. "Now country music is what pop music was in the '70s. There's a lot of one-hit artists out there. I'm glad that I've been able to develop a career through the years and that I don't need hit records to do what I love to do."

One might consider Gayle, the younger sister of Loretta Lynn, as a country thoroughbred. The fact is, she was born in Kentucky but raised in Indiana. "I didn't know what my



Crystal Gayle lets her hair down at Don Laughlin's Riverside November 23-25.

dialect was—I had all [regions] in my family," she says. "When I started, I didn't sound like straight-ahead country, but still I wasn't pop."

That halfway-in-between voice served her well for hits such as "Talking in Your Sleep" and "You and I" (a duet with Eddie Rabbitt) that played on both sides of the pop-country fence.

These days, Gayle is more interested in what she calls "special projects," such as her recent Christian album "Someday."

She also wants to do an album of

'30s and '40s standards. Ironically, her first effort to do so went on hold when Linda Ronstadt beat her to the punch in the early 1980s. Everyone from Natalie Cole to Kenny Rogers has run with the concept since then.

When she's not working, fans sometimes can find the singer in her Nashville shop, Crystal's for Fine Gifts and Jewelry. "I come in quite often," she says. "I put up my hair and go around dusting shelves."

Playing the Riverside in Laughlin appeals to Gayle's country side. "It's definitely a different pace than Vegas," she says. "It appeals to people who don't want the big city, and I like that myself. You want to get away and have all the things that Vegas can offer but not in a big, big setting with all the traffic and everything that goes with it."

Her nine-year-old son Chris, however, is living proof that Las Vegas has made its mark as a family destination. "He constantly tells me that when he grows up he's going to move to Vegas," she says. "He's in love with the whole town—the water park, Siegfried and Roy, the jousting, everything."

Crystal Gazing

Crystal Gayle appears November 23-25 at Don Laughlin's Riverside in Laughlin. Call 702-298-2535 or 800-227-3849.

Mike Weatherford is a Las Vegas Review-Journal entertainment reporter

parade, booths, Mesquite, 356-2902

National Finals Rodeo, Dec. 1-10, final competition for PCRA rodeo titles, Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 895-3900

Christmas Parade, Dec. 2, Boulder City, 293-2034

Utah Opera Company, Dec. 2, selections of opera pieces and arias, Virgin Valley High School Auditorium, Mesquite, 346-2787

Las Vegas Rugby Challenge, Dec. 2-3, 15th annual, teams from U.S. and Canada, tournament championship, crowning of the world's

fastest rugger, Silver Bowl Park, Las Vegas, 597-7170 or 731-2115

Dallas Brass Christmas, Dec. 3, 2pm, featuring Micheal Levine, \$12-\$22.50, Artemus Ham Concert Hall, UNLV 895-3801

Handel's "Messiah," Dec. 3, Nevada Symphony Orchestra, Artemus Ham Concert Hall, UNLV 792-4337

Las Vegas Author Reception and Booksigning, Dec. 5, 5:30-7pm, University of Nevada Press, Riverboat Tower, Harrah's Las Vegas, 784-6573

Chamber Music Southwest, Dec. 7 8pm, Black Box Theatre, UNLV 895-3801

Christmas at the Liberace Museum, Dec. 8, 5pm tree lighting, Santa in gold lamé, Liberace impersonator Daryl Wagner, local choirs, musicians, free admission with donation of toy or nonperishable food, Las Vegas, 798-5595

Luminaria, Dec. 8, Boulder City's Bicentennial Park is decorated with lighted candles in paper bags, following a Southwestern tradition, Christmas music, 293-2034

SAM'S TOWN[®]

Where Locals Bring Their FriendsSM

News

Volume One

Number One



Sam's Town is Now the Second Largest Casino In Las Vegas!

(Las Vegas, Nev.) Preferred by Las Vegas area residents and tourists alike, Sam's Town Hotel Gambling Hall & Bowling Center has grown to become the second largest casino in Las Vegas according to Sam's Town Executive Vice President / General

Manager Bob Neuman. "We have grown over the years because savvy Las Vegas residents and tourists recognize value. They come to Sam's Town mainly because we have very loose slots and fantastic food at reasonable prices. Consequently, we've had to expand six times and now offer over 2800 slot machines, 52 table games, keno, bingo and a huge race & sports book. We also have 10 restaurants, 14 bars, 650 beautiful rooms, 500 RV spaces, a Western Emporium[®], a western dance hall and 25,000 square foot indoor park. Sam's Town is now a huge, full service destination resort that rivals the largest casino hotels in Las Vegas."

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Where Locals Bring Their Friends

SAM'S TOWN Las Vegas recently surveyed its customers and found that 84% have brought friends and relatives to Sam's Town. Local residents who shop for the best values in gaming, food and entertainment prefer Sam's Town. They

are quick to recommend and bring others to Sam's Town because of the western atmosphere, friendly employees and free entertainment. Popular attractions at Sam's Town include The Sunset Stampede Show, an extraordinary laser

light and water show, presented nightly at 8:30 and 10:30, with free admission. Roxy's Saloon[®] and The Western Dance Hall both feature live music and dancing nightly, also with free admission.

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"Forever Plaid" keeps the music of the '50s rocking at the Flamingo Hilton Las Vegas.

Children's Christmas Parade, Dec. 9, Henderson, 565-8951
Lake Mead's Christmas Parade of Lights, Dec. 9, procession of boats decorated with Christmas lights goes from Lake Mead Marina to Hemenway Harbor and back, 6pm, public

viewing at Boulder Beach, 457-2797 or 438-2485
Fremont Street Experience Opening Celebration, Dec. 14-28, Sky Parade, ice skaters, downtown Las Vegas, 382-4404
Nevada Jazz Artists Concert, Dec. 12, 2pm, Las Vegas Jazz Society, \$7 general admission,

\$5 seniors, Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 455-7340
USA Table Tennis National Championships, Dec. 13-17, 20th annual, 1,500 athletes including 1996 Olympic hopefuls, Las Vegas Convention Center, 731-2115
Las Vegas Bowl IV, Dec. 14, post-season football showdown between Big West and Mid-American conference champions, kicks off college bowl games, Grid Iron Golf Invitational, Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas, 892-3765
Christmas Gift Show, Dec. 14-17, Las Vegas Convention Center, 258-0876
"The Nutcracker," Dec. 14-29, starring Natalia Chapurskaya and Pavel Romaniouk of the Kirov Ballet, tickets are \$22-\$45, Nevada Dance Theatre, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 732-3838
The Colors of Christmas, Dec. 15, Peabo Bryson, James Ingram, Roberta Flack, and Melissa Manchester in concert, Star of the Desert Arena, Buffalo Bill's, State Line, 800-FUN-STOP
Square and Round Dance Weekend Fling, Dec. 15-16, professional callers, workshops, Flamingo Hilton Laughlin, 298-5028
Winter Wonderland, Dec. 16, machine-made snow, reindeer, games, ice carving, carnival, pony rides, Sunset Park, Las Vegas, 455-8238
"Stories on the Mountain," Dec. 27, Clark County Library storyteller Marsha Cutler tells children's stories by the fire, 11am, noon, and 1pm, Ranch House, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 875-4141
Senior's New Year's Eve Dance, Dec. 31, smoke-free, alcohol-free, Las Vegas Senior Citizens Center, 229-6454

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COMING EVENTS

Four Queens Poker Classic, Jan. 2-27 385-4011
 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Week, Jan. 7-13, Las Vegas, 631-1913
 "Les Misérables," Jan. 13-22, Las Vegas, 895-4711
 Bolshoi on Ice, Jan. 24-31, North Las Vegas, 658-5709
 Clark County Fair, April 11-14, Logandale, 398-3247
 Henderson Heritage Days, April 19-28, 565-8951
 Las Vegas Senior PGA Classic, April 22-28, 382-6616
 Spring Jamboree and Crafts Show, May 4-5, Boulder City, 293-2034
 Helldorado Days and Rodeo, May 14-19, Las Vegas, 870-1221
 Mesquite Days, May 30-June 1, 346-2902
 Rattlin' Rails Handcar Races, Sept. 21-22, Boulder City, 293-2034
 Las Vegas Invitational Golf Tournament, Oct. 2-6, 382-6616
 Laughlin RiverFlight '96, Oct. 18-20, 298-2214
 Las Vegas Balloon Classic, Oct. 25-27, 434-0848
 National Finals Rodeo, Dec. 6-15, Las Vegas, 731-2115



Jane Goodall lectures November 3 at the Community College of Southern Nevada.

SHOWGUIDE

The Las Vegas area offers big-name entertainment and production shows at many clubs and hotels. Johnny Cash is coming to the Hard Rock, and Kenny Rogers plays the Mirage. Showrooms often fill fast, so call ahead for show times and reservations.

Boulder City

Gold Strike Inn, between Boulder City and Hoover Dam, 293-5000 or 800-245-6380: Entertainment Thurs.-Sat.

Jean

Gold Strike Hotel, 477-5000 or 800-634-1359: Bands play (dark Tues.)

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SPORTS DATES



UNLV's football team plays home games at Sam Boyd Stadium.

Las Vegas Thunder: International Hockey League, Nov. 3 v. Minnesota Moose, Nov. 4 v. Utah Grizzlies, Nov. 7 v. Atlanta Knights, Nov. 10 v. Utah Grizzlies, Nov. 17 v. Kansas City Blades, Nov. 18 v. Houston Aeros, Nov. 22 v. San Francisco Spiders, Nov. 24 v. Los Angeles Ice Dogs, Dec. 15 v. Phoenix Roadrunners, Dec. 19 v. Michigan K-Wings, Dec. 26 v. Minnesota Moose, Dec. 29 and 31 v. San Francisco Spiders, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 798-7825

UNLV Basketball: Runnin' Rebels play Nov. 21 v. Mexican National Team (exhibition game), Nov. 25 v. Cal State Northridge, Dec. 16 v. Ball State, Dec. 18 v. Charleston Southern, Dec. 23 v. UCLA, Dec. 28 v. Central Florida (Holiday Classic), Dec. 30 v. Michigan, Jan. 4 v. Utah State, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 895-3900

UNLV Basketball: Lady Rebels play Dec. 20-21 (Boyd Gaming Tournament), Dec. 27 v. Oregon, Jan. 7 v. Pacific, Jan. 9 v. Nevada-Reno, South Gym, UNLV, 895-3207

UNLV Football: Nov. 4 v. North Texas (homecoming), Nov. 11 v. Utah State, Nov. 18 v. New Mexico State, Sam Boyd Stadium, 895-UNLV

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Nevada Landing, 387-5000 or 800-628-6682: Live entertainment (dark Wed.)

Las Vegas

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

Arizona Charlie's, 258-5100: "Naughty Lady Revue" (dark Mon.); *Palace Grand Theatre*: Asleep at the Wheel, Dec. 8-9

Bally's, 739-4567 or 800-237-SHOW: *Jubilee The-*

ater: "Jubilee!" (dark Fri.); Penn and Teller, thru Nov. 8; Andrew Dice Clay, Nov. 3-4; George Carlin, Nov. 9-15; Englebert Humperdinck, Nov. 16-22; Paul Anka, Nov. 23-29; Oak Ridge Boys/Charlie Daniels, Nov. 30-Dec. 13; Blackstone's Magic Holiday Show, Dec. 15-25; bands play nightly in the *Panda Lounge*

The Beach, 731-9298: Concert by contemporary artists like Buster Poindexter and Electric Light Orchestra

Boomtown, 263-0777 or 800-588-7711: *Rattlesnake Ricky's Lounge*: "Boomtown Belles of the West" (dark Mon.); *Opera House Theatre*: Toby Keith, Dec. 5

Boulder Station, 432-7777 or 800-683-7777: *Railhead Saloon*: Dance bands; piano music in the *Lobby Bar*

Bourbon Street, 737-7200: *Basin Street Lounge*: Entertainment nightly except Mon.

Caesars Palace, 731-7333 or 800-445-4544: Dionne Warwick/Burt Bacharach, Nov. 3-5; David Copperfield, Nov. 7-21; Clint Black, Dec. 2-5; Brooks and Dunn, Dec. 7-10

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

Continental, 737-5555: Jazz Jam Session, Mon.; "Terry Stokes Show," hypnotist, Nov. 10-indf., Wed.-Sun.

Debbie Reynolds Hollywood Hotel, 733-2243 or 800-633-1777: *Star Theatre*: Debbie Reynolds and the Uptown Country Singers (dark Mon.) and "Boylesque" starring Kenny Kerr (dark Sun.)

Eldorado, Henderson, 564-1811: *Margaritaville Lounge*: Bands include Stolen Faces

Excalibur, 597-7600: "King Arthur's Tournament," nightly; "A Symphony in White" starring the Royal Lipizzaner Stallions, noon and 2pm Sat-Sun, 2pm Mon.-Fri.; *Wild Bills Saloon and Steakhouse*: Tamra Constock-Comstock Lode, thru Nov. 26; Randy Anderson, Nov. 13; Country Knights, Nov. 20; Jumpin' Boots on Mon.; entertainment nightly in *Minsrel's Theatre Lounge*

Fitzgeralds, 388-2400 or 800-274-LUCK (U.S. outside Nevada): Don Cloe and Anthony Micco (dark Thurs.)

Flamingo Hilton, 733-3333: *Flamingo Showroom*: "The Great Radio City Spectacular" with the Rockettes (dark Fri.); *Bugsy's Celebrity Theatre*: "Forever Plaid," musical revue (dark Mon.)

Four Queens, 385-4011 or 800-634-6045: Monday Night Jazz

Gold Coast, 367-7111: *East Lounge*: Sorta Dixie Jazz Band, noon-6pm, bands play 9pm-3am; *West Lounge*: Entertainment 10pm-4am; *Dance Hall*: Craig Harrison thru Nov. 6; Jumpin' Boots, Nov. 8-20; Randy Anderson, Nov. 22-Jan. 1; ballroom dancing with deejay Larry Taylor, 7:30pm-1:30am Tues. and 1-5pm Sun.

Golden Nugget, 386-8100: "Country Fever," country stars look-alike variety revue (dark Fri.)

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

Hard Rock Hotel, 800-HARD-ROCK: *The Joint*: Joe Diffie, Dec. 5; Johnny Cash, Dec. 9

Harrah's Las Vegas, 369-5222 or 800-392-9002: "Spellbound: Starring Mark Kalin and Jinger" (dark Sun.); "The Improv at Harrah's" (dark Mon.); bands play Sun.-Thurs., karaoke, Fri.-Mon. at the *Court of Two Gators*

Imperial Palace, 794-3261 or 800-351-7400: "Legends in Concert" (dark Sun.)

Jackie Gaughan's Plaza, 386-2464 or 800-634-6575 (U.S. outside Nevada): "Xposed," adult revue (dark Fri.)

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

King 8 Hotel, 736-8988: Bands play nightly except Mon.

Lady Luck, 477-3000 or 800-523-9582: "Lady Luck Luau," Polynesian revue, Mon.

Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5755 or 800-STARLIGHT: Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Starlight Express" (dark Mon.); *The Nightclub*: Kristine W and the Sting, the Emeralds (dark Thurs.)

Luxor, 262-4000 or 800-288-1000: *Nefertiti's Lounge*: "Le Ice Show," thru Dec. 27, ice extravaganza (dark Tues.)

Maxim, 731-4300 or 800-634-6987: "Comedy Max," comedy nightclub; "Comedy Magic," 1 and 3pm (dark Sun.)

MGM Grand, 891-7777 or 800-929-1111: *Grand Theatre*: "EFX" starring Michael Crawford; *Hollywood Theatre*: The Tonight Show with Jay

Leno, Nov. 13-17; *MGM Grand Garden*: Mike Tyson vs. Buster Mathis Jr., Nov. 4; *Center Stage Cabaret*: "Catch a Rising Star," comedy club
The Mirage, 792-7777: *Siegfried and Roy Theatre*: Siegfried and Roy, magic spectacular (dark Wed., Nov. 2-7 and Nov. 30-Dec. 27); Kenny Rogers, Nov. 3-5; Barry Manilow, Nov. 30-Dec. 5; Alabama, Dec. 7-9

O'Sheas Hilton, 737-1343: Mini magic show, 2, 3, and 4pm (dark Mon.-Tues.)

Palace Station, 367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Dance to bands nightly in the *Loading Dock Lounge*

Rio, 252-7776 or 800-888-0400: *Copacabana Supper Club Theatre*: "Copacabana Dinner Show," revue; Waylon Jennings, Dec. 3-4; Wrangler/Justin Celebrity Blackjack Challenge, Dec. 6; *Club Rio*: Dance-video nightclub, Wed.-Sat.

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Riviera, 794-9301 (477-5274 Splash): *Versailles Theatre*: Jeff Kutash's "Splash II: The Voyage of a Lifetime," nightly; *Mardi Gras Plaza*: "An Evening at La Cage," revue (dark Tues.); *Mardi Gras Plaza*: "Crazy Girls: Sensuality, Passion, and Pudgy!" revue (dark Mon.); *Riviera Comedy Club*: comedians; "Bottoms Up," 2 and 4pm (dark Thurs.); *Le Bistro Lounge*: Jazz on the Strip, Mon.; *Grand Ballroom*: Jeff Dunham, ventriloquist-comedian, Dec. 8-9; New Year's Eve Party with Peabo Bryson/Spinners, Dec. 31

Sahara, 737-2515: *Congo Theatre*: Merle Haggard, Dec. 1-10; entertainment in the *Casbar Lounge*

Sam's Town, 454-8048: *Western Dance Hall*: Bands play 9pm-3am; *Roxie's Lounge*: Entertainment till 5am

Sands, 733-5453 or 800-446-4678: *Copa Room*: "Viva Las Vegas!" 1 and 3:30pm weekdays

San Remo, 597-6028 or 800-897-SHOW: "Comedy Cabaret" (dark Wed.); bands play in the *Winner's Circle Lounge*

Santa Fe, 658-4900: Live entertainment Tues.-Sat. in the *Ice Lounge*

Sheraton Desert Inn, 733-4566 or 800-634-6909: *Crystal Room*: Martina McBride, Nov. 24-26; Little Texas, Dec. 1-3; Mavericks, Dec. 7-10; *Starlight Theatre*: Keely Smith and Sam Butera and the Wildest, thru Dec. 10

Showboat, 385-9123 or 800-634-3484: *Carnival Room* dark thru December

Stardust, 732-6111 or 800-824-6033: *Stardust Theatre*: "Enter the Night," musical revue (dark Tues.); bands play in the *Starlight Lounge*;



Country singer Clint Black appears at Caesars Palace December 2-5.

Conference Center Arena: Ricky's Saloon featuring Ricky and the Red Streaks, Nov. 29-Dec. 10

Treasure Island, 894-7111: "Mystère," circus theater (dark Mon.-Tues. and Nov. 29-30, Dec. 5-18), pirate battles in Buccaneer Bay

Tropicana, 739-2411: *Tiffany Theatre*: "Folies Bergere" (dark Thurs.); *Comedy Stop Theatre*: "Comedy Stop"; bands play in the *Atrium Lounge*

Vacation Village, 897-1700 or 800-658-5000: *Koo Koo's Lounge*: Entertainment and dancing

Westward Ho, 731-2900: "Hurray, America," starring Robbie Howard and Red Hot Mama and the Goodtime Jazz Band (dark Sat.)

Laughlin

Avi Casino, 535-5555

Colorado Belle, 298-4000: Entertainment nightly except Mon.

Edgewater, 298-2453: Bands play Tues.-Sun.

Flamingo Hilton Laughlin, 298-5028 or 800-435-8469: "Jukebox Giants" (dark Thurs.)

Gold River, 298-2242 or 800-835-7904: Free entertainment nightly; free line-dance lessons Tues.

Golden Nugget Laughlin, 298-7111 or 800-237-1739: Entertainment Tues.-Sun.

Harrah's Laughlin, 298-4600 or 800-447-8700: *Club La Bamba*: Entertainment includes Straw Dawg and Thunderstruck (dark Mon.)

Ramada Express, 298-4200: Entertainment presented nightly

Regency, 298-2439

Riverside Resort, 298-2535 or 800-227-3849 ext. 616: *Don's Celebrity Theatre*: Phyllis Diller, Oct. 29-Nov. 1; George Carlin, Nov. 2-5; Smothers Brothers, Nov. 7-12; Milton Berle, Nov. 15-18; Crystal Gayle, Nov. 23-25; Pat Boone's Christmas Show, Nov. 30-Dec. 15; Nutcracker Ballet, Dec. 16-19

Mesquite

Players Island, 346-7529: *Bali Hai Theater*: "Island Fever," musical revue; bands play nightly in the *Cascades Lounge*



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HOTELS

Casino Notes

Musical Milestone: "Country Tonite," the country music revue at the Aladdin, celebrated its third anniversary. The show has received the American Eagle Award for "The Best Live Country Show in the USA" twice.

Dancing Finale: "Jubilee!" at Bally's has a new finale. The change, which incorporates dance numbers in the style of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, represents the first phase in a three-year revision of the show.

A Million Screams Later: On July 18, Marcia Papa, a production-show dancer who lives in Las Vegas, was the one-millionth rider on "The Desperado," the world's tallest and fastest roller coaster, at Buffalo Bill's Resort at State Line, 45 miles south of Las Vegas. Papa received a two-night stay at the resort and a one-year unlimited ride pass.

Top Chef: Lucio Arancibia, the Excalibur's executive chef, has been named 1995 Chef of the Year by the Las Vegas Chapter of the Fraternity of Executive Chefs. Arancibia was recognized for his community service and culinary talents.

Window of Opportunity: A drive-through sports book called Sports on the Run has opened at the Fiesta Hotel in North Las Vegas. Winners will still collect on their wagers inside the sports book.

Vegas Glitters: The Fremont Street Experience, a \$70-million project that will transform Las Vegas' downtown into a five-block entertainment mall with a sky parade and light show, is scheduled to open in December.

Magic at Monte Carlo: Magician Lance Burton, who has been entertaining audiences since 1990 at the Hacienda Hotel, will have his own theater and a 13-year contract when the new



New costumes brighten the finale of "Jubilee!"

3,000-room Monte Carlo Hotel opens on the Strip next summer.

Tower of Thrills: The 135-story, 1,149-foot-tall Stratosphere Tower, north of the Sahara Hotel on Las Vegas Boulevard, is scheduled to open in spring 1996. The casino and entertainment complex will house wedding chapels, indoor and outdoor observation decks, a 360-seat revolving restaurant, a cocktail lounge, and two thrill rides—a roller coaster 909 feet above the ground and a simulated space shot that propels riders 160 feet up to the 1,081-foot level. The property will have a casino, restaurant, and shops in a separate two-story building at the base of the tower.

Texas in Vegas: The 200-room Texas Gambling Hall and Hotel recently opened at Rancho Drive and Lake Mead Boulevard in North Las Vegas. The resort has seven restaurants, 12 movie theaters, and a 150-seat lounge called the Armadillo Honky Tonk. The lounge will have live music and dancing under a spinning 200-pound mirrored armadillo.

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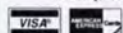
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Si Redd's Oasis Resort, 346-5232: Show bands including the Del Vikings thru Nov. 5
Virgin River, 346-7777 or 800-346-7721: Bands include Almost Persuaded and American Made, Tues.-Sat.

North Las Vegas

Fiesta Casino, 631-7000: Live entertainment in the *Cantina Bar*; Mariachis, 10:30am-2:30pm Sun.

Texas Gambling Hall, 631-1000: Country bands play in the *Armadillo Honky Tonk Lounge* Thurs.-Sun.

State Line

Buffalo Bill's, 382-1111: *Star of the Desert Arena*: Kenny Rogers, Dec. 31; *Carolee's Theatre*: "Carolee's Comedy Club with Michael Rapport" **Primadonna**, 382-1212 or 800-826-4471: "Heroes of Rock 'n' Roll," tribute show (dark Tues.)
Whiskey Pete's, 382-1212 or 800-367-7383

GAMING TOURNAMENTS

November

Winners' Reunion Slots, Nov. 2-5, Lady Luck, 477-3000 or 800-LADYLUCK

Harvest Moon Keno Nov. 5-8, Caesars Palace, 731-7485 or 800-262-2502

Harvest Fall Slots, Nov. 6-9, Sands, 733-5542

Time Trials Slots, Nov. 12-14, Imperial Palace, 794-3114

Race Away Reels, Nov. 16-18, Imperial Palace, 794-3114

Nifty '50s Slots, Nov. 16-19, Fitzgeralds, 388-2136 or 800-678-LUCK

Thanksgiving Feast and Slots, Nov. 19-22, Lady Luck, 477-3000 or 800-LADYLUCK

Slots, Nov. 26, Flamingo Hilton Las Vegas, 733-3117 or 800-225-4882

Autumn Magic Video Poker, Nov. 26-29, Lady Luck, 477-3000 or 800-LADYLUCK

November Slots, Nov. 26-29, Sheraton Desert Inn, 733-4488

December

Slots, Dec. 3 and 10, Flamingo Hilton Las Vegas, 733-3117 or 800-225-4882

1995 Hall of Fame Classic Poker, Dec. 8-21, Bion's Horseshoe, 382-1600

How the West Was Won Slots, Dec. 10-12, Imperial Palace, 794-3114

Wild Week Reels, Blackjack, Craps, Keno, and Video Poker, Dec. 10-14, Ramada Express, Laughlin, 298-6231

Grand Round-Up Slots, Dec. 11-14, MGM Grand, 891-7488 or 800-929-9410

Candy Cane Slots, Dec. 12-15, Lady Luck, 477-3000 or 800-LADYLUCK

Winter Wonderland Slots, Dec. 17-20, Caesars Palace, 731-7485 or 800-262-2502

ATTRACTIONS, TOURS & MUSEUMS

Boulder City

Black Canyon River Raft Tours: 293-3776

Boulder City Historic District: Walking tour, 1497 Nevada Hwy., 293-2034

Boulder City/Hoover Dam Museum: 444 Hotel

PREVIEW

Snow Time at Charleston

At Mount Charleston, snow is the big show. The forested mountain is 40 miles northwest of Las Vegas and 10,000 feet higher. During a good winter Charleston offers snow sports even when hotel guests are sunbathing poolside in the Entertainment Capital.

Lee Canyon is the place for most snow sports. At 8,500 feet at the top of the road is Lee Canyon's ski area (702-646-0008), recently renamed Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort. (See Skier's Guide on page E-23.)

A good spot for nonskiers is Foxtail Snow Play Area, a treeless slope a mile below the ski area. At Foxtail you can go sledding, tubing, and tobogganing—"sliding-type activities," as one U.S. Forest Service official put it. It's also a good spot to build snowmen and have snowball fights.

Brave campers with RVs can stay at snowy Kyle Canyon Campground, at 7,000 feet. The camping is free of charge during the winter, but your rig must be self-contained,



Mount Charleston is a lofty retreat for skiers, snowboarders, and snowball throwers. Above: Lee Canyon's ski area.

according to the U.S. Forest Service (702-873-8800).

In Kyle Canyon, the Mt. Charleston Hotel (702-872-5500) has lodging and dining. At the top of the canyon, Mt. Charleston Resort (702-386-6899), also known as the Lodge, has sleigh rides, dining, and bed-and-breakfast cabins.

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PREVIEW

Ringside Report

Boxing fans will have a choice of two big-name prizefights to watch on Saturday November 4, in Las Vegas. By an odd coincidence of scheduling, former WBO heavyweight champs Riddick Bowe and Evander Holyfield meet that night at Caesars Palace while Mike Tyson and Buster Mathis Jr. square off down the street at the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

Tickets for both bouts come at championship prices. All seats are reserved for Bowe-Holyfield and range from \$200 to \$800 (call Caesars Palace, 702-731-7865 or 800-634-6698). At \$100 to \$1,000, Tyson-Mathis ticket prices are also heavyweight caliber (call the MGM Grand, 702-891-7777 or 800-929-1111).



Holyfield (above) hopes to tie up a Bowe.

Plaza, 294-1988
 Hoover Dam: Tours, U.S. 93, 293-8367
 Hoover Dam Visitor Center: Theaters, exhibit hall, 293-8000 or 293-8419
 Lake Mead Cruises/Desert Princess: 293-6180
 Lake Mead National Recreation Area: 601 Nevada Hwy., 293-8906

Henderson

Clark County Heritage Museum: 1830 S. Boulder Hwy., 455-7955
 Cranberry World West: 1301 American Pacific Dr., tours of Ocean Spray facility, 566-7160
 Escape the City Streets: Mountain bike tours, 800-596-2953
 Ethel M Chocolate Factory and Cactus Garden: Tours, 2 Cactus Garden Dr., 458-8864
 Green Valley Outdoor Sculpture Museum Information Center: Driving tour, 458-8855
 Kidd Marshmallow Factory: Tours, 8203 Gibson Rd., 564-3878 or 800-234-2383
 Mountasia Family Fun Center: 2050 Olympic Ave., 454-4386
 Ron Lee's World of Clowns: Free factory tours, 330 Carousel Pkwy., 434-1700

Las Vegas

A.J. Hackett Bungy: Bungy jumps, 810 Circus Circus, 385-4321
 Aladdin: Predator's Paradise, wildlife habitat, 871-LION
 Bonnie Springs Old Nevada: Red Rock Canyon, 875-4191
 Boomtown: Pan for gold, I-15, 263-7777
 Desert Demonstration Gardens: Tours, 3701 W. Alta, 258-3205
 Excalibur: Motion machines, 597-7700

One good publication deserves another



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Top ruggers meet during the Las Vegas Rugby Challenge, December 2-3.

- Floyd Lamb State Park:** Ponds, 9200 Tule Springs Rd., 486-5413
- Forum Shops at Caesars:** 893-4800
- 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., 792-3766
- Hard Rock Hotel and Casino:** Music memorabilia, 693-5000
- Holy Cow! Casino:** Brewery tours, 732-2697
- Imperial Palace Auto Collection:** 794-3174
- Las Vegas Mini Gran Prix:** 1401 N. Rainbow Blvd., 259-7000
- Las Vegas Museum of Natural History:** 900 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 384-DINO
- Liberace Museum:** 1775 E. Tropicana, 798-5595
- Lied Discovery Children's Museum:** 833 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 382-KIDS
- Luxor:** King Tut's Tomb, boat ride, 262-4000
- Magic and Movie Hall of Fame:** O'Sheas, 737-1343
- Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History:** UNLV, 895-3381
- MGM Grand Adventures:** Theme park, 891-7979
- Mirage:** Dolphins, erupting volcano, 791-7111
- Mount Charleston:** Recreation info., 222-1597
- Nevada State Museum and Historical Society:** Lorenzi Park, 700 Twin Lakes Dr., 486-5205
- Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort:** 908 Las Vegas Blvd. N. at Washington (enter from Cashman parking lot B only), state historic park, 486-3511
- Omnimax Theatre:** Caesars Palace, 731-7900
- Planet Hollywood:** Movie memorabilia, Caesars Palace, 791-7827
- Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area:** 363-1921
- Southern Nevada Zoological Park:** 1775 N. Rancho Dr., 648-5955
- Spring Mountain Ranch State Park:** Red Rock Canyon, 875-4141
- Star Lane Shoppes at MGM Grand:** 891-7262
- Sunset Stampede:** Water and laser show, Sam's Town, 456-7777
- Thrill Climbers:** Rock climbing on artificial surface, 810 Circus Circus Dr., 699-5710

Treasure Island: Pirate battle, 894-7111
Wet 'n Wild: 2601 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 737-SURF

Laughlin

Lake Mohave Resort: Marina at Katherine, 602-754-3245
Riverside Resort: Classic car showroom and antique slots, 298-2535

Mesquite

Desert Valley Museum: 31 W. Mesquite Blvd., 346-5705
Arvada Gun Club: Si Redd's Oasis, 346-5232 ext. 3729

North Las Vegas

The Planetarium: Community College of

Southern Nevada, 651-5059

Overton

Lost City Museum of Archaeology: 721 S. Hwy. 169, 397-2193
Valley of Fire State Park: 397-2088

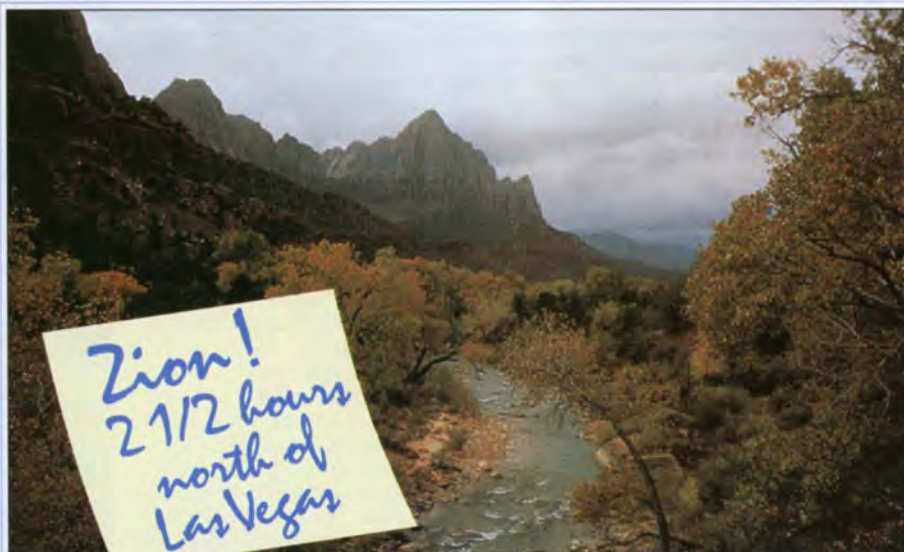
Searchlight

Searchlight Historic Museum: 455-7955

State Line

Buffalo Bill's: Roller coaster, 382-1111

A Reminder: To confirm dates and times, please use the phone number listed with each event. The area code is 702 throughout Nevada. For hotels' toll-free phone numbers, call 800-555-1212.



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Reno-Tahoe Territory

EVENTS

November

Inside the Glitter, thru Nov. 3, photographs and stories of casino workers by Carson City photographer Kit Miller, C.I.T.Y. 2000 Gallery, Reno City Hall, 329-1324

Wild Women at the Museum, thru Nov. 12, works by Nevada artists, Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 329-3333

Fort Churchill: Sentinel of the Great Basin, thru Dec. 31, exhibit of drawings, blueprints, and photos related to the construction of the fort,

Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 688-1190

Quilted Wheels, thru Dec. 31, auto-themed quilts, National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300

Capitol Drawings, thru Feb. 27 exhibit of the restored plans for the 1870-design of the State Capitol Building, Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 688-1190

Concerts in the Atrium, thru May 24, Fri. only, free, classical music concerts, noon-1pm, Airport Gardens Office Bldg., Reno, 329-1324

"Madama Butterfly," Nov. 2-4, Nevada Opera, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 786-4046

"Go Back for Murder," Nov. 3-4, Agatha Christie story, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

"Little Women," Nov. 3-4, 10-11, and 17-18, Proscenium Players, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Celtic New Year Celebration, Nov. 3-5, pipe bands, dueling, Highland dancing, Gaelic football, reenactments, authentic food and spirits, cultural crafts, downtown Reno and National Bowling Stadium, 535-3045

U of N Ski Swap, Nov. 3-5, Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751

Autumn Food and Wine Jubilee, Nov. 5, wine and food tastings, art auction and show, 1-4pm, Resort at Squaw Creek, North Lake Tahoe, 916-581-6900

Nevada Cattlemen's Assn. Annual Convention, Nov. 6-8, trade show, guest speakers, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 738-9214

National Senior Pro Rodeo Finals, Nov. 6-12, the nation's top competitors 40 and older, traditional rodeo events, Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751 or 746-0141

San Francisco Mime Troupe, Nov. 8, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 784-6847

Chateau St. Michelle Winemaker Dinner, Nov. 9, five-course gourmet meal and complementary wines, \$60 per person, all inclusive, Pisces Restaurant, Caesars Tahoe, Stateline, 800-235-8259

Classic Country Dance Festival, Nov. 10-12, downtown Reno, 829-5864 or 686-3047

Rhymer's Rodeer Cowboy Poetry, Nov. 10-12, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711 ext. 679 or 800-321-6983

"Carousel," Nov. 10-12 and 17-19, Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical, Western Nevada Mu-



Reno celebrates the Celtic New Year on November 3-5 with Gaelic costumes, authentic food, and dancing.

TERRITORY MAP



sical Theater Co. production, Carson City Community Center, 887-3153

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

"French Fantastique," Nov. 14, Reno Philharmonic concert, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 825-0754

Argenta Trio, Nov. 17, guest artist Virginia Lenz plays viola, Nightingale Concert Hall, U of N, Reno, 784-6847

Valley Cruisers Car Club Assn. Turkey Poker Run, Nov. 19, departs 10:30am, Douglas County High School parking lot, Minden-Gardnerville, 265-7074

Christmas on the Comstock Parade and Tree Lighting, Nov. 24, 5pm parade followed by Christmas tree lighting and fireworks, Virginia City, 847-0311

Christmas on the River, Nov. 25, holiday festival, entertainment, children's activities, street performers, crafts, Festival of Trees, arrival of Santa, Raymond I. Smith Truckee River Walk and downtown Reno, 334-2414

Very Special Arts Nevada, Nov. 25, free community arts festival, Pioneer Center for the

PREVIEW

Bulls and Bards

It's a true cowboy weekend in Reno and Minden.

By Kathleen Berry

Buckaroos and balladeers will be steering into Northern Nevada for a real honest-to-goodness cowboy weekend. You'll be able to watch living legends in Reno at the National Senior Pro Rodeo Finals, November 6-12, and listen to legends retold in Minden at the Rhymer's Rodeer Cowboy Poetry event, November 10-12.

When the National Senior Pro Rodeo Finals stampede into Reno, don't expect these buckaroos to compete in watered-down events. Many of the competitors—all 40 years of age or older—are bonafide world champions and Rodeo Hall of Fame members who are still getting the same scores and times they earned 20 or 30 years ago in events like bull riding and calf roping.

This rodeo gathering has an unusually large field. About 500 contestants will qualify to compete in Reno, representing the United States and Canada. The stop at the Reno Livestock Events Center will be the culmination of 65 Senior Pro Rodeo Tour events



The National Senior Pro Rodeo Finals come to Reno.

held throughout North America.

Besides watching the competition, spectators will be able to browse the Western art, clothing, and the latest tack at the Cowboy Holiday Gift Show. Admission is free with your rodeo ticket. Then, after the day's events, everyone's invited to kick up their heels at a rodeo dance at the Silver Legacy (call 702-329-4777 for dance details).

The National Senior Pro Rodeo Finals and the gift show take place at the Reno Livestock Events Center's indoor arena. Rodeo times are 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, and 1 p.m. for Satur-

day's and Sunday's championship rounds. Ticket prices range from \$7.50 to \$13.50, and children under 12 are free. To order tickets call the Lawlor Events Center in Reno at 702-784-4444 or area BASS Ticket Outlets.

While some cowboys will be busting broncs in Reno, others will be telling tales of the trail and spinning outlandish yarns at the Rhymer's Rodeer in Minden. As you listen to the well honed verses from the sagebrush bards, the images of sage, cattle, and smoke will mingle until you're no longer in the Shannon Ballroom at the Carson Valley Inn in Minden but riding the range with cowboy poets.

This is no uppity affair. The cowboys seat you themselves, visit a spell, and then take the stage. Because the art of cowboy poetry is not just in the words but also in the telling, the gathering is purposely

kept small so you can catch the poets' facial expressions and inflections as they recite their own creations as well as classic poems.

There will be a cocktail show Friday night, a dinner show Saturday night, and a matinee on Sunday. Tickets for Friday and Sunday are \$15, \$30 on Saturday. Performers will include the Grubline Riders, a.k.a. Ernie Fanning and Tony Ilandi, as well as Richard Smith, Sunny Hancock, and Horse Sense, the team of Justin Bishop and Richard Lawrence. For advance tickets call the Carson Valley Inn, 702-782-9711 or 800-321-6983.

Kathleen Berry is a Sparks-based travel writer



Richard Smith recites cowboy poetry in Minden.

PREVIEW

A Skier's Christmas

Making the most of Sierra Nevada yuletide celebrations.

This year, skiers and snow enthusiasts can schuss into the holiday spirit as several Lake Tahoe resorts celebrate the season with ski races, snow contests, fireworks, and Santa Claus. (See this issue's Reno-Tahoe events listing for details.)

The third annual **Northern Lights Winter Carnival '95**, December 7-12, opens the snow season at Incline Village, Crystal Bay, and Diamond Peak ski area. On Saturday, the Light Up the Lake Fireworks will illuminate Incline Beach at 6:45 p.m. Family Day is Sunday, and snow lovers can join in tots and teens ski races, challenge Mother Nature in a snow golf tournament, or make Frosty come to life in a snowman-building contest. Lift tickets and trail passes at Diamond Peak will be discounted to \$10 on December 10-12 and are free if you stay at any lodging property in Incline Village or Crystal Bay. Many events will be televised for national coverage.

Ski Homewood on the west shore holds its fourth annual **Ho Ho Homewood**



The Northern Lights Winter Carnival offers children's events at Diamond Peak.

Toy Drive on Friday, December 15. Each skier and snowboarder who donates a new toy can ski all day for \$5 and is invited to an après-ski toy-drive party in the South Side Lodge. Free ski clinics will be held throughout the day. Santa Claus takes to the slopes December 18-January 1, during Ski Homewood's holiday festivities.

You can partake in yuletide cheer at **Northstar-at-Tahoe** on December 23-25.

On Christmas Day the resort will have a caroling party, a snowman-building contest, and a cross-country tour. For New Year's, Northstar will ring in 1996 with fireworks and family-oriented parties.

On Christmas Eve, a long line of skiers will snake down Squaw Valley's KT-22 run in a **Torchlight Parade**. The parade is free and is visible from the Olympic Plaza. Santa also will be at



Cross-country skiing is a cool way to tour the Sierra Nevada this winter

Future Festivals

There's more snow fun on the way. Upcoming 1996 festivities in the Tahoe Basin will include:

Winter Carnival, January 29-February 3, University of Nevada, Reno, 702-784-6505

Snowfest, March 1-10, ski events and races, North Lake Tahoe and Truckee, 916-583-7625

California Special Olympics Winter Games, March 4-7 Northstar-at-Tahoe, between Kings Beach and Truckee, 916-562-1010

Winter Carnival, March 15-17 Squaw Valley, 916-583-6985

Tahoe Winterfest, March 16-23, a gay and lesbian celebration, North Lake Tahoe, 916-582-1889



NEVADA

Travel Update

WINTER TOURISM INDUSTRY NEWS 1995

► INSIDE

Sales Tips

Kick off your winter business with Super Bowl Sunday, Nevada's giant pigskin party. **Page T-2**

Hot Events

A guide to the Silver State's bone-jarring rodeo action. **Page T-6**

Shopping News

Buckaroo Bargains, Vegas

The **NFR Cowboy Christmas Show** pulls into Las Vegas November 30-December 9, just in time for the National Finals Rodeo. The show draws more than 300 exhibitors displaying 150,000 square feet of merchandise, from artwork to saddles. It's open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m., with free admission and motorcoach parking. Cashman Field, 850 Las Vegas Boulevard North. Call 702-731-2115

The **Western Emporium**, the large retailer located in Sam's Town Hotel and Gambling Hall, has a tent sale November 24-December 26. (The tent closes Christmas Day; the store remains open.) The sale features 40,000 square feet of merchandise and is open 9 a.m.-8 p.m. with limited motorcoach parking. 5111 Boulder Highway. Call 702-454-8016.

Buckaroo Bargains, Reno

The **Cowboy Holiday Gift Show** opens daily at 8 a.m. during the National Senior Pro Rodeo Finals in Reno, November 6-12.

Exhibitors, some of whom will also participate at the NFR, offer merchandise including clothes, jewelry tack, and furniture. Admission is free prior to the rodeo performances and there is motorcoach parking. Reno Livestock Events Center Indoor Arena, 1350 North Wells Avenue. Call 702-784-4444.



Guests find poolside luxury and a spa at Players Island in Mesquite, 80 miles northeast of Vegas.

► SITE INSPECTION

Players Island Opens in Mesquite

Players Island is the newest resort to open in the fast-growing vacation mecca of Mesquite. The \$80-million, 500-room hotel, which is partly owned by entertainer Merv Griffin, incorporates a tropical theme that includes a lagoon swimming pool with a waterfall and water slide. Additionally in the 425-seat Bali Hai Theater your clients can enjoy "Island Fever," an elaborate production show.

Players Island has a full-service spa where your clients can be baked, steamed, wrapped, soaked, and massaged into a blissful state of relaxation. Prices for spa services range from \$35 to \$95.

Located 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas on Interstate 15, Mesquite is a peaceful farming community that is gaining popularity as a year-round golf vacation destination.

Players Island is constructing an 18-hole golf course that is scheduled to be com-

pleted in spring 1996. The new course will join two existing 18-hole championship courses and a new nine-hole course at Si Redd's Oasis.

Hotel rack rates are \$42 midweek, \$59 weekend, and \$95 for suites, which are commissionable. Golf and spa packages are available. Contact the Tour and Travel Department for information on the short stay motorcoach program, which can consist of one-, two-, three-, six-, or eight-hour packages. For reservations call 800-896-4567

Other selling points:

- ◆ Five themed restaurants, including the Plantation House, Island Deli, Reef Buffet, and the 24-hour Tradewinds Cafe.
- ◆ Tennis and volleyball courts.
- ◆ 40,000 square feet of casino space.
- ◆ 10,000 square feet of meeting space.
- ◆ 45-space RV park.

► SALES TIPS

Super Bowl Nevada-Style: Pigskin Party at Its Best

If you want to boost your winter business, Nevada and Super Bowl weekend can be a winning combination.

Historically, the pigskin playoff has been one of the busiest weekends in the state.

Last January, 170,000 football fans flocked to Las Vegas to attend Super Bowl parties and wager on their favorite team. According to the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority visitors spent \$48.5 million over the Super Bowl weekend, not including gambling money.

Phoenix, which is hosting the 1996 game, is expected to draw 100,000 people during the week of January 15-29. If your clients have game tickets but find a room shortage, neighboring Nevada is a great alternative. Las Vegas is a one-hour flight from Phoenix, and Reno is 100 minutes by air. Laughlin



is about a five-hour drive from the game.

Additionally football fans find watching games can be more exciting in Nevada because it is the only state where betting on football is legal. At the state's many sports books, they can wager on the game's outcome and make exotic side bets on game milestones such as first touchdown, first sack, and quarterly scores.

The sports books are comfortable, and their state-of-the-art television screens deliver in-your-face intensity to armchair quarterbacks.

The Rio in Las Vegas is among a growing number of hotels offering slot machines that are equipped with small televisions so

that your clients can gamble while they watch a game.

Some casinos set aside a ballroom, show-room, or lounge for special Super Bowl viewing parties.

For example, Harveys at Lake Tahoe has its Emerald Theatre party. For \$15, guests are entitled to a reserved seat in the theater, two hot dogs, two drinks, giveaways, drawings, trivia contests, and free betting boards.

Additionally there will be NFL players, cheerleaders, and drawings for NFL memorabilia such as signed footballs. The Sahara, Santa Fe, and Imperial Palace in Las Vegas have similar parties.

Admission is free at other properties where fans will find food and drink specials (75-cent and \$1 specials are common), souvenirs, and drawings. For example, Koo Koo's Lounge at Vacation Village in Las Vegas is planning drink specials, free hot dogs, souvenirs, and an appearance by the Miller Lite Girls.

Pre- and post-Super Bowl, your clients also can be sold on skiing at Reno-Tahoe or golf in Las Vegas.

Super Parties

The following hotels responded to a survey asking if they are planning Super Bowl parties that are open to the public. Most casinos finalize their Super Bowl plans by late October or early November. Nevada's area code is 702.

Jean

Gold Strike Hotel, 477-5000
Nevada Landing, 387-5000

Las Vegas

Aladdin, 736-0419
Arizona Charlie's, 258-5100
The Beach, 731-9298
Eldorado, Henderson, 564-1811
Fiesta, North Las Vegas, 631-7000
Flamingo Hilton, 733-3111
Harrah's Las Vegas, 369-5792
Joker's Wild, Henderson, 564-8100
Imperial Palace, 794-3160
Sahara, 737-2111
Sam's Town, 800-897-8696
Santa Fe, 658-4900
Showboat, 385-9123
Vacation Village, 897-1700

Laughlin

Flamingo Hilton, 800-435-8469
Gold River, 800-835-7904

Mesquite

Virgin River, 346-7777

Reno

Eldorado, 800-777-5325

Lake Tahoe

Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515
Harveys, 800-553-1022
Lake Tahoe Horizon, 588-6211, ext. 2271

Carson City-Carson Valley

Carson Valley Inn, 321-6983, ext. 624
Piñon Plaza, 885-9000

► NEVADA

Travel Update

SECTION

Published by Nevada Magazine in cooperation with: the Nevada Commission on Tourism (800-NEVADA-8), the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (702-892-0711), and the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority (800-VIP-RENO).

ANN HENDERSON Travel Update Editor

Las Vegas Editorial Office:
555 E. Washington, Suite 5600
Las Vegas, NV 89101

702-486-2433 • FAX 702-486-2789

▶ SELLING ADVENTURE

Confessions of a Bungy Survivor

The Fall Guy

BY MIKE DONAHUE

The rigid, steel-mesh platform atop the A.J. Hackett Bungy tower is 171 vertiginous feet above the north end of the Las Vegas Strip. Although dwarfed by the dazzling pink-and-white Circus Circus Hotel next door, the tower's wind-blown elevation is enough to cause palpitations in those faint of heart, while at the same time providing a panoramic view of the Las Vegas Valley.

From Red Rock Canyon on the west to the keen edge that outlines rugged Sunrise Mountain in the east, I could view Las Vegas with the lofty eminence that Gulliver must have felt as he walked among the Lilliputians.

Standing on the bungy launch area, it was possible to drink in the man-made magnificence of Las Vegas—the bulging

.....

It seemed to last

forever, but it was really only

**1.95 seconds before the
bungy cord sprang back. I had
been traveling 42.73 mph.**

.....

pink dome of Grand Slam Canyon Adventuredome, the spiraling needle of the Stratosphere Tower, the vast Las Vegas Convention Center, and the mysterious, black Luxor. It was breathtaking.

At that moment, however, the “breath-taking” sensation was not due entirely to the fine view of the Strip. I was there to hurl my trembling body into space, tethered to middle-aged existence by only a super-elastic band that I hoped—and prayed—would leave me bobbing up and down at its end. I might be limp, disheveled, and spent, but alive—alive and proud that I had survived another of those stupid, spur-of-the-moment, maniacal impulses to try everything at least once.

I was dressed for business, tie and all (this was really spur-of-the-moment), and I felt the sweat gush in salty rivers as I stared at the ground. The platform, although



Chad Algarin of Simi Valley, California, takes the plunge at A.J. Hackett Bungy in Las Vegas. Jumpers at the Strip attraction can choose a cool dunk in the swimming pool as part of their leap.

ringed by a waist-high rail, was open to the air. The freeness of it all fed my fear like rain in the dry Mojave Desert.

My mind was filled with one line on the form I had quickly filled out and signed absolving A.J. Hackett of any liability: “I am fully aware that bungy jumping is a dangerous sport and contains inherent risks and dangers including, but not limited to, serious injury or death...”

Watching the tiny people scurry to get a look at the dummy in the tie, I thought, “What the hell am I doing?”

Jump master Jonni Deaker wrapped my ankles tightly with the bungy cord and explained that I was to shuffle to the edge of the platform and then fall forward after a short countdown. Looking down I could see a bit of luscious green grass—meaning solid ground—and an inviting deep-blue pool. “Why the pool?” I croaked to Jonni.

“It’s a psychological thing,” Jonni said. “People prefer to jump over water. We had the jump over the tarmac and business was slow. We added an air bag and business picked up. We added the pool and all of a sudden we’re busy. Besides, the person who controls the bungy cord can dip you

on the way down, if you like.”

I started to explain I didn’t want to get my tie wet when the crew started counting backwards. Four, three, two...

With a tightening in my chest, I was off. I honestly tried to keep my eyes open. I remember seeing hotels flash by. Then the little blue pool began to get bigger and bigger. It seemed to last forever, but it was really only 1.95 seconds before the bungy cord was stretched to the limit and sprang back. I had been traveling 42.73 mph.

After I stopped bobbing, a hook was extended to me from the side of the pool, and I was pulled over and lowered gently to a pad—alive, energized, and dry.

I think next time I’ll forgo the tie and go for the dip.

For More Information: A.J. Hackett Bungy 800 Circus Circus Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89109. Call 702-385-4321. A.J. Hackett Bungy is open daily hours are seasonal. First jump is \$59, all others \$29. Group discounts, theme parties, and corporate events are available.

Mike Donahue is editor of the Las Vegas News Bureau.

POSITIVE SIGNS

Passenger growth continues at Reno-Tahoe International Airport. In July air traffic increased four percent over last year, making it the busiest July on record.

What's New

The Latest Information on Travel Around the Silver State

New Reno Connections

TWA has started two nonstop daily flights between St. Louis and Reno. On December 15, Shuttle by United will begin five daily flights between Reno and San Francisco.

Fresh Look

The downtown Reno Holiday Inn has new sparkle. The property's 10,000-square-foot casino has been remodeled in lighter colors and renamed Diamond's Casino. The exterior of the 13-story hotel has been repainted, and the lobby has been remodeled to achieve a turn-of-the-century look.

Mardi Gras Flavor

Plans have been announced for a New Orleans-themed casino that will open in Las Vegas in December 1996. The 810-room Orleans Hotel, to be built on Tropicana Avenue, will have a casino, four movie theaters, a 70-lane bowling center, 40,000 square feet of banquet space, a wedding chapel, a 17,000-square-foot grand ballroom, and an 800-seat showroom.

Ownership Change

Circus Circus has acquired Gold Strike Resorts, which includes the Gold Strike and Nevada Landing in Jean, the Railroad Pass Casino in Henderson, and Project Victoria, a joint venture with Mirage Resorts that is planned for the Las Vegas Strip. The acquisition brings Circus Circus' total casino ownership to 17 properties.

Nugget Expands

John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks has added 9,000 square feet of gaming space. For the younger set, the property's video arcade was enlarged by 3,500 square feet.

Ya Gotta Be Nuts

When the Stratosphere Tower in Las Vegas opens April 1, 1996, thrill seekers will be able to ride a roller coaster 100 stories above the Strip or climb aboard the Space Shot, during which seated riders will be fired 160 feet up—at 45 mph—followed by

a free fall to the launching pad. The tower will also have a casino and hotel.

Drive Yourself Tours

Visitors wanting to explore Las Vegas at their own pace can buy a 90-minute audio-cassette tape to guide them on a tour of 50 special interest sites such as museums and malls. The tapes from Drive Your-

self Tours are available at gift shops and the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce and retails for \$20. Call 702-434-4061.

Party Time

Festivities will include a concert by Perfect Stranger and John Berry. The pedestrian mall, which covers Fremont Street, will officially open at a later date that coincides with the first performance of a spectacular, multimedia light show planned for the ceiling of the mall. Call 702-382-4404.



A stunning roller coaster ride 100 stories above the Strip and an incredible view of Las Vegas await the adventurous when the Stratosphere Tower opens this spring.

self Tours are available at gift shops and the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce and retails for \$20. Call 702-434-4061.

Las Vegas Traffic Jumps

In the first six months of 1995 passenger traffic through McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas increased more than six percent over the same period in 1994. McCarran is the eighth busiest airport in the U.S. based on the number of flights.

Rolling on the Rio

A \$185-million expansion at the Rio Suites, located west of the Las Vegas Strip on Flamingo Road, will be completed in spring 1997. The addition will include 1,015 suites, parking garages, restaurants, and a

swimming pool and beach area. The property also expects to introduce an entertainment concept involving a sky parade.

Solid Gold

The Gold River in Laughlin is renovating its casino to include a special slot section devoted to higher denomination machines and a new progressive jackpot with a payout that starts at \$1.2 million.

Ski Las Vegas

Event planners looking for an unusual venue—summer or winter—can reserve

the Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort, 47 miles north of Las Vegas. Activities include night skiing every night (except Saturdays) in the winter and chairlift rides to the top of the mountain during the summer. Group barbecues are available. Call 702-646-0008.

Eldorado Expansion

The new 12-story hotel tower at the Eldorado in Reno has 36 luxury suites and two penthouse suites. The \$55-million expansion includes new casino space, a new convention center and ballroom, a buffet, shops, and Reno's first microbrewery.

Peppermill Pool Power

When the Peppermill in Reno completes its expansion next spring, guests will be able to enjoy a new pool area that boasts a volcano and waterfalls. The expansion will also add 470 rooms and a 3,000-square-foot health club.

International Interest

Las Vegas is the country's seventh most popular destination with foreign visitors—ahead of gateway airports in Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Boston—according to a study released by McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas. The most visitors came from Europe (37%), followed by Canada (27%) and the Far East (25%).

Reach Out in Reno

Conventioneers attending meetings at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center can

rent a pocket telephone on a daily basis. The cost is \$10 per day plus 25 cents per local call. Users receive personal 800 numbers for long distance calls. Call 800-922-2556.

Ormsby Opens

The Ormsby House in Carson City recently reopened its hotel and restaurants. The 200-room hotel has two restaurants, an entertainment bar, and 12,000 square feet of meeting space. Plans call for re-opening the casino as soon as licensing is completed. The commission rate is 10 percent. Call 702-882-1890.

Vegas Projections

The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority is projecting that there will be 12,000 more rooms in the city by late 1997. Las Vegas currently has 90,034 hotel rooms and suites.

Travel Agent Wins Big

The popularity of Las Vegas among residents of a small city in West Virginia helped travel agent Arletta Salko win the Las Vegas Amazing Summer Giveaway Sweepstakes, sponsored by the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority.

Salko, an agent with Expert Travel Associates in Weirton, West Virginia, won \$7,777 in cash and an all-expense paid trip for two to Las Ve-

gas, including first-class round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations, limousine services, and tickets to a Las Vegas show. The grand prize has an estimated retail value of \$12,000.

Salko said she was on vacation when LVCVA officials called to notify her that she had won the grand prize. "I can't wait to come out," she said.

To qualify travel-agent contestants called a toll-free telephone number each time they booked a June hotel reservation in Las Vegas. The Amazing Summer Giveaway generated more than 8,000 calls from travel agents across the country who booked more than 41,000 room-nights in Las Vegas for the month.

Salko credited the 28,000 residents of Weirton, located 30 miles west of Pittsburgh, for her winning effort. "We're just a small town, but everybody wants to go to Las Vegas," she said, adding that she booked about 30 room-nights during the contest period.

Of the more than 2,000 travel agents who entered the giveaway between April 17 and June 30, more than 350 won instant cash prizes. Salko's name was drawn for the grand prize from 2,394 travel agents who entered the sweepstakes.

In addition to the summer contest, the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority has sponsored a similar giveaway for travel agents each December. This year's winter contest runs from October to December and offers more than \$40,000 in instant cash and prizes.



You're Invited to the 12th Annual Governor's Conference on Travel & Tourism

Gaming, travel, and tourism experts will gather at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks on December 10-12 for the 12th Annual Governor's Conference on Travel and Tourism.

Scheduled speakers include Frank Fahrenkopf, former Republican Party chairman and now the gaming industry's lead lobbyist in Washington, D.C., who will discuss "Marketing Nevada's Leadership" at the opening assembly. Additionally, TV and radio personality Charles Osgood, host of *Sunday Morning* on CBS, addresses a luncheon session.

Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority President Manuel J. Cortez, Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority President Thomas J. Milligan, and Nevada Commission on Tourism Executive Director Thomas G. Tait will also recap the recent White House Conference on Travel and Tourism.

More than 40 speakers are on the program, which is designed to sharpen industry leadership skills. To attend, please return the registration form. The registration fee is \$250.

Governor's Conference Registration Form

Name _____

Title _____

Company _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

FAX _____

Make checks payable to: Nevada Commission on Tourism, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710. For more information call 702-687-4322. This form may be duplicated.

► SPECIAL EVENTS

Silver State Rodeo Roundup

With more than a dozen rodeos—including the country's largest, the National Finals Rodeo—Nevada is popular with visitors who appreciate the sport's gritty thrills.

Whether your clients choose a big-city rodeo or prefer a more back-to-basics experience, they can expect quality performances by some of the nation's top cowboys at Nevada's rodeos.

Following is a guide to the Silver State's professional rodeos. Nevada's area code is 702.

Reno-Tahoe Area

National Senior Pro Rodeo Finals features the legends of the sport, ages 40 and over (784-4444). After more than 65 bone-jarring preliminary rounds, the competitors meet in Reno for the week-long championship event November 6-12, 1995. The rodeo includes a gift show, clown's ball, dance, church service, and fashion show. Admission prices are \$7.50-\$12.50. No discount tickets. Motorcoach parking is available.

Reno Rodeo is held the last two weekends in June (800-TIC-RODEO). The event is Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association (PRCA) sanctioned. One of the nation's top three rodeos in prize money this is a 10-day event with nine rodeo performances. The rodeo includes a carnival, parade, concerts, and special events. Admission prices are \$8-\$13, depending on performance and day. Discount tickets for groups (100 min.) available on a limited basis but they must be purchased by March 15. Name of group can be imprinted on ticket, and seating blocks, shuttle accessibility, and catered dinners possible. Motorcoach parking is available.

Virginia City's "Way it Was" Rodeo is scheduled for the second weekend in July (847-0311). It is an IPRA sanctioned rodeo. Visitors will discover a rustic setting with bleacher seating and hay bales. The arena is within walking distance of the town's historic saloons, restaurants, and shops. Admission price is \$6; discount tickets for groups (20 min.). Motorcoach parking is available. Virginia City has 66 rooms and is located 25 miles south of Reno.

Fernley Rodeo and Frontier Days is held the last weekend in September (575-4459).



Clowns come to the rescue of a Reno Rodeo contestant dumped in the bull riding competition.

The event is IPRA sanctioned. Visitors will find an old-fashioned rodeo with a small grandstand that offers a good view from anywhere in the arena. Folding chairs are recommended. Admission is \$5. Motorcoach parking is available. Fernley has 140 rooms and is located 33 miles east of Reno on I-80.

Las Vegas Area

Laughlin Rodeo is planned for April 25-28, 1996 (298-2214). Nevada's newest PRCA

.....

**Rodeo's gritty thrills
in big-city arenas
or back-to-basics
experiences are popular
with Nevada visitors.**

.....

sanctioned event will include a rodeo, dance, and contests. A rich purse should attract the best competitors. Individual hotels plan to offer packages and special events. There will be bleacher seating and motorcoach parking. Laughlin is located

90 miles south of Las Vegas.

Las Vegas Elks Helldorado is usually held the second week in May (870-1221). It is PRCA and Professional Bull Riders (PBR) sanctioned. Five-day rodeo event includes a parade, trail ride, carnival, Native American powwow, dance, and concerts. Group tickets (50 min.) offered until 30 days before the event. Motorcoach parking is not available at the stadium.

National Finals Rodeo is held in mid-December. The event is the PRCA's championship. While the National Finals Rodeo (NFR) sells out each year, several Las Vegas hotels offer live television feeds of NFR performances. Additionally, the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority is studying construction of a domed stadium that would provide a larger venue for the event.

Rural Areas

Elko's Silver State Stampede is scheduled for July 13-14, 1996 (738-7135). The rodeo is PRCA sanctioned, and there will be a Wrangler Bull Fight competition among the rodeo clowns. The rodeo, which started in 1948, includes a parade, kick-off party, art show, and dance. Bleachers and motorcoach parking are available. Tickets \$10, \$8 one week in advance. Elko has 1,800

rooms and is located 280 miles east of Reno and 250 miles west of Salt Lake City on Interstate 80.

Winnemucca Labor Day Rodeo is held Labor Day Weekend (623-2220). The rodeo is PRCA sanctioned. The event includes an art show, parade, dance, carnival, and fair. There are covered grandstands and motorcoach parking is available. Group discounts (20 min.) offered. Admission is \$7 in advance and \$8 at the door. The town of Winnemucca has 1,096 rooms and is located 167 miles northeast of Reno on I-80.

Pahrump Valley Harvest Festival and Fair is held mid-September (727-8195). The event is PRCA sanctioned. It includes a parade, stock car races, dance, fair, contests, and entertainment. Bleachers and motorcoach parking are available. All reserved tickets, no group discounts, but blocks available. Price \$8-\$9. Pahrump has 171 rooms and is 60 miles west of Las Vegas on State Route 160.

Indian Rodeos

Quinn River Indian Rodeo in McDermitt is scheduled in June during Father's Day weekend (532-8259). The event is an open rodeo and includes a dance, arts, and crafts. Bring your own chair. There is plenty of motorcoach parking. There are no group discounts and admission to the event is \$4. McDermitt is located 74 miles north of Winnemucca.

All-Indian Stampede and Rodeo in Fallon is usually held on the third weekend in July (423-2544). The event is Western States Indian Rodeo Association (WSIRA) sanctioned. The Stampede features an authentic Native American powwow arts, and crafts. Bleachers and motorcoach parking are available. There are no group discounts and admission is \$5. Fallon has 315 rooms and is located 64 miles east of Reno.

Pinenut Festival and All-Indian Rodeo in Schurz is held mid-September (773-2306). The rodeo is WSIRA sanctioned. The festival is highlighted by a pinenut harvest blessing ceremony Native American games of chance, dance, fun run, powwow, contests, and open horse race. Bring your own chair. Motorcoach parking is available. There are no discounts and admission is \$5. Schurz is 33 miles north of Hawthorne, 100 miles southeast of Reno.



Wine tasting, gourmet dinners, and grape stomps are some of the attractions awaiting visitors to the Pahrump Valley Vineyards, Southern Nevada's only winery.

► EXPLORING

Las Vegas' Wine Country

If your clients are looking for a getaway, suggest a trip to the rural community of Pahrump, 58 miles west of Las Vegas, where they can tour Southern Nevada's only winery.

Known for its gourmet dinners and romantic ambiance, Pahrump Valley Vineyards is a Spanish-style complex housing a bottling operation, restaurant, outdoor concert area, and a gift shop that sells the seven varieties of wine produced at the winery.

Guides explain how the grapes are grown in California and brought to the winery to be made into wine. The free tours are conducted daily from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Grapevines have been planted around the winery and should be ready for production in 1999—but only if the valley's wild horses cooperate.

Vines were planted a few years ago but proved too tempting to a local herd of wild horses. The equine invaders didn't eat the grapes—but they enjoyed rolling on the plants.

The beasts were finally outwitted when winery owners Peggy Shaner and Jack Sanders wired the vines so that the horses receive a small electric shock if

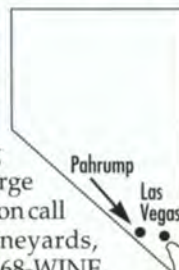
they try to rub against them.

At tour's end, your clients can sample and buy the wines in the gift shop. The labels can be personalized and the wine shipped home.

Reservations are suggested for the gourmet dining room with its high-back chairs and patio setting. The food is excellent and served at a leisurely pace.

For small groups of six to eight people, the winery offers a special dining package that begins in the winery's tower with wine and cheese. Dinner is served in the restaurant, followed by a return to the tower room to enjoy dessert and a beautiful nighttime view of the valley.

Events: On Saturdays during the summer months, there are outdoor concerts, dancing, and a barbecue for a casual evening. Annual events include a jazz festival in September and a grape stomp in October. Formal wine tasting can be arranged for large groups. For information call Pahrump Valley Vineyards, 702-727-6900 or 800-368-WINE.



► SIGHTSEEING

Reno Museum Celebrates Classic Cars

There are more than 200 reasons why your clients will enjoy a tour through one of the world's finest car collections—the National Automobile Museum in Reno.

Each of the gleaming cars on display chronicles the evolution of the horseless carriage, from the steam-driven 1890 Philion to the 1973 Cadillac Eldorado Coupe that was owned by Elvis Presley. Your clients will be seeing more than museum-quality pieces; they will be able to visualize history.

"The automobile has had a tremendous impact on our society," says Harold Ford, the facility's director of marketing.

Sitting on the banks of the Truckee River two blocks from the downtown casinos, the auto museum has interactive and imaginative displays. Four galleries and four street scenes take your clients through the auto age. Building facades and artifacts combine with the cars to reflect each era.

Visitors can become part of the exhibit, according to Ford. "On our Turn-of-the-Century Street, your clients can dress in period costumes and pose next to a 1914 Lippard Stewart automobile," he says.

An added attraction is "Magic Carriage," a 22-minute multimedia presentation depicting the cultural impact of the automobile on society. The presentation incorporates three cars into the film.

Your clients will discover something new each visit to the National Automobile Museum. Exhibits rotate quarterly in the Changing Exhibits Gallery and three times



Cars are the stars at the National Automobile Museum in Reno. More than 200 automobiles are displayed in typical street scenes reminiscent of various eras.

a year in the Masterpiece Circle. French automobiles will be in the Circle through March 1996. Additionally, the museum gift shop has an array of auto-related souvenirs.

Cathy Sexton of Munsen's Discovery Tours in Illinois has been bringing groups to the museum for nearly four years.

"Our clients really enjoy the lunch and tour package the museum arranges," she says. "They always provide friendly, knowledgeable guides and the staff is great to work with."

Travel agent groups of 10 or more re-

ceive reduced admission to the museum. Adults and seniors are \$5.50 and juniors six to 18 are \$2. Combined with a catered lunch, admission prices are lower.

Groups of 50 to 1,200 can "party in the streets" by booking the museum after hours.

Located at 10 Lake Street South, the National Automobile Museum has plenty of free auto, motorcoach, and RV parking. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily except Thanksgiving and Christmas. Call Harold Ford, 702-333-9300.

—Matt Bonaudi

► DINING

'Best of Tahoe' Awards

Two restaurants at Harveys Resort in Stateline, Lake Tahoe, each earned three "Best of Tahoe" awards in a recent *Tahoe Daily Tribune* reader survey. Readers named the **Sage Room** steak house as the best place to eat dinner if someone else is paying. It also finished first in the categories for Best Steak and Best Desserts, particularly the Cherries Jubilee and Bananas Foster. Sage Room entrees are \$17.50-\$24.95 and the room is open 6-10 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 5:30-10 p.m. Sat.-Sun. The

19th floor gourmet room, **Llewellyn's**, received honors for the Best Restaurant View, Best Sunday Brunch, and Best Wine List. The entrees are \$16.75-\$26.75, with Sunday brunch \$17.95. Dinner hours are 6-9:30 p.m. Mon.-Thurs., 6-10 p.m. Fri. and Sun., 5-10 p.m. Sat. (lunch 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Wed.-Sat.). Reservations are recommended. Call 702-588-2411.



Favorite Returns

The **Flamingo Room** restaurant at the Flamingo Hilton in Las Vegas has reopened following completion of the resort's \$130-million expansion. House specials include a medley of salmon, swordfish, and ocean sea wolf, and a mixed grill of lamb, petit filet, veal sausages, and pork tenderloin. On Friday and Saturday nights pianist Emilio Morel entertains the dinner crowd. Open daily 5-11 p.m. for dinner. Also open 7 a.m.-noon for breakfast (no lunch service). Dinner entrees are \$18.50-\$40. Reservations are recommended. Call 702-733-3111.

Skiing Around the State

A guide to Nevada and Tahoe Basin ski areas.



You can learn about Tahoe on Heavenly's Ski With a Ranger guided tours.

the Tahoe resort December 24-27

You'll be able to **Ski With a Ranger** on mountain tours at Heavenly Ski Resort this winter. The two-hour expeditions are free and led by U.S. Forest Service rangers, who discuss mountain foliage, wildlife, and Lake Tahoe. Tours depart at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. daily from the top of the Heavenly tram. Skiing ability must be intermediate or better. For more information call 702-586-7000.—Katherine McDonnell



1995-96 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	\$45/\$18	\$20/\$15	No
Boreal	916-426-3666	7,800	600	9	30-55-15	\$34/\$10	\$19/\$14	Yes
Diamond Peak	702-831-3211	8,540	1,840	7	18-46-36	\$35/\$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	2	50-50-0	\$15/\$8	\$15/\$12	No
Heavenly	702-586-7000	10,040	3,500	25	20-45-35	\$44/\$19	\$20/\$10	Yes
Ski Homewood	916-525-2992	7,880	1,650	10	15-50-35	\$34/\$11	\$19/\$12	Yes
Kirkwood	209-258-6000	9,800	2,000	11	15-50-35	\$41/\$20	\$20/\$14	Yes
Mount Rose	702-849-0706	9,700	1,440	5	30-35-35	\$38/\$14	\$20/\$12	Yes
Northstar-at-Tahoe	916-562-1010	8,600	2,200	11	25-50-25	\$43/\$19	\$22/\$14	Yes
Sierra at Tahoe	916-659-7453	8,852	2,212	10	25-50-25	\$39/\$19	\$22	Yes
Soda Springs	916-426-3666	7,352	652	2	30-50-20	\$15/Free	\$15	Yes
Squaw Valley	916-583-6955	9,050	2,850	33	25-45-30	\$43/\$5	\$21/\$12	Yes
Sugar Bowl	916-426-3651	8,383	1,500	9	15-40-45	\$40/\$10	\$19/\$13	Yes
Tahoe Donner	916-587-9420	7,350	600	3	60-40-0	\$26/\$12	\$17/\$13	Yes
AROUND THE STATE								
LV Ski & Snowboard	702-646-0008	9,510	1,000	3	20-60-20	\$27/\$20	\$15	Yes
Elko Snobowl	702-738-6125	7,000	620	3	20-60-20	\$6	No	Yes

1995-96 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	12	\$5/\$2.50	\$13/\$8.50	\$14	✓
Diamond Peak	702-831-3211	35	\$12/\$7	\$12/\$8	\$15	✓
Hope Valley	916-544-2011	96	none	\$14/\$8	\$26/\$18**	✓
Kirkwood	209-258-7248	80	\$14/\$5	\$12/\$8	\$30/\$20**	✓
Lake Tahoe Basin	916-573-2600	The U.S. Forest Service has brochures on many forest areas.				
Lake View	916-583-9353	65	\$15/\$6	\$15/\$9	\$35**	
Northstar-at-Tahoe	916-562-2475	65	\$15/\$8	\$16/\$9	\$35/\$25**	✓
Royal Gorge	916-426-3871	321	\$19.50/\$8.50	\$16.50/\$12.50	\$16/\$12	✓
Spoooner Lake	702-887-8844	101	\$13.50/\$10	\$14/\$8	\$32/\$20**	✓
Squaw Valley	916-583-6300	30	\$12/\$8*	\$12/\$8*	\$32/\$28**	✓
Tahoe Donner	916-587-9484	70	\$15/\$13	\$13/\$9	\$34/\$25**	✓
AROUND THE STATE						
LV Ski and Snowboard	702-252-8077 702-873-8800	Randy McGhies of the Ski Chalet offers x-country suggestions The U.S. Forest Service has info on camping and avalanche conditions				
Ruby Mountains (Elko)	702-753-6867	Ruby Mt. Heli-Skiing in Lamoille offers helicopter skiing				
Spring Valley (Eureka)	702-237-5280	Ron Carrion at the Owl Club provides directions				
White Pine (Ely)	702-289-3031	Ward Mt. and Loop Trails info available from the U.S. Forest Service				

**Includes trail pass, equipment, and lessons

All prices are subject to change. Call resorts for information about children's programs.



The Nevada Opera presents "Madama Butterfly" in Reno November 2-4.

Arts, Reno, 329-1401
Magic of Santa Craft Fair, Nov. 25-26, Reno Live-stock Events Center, 688-5751
Winter Book Festival, Nov. 30, 11th annual, reception for University of Nevada Press authors, book sale, Convention Center, Harrah's Reno, 784-6573
New Year's Eve Extravaganza Torchlight Parade, Dec. 31, Boreal, 916-426-3666

December
Spirit of the Season, Dec. 1-2, yuletide favorites are presented by the Nevada Opera Chorus, Nevada Opera Children's Chorus, and Nevada Opera soloists in special performances at the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 825-5905
Genoa Christmas Faire, Dec. 2, 19th annual, Town Hall, 782-TOWN

Silver and Snowflake Festival of Lights, Dec. 2, lighting of the Christmas tree in front of the State Capitol and downtown, Carson City, 687-7410
Sparks Hometowne Christmas, Dec. 2, ninth annual, parade, tree lighting, caroling, crafts, Victorian Square, 353-2284
Holiday Boutique, Dec. 2-3, children's books, antiques, book-themed boutique items, Friends of Washoe County Library fund-raiser, Washoe County Library, downtown Reno, 785-4585
Holiday Extravaganza Craft Fair, Dec. 2-3, free admission, visit with Santa, Carson City Community Center, 887-2290
Stewart Indian Arts and Crafts Fair, Dec. 2-3, Stewart Indian Cultural Center, Carson City, 882-1808
Christmas on the Comstock, Dec. 2-24, Virginia City, 847-0311
Northern Lights Winter Carnival '95, Dec. 7-12, ski races, parade, fireworks, discount lift tickets at Diamond Peak, Incline Village, and Crystal Bay, 832-1171 or 800-GO-TAHOE
Sierra Nevada Chorale Christmas Concert, Dec. 8, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 786-2149
"Bell, Book and Candle," Dec. 8-9, 15-17, and 22-23, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661
"A Christmas Carol," Dec. 8-10, 15-17, and 22-23, original musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' story, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661
Santa Train, Dec. 9-10, ride with Santa on a steam locomotive, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 687-6953
Carson City Chamber Orchestra Holiday Treat



For Surefire Savings, join our **Seniors Strike Silver Club**

If you're 50 or older, stake your claim to dynamite discounts in Carson City. Save up to 1/3 with a "Seniors Strike Silver" card -

- **2 or 3 Night Getaways.** From \$66 for two, with two breakfasts, two dinners, \$2 in nickels...
- **Discounts on Dining.** Casual to elegant.
- **Great Deals on Gaming.** To add to your winnings.
- **Recreation Rebates.** Year-round.

While you're here, explore our historic district. Follow the blue line "trail" along our sidewalks for a 2.5 mile walking tour of over 60 points of interest. To request a trail map, your "Seniors Strike Silver" card, or reservations, call today. **1-800-NEVADA-1.**

CARSON CITY

Carson City Convention & Visitors Bureau
 1900 South Carson Street, Suite 200, Carson City, NV 89701

NIGHTLIFE

Tennille in Town

As a Nevadan, Toni Tennille keeps it together.

By Guy Richardson

Few people think I'm shy. However, Toni Tennille likely thinks I'm a hopeless dweeb. Oh, on the phone, Tennille and I have a fine, lively relationship. When I need some quotes, I call and ask Daryl, also known as the Captain, "Is Tonelda around?" Tonelda is Daryl Dragon's pet name for Toni, and it's on her Nevada license plate. Tonelda comes to the phone, and then she and I chat and whoop and have a grand time.

The phone isn't the problem. Seeing her is the problem.

To me, spotting Tennille backstage at a show is like Edmund Hillary spotting Mount Everest: She towers above everything around her, and my thoughts go into freeze mode.

Then I walk up to her and, "Uh, uh, ah, er, I'm—" and I've forgotten my name again.

I exaggerate. I don't forget my name, unfortunately, so Tennille must suspect either the cheery guy on the phone or the muttering guy who sidles up to her is an impostor.

Tennille is a stunning five feet, 11 inches, which means that even in tennis she's at least six feet. She's big—she once told me (on the phone, of course) that she weighed 160. She's lost weight since then, but even skinny she takes your breath away. Everything about her is oversized. Even her eyes are huge.

You tend to see Tennille a lot around Northern Nevada. She and Dragon, who were married in Virginia City on Valentine's Day, 1974, have lived here for more than a decade and currently reside in Franktown, in Washoe Valley.

She'll be singing for New Year's revelers at Harrah's Reno, but she

often sings in Nevada Opera's summer musicals and fund-raisers. Tennille and Dragon even do musical workshops at local schools.

Tennille also volunteers for backstage work. Walk into Dotty Lienau's wardrobe room during a Nevada Opera production, and you might find Tennille ironing an outfit for a performer.

She shops at Raley's grocery store. "Sometimes they do a double-take at me in the fresh-fruit section," Tennille said during another phone conversation.

She hikes the John Muir Trail.

She calls herself "a big strong mountain woman." She's right. She loves to cross-

country ski, and she calls the ski bunnies who get in her way "those size-five sea-level nits."

Tennille's musical love is pop and jazz classics. Listen to her big deep notes on "More Than You Know," and the hair on your arms will stand up. I call Tennille a human trombone because she can sing sweet or raucous, and her range is about that of a trombone. I also envision a trombone going for a low note, slide extended over the heads of everyone in the band.

But do you suppose I'd ever think to greet her lanky self with "Hiya, Trombone, how ya doin'?"

In my dreams. Or on the phone.

Toni Tones

Toni Tennille performs December 29-31 in Sammy's Showroom at Harrah's Reno. Call 702-788-3773 or 800-HARRAHS.

Guy Richardson is a Reno Gazette-Journal editor and entertainment writer



Toni Tennille sings in Reno.



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- Casino gaming package.
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Fun Pack

Only \$39 per couple with this ad... Here's what you get:

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4 50¢ Keno Credits.....	\$ 2.00
4 Cocktails.....	\$ 8.00
4 Lucky Bucks.....	\$ 4.00
4 \$1.00 Gaming Tokens.....	\$ 4.00
Deluxe Motel Room	
1 Night per couple.....	\$44.00
Total Value	\$76.00
Your Price Only	\$39.00

Second night room only \$22.50 plus tax

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2. Upon arrival, check into the City Center Motel, present this ad, pay desk clerk \$39, and receive your Carson City Nugget Fun Pack coupon book!
3. Go to the Carson Nugget to redeem those coupons for:
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Cocktails At the Bonanza Bar or the Intimate Cork and Bottle Lounge.

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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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Concert, Dec. 10, 12th annual, Carson City Community Center, 883-4154

Planet X Pottery Christmas Show, Dec. 14-16, Miner's Club, Gerlach, 557-2500

Heavenly's 40th Birthday Party, Dec. 15, complimentary cake, giveaways, music, après ski specials, Heavenly Ski Resort, 586-7000

Ho Ho Homewood Toy Drive, Dec. 15, donate a toy and receive a coupon for a \$5 lift ticket, après-ski party, prizes, Ski Homewood, 916-525-2992

"The Nutcracker," Dec. 15-17 Nevada Festival Ballet, Reno Hilton, 329-2553

Lakeview Holiday Hurry-Up Ski Race, Dec. 17, 10K cross-country, open to all abilities, Lakeview Cross-Country Ski Area, Tahoe City, 916-583-9353

Homewood Holiday Season Festivities, Dec. 18-Jan. 1, Santa on skis, carolers, and bands, Ski Homewood, 916-525-2992

Heavenly Winter Holiday, Dec. 22-Jan. 2, ski events, visit from Santa Claus, Heavenly Ski Resort, 586-7000

Northstar Christmas Festivities, Dec. 23-25, Santa on skis, caroling, music, cross-country guided ski tour, snowman-building contest, Northstar-at-Tahoe, 916-562-1010

Christmas Eve Torchlight Parade, Dec. 24, Squaw Valley USA, 916-583-6955

Santa Claus Visits Squaw Valley, Dec. 24-27, Santa makes appearances at locations around the resort, Squaw Valley USA, 916-581-7220

Happy New Year Special, Dec. 30-31, ride a historic steam locomotive, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 687-6953

Buck'n Ball '95, Dec. 31, rodeo and dance, indoor fireworks, Reno Livestock Events Center, 800-444-BUCK

First Night, Lake Tahoe, Dec. 31, New Year's Eve celebration of the arts, family-oriented, alcohol-free, various locations, Stateline, 831-3993

New Year's Eve at Northstar, Dec. 31, fireworks and parties for all ages, Northstar-at-Tahoe, 916-562-1010



Nevada's Faron Hand (No. 34) and UNLV's Kebu Stewart (No. 44) meet in a game last year

Snowshoe Thompson Festival, June 1, Genoa, 265-2889

Reno West Coast Wine Tasting and A Taste of Nevada, June 7 827-7711

Celebrate the River, June 7-9, Reno, 334-2077
Carson Valley Days, June 7-9, Gardnerville, 265-5281

Reno Rodeo, June 22-30, 329-3877

Hot August Nights, July 31-Aug. 4, Reno-Sparks, 829-1955

Nevada State Fair, Aug. 21-25, Reno, 688-6767

Great Reno Balloon Race, Sept. 6-8, 826-1181

National Championship Air Races, Sept. 12-15, Reno-Stead, 972-6663

SPORTS DATES

University of Nevada Basketball: Nov. 17 v. Race Express (exhibition game), Nov. 28 v. Brigham Young, Dec. 14 v. Montana State, Dec. 16 v. Colorado State, Lawlor Events Center, U of N, 348-PACK

University of Nevada Football: The Wolf Pack plays Nov. 18 v. San Jose State, Mackay Stadium, U of N, 348-PACK

University of Nevada Volleyball: Nov. 11 v. Cal State Northridge, Nov. 16 v. UC Santa Barbara, Nov. 18 v. Cal State Fullerton, Nov. 21 v. Santa Clara, Old Gym, U of N, 348-PACK

COMING EVENTS

Sharkey's Serbian Christmas Dinner, Jan. 7 Gardnerville, 782-3133

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration, Jan. 12-15, Reno-Sparks, 800-FOR-RENO
Snowfest, March 1-10, North Lake Tahoe, 916-583-7625

Mother Earth Awakening Powwow, March 15-17 Carson City, 882-1808

Cowboy Culture Weekend, March 29-31, Minden, 782-9711 ext. 697 or 800-321-6983

Fiesta Nevada Celebration, May 3-5, Sparks, 353-2284

Minden Spring Arts and Crafts Street Fair, May 18-19, 782-4227

HOTELS

Casino Notes

Virtual World: X-O-Tron Virtual Reality offers guests at the Clarion the latest in virtual technology. The machine in the hotel-casino's Entertainment Fun Center can spin 360 degrees as players defend themselves in a 20th-century alien war amid Egyptian pyramids and desert terrain.

Tapping a New Market: The Eldorado has opened the Brew Brothers, the first microbrewery in a Reno hotel-casino. Located on the south end of the skywalk that links the Eldorado to the Silver Legacy, the restaurant and pub brews seven kinds of beer and one root beer on-site. The Brew Brothers dining menu includes sal-

ads, burgers, and gourmet pizzas.

Material Girl: Madonna impersonator Johni Ray has joined the cast of "American Superstars" at the Flamingo Hilton Reno. Ray has performed her tribute to the controversial pop star for eight years and in 15 countries.

Sign My Girder: Completion of the structural framework of the Hampton Inn next to Harrah's Reno was noted this summer with a ceremony that included a signing of the final steel girder before it ascended the tower. The world's largest Hampton Inn, a property owned by Harrah's, tops out at 26 stories and adds 408 hotel rooms to downtown Reno.

Winning Ways: John Ascuaga's Nugget's Rotisserie Restaurant and Buffet was named Best Buffet for the 10th year in the *Reno Gazette-Journal's* annual reader survey. The Peppermill's Fireside Lounge placed first for the 15th consecutive year in the Best Quiet Bar category.

Rail City Redesign: The Plantation Station in Sparks has been redesigned



A flaming pool of water is at the center of the Fireside Lounge's appeal.

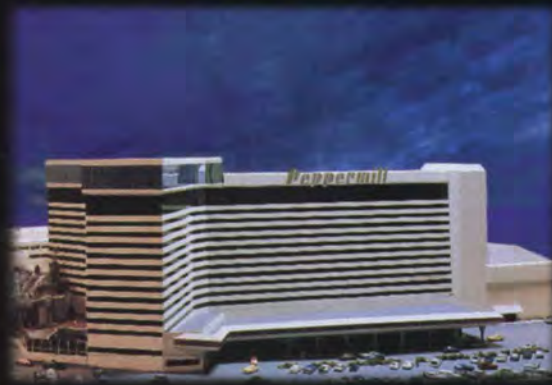
to include a Victorian-and-train motif, a new casino stage named Miss Lucy's, and a remodeled main casino entrance.

Mining a Legacy: The 1,720-room Silver Legacy opened its doors in July. Inside downtown Reno's newest hotel-casino, the theme is 1890s opulence with a 120-foot-tall automated mining machine as the centerpiece.

Hotel grows, rate shrinks

\$49

per night*



*Rate good Sun.-Thu., through April 25. Excludes holidays. Subject to availability, advance reservations required. Suites and groups not included.

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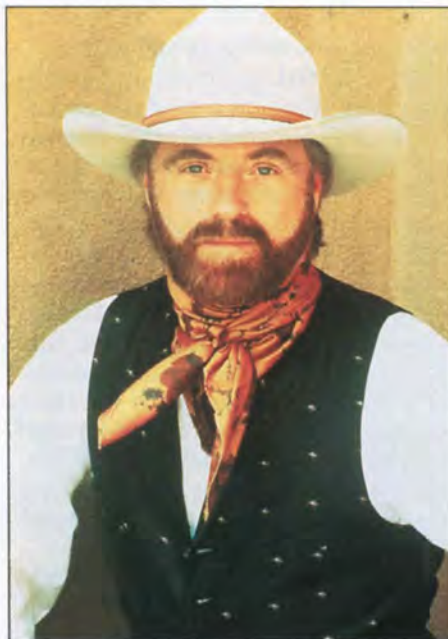
Nevada Day Parade and Celebration, Oct. 31, Carson City, 882-2600

SHOWGUIDE

The Reno and Lake Tahoe areas offer production shows and big-name entertainment. Michael Martin Murphey will be riding into John Ascuaga's Nugget, and Harrah's presents stage shows in Reno and Lake Tahoe. It's always wise to call ahead for show times and reservations.

Reno/Sparks

- Bob Cashell's Horseshoe Club**, 323-7900: *Boots Bar, Grill, and Dance Hall*: DJs nightly, free dance lessons Tues.-Sat.
- Circus Circus**, 329-0711 or 800-648-5010: Free circus acts, 11am-midnight
- Clarion**, 825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Bands like Valentino and Sol and Band on the Run play nightly in the *Center Stage Cabaret* and on weekends at the *Atlantis* nightclub
- Eldorado**, 786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside Nevada) or 800-648-3024 (Canada): Danny Marona, thru Nov. 4; Rob Hanna: A Salute to Rod Stewart, Nov. 7-26 and Dec. 22-31
- Fitzgeralds**, 785-3300 or 800-648-5022 (U.S. outside Nevada)
- Flamingo Hilton Reno**, 785-7080: *Flamingo Showroom*: "American Superstars," (dark Tues.); Monday Night Blues Jam in the *Showspot Lounge*, where bands play Tues.-Sun.; music at *Top of the Hilton* restaurant
- Harolds Down Under**, 329-0881 or 800-648-5022:



Michael Martin Murphey sings at John Ascuaga's Nugget November 16-25.

Dick Clark's American Bandstand Club: DJ and bands alternate, Tues.-Sat.

Harrah's Reno, 788-3773 or 800-HARRAHS: *Sammy's Showroom*: "Playboy's Ecstasy" and "The Great Reno Wild Wild West Show" (dark

- Tues.); Toni Tennille, Dec. 29-31; bands play nightly in the *Rendezvous Bar*
 - John Ascuaga's Nugget**, Sparks, 356-3304 or 800-648-1177 (U.S. and Western Canada): *Celebrity Showroom*: The McGuire Sisters, thru Nov. 1; Herb Reed and the Platters, Nov. 2-15; Michael Martin Murphey, Nov. 16-25; Smokey Robinson, Dec. 31; *Rose Ballroom*: Engelbert Humperdinck, Nov. 24-25; Smokey Robinson, Jan. 1; bands play nightly in the *Casino Cabaret* and at *Trader Dick's* restaurant
 - Peppermill**, 826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Acts playing nightly on the casino stage include Blue Flame, Madison Avenue, and David Proud
 - Plantation Station**, Sparks, 359-9440
 - Reno Hilton**, 789-2285 or 800-648-3568 (U.S. outside Nevada): *Hilton Theatre*: Jeff Kutash's "Splash" (dark Thurs.); *Aspen Lounge*: Bands play Tues.-Sun.; *Just for Laughs Comedy Club*: Comedians perform
 - Reno Hotel**, 788-2000
 - Silver Club**, Sparks, 358-4771 or 800-648-1137 (U.S. outside Nevada): Entertainment such as Paradise and Cheryl Cotten
 - Silver Legacy**, 329-4777 or 800-MUST-SEE: Silver Legacy Gazebo: Wally Jones and Perry Joe Schirmer, 12-6pm; Gary Xavier, 6pm-midnight; lightning storm and mining rig shows, throughout the day
 - Western Village**, Sparks, 331-1069 or 800-648-1170: Garfin Gathering plays Dec. 4-17
- Carson Valley/Carson Valley**
Carson City Nugget, 882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (continental U.S. outside Nevada): Preston Hodge appears in the *Cork and Bottle* 3 to 9pm



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The L.A. Contemporary Dance Theater performs in Virginia City November 9.

except Mon.; bands play at the *Nugget Showbar*

Carson Station, Carson City, 883-0900

Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711 or 800-321-6983 (continental U.S. outside Nevada): Entertainment Tues.-Sat. will include Tommy Bell and Whiskey Ridge

Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890

Piñon Plaza, Carson City, 885-9000

Sharkey's Nugget, Gardnerville, 782-3133

Topaz Lodge, Topaz Lake, 266-3339

Stateline, Lake Tahoe

Bill's Lake Tahoe, 588-2455

Caesars Tahoe, 586-2044 or 800-648-3353: *Circus Maximus*: Tanya Tucker, Nov. 24-26; *The Nutcracker*, Dec. 2-3; Liza Minnelli, Dec. 29-31

Harrah's Lake Tahoe, 588-6606 or 800-HARRAHS: *South Shore Room*: "Escapade" and "Playboy's High Voltage," thru Nov. 27; "Ebenezer Scrooge," Dec. 18-23; Neil Sedaka, Dec. 26-31; *Casino Center Stage*: Nightly bands

Harveys, 588-2411 or 800-HARVEYS: *Emerald Theater*: "Bye Bye Bijou" (dark Wed.); *Llewellyn's*: Ron Rose Sound; *Emerald Party Lounge*: Performers include Inside Out

Lake Tahoe Horizon, 588-6211 or 800-648-3322: *Grande Lake Theater*: Dan Seals, Nov. 24-25; John Tesh, Dec. 30-31; *Golden Cabaret*: "Jukebox Babies" (dark Mon.); bands play nightly in the *Aspen Lounge*

Lakeside Inn, 588-7777

North Lake Tahoe

Cal-Neva Resort, Crystal Bay, 832-4000 or 800-225-6382

Crystal Bay Club, Crystal Bay, 831-0512: "Positively Magic...the Show," with Dean Hankey; *Moving Targets*, thru Nov. 12

Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe, Incline Village, 832-1234

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Tahoe Biltmore, Crystal Bay, 831-0660 or 800-245-8667: Music and dancing nightly in the Aspen Lounge

GAMING TOURNAMENTS

November

Cornucopia of Blackjack, Nov. 3-5, Comstock, 329-1880

FrankinFitz \$1 Slots, Nov. 3-5, Fitzgeralds, 786-3663

Winners Weekend Slots, Nov. 4-5, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300 or 800-648-1177

Keno, Nov. 5-7 Eldorado, 789-0490

Fall Festival Super Keno, Nov. 10-12, Comstock, 329-1880

Harvest Slots, Nov. 12, Clarion, 824-4440 ext. 3348

Slots, Nov. 12-13, Peppermill, 689-7282 ext. 7282

Mad Hatter Slots, Nov. 17-18, Lake Tahoe Horizon, Stateline, 588-6211 or 800-322-7723

\$130,000 Junior Classic Slots, Nov. 19-22, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300 or 800-648-1177

Great Train Robbery Slots, Nov. 24, Club Cal-Neva, 323-1046

December

Slots and Video Poker, Dec. 1, Lakeside Inn, Stateline, 588-7777 or 800-624-7980

Holiday on Parade Super Slots, Dec. 1-3, Comstock, 329-1880

Ski-No Keno, Dec. 1-3, Fitzgeralds, 786-3663

Winners Weekend Slots, Dec. 2-3, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300 or 800-648-1177



Visitors to Boomtown's Family Fun Center can ride a covered-wagon Ferris wheel.

ga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300 or 800-648-1177

Holiday Blackjack, Dec. 8-9, Clarion, 824-4440 ext. 3348

Honey I Shrank the Fitz \$1 Slots, Dec. 8-10, Fitzgeralds, 786-3663

Mini Slots, Dec. 8-10, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300 or 800-648-1177

Golden Dollar Slots, Dec. 10-12, Eldorado, 789-0490

Holiday on Parade Blackjack Tournament, Dec.

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15-17 Comstock Hotel, 329-1880
 Silver Bells Slots, Dec. 17, Clarion, 824-4440 ext. 3348
 Great Train Robbery Slots, Dec. 29, Club Cal-Neva, 323-1046

ATTRACTIONS, TOURS & MUSEUMS

Carson City

Brewery Arts Center: 449 W. King St., 883-1976
Children's Museum of Northern Nevada: 813 N. Carson St., 884-2226
Kit Carson Trail: Walking tour, talking houses on AM 530, 882-1565 or 800-638-2321
Nevada State Capitol: 687-5030
Nevada State Library and Archives: State Constitution exhibit, 100 Stewart St., 687-5210
Nevada State Museum: 600 N. Carson St., 687-4810
Nevada State Railroad Museum: 2180 S. Carson St. at Fairview Dr., 687-6953
Roberts' House Museum: 1207 N. Carson St., 882-1805
Stewart Indian Cultural Center: 5366 Snyder, 882-1808
Warren Engine Co. No. 1 Museum: 777 S. Stewart St., 887-2210

Gardnerville

Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center: Carson Valley history and exhibits, old Douglas County High School on Hwy. 395 S., 265-2889

Genoa

Genoa Courthouse Museum: Seasonal, 782-4325
Mormon Station State Historic Park: Seasonal, 782-4325, 687-4379
Walley's Hot Springs: 2001 Foothill Rd., 782-8155

Lake Tahoe

Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park: 2005 Hwy. 28, Incline Village, 831-0494
M.S. Dixie II Sternwheeler: Zephyr Cove, 588-3508
Planet Hollywood: Movie memorabilia, Caesars Tahoe, 588-7828
Ponderosa Ranch: Seasonal, Incline Village, 831-0691
Tahoe Gal Paddlewheeler: Tahoe City, 916-583-0141
Tahoe Queen Sternwheeler: South Lake Tahoe, 800-23-TAHOE
Tahoe Rim Trail: 150-mile system, 588-0686
U.S. Forest Service Visitors Center: Tours, 916-573-2600
Vikingsholm: Tours, 916-525-7232
Zephyr Cove Resort: 588-5021

Reno

Animal Ark: North of Reno on Red Rock Rd., 969-3111
Bartley Ranch Regional Park: 6000 Bartley Ranch Rd., Western Heritage Interpretive Center, 828-6612
Earth Window Museum: 500 N. Sierra St., Town Center Mall, 333-2828
Fleischmann Planetarium: Sky Dome 8/70, U of N, 784-4811
Galena Creek Regional Park: 18350 Mount Rose Hwy., 785-4319
Hidden Valley Regional Park: 4740 Parkway Dr., 785-4319
Liberty Belle Slot Collection: 4250 S. Virginia St.,

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Mackay School of Mines Minerals Museum: U of N, 784-6052
National Automobile Museum: 10 Lake St., 333-9300
National Bowling Stadium, 300 N. Center St., 70mm feature film, 334-2695
Nevada Historical Society Museum: 1650 N. Virginia St., 688-1190
Nevada Museum of Art, E. L. Wiegand Gallery: 160 W. Liberty St., 329-3333
Planet Hollywood: Movie memorabilia, Harrah's Reno, 322-7837
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
Sheppard Fine Art Gallery: U of N, 784-6682
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
Wilbur D. May Museum: Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-5961

Pyramid Lake

Numana Hatchery Visitors Center: Pyramid Lake, 574-0290

Sparks

Sparks Heritage Foundation and Museum: 820 Victorian Ave., 355-1144
Wild Island: 250 Wild Island Ct., off I-80, 359-2927

Virginia City

Assay Office Museum: 847-0777
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 Museum: 847-0173
Mark Twain Museum of Memories: 847-0454
Nevada Gambling Museum: 847-9022
Piper's Opera House: Seasonal, 847-0433
Ponderosa Mine: Tours, 847-0757
Territorial Enterprise Mark Twain Museum: 847-0525
The Castle: Seasonal, 847-0275
Virginia and Truckee Railroad: Seasonal, 847-0380
Virginia City Radio Museum: 847-9047
Virginia City Tours: 786-0866
Way It Was Museum: 847-0766
Wild West Museum: 847-0400

Verdi

Boomtown Family Fun Center: 345-8668
Bull Creek Ranch: 345-7600

Washoe Valley

Bowers Mansion Park: 4005 U.S. 395 North, pool, seasonal, 849-1825
Davis Creek Park: 849-0684
Old Washoe Stables: 1201 Hwy. 395, 849-1020
Washoe Lake State Park: Next to Washoe Lake on E. Lake Blvd., 687-4319

A Reminder: To confirm dates and times, please use the phone number listed with each event. The area code is 702 throughout Nevada. For hotels' toll-free phone numbers, call 800-555-1212.

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1-800-874-5558

site, call for days and times, Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, 964-2440

Presbyterian Church Bazaar, Nov. 4, baked goods, arts and crafts, white elephant items, Presbyterian Church, Hawthorne, 945-5854

Lost River Rock and Gem Jamboree, thru Nov. 5, trade fair, stone carving, jack leg and mucking contests, fiddlers, Beatty, 553-2424

Lula Washington Dance Theatre, Nov. 10, 7:30pm, contemporary dance concert, \$8 general admission, \$6 students and seniors, Yerington High School Gymnasium, 463-3066

Amargosa Valley Veteran's Day Celebration, Nov. 10-12, 99th annual, parade, barbecue, swap meet, chili and enchilada cook-offs, auction, entertainment, Longstreet Inn, 372-5459

St. Anne's Guild Annual Holiday Bazaar, Nov. 11, local crafters, Christmas gift items, Yerington, 463-3842

Christmas Bazaar, Nov. 18, crafts, baked goods, Hawthorne Convention Center, 945-5854

December

United Methodist Church Christmas Bazaar, Dec. 2, Smith Valley, 465-2353

"Mozart, Monsters, Matisse," Dec. 8, 7:30pm, music, puppetry, comedy, storytelling, \$8 general admission, \$6 students and seniors, Yerington High School Gymnasium, 463-3066

Santa Claus Visit, Dec. 10, Main Street decorations, 45-foot Christmas tree, photos with Santa, Yerington, 463-2245



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A fireworks display is the highlight of Elko's Christmas in the Nighttime Sky.

PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY



November

The Cow Pattys, Nov. 3, musical-comedy cow-girl group, Eureka Opera House, 237-6006 or 237-6007

Tarika, Nov. 11, acoustic quintet from Madagascar, Churchill County High School Theatre, Fallon, 423-1440

Hidden Cave Tours, Nov. 11 and 25, 9:30am, BLM guide leads hike to archaeological site, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677

Desert Challenge: Fallon to Lovelock Hare and Hound Race, Nov. 25, 120-mile off-road motorcycle race, 423-4556 or 208-342-3910

December

Hidden Cave Tours, Dec. 9 and 23, 9:30am, BLM guide leads hike to archaeological site, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677

Christmas Concert, Dec. 14, Lahontan Valley Choir, community center, Fallon, 423-3871

COMING EVENTS

Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Jan. 27-Feb. 3, Elko, 738-7508

Jim Butler Days, May 24-27 Tonopah, 482-3859

PREVIEW

Moosical Pattys

The Eureka Opera House hosts a new brand of country-western "moosical" when the Cow Pattys ride into town on Friday, November 3.

The vaudeville-style show revolves around four sisters—Patty Cakes (played by C.K. McFarland), Patty Addy (Adrienne Braswell), Crash Patty (Joy Cunningham), and Patty Lorraine LaWanda Louise Linda LaTisha LaBelle (Donna Stevens), or Patty Ls for short—who have formed an a cappella cowgirl band.

The Cow Pattys tell their tales through stories, four-part harmonies, comical songs, and corny punch lines. They sing parodies like "Stand by Your Fan" (referring to the Texas heat) and "The William Tell Underture" (played on cowbells), and toss out silly puns ("deja moo").

Stevens, a.k.a. Patty Ls, describes the quartet, which formed in 1994, as "Lucille Ball meets Riders in the Sky." She adds that the campy cowgirl production, based in Austin, Texas, is an adult show that tends to be bawdy and off color, with song titles such as "If Jesus Was a Cowboy" and "The M-Word Scares the F-Word Out of Me."



The Cow Pattys play Eureka November 3. From left: Adrienne Braswell, C.K. McFarland, Joy Cunningham, and Donna Stevens.

Using only their voices, the four Pattys provide fiddle, harmonica, bass, guitar, and sound effects for a "patty wagon," dogs, snakes, sizzling fry pans, and galloping horses. The women, who write and produce the show, also yodel and perform a cowgirl rap song.

Tickets for the Cow Pattys are \$7.50 for adults and \$5 for children 15 and under. For show information and reservations call the Eureka Opera House at 702-237-6006 or 702-237-6007. For lodging information call the Eureka County Chamber of Commerce, 702-237-5484.

—Katherine McDonnell

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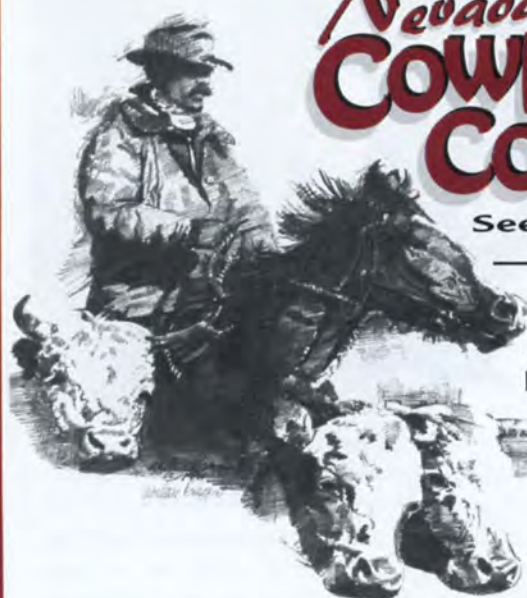
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Tarika brings acoustic sounds from Madagascar to Fallon on November 11.

Mesquite Days, May 30-June 1, 346-2902
Gridley Days, June 14-16, Austin, 964-2200
Elko's National Basque Festival, July 5-7 738-7991
All-Indian Rodeo, Stampede, and Pioneer Days, July 19-21, Fallon, 423-2544
Silver State Stampede, July 20-21, Elko, 738-1499
Pahrump Valley Harvest Festival, Sept. 13-15, 727-5800
Dayton Valley Days, Sept. 21-22, 246-7909
Fernley Frontier Days and Rodeo, Sept. 28-29, 575-4459
Smith Valley Fun Day, Oct. 6, 465-2354

SHOWGUIDE

Casinos in rural Nevada bring star entertainment to towns like Jackpot and Winnemucca. For example, Charley Pride will appear at Cactus Petes in Jackpot. Call ahead for show times.

COWBOY COUNTRY

Battle Mountain

Owl Club, 635-5155

Elko

Commercial Hotel, 738-3181: Comedy on Wed.
Red Lion, 738-2111 or 800-545-0044 (Western U.S. outside Nevada): Comedy Tues.-Sun.
Stockmen's Hotel, 738-5141

Jackpot

Barton's Club 93, 755-2341
Cactus Petes, 755-2321 or 800-821-1103: Cabaret Lounge: Charley Pride, Nov. 10-11; Herman's Hermits, Dec. 19-29; Williams and Ree, Dec. 30-31
Horseshu Casino, 755-2321

Mill City (on I-80)

Burns Bros. Casino, 538-7306: Bands play in Mr. B's Lounge

Wendover

Nevada Crossing Hotel, 664-2900 or 800-537-0207
Peppermill, 664-2255 or 800-648-9660 (U.S. outside Nevada)
Rainbow Casino, 664-4000 or 800-217-0049
Red Garter, 664-2111 or 800-982-2111 (continental U.S. outside Nevada): Bands include Different Drummer and Ross Lewis Duo
Silver Smith, 664-2231 or 800-354-3671: Nightly entertainment
State Line, 664-2221 or 800-648-9668: Nightly entertainment

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Winnemucca

Winners Hotel, 623-2511: Karaoke on Mon.; comedy on Wed.; Carlo Driggs, Nov. 21-26; Rob Hanna: A Salute to Rod Stewart, Nov. 28-Dec. 3; Marvin Whitfield, Dec. 26-Jan. 7

PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY

Ely

Hotel Nevada, 289-6665: Comedy on Tues.

Fallon

Bonanza Inn, 423-3111 ext. 47
Fallon Nugget, 423-3111

PIONEER TERRITORY

Amargosa

Longstreet Inn, 431-9882: Weekend entertainment

Beatty

Stagecoach, 553-2419 or 800-4BIGWIN (U.S. outside Nevada)

Hawthorne

El Capitan, 945-3321

Pahrump

Saddle West Casino, 800-GEDDY-UP

Tonopah

Mizpah Hotel, 482-6202
Station House, 482-9777

Yerington

Casino West, 463-2481 or 800-227-4661
Dini's Lucky Club, 463-2868

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, 728-4467

White Pine Public Museum: Ely, 289-4710

Pioneer Territory

Belmont Courthouse State Historic Site: 50 miles north of Tonopah, 867-3001

Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park: 23 miles east of Gabbs, Austin, 964-2440

Cathedral Gorge State Park: Panaca, 728-4467

Central Nevada Museum: Tonopah, 482-9676

Death Valley National Park: Via Beatty or Pahrump, 619-786-2331

Lincoln County Historical Museum: Pioche, 962-5207

Lyon County Museum: Yerington, 463-2245

Million Dollar Courthouse: Pioche, 962-5182

Mineral County Historical Museum: Hawthorne, 945-5142

Pahrump Valley Winery: Tours, 3810 Winery Rd., 727-6900 or 800-368-WINE

Rhyolite Bottle House, Historic Site: 553-2424

Spring Valley State Park: 20 miles east of Pioche, 962-5102

Walker Lake State Recreation Area: Hawthorne, 945-5896

ATTRACTIONS, TOURS & MUSEUMS

Cowboy Country

Bonneville Salt Flats: Wendover, 801-977-4300

Buckaroo Hall of Fame: Winnemucca, 623-2225

Giant Tufa Park: West of Lovelock, 273-7213

Humboldt Museum: Winnemucca, 623-2912

Jarbidge Wilderness Area: North of Elko, 208-543-4129

Northeastern Nevada Museum: 1515 Idaho St., Elko, 738-3418

Pershing County Marzen House Museum: Marzen Ln., Lovelock, 273-7213

Western Folklife Center: 501 Railroad St., Elko, 738-7508 or 800-748-4466

Wild Horse State Recreation Area: 65 miles north of Elko, 758-6493

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, 423-3677

Dayton State Park: 687-5678

East Ely Railroad Depot Museum: 289-1663

Eureka Opera House: Open Mon.-Fri. or by appointment, tours, Eureka, 237-6006

Eureka Sentinel Museum: Eureka, 237-5484

Fort Churchill State Historic Park: Silver Springs, 577-2345

Great Basin National Park: Baker, 234-7331

Hickison Petroglyph Recreation Site: 24 miles



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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.

When calling long distance within Nevada, first dial the state's area code (702).

Statewide Information

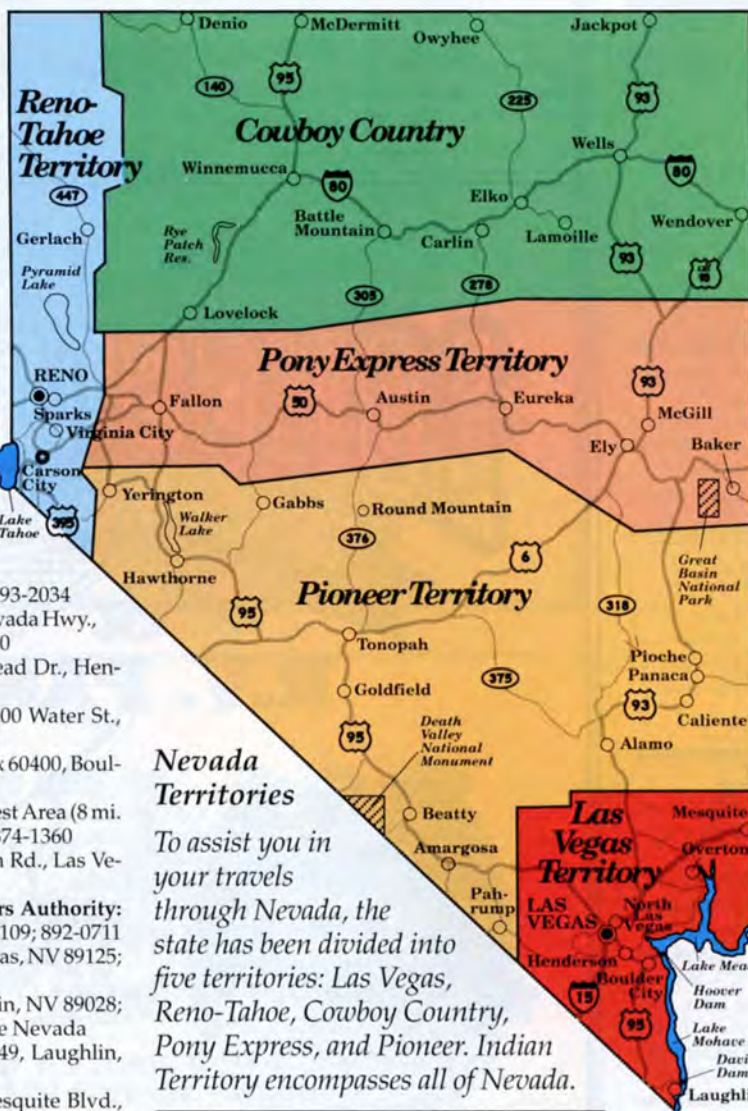
Nevada Commission on Tourism: Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710; 687-3636 or 800-NEVADA-8 anywhere in U.S. and Canada

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
Hoover Dam Visitors Services: Box 60400, Boulder City, NV 89006; 293-8367
Jean Visitor Center: Interstate 15 Rest Area (8 mi. south of Jean), Jean, NV 89019; 874-1360
Las Vegas C of C: 711 E. Desert Inn Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89109; 735-1616
Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority: 3150 Paradise, Las Vegas, NV 89109; 892-0711
Latin C of C: 829 S. Sixth St., Las Vegas, NV 89125; 385-7367
Laughlin C of C: Box 7777 Laughlin, NV 89028; 298-2214 or 800-227-5245 outside Nevada
Laughlin Visitor Bureau: Box 29849, Laughlin, NV 89029; 298-3022
Mesquite Area C of C: 250 W. Mesquite Blvd., Box 785, Mesquite, NV 89024; 346-2902
Mesquite Visitor Center: Interstate 15 Exit 122, Box 1560, Mesquite, NV 89024; 346-2703
Moapa Valley C of C: Hwy. 169, Box 361, Overton, NV 89040; 397-2193 (Lost City Museum)
Nevada Black C of C: 1048 W. Owens Ave., 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 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 Visitors 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: 245 N. Lake Blvd., Tahoe City, CA 96145; 916-581-6900
Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority: 4590 S. Virginia St., Reno, NV 89502; 827-RENO or 800-FOR-RENO in 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 96145; 916-583-3494 or 800-TAHOE 4 U
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 Visitor Information: Box 508, Jackpot, NV 89825; 755-2321 or 800-821-1103 anywhere in U.S. (Cactus Petes)

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; 532-8742

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: 30 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; 623-2225

Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Bureau: 50 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; 623-5071 or 800-WMCA-NEV

Pony Express Territory

Austin C of C: Box 212, Austin, NV 89310; 964-2200
Dayton Area C of C: 15 Main St., Box 408, Dayton, NV 89403; 246-7909 (open Thurs.-Sun.)
Ely's Bristlecone Convention Center: 150 Sixth St., Box 958, Ely, NV 89301; 289-3720
Eureka County C of C: Box 14, Eureka, NV 89316; 237-5484
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: 485 Truck Inn Way, Box 1606,

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Fernley, NV 89408; 575-4459

Great Basin C of C: Box 90, Baker, NV 89311; 234-7302

Greater Fallon Area C of C: 379 W. Williams Ave., Fallon, NV 89406; 423-2544

Silver Springs EDASS (Econ. Dev. Authority of Silver Springs): Box 269, Silver Springs, NV 89429; 577-2069

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: 119 E. Main, Box 956, Beatty, NV 89003; 553-2424

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

Gabbs, City of: Box 176, Gabbs, NV 89409; 285-4019

Goldfield C of C: Box 219, Goldfield, NV 89013; 485-3453

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

Mason Valley C of C: 227 S. Main St., Yerington, NV 89447-2536; 463-2245

Mineral County C of C: 601 Fifth St., 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 127 Pioche, NV 89043; 962-5544

Tonopah C of C: 301 Brower Ave., 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: Stewart Indian Museum, 5366 Snyder, Carson City, NV 89701; 882-1808

State and National Parks

Death Valley National Park: 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; 687-4370

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

More Outdoor Activities

Bicycling in Nevada: Nevada Dept. of Transportation: 1263 S. Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89712; 687-4997

Bureau of Land Management: Main: Box 12000, Reno, NV 89520; 785-6402; Box 26569, Las Vegas, NV 89126; 647-5000; Box 831, Elko, NV 89801; 738-4071

Humboldt National Forest: 2035 Last Chance Rd., Elko, NV 89801; 738-5171

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

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

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



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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: up to \$10 (\$), \$11 to \$20 (\$\$), \$21 to \$30 (\$\$\$), and more than \$30 (\$\$\$\$). The area code is 702 throughout Nevada.

Las Vegas Area

AMERICAN

- Excalibur Hotel/Round Table Buffet**—597-7777. Hot and cold entrees in abundance. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Excalibur Hotel/Sherwood Forest Cafe**—597-7777. Burgers, spaghetti, sandwiches. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Imperial Palace Hotel/Emperor's Buffet**—731-3311. Carving station featuring roast baron of beef. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Imperial Palace Hotel/Imperial Buffet/Teahouse**—731-3311. Carving station featuring prime rib of beef. Weekend brunch. B, L, D. \$, major.
- 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.

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 variety of international cuisine plus prime rib served nightly. B, L, D. \$, major.

ITALIAN

- Excalibur Hotel/Lance-A-Lotta-Pasta**—597-7777. Lasagna, fettuccine Alfredo, plus 14 different pasta creations. L, D. \$\$, major.
- Imperial Palace/Pizza Palace**—794-3261. Pizza, pasta, and salads. L, D. \$, major.
- Riviera Hotel/Ristorante Italiano**—794-9363. Vermicelli salsa bella vista, lobster Francaise, and fresh seafood. D. \$-\$\$\$\$, major.

MEXICAN

- 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.
- Riviera Hotel/Rik' Shaw**—794-9537. Pineapple duck, orange roughy. Beef, shrimp, chicken, and pork sautéed with Chinese vegetables. D. \$-\$\$, major.

STEAK AND SEAFOOD

- Excalibur Hotel/Camelot**—597-7777. Escargot, sea bass St. Michel, rack of lamb, filet Canterbury. D. \$\$, major.
- Excalibur Hotel/Sir Galahad's Prime Rib Room**—597-7777. Prime rib, English-fashioned desserts, entrees with soup, salad, and potatoes. D. \$\$, major.
- Excalibur Hotel/Wild Bills Saloon and Steakhouse**—597-7777. T-bone steaks, sirloins, ribs, fish, and chicken. D, Sun. champagne brunch. \$\$, major.
- Imperial Palace/Seahouse**—794-3261. Alaskan King crab legs, hot and cold appetizers, seafood salads. D. \$\$, major.
- Riviera Hotel/Kristofer's**—794-9233. Steak, seafood, and chicken. Dinners include wine, vegetable tray,

bread, salad, entree, and dessert. 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/Bountiful Buffet**—298-2453. B, L, D. \$, no CC.
- 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 Buffet**—298-2242. B, L, D. \$, AE, MC, V.
- Gold River Resort/Pasta Cucina**—298-2242. Italian cuisine. D. \$\$, 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.

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.
- Eldorado/The Brew Brothers**—Reno, 786-5700. Gourmet pizzas, ribs, barbecued shrimp, sausage sampler. L, D. \$, major.
- Fitzgeralds Reno/Molly's Garden**—785-3300. Omelets, prime rib, sandwiches, salads. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Fitzgeralds Reno/O' Lucky's Buffet**—785-3300. Open daily. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Holiday Hotel Casino/Shore Room**—Reno, 329-0411. Fresh salmon in chive sauce, chicken, prime rib. Steamed vegetable basket. 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.
- Ormsby House Hotel/V&T Coffee Shop**—Carson City, 882-1890. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Peppermill Hotel/Coffee Shop**—Reno, 826-2121. Chicken croissant, Mediterranean omelet, tostada salad, stuffed shells Florentine. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.
- Peppermill Hotel/Island Buffet**—Reno, 826-2121. Breakfast buffet, lunch buffet, seafood buffet Fridays. \$-\$\$, major.
- Silver Legacy/Legacy Saloon and Deli Exchange**—Reno, 329-4777. Roast garlic Rosemary chicken, with spinach pizza, chicken warm lamb and feta cheese salad, and assorted deli sandwiches. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Silver Legacy/Victorian Buffet**—Reno, 329-4777. Prime rib, shrimp and crab cioppino, homemade ravioli, and chicken cacciatore. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Virginian Hotel/Ranch Restaurant**—Reno, 329-2673. Gambler's Breakfast, prime rib, New York steak. B, L, D. \$, AE, MC, V.

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—Reno, 786-5700. Continental cuisine, dry-aged beef. Complimentary wine tasting from wine list. D. \$\$, major.

Peppermill Hotel/Le Moulin—Reno, 826-2121. Broiled swordfish, filet mignon, veal piccata, lobster a la Roma. D. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$, major.

INTERNATIONAL

Eldorado/Choices—786-5700. An express cafe with hofbrau, deli, bakery, ice cream. B, L, D. \$, major.

Eldorado/Market Place Buffet—Reno, 786-5700. Serving mushroom ravioli, fresh fish, homemade pastas, and prime rib. B, L, D. \$, major.

Eldorado/Tivoli Gardens—Reno, 786-5700. Multi-ethnic, 24-hour restaurant, South American, Caribbean, Thai, Szechwan, Cantonese. B, L, D. \$, major.

Peppermill Hotel/Food Court—Reno, 826-2121. Manicotti marinara, prime rib, kung pao shrimp, chicken fajitas. B, L, D. \$, major with credit cards accepted.

ITALIAN

Eldorado/La Strada—Reno, 786-5700. Northern Italian cuisine, veal, chicken, seafood entrees plus homemade pasta, sauces, and desserts. D. \$\$, major

Oriental

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Trader Dick's—Sparks, 356-3300. Cashew chicken, Szechwan specialties, flaming dagger brochette. L, D. \$\$, major.

Silver Legacy/Sweetwater Cafe—Reno, 329-4777. Baked homemade tortellini, fried shrimp, prime rib, and Cantonese pepper steak. B, 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 piccata, escargot. D. \$\$, major credit cards accepted.



Reno Peppermill's Food Court offers many selections.

Eldorado/Grill and Rotisserie—Reno, 786-5700. Mahogany-fueled rotisserie and grill, fresh fish, lamb, and USDA choice dry-aged beef. D. \$\$, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/John's Oyster Bar—Sparks, 356-3300. Lazyman's cioppino, seafood stews. L, D. \$\$, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Steak House—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, steak and lobster, snapper, shrimp Louis. L, D. \$\$, major.

Ormsby House Hotel/Baron's Steak House—Carson City, 882-1890. L, D. \$\$, major.

Silver Legacy/Fairchild's Oyster Bar—Reno, 329-4777. Louisiana crab cakes, oyster pan roast, chicken and seafood jambalaya, and chef's seafood salad. L, D. \$\$, major.

Silver Legacy/Sterling's Seafood and Steakhouse—Reno, 329-4777. Medallions of filet mignon, spicy roast chicken, and seafood fettucine. D. \$\$, major.

Lake Tahoe

AMERICAN

Caesars Tahoe/Cafe Roma—Stateline, 588-3515. Lamb chops, prime rib. B, L, D. \$\$\$, major.

ITALIAN

Caesars Tahoe/Primavera—Stateline, 588-3515. Linguini carbonara, tenderloin pizzaola, pollo allo spumante. D. \$\$, major.

ORIENTAL

Caesars Tahoe/Empress Court—Stateline, 588-3515. Szechwan, Mandarin. D. \$\$, major credit cards accepted.

STEAK AND SEAFOOD

Caesars Tahoe/Broiler Room—Stateline, 588-3515. Prime rib, seafood, Cajun specialties. Reservations for large parties. D. \$\$, major.

Caesars Tahoe/Pisces—Stateline, 588-3515. Salmon, lobster, shrimp, sea bass. Flown in fresh daily. D. \$\$, major.

Around the State

Elko: Stockmen's Motor Hotel—738-5141. Casino coffee shop, evening dinner house. B, L, D. \$\$\$, major credit cards accepted.

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 credit cards accepted.

Lovelock: Sturgeon's—273-2971. 24-hour Coffee Shop, family dining room. Fiesta Room Supper Club. Steaks, seafood, Mexican dishes. B, L, D. \$\$\$, major.

Mt. Charleston: Mt. Charleston Hotel/Canyon Dining Room—872-5500. Tourneados of beef, steak Diane, shrimp scampi, chicken piccata. B, L, D. \$\$, major.

Tonopah: Station House/Mary's Kitchen—482-9777. Casino restaurant, breakfasts, hamburgers, steaks, and seafood. B, L, D. \$, AE, MC, V.

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Back to the Bijou

Harveys' new revue brings show business history to Lake Tahoe.

By Katherine McDonnell

After 80 years of grease paint and applause, the Bijou Theater is about to be torn down to make room for a parking lot. At least that's what we're told in the opening scene of "Bye Bye Bijou," the new musical revue from Las Vegas producers Breck Wall and Patrick Maes now playing at Harveys Lake Tahoe.

The show then begins a journey into entertainment history as seen through the eyes of Pops, the mythical Bijou's grandfatherly stage manager. Skillfully portrayed by veteran showman Randy Doney Pops tells the audience that "all the best shows came to the Bijou Theater" from vaudeville to swing and big-band sounds and beyond. As he reminisces, the music and stars of each era appear on Harveys' Emerald Theater stage, led by a capable cast of 12 singers and dancers. The audience meets Carmen Miranda, Irving Berlin, and even the Dolly Sisters, who were well-known strippers during the '20s.

Vaudeville perfectly suits the broad-humored style of Wall and Maes, whose "Bottoms Up," now playing afternoons at the Riviera in Las Vegas, is the longest running musical revue in the country. True to their form, "Bijou" has no shortage of zingers.

Bijou Times

"Bye Bye Bijou" plays at Harveys at Stateline, Lake Tahoe, Monday through Saturday at 8 and 10 p.m., Sunday at 8 p.m. (dark Wednesday). Tickets are \$14.95 (cocktails not included) and are available at the Emerald Theater box office or by calling 702-588-2411 or 800-553-1022.



Lauren Marketell, Kayre Morrison, and Kathleen Salisbury (from left) portray pinups in "Bye Bye Bijou."

"I have an announcement for the audience," one sassy performer declares. "The 'wet floor' sign in the men's room is not an instruction." Innuendo aside, "Bijou" is a clean, family show—depending on how you hear it.

During the 1940s USO segment, the ensemble, dressed as soldiers and nurses, brings down the house with a riveting military-tap dance. In another number, "Buy a Bond" is the theme as the women of the chorus portray pinup girls Betty Grable, Dorothy Lamour, and Rita Hayworth.

A hilarious spoof of the Andrews Sisters teams Catherine Fries with two of the male cast members. Chris Foster and

Bryan Shyne are costumed in boxer shorts, mop wigs, and strategically placed Dixie cups, which they are forced to adjust constantly throughout their song.

Later, the audience is treated to a medley of Broadway show tunes from "South Pacific," "Mame," "Hello Dolly!," and "Hair," as well as a moving rendition of "Tonight" from "West Side Story."

The show ends with a tribute to Elton John by Mitch Adams, who is remarkable as the flamboyant performer, both vocally and at the piano. He looks like John, right down to the gap in his front teeth. Adams, in his rhinestone-studded suit, gets the audience doin' the "Crocodile Rock."

"Bye Bye Bijou" is the latest in a string of nostalgia-based shows at Harveys. The revue is the third produced for the resort by Wall and Maes—"Rage" in 1989 and "Pazazz" in 1990 were both voted Best Show of the Year for Northern Nevada by area entertainment publications.

The on-stage cast, although not a seasoned group except for Doney, is enthusiastic and eager to please. Wall and Maes have

compiled a genuinely talented bunch who can do it all—sing, act, and dance.

"Bye Bye Bijou" is a delight that does not depend on overstated razzle-dazzle or expensive special effects and has no variety acts to disrupt its pacing. While other producers are showcasing more and more skin, Wall and Maes have fun with memorable song and dance. As a result, the show delivers family entertainment rarely seen in a casino cabaret.

Katherine McDonnell, Nevada's events editor is a former show dancer who never mastered singing or the art of telling a good joke on stage.

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