

Elephant Man of Sparks ■ B&B Guide ■ Robert Laxalt

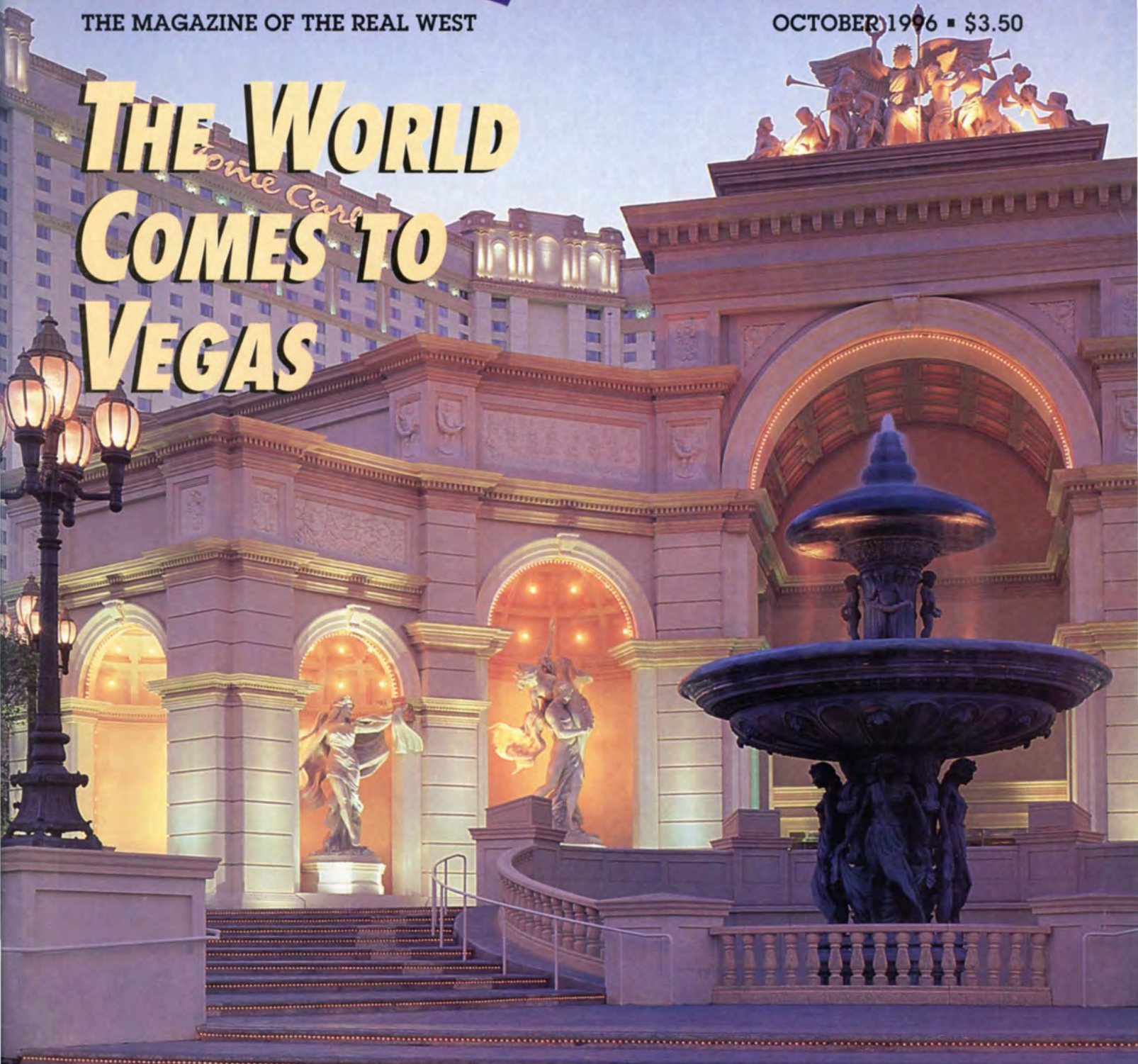
Complete Guide  
to Events & Shows

# NEVADA

THE MAGAZINE OF THE REAL WEST

OCTOBER 1996 ■ \$3.50

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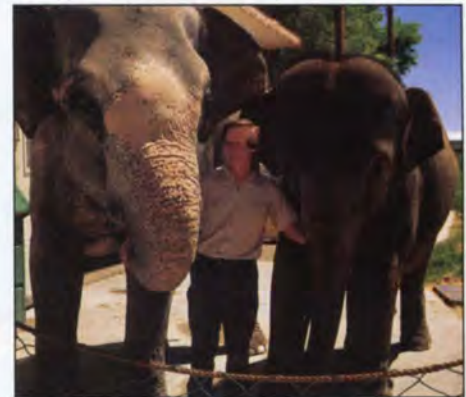
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*On the Cover:*  
*The Monte Carlo*  
*in Las Vegas.*  
*Photo by*  
*Christopher Taylor*

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# NEVADA

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

# Big

During his two decades in Las Vegas, Art Nadler has seen several hotel-building booms. The *Las Vegas Sun* reporter says he foresees more of the "ultimate" themes that he reviews in his story "The World Comes to Vegas." Of course, as Art says, "Things here change from week to week, the growth is so tremendous."


Bigness is part of Kim Pryor's story in this issue. "Some people have pet dogs, cats, horses, or goldfish," the Lake Tahoe writer says. "Don Bloomer has elephants." In "The Elephant Man," Kim profiles trainer Bloomer and his friends Bertha and Angel. The two elephants, who perform at John Ascuaga's Nugget, are undoubtedly Nevada's biggest showroom stars.

Robert Laxalt, Nevada's most honored novelist, presents a wonderful portrait of Reno in the autumn of 1983, when the City of Trembling Leaves experienced hardly a flutter. The Washoe Valley author describes the season of stillness in "Autumn's Spell."

As a Tonopah lawyer and U.S. senator, Key Pittman seemed larger than life to many Nevadans. But after his death in 1940, he became truly legendary. As Guy Louis Rocha describes in "The Mysterious Demise of Key Pittman," the legend is that the senator, while running for reelection, died just before the 1940 election—prompting his associates to pack him in a bathtub full of ice until after the vote. Guy, a historian and the state archivist, discovered that the facts of the case are as curious as the legend, which, he points out, is still a wonderful tale.

David W Toll's first *Nevada Magazine* story, "Collision on the Comstock," in which his great-great-uncle, John P Jones, played a central role, appeared in the Winter 1966 issue. In "30-Year Pin" the Gold Hill author recalls two people—editors Don Bowers and C.J. Hadley—who shaped the modern *Nevada Magazine*, which recently earned its own 60-year pin.

Also in this issue, Reno writer Katherine Limon and Associate Editor Carolyn Graham present "R&R at B&Bs," the most complete guide to Nevada bed-and-breakfast inns ever assembled. Also, New York attorney Howard Siegel recalls a strange encounter with alien overtones on "The Road to Dreamland." —David Moore



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# LETTERS

Coffee and caves.

## Clan of the Caves

Thanks for the story "Great Park, Great Basin" by Richard Moreno last issue about Great Basin National Park and Lehman Caves. My great-grandfather was Absalom Lehman, who discovered Lehman Caves. His daughter, Laura Nevada Lehman, was my grandmother and was born in Baker.

I now take care of my mother, Irene, who is the last of nine children of Laura Nevada Lehman Mellenbruch and Louis Mellenbruch. We will celebrate our family's 100th reunion in 1997

Julia W Turner  
San Antonio, TX

## Java Jolt

I read with interest about the places offering lattes, cappuccinos, and other fancy coffee drinks in "See You Latte" in the May/June issue. But I was disappointed that you did not mention Ely's Flower Basket, which has espresso, mochas, lattes, cream sodas,

and biscotti. Its new location on 11th Street has outdoor tables and a view of Ely's historic railroad depot.

Emmy Hockett

Ely

*Emmy, thanks for the Ely coffee tip.—Ed.*

## Turkey Time

Thank you for the picture of my



*The Jones kids in 1947 (clockwise from left): Merrill, Lorna, Lyle, and Rhonda.*

family in the Jan/Feb issue with the article "Nevada Magazine: The Early Years." The picture was taken in 1947 (the date of 1937 next to the picture is wrong) and to date all four kids are still alive. Lorna Jones Muir lives in Elko, Lyle Jones in North Carolina, Rhonda Jones Mathias lives in Colorado, and I reside in Elko.

I remember that on the day the photographer came to take the picture, all of the birds (about 200) were nowhere to be seen. When he got ready to take the picture, the turkeys came from everywhere.

Merrill Jones  
Elko

## Enchanted Evenings

Compliments on Gail Bandini's beautiful "Enchanted Evenings" photo essay of Las Vegas hotels in the May/June issue. Night photos of this quality are rare.

Phil Blanchard  
Somerville, MA

## A Legacy of Legends

We recently returned from another great visit to Nevada. While in Reno we went to the Silver Legacy to view the mining machine. Sam Fairchild, a silver baron, is mentioned frequently there. Was there a real Sam Fairchild or is this just part of a story?

Mary D. McFadden  
Carthage, TX

*Mary, although Sam Fairchild is a big wheel at the Silver Legacy, his existence is only a mythical part the hotel's mining theme.—Ed.*

## New York in Vegas

We are regular subscribers to your magazine and have enjoyed it. However, I wish it had more "Casino Notes" in the Nevada Events and Shows section where I could find out about new hotels and expansions. I would like to know when the New York-New York hotel will be open so we can plan a trip to see it.

Mrs. J. Miller  
Perrysburg, OH

*New York-New York is scheduled to open this winter. Look for this issue's "The World Comes to Vegas" by Art Nadler to find out about the state's latest wave of hotel openings.—Ed. □*

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# ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS

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LAS VEGAS—The **gentle chairlift** ride at the Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort offers uplifting views of fall color on Mount Charleston.

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"It's a great escape from the cement and an easy way up to the nearly pristine wilderness,"



Sightseers can catch the lift at Mount Charleston.

says resort owner Russell Highfield.

The ride travels a mile round-trip and climbs 2,500 feet. The lift is open through early October from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday through Sunday, weather permitting. Rides cost \$4 for adults and \$2 for children ages 12 and younger. The Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort is 45 miles northwest of Las Vegas at the end of Lee Canyon Road (State Route 156). Call 702-593-9500 for more information.—*Kate Butler*

## ZOO LIFE

### Animal Attraction

RENO—Bears, wolves, lions, and more than 20 other exotic animals roam the 38-acre **Animal Ark Nature Center and Wildlife Sanctuary**, 22 miles north of Reno.

Pepper the mountain lion yawns and shows his jagged fangs. A desert tortoise named Mr. Peabody inches along the sandy floor. Yogi Bear growls. These and other critters unable to survive in the wild are housed at the nonprofit Animal Ark, established in 1980 by Aaron and Diana Hiibel. Plaques placed near the animals inform visitors about such residents as the Arctic fox, whose fur turns white in winter and dark brown in summer.

Wildlife watchers can participate in special programs at Animal Ark, such as Wolf Howl Nights. Held during full moons, the evening discussions include talks about wolves, a group howl, and a howling contest for the best human howlers. On the full



Nischa is a wolf at the Ark.

moon of September 28, "Myth Versus Reality" will be the topic, and on October 26, "The History of Wolves in Nevada" will be discussed.

To reach Animal Ark, drive north on U.S. 395 past Stead and take the Red Rock Road exit. After 11.5 miles, turn right onto Deerlodge Road for one mile of gravel road to Animal Ark (1265 Deerlodge Road). In the fall Animal Ark is open on weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through October 27. Admission is \$4 for adults and \$3 for seniors and children. Call 702-969-3111 for information.—*Kim Pryor*

## BICYCLING

### Tahoe Bike Trail

LAKE TAHOE—The trails surrounding Tahoe offer some of the best **bicycle paths** in the country, and the trail on the lake's northwest shore is one of the easiest and most scenic of the urban routes.

A good place to start pedaling is at Sugar Pine Point State Park. The paved trail winds past historic landmarks such as Erhman Mansion, through the pines, and along the lake's shore. The numerous parks along the way have restrooms, water, and scenic spots for picnic lunches.

The six-and-a-half-mile trail forks at Tahoe City. The most scenic route twangs to the left with California State Route 89, where the trail meanders alongside the Truckee River. Wildlife watchers often can spot chipmunks, trout, ducks, songbirds, and even beavers. The trail has a few steep climbs and crisscrosses the highway at several spots, so be sure to stay alert for traffic.

The Tahoe City area has several bike-rental shops, such as the Olympic Bike Shop (916-581-2500), which rents bikes by the hour (\$5), half-day (\$15), and full day (\$21); rentals include helmets and maps. An excellent trail map is available at the North Lake Tahoe Visitors and Convention Bureau (800-824-6348).

—*Carolyn Graham*



Bicyclists pedal a Tahoe trail.

# THE BARGAIN ADVISOR

By Deke Castleman

After completing an epic 12-month, 60-slab survey of Las Vegas prime-rib meal deals (including a marathon 19 prime ribs in 18 days), Anthony Curtis of the *Las Vegas Advisor* is plumb played out. When last heard from, he was eating a big chef's salad. But he did the deed, and in his overfed opinion, the primo prime is: the medium cut at the **Lady Luck** downtown (702-477-3000) for \$6.99. It's big enough that you'll take leftovers home for lunch, it's lean enough to cut with a fork, and it's not listed on the menu, so you have to be in the know.

If your tastes run more toward Italian, there's an all-you-can-eat pasta feed at Pasta Cucina at the **Gold River** in Laughlin (702-298-2242). For a mere \$3.95 Monday through Friday, you can mix and match six pastas with four sauces and carbo-load so full that you could run (though probably not win) the Boston Marathon. The meal

deal comes with salad, garlic bread, and breadsticks.

Fall is in the air, and chilly temperatures are on the horizon. Thoughts (mine, anyway) are starting to turn to big hot baths. Some of the biggest and hottest baths in Nevada are found at the **Hot Springs Motel** in Caliente (702-726-3777). Spacious private rooms contain five-foot-square and three-foot-deep Roman tubs; fire-hydrant faucets fill them up in four minutes flat. This 105-degree water is so soft, so sulfur-free, and so seductive that you easily pass the pickling point. The baths are free for motel guests and \$3 an hour for everyone else.

For a full-fledged, user-friendly, and cut-rate history of the Battle Born State, visit the **Nevada Historical**



A Washoe basket display is one of the Nevada Historical Society's many exhibits.

**Society Museum** (702-688-1190) on the University of Nevada campus in Reno. Using artifacts, photographs, maps, and text, the museum chronicles 13,000 years of Nevada's life story, from its earliest cultures to its contemporary casinos. The society also has a gift shop, art exhibits, and a research library—and you get the whole epic saga for a \$2 admission. □

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

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# THE WORLD COMES

**A new wave of resorts brings tourist capitals to the Las Vegas skyline while offering ever more exotic escapes.**

**By Art Nadler**

There are several ways to look at Las Vegas' most recent wave of hotels and attractions, and two of those views can be found at the Stratosphere Tower. From the tower's 108th floor, you can see clear to the other end of the Strip. Construction cranes stand in angular silhouette throughout the city. In the distance you can see the newly opened Monte Carlo. Nearby are the skyscrapers of New York-New York, due to open this winter, and work proceeds on massive refurbishments of the Luxor, Harrah's Las Vegas, the Rio, and Caesars Palace, where Caesars Magical Empire recently opened.

Another view is from the sidewalk. Standing outside the Stratosphere in the evening, you occasionally can hear people scream. They are screams of exquisite terror as guests take the two thrill rides at the top.

The screams indicate that resorts are not abandoning the theme-park and virtual-reality attractions that recently swept into Las Vegas. At the same time, the long view shows a further refinement of the theme formula—that more hotels are being modeled on famous tourist destinations around the globe. Want to visit New York, Paris, Italy, or Monte Carlo? Then come to Vegas.

While resorts grow bigger and bigger, and each property seems bent on out-

doing the other, Caesars Magical Empire and Star Trek: The Experience, a coming attraction at the Las Vegas Hilton, portend another phase. In the future, hotels increasingly may take guests beyond the theme experience and present them with a world of virtual reality where they can totally escape.

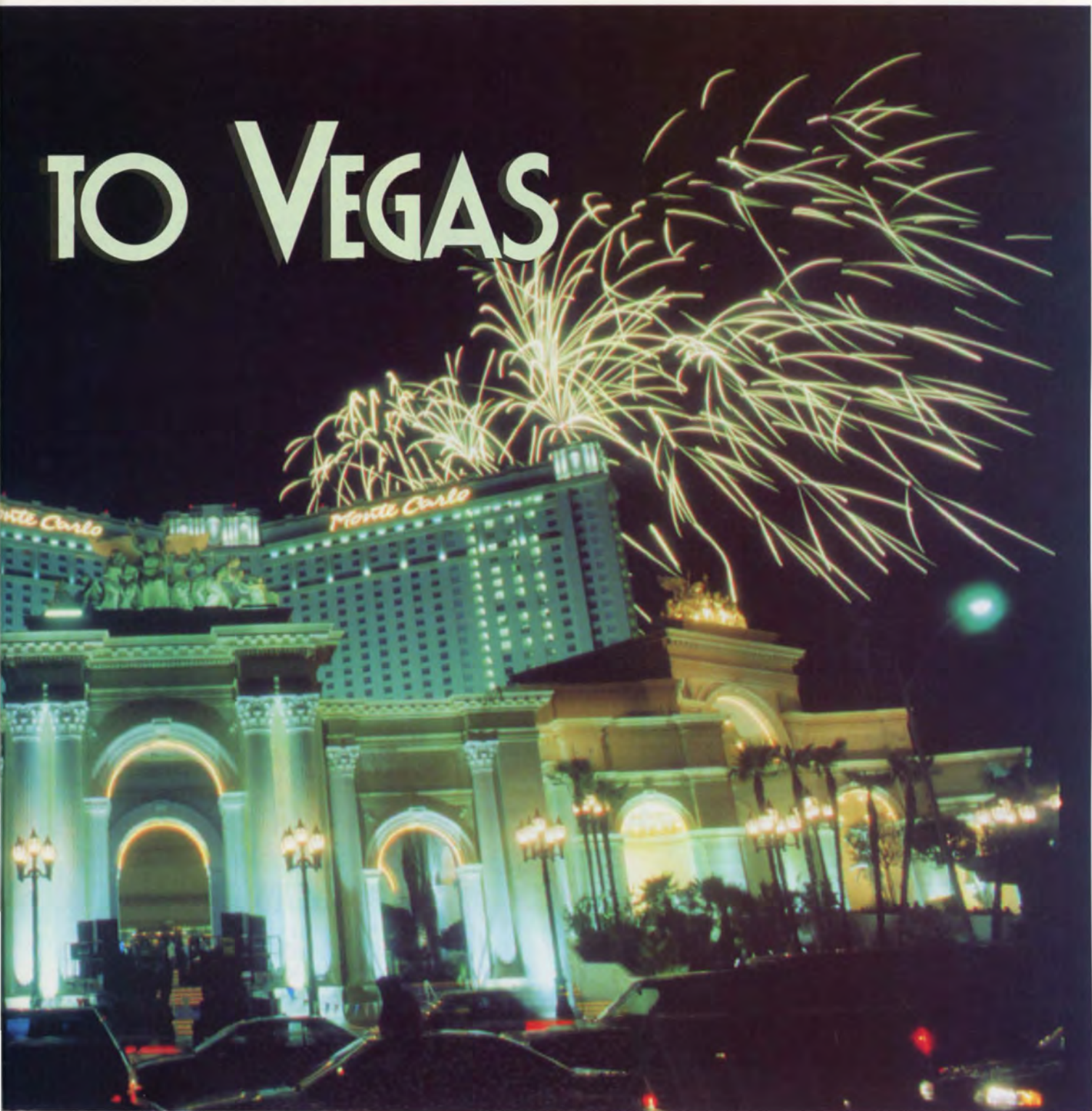
Las Vegas already has more hotel and motel rooms than any other city in the

world, and the current wave may push the town's room count past 100,000 by the end of this year. The surge surpasses even the boom of 1989 and 1990, when the Mirage and Excalibur brought exotic themes and more than 7,000 rooms to the Strip. Then in 1993, the Luxor, Treasure Island, and MGM Grand opened. At 5,005 rooms, the MGM remains the largest resort hotel in North America.



**Prince Rainier wasn't spotted at the opening of the Monte Carlo, but he was hardly**

# TO VEGAS



missed amid the fireworks and fountains. The Strip hotel is modeled after the Place du Casino in Monte Carlo, Monaco.

**Hotels may take guests beyond the theme experience to a world where they can totally escape.**

The latest thirst for ultimate-themed projects took a pinnacle leap with the Stratosphere, which has a World's Fair theme and on first view resembles Seattle's Space Needle. With the backing of Grand Casinos of Minnesota, former Vegas World owner Bob Stupak saw his dream—the highest free-standing observation tower in the United States—become a reality when the 1,149-foot-tall

Stratosphere opened last spring.

"We wanted to take an idea and make it even more spectacular," Stupak said of the tower. "We wanted to Vega-tize it." And so the Stratosphere elevated the roller-coaster theme—popularized by Circus Circus, MGM Grand, and Buffalo Bill's—to new heights with a track 909 feet above the ground. Thrill seekers also can ride the Big Shot, an experience



**The New York-New York skyline includes the New Yorker Hotel and the Seagram, Chrysler, and CBS buildings (from left) as the Big Apple finds its place in the sun.**

similar to pulling four Gs in a fighter jet.

The Monte Carlo appears to be a prototype of the new tourist-mecca environments. The Strip resort opened in June on acreage of the old Dunes Hotel, whose spectacular demolition in 1993 was signaled by a cannon shot from Treasure Island. At the 32-story Monte Carlo, Mirage Resorts and Circus Circus Enterprises collaborated to create a replica of the Place du Casino in Monaco. The \$344-million property has Italian-marble floors, crystal chandeliers, statues, and fountains to evoke the kind of place where James Bond played

*chemin de fer* and one might mingle with associates of Prince Rainier.

To fill the Monte Carlo's showroom, magician Lance Burton was lured away from the Hacienda Hotel and signed to a 13-year contract. Burton is expected to make millions while performing in his own \$27-million Lance Burton Theatre, which has the ornate fixtures and atmosphere of a turn-of-the-century opera house.

Nearby, the Big Apple has magically appeared on the Strip in the form of New York-New York. The hotel's creative facade presents a Manhattan

skyline with 12 skyscrapers, including the Empire State Building and the Chrysler Building. When the hotel holds its much-anticipated opening this winter, visitors will encounter a 150-foot Statue of Liberty, a 300-foot-long Brooklyn Bridge, and a Coney Island roller coaster. In the hotel's entertainment center, bumper cars will look like Checker cabs and black limousines. The only thing missing will be rude cabbies and "creative" hand signals.

"It's an illusion that people want to see of New York," Joyce Orias of Yates-Silverman, the hotel's design firm, told the *New York Times*. "It's their dream

## **At New York-New York, the only thing missing will be rude cabbies and "creative" hand signals.**

version of New York, but not too realistic because it would be impossible—and who wants it, anyway?"

The Orleans, scheduled to open in December, will attempt to show guests that every day is Mardi Gras. The 840-room hotel with a New Orleans theme is a mile west of the Strip on Tropicana Avenue.

The replication bug also has caught on in Henderson, where the Reserve, a hotel-casino with an African theme, is scheduled to open this fall. The Reserve's exterior resembles an Old-World stone fortress. The inside resembles an African game preserve, with statues of elephants, giraffes, and chimpanzees amid a jungle of trees.

The Spanish-Mediterranean-themed Sunset Station also is set to open in Henderson next summer. Sunset Station is a cousin of three other properties, the Palace, Boulder, and Texas stations.

Future openings reflect a further nod to tourist meccas. The airy Italian village of Bellagio overlooking Lake Como is the inspiration for Bellagio, the latest project of Mirage and Treasure Island creator Steve Wynn. Scheduled to open in 1998, Bellagio will have 3,000 rooms, an 11-acre lake—and room rates starting at \$350 a night. Wynn, who made a volcano his marquee at the Mirage, plans a \$30-million light-and-water show for the lake front at Bellagio. "We are going to

dance waters up 160 feet in the air," Wynn said. "It will be the water feature of the planet."

Also on the Strip, Bally's is building yet another European escape—Paris, a \$500-million resort with replicas of the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, Champs Elysées, and the River Seine. Las Vegas' version of the City of Light will have 2,500 rooms and, like Bellagio, a 1998 opening.

Circus Circus Enterprises has plans for the Hacienda—a new Four Seasons hotel with 4,000 rooms. Completion date is 1998 for the project, which will create a Circus Circus row with the Excalibur and Luxor.

Planet Hollywood, whose partners include actors Bruce Willis and Arnold Schwarzenegger, and ITT Corporation, owner of Caesars Palace and the Desert Inn, have announced a new 3,200-room resort to be built next to the D.I.

Golf courses will surround three sides of the Resort at Summerlin, a 300-room hotel. The property will have a Mediterranean theme with a winery, restaurants, and fountains.

At Caesars Magical Empire, which opened in June, Caesars Palace has combined two themes—ancient Rome and magic, a form of entertainment that is thriving in Las Vegas. Patrons take a two-hour virtual-reality trip back to

## **At Caesars Magical Empire, Caesars Palace has combined two themes—ancient Rome and magic.**

medieval times while being treated to lavish dinners and magic performances.

The elevator descends into dungeon-like catacombs, where guests see skeletons, brush by cobwebs, and feel the cool, musty air. Once below, visitors are led to one of 10 dining chambers. The decor is 12th-century rustic—stone walls and heavy-timber tables and chairs. During dinner a magician and two assistants entertain between courses. Afterward there are more magic and special-effects shows at the seven-story Sanctum Secorum and other hideaways.

Visitors to the Las Vegas Hilton also will explore strange new worlds never before seen when the Hilton opens its



**The Sands' floating craps game was joined by a bobbing roulette wheel.**

# **Sands of Time**

**W**hen the Sands opened in 1952, it was the most fashionable of the low-slung resorts on the Las Vegas Strip. But times change. Buffeted by the megaresort wave of recent years, the Sands closed last summer as its owners planned a megaresort of their own.

During the 1950s and '60s the Sands was a swinging place. It was a hangout for stars like Frank Sinatra, who held nine points in the joint and appeared regularly in the Copa

Room and the casino. Sinatra's Rat Pack colleagues such as Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr. frequented the hotel, whose slogan was "A Place in the Sun."

The Sands also contributed a memorable image to Las Vegas lore—the (literally) floating craps game. Al Freeman, the hotel's legendary publicist, staged the Las Vegas News Bureau photo shoot in the Sands pool, complete with croupiers and customers in bathing suits.



**The Sands survived as a classic Strip resort until its closing last summer.**



Higher than the Eiffel Tower, the Stratosphere stretches an improbable 1,149 feet. From ground zero, one can peek through the palms to the pod.

Star Trek: The Experience next spring. Passengers will ride a 32-seat shuttle craft to the bridge of the *Starship Enterprise*. Through the use of a viewer tilt system, riders will be locked into a simulated space environment. Executives hope the \$50-million joint venture with

**Visitors will explore strange new worlds when the Hilton opens its Star Trek: The Experience.**

Paramount Parks will leave everyone beaming.

Other established Las Vegas resorts aren't standing still while new hotels and attractions steal the spotlight. The MGM Grand is undergoing a \$250-million remake during the next year. The giant lion's head entrance is being replaced with a six-story gold lion, and the Lightning Bolt roller coaster will be made bigger and faster.

Circus Circus properties have called out the jackhammers and bulldozers.

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**Guests at Caesars Magical Empire are immersed in a secret world of sorcerers and special effects where everything except dinner is an illusion.**

The Luxor is adding two new pyramids, and the Excalibur is expanding. Circus Circus is adding a 1,000-room tower.

Caesars Palace is building two new towers with 2,150 rooms, including 112 pool villas. The Desert Inn is undergoing a major renovation. Harrah's Las Vegas

has dismantled its riverboat theme and presented a new entranceway and nearly 700 new rooms to the Strip.

The Aladdin is undergoing a two-year, \$600-million facelift during which two new towers will be added. The Sahara is upgrading its Moroccan theme

and doubling its casino size.

The Holiday Inn Boardwalk is adding a new tower in a \$80-million expansion. The Rio will complete a 41-story tower by the end of the year, offering 1,000 new suites.

The Las Vegas Club is the first hotel to expand downtown since the Fremont Street Experience was completed last year. The \$30-million expansion includes a new tower and space to enlarge its sports-memorabilia collection.

Expansion fever is claiming a Strip landmark. The 44-year-old Sands is being demolished this fall, to be replaced by a \$1.5-billion hotel, casino, and shopping complex. Plans call for 6,000 suites, which would allow the mega-Sands to earn bragging rights as the world's largest hotel.

Las Vegas is in a constant state of flux. Even bigger and scarier theme rides, more mind-boggling virtual reality, and mini-replicas of tourist meccas seem to be on the horizon. Like the view high above the Strip, the end of the wave may be a long way off. □

*Art Nadler is a reporter at the Las Vegas Sun. When he moved to Las Vegas 21 years ago, the Las Vegas Hilton was the city's biggest hotel.*



## The new Sun Mountain course at the Las Vegas Paiute Resort


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# Autumn's Spell

*An unexpected stillness of the season envelops Reno. By Robert Laxalt*



Autumn was on the land. For weeks on end, there had not been the slightest stirring of air to disturb it, no breeze of morning or evening. It was as though all motion had ceased and all things were suspended under autumn's spell.

In the mornings, the sun rose quietly without the fluttering of leaves that always accompanied it. The sun touched the yellowing tops of the great trees and warmed the russet on the lesser ones.

In our yard, it touched first my grandson's little red wagon so that the red stood out and became darker and Gabriel's wagon became an object of wonder caught in its own aura of light. The sun rose higher and its first rays penetrated the tendrils of the weeping birches, isolating each leaf like a golden doubloon.

The days had a sense of unreality about them, pervading everything in their stillness so that I walking out felt as if I were in some sort of still dream in which spoken words seemed to be a violation of the spell and one spoke softly so as not to break the spell.

The sun made its slow slow arc across the sky, drawing out the color of the trees—the yellow of the maples and the long leaves of the Virginia creeper. The leaves of the creeper became things of flaming blood red and it seemed that the sun had made them transparent until you picked one up and held it to the light to see if that were so and of course it was not. The sky through which the sun moved was blue, but between me and the blue there was a golden haze so fine that it took awhile for the eyes to penetrate the gold to the blue beyond.

In the Sierra where Gabriel's father, Carmelo, and I went to cut wood, the quaking aspen stood out in a hundred shades of lightening green against the deep forever green of pine and fir. The aspen that had begun to surrender to the autumn did so very slowly and quietly, giving up their leaves one by one so that they floated to the ground in lazy arcs to rest upon the open ground of paths and lanes like ten thousand pieces of eight.

Then a breeze sprang up out of nowhere, and the leaves of the trees began to dance like dervishes so that it was like a forest gone crazy with movement.

In the town, the gold of the day surrendered to the amber of evening, where each tree unmoving was bathed in light against the amber of the sky, and a cloud lay like a gray sphere undangerous and unthreatening.

Then next morning the wind sprang up for the first time, ruffling the great trees and sending leaves down in great whirling clusters. The rain came and my grandson's little wagon looked neglected and alone in the gray day. The spell was broken. Winter was in the air.

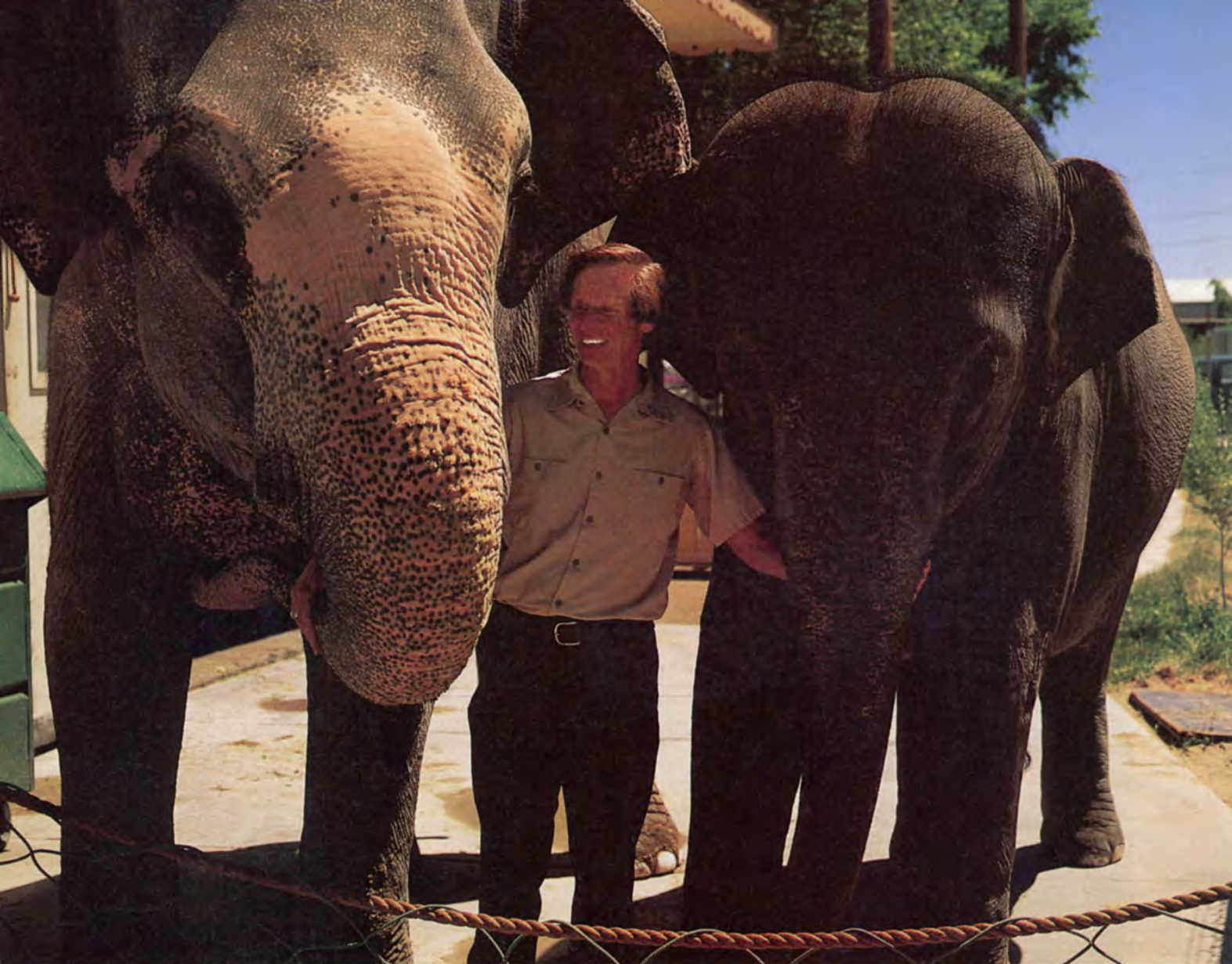
*Reno, 1983*

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*Robert Laxalt is the author of 12 books, including Sweet Promised Land, A Man in the Wheatfield, and The Basque Hotel, which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in fiction. The Washoe Valley resident holds the Distinguished Nevada Author chair at the University of Nevada, Reno.*

*In the Sierra, the quaking aspen stood out in a hundred shades of lightening green against the deep forever green of pine and fir.*





# The Elephant Man

Don Bloomer leads a wild life as the elephant trainer at John Ascuaga's Nugget. By Kim Pryor

**F**or seven weeks in the fall of 1989 the alarm clock jangled Don Bloomer awake every morning at 3 a.m. Groggily, he would climb downstairs. Time to feed the baby—in this case a 725-pound baby elephant named Angel. Three hours later, he would be up again, helping Angel guzzle down another bottle of milk as Bertha, an older elephant, watched.

Today, Angel's bottle-feeding days are long past. "I weaned her when she

was about 18 months old," Bloomer says, his voice carrying a hint of relief.

Bloomer can sleep through the night now, but because he is the elephant trainer at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, his life is still a circus. He spends his days caring for Bertha and Angel and teaching them new tricks. Evenings, he performs with the two elephants in the hotel's Celebrity Showroom. In the process, Bloomer has developed a strong bond with Bertha and Angel.

"With elephants, it's the oldest, wisest female that's the leader of the herd," the 49-year-old trainer says. "I've taken the place of that female. And as much as they think of me as their best friend, I think of them as friends, too."

Bloomer and his wife Sherri live above the elephants in a cream-colored barn in the Nugget's back parking lot. Their studio apartment is dotted with elephant-themed knickknacks—a wall hanging with elephant silhouettes, a

---

**To Bertha and Angel, trainer Don Bloomer is the leader of the herd and their best friend.**



**Bertha's paintings give the term "abstract" new meaning. Bloomer taught her to paint by substituting a brush for the drumstick she previously used to beat on a drum.**

miniature elephant statue atop the television—that the couple have collected.

Sherri, whose vivacious nature contrasts with Don's soft-spoken demeanor, is a biochemistry major at the University of Nevada, Reno, and a belly dancer. She met Bloomer 14 years ago at the San Diego Wild Animal Park, where he

## The elephants show Bloomer their affection by purring and flapping their ears.

worked as an elephant trainer and she sold tickets to the elephant rides.

"I liked him because he was really quiet with the elephants and they always did exactly what he told them to do," Sherri says. She also notes, "I thought he was cute."

Sherri is used to taking a back seat to Bertha and Angel. Before going to bed each night, she stands in the barn doorway, watching as her husband and the elephants share a group hug. Bloomer squeezes between the elephants, and Bertha lowers her head, purring and flapping her ears, while Angel cuddles up to Don.

"It's their little moment," Sherri says. "He's like their mom, and I'm like a distant cousin. I'm not an immediate family member because I don't work around them enough. But they know me, and they like me."

When Don and Sherri arrived at the Nugget 12 years ago, Bertha already had been performing at the hotel for 22 years. The late Dick Graves, the Nugget's original owner, saw Bertha perform in Wisconsin. Deciding she would be the perfect representative for the hotel's new Circus Room showroom, he brought her to Sparks.

Bertha, originally from India, is 45 years old. (Elephants usually live to be 55 or 60. The oldest on record was a circus elephant who lived to be 72.)

Angel, now seven, arrived at the Nugget when she was nine months old. She was born at the Busch Gardens circus-breeding center in Tampa, Florida, and Bloomer found her through a colleague. "Usually you wouldn't take a baby away from its mother at such a young age, but Angel would not nurse from her mother," Bloomer says. "She was the first elephant to be successfully bottle raised from day one and live."

Bertha and Angel live in their 1,500-square-foot barn behind the hotel. In winter, a powerful heater warms the barn to 73 degrees. On warm days, the elephants spend time outside in their 4,000-square-foot back yard. They splash in their swimming pool, play ball, or rub against a scratching post.

Every morning when Bloomer strolls downstairs, the elephants show their

affection for the herd's leader by purring and flapping their ears. From their body language Bloomer can tell how the elephants are feeling. For instance, elephants sometimes flap their ears when they're overheated; as they raise their ears, the air cools off the blood vessels beneath. Elephants also flap their ears when they are excited. In that case, Bloomer must determine whether they are happy or upset.

The elephants' moods vary from day to day. They can be excited, lazy—and mischievous. The elephants are trained to wait for Bloomer to feed them, but, when impatient, Bertha has been known to slide her trunk under the wire marking the elephants' half of the barn. She stretches her trunk as far as she can, grabs the pallet of hay resting on the far side of the room, and drags it toward her. She then munches happily scattering hay all over the barn and making quite a mess.

Grooming, of course, is an elephant-sized matter. To soften their sandpaper-rough skin, the elephants soak daily in the back-yard pool. Bloomer, his assistant Jim Sanford, and sometimes a showgirl splash around with the elephants. In winter, Bloomer sprays the elephants with a hose inside the barn.

Twice a day Bloomer strolls down Victorian Avenue with the 8,030-pound Bertha and the 5,010-pound Angel.



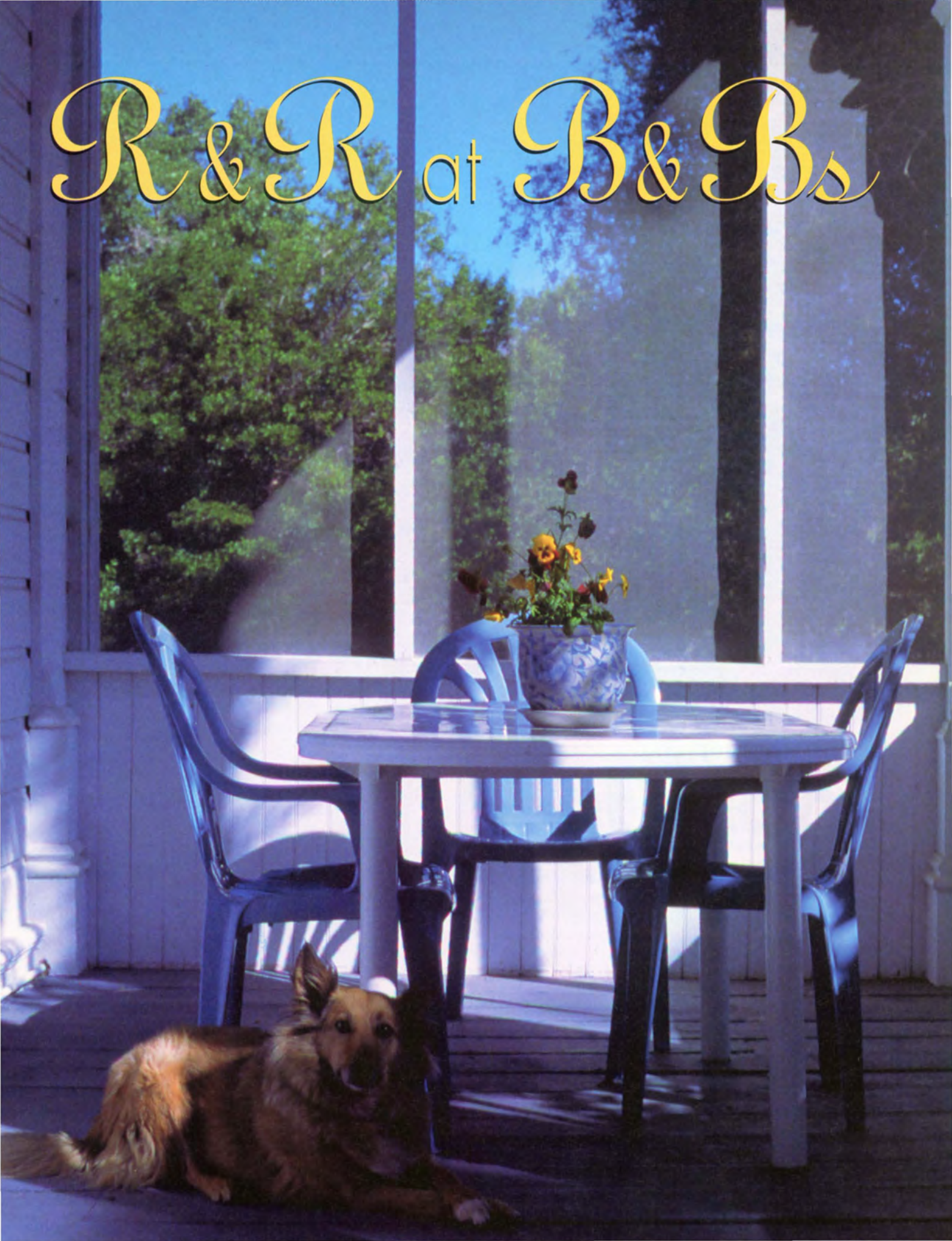
**Bloomer leads the showroom stars on daily walks near the Nugget in downtown Sparks.**


Pedestrians line the sidewalk, watching the elephants march by.

Every five or six weeks Bloomer gives Bertha and Angel pedicures. First, he clips the cuticles on their giant toenails. Then he scrapes off the hardened brown calluses on the bottoms of their feet, a painless but important process. "In the

*(Continued on page 77)*

*R & R at B & Bs*





# A tour of Nevada's cozy, quirky, and classic bed-and- breakfast inns.

By Katherine Limon  
and Carolyn Graham



It's a dog's life for Angel, who lounges in her favorite spot on the porch at the Hoye Mansion in Wellington. Owners Frank and Judy McBryde restored the 1871 home two years ago.

Nevada's bed-and-breakfast inns are as diverse as the Silver State itself. You can stay in an elegant Victorian mansion with lacy curtains, four-poster beds, and breakfast served on fine china. Or you can visit a remote Nevada inn, where a rope swing over a pond is the main source of entertainment.

Nevada yields a surprising number of such B&B havens. Following is a guide to the state's bed-and-breakfast inns, starting in Northern Nevada, where you'll find the largest concentration of B&B welcome mats.

Muffy and David Vhay's sprawling house at **Deer Run Ranch** in Washoe Valley, overlooking the Sierra near Washoe Lake State Park, is a nature lover's retreat. The ranch's pond in the warm months attracts songbirds, deer, and a resident heron. "It's like a small wetlands," says David, an architect who designed their passive-solar home. Muffy's roots run deep there—her folks ran a ranch nearby—and family and historic photos line the walls. "People get a little bit of Nevada when they stay here," says Muffy, a potter. The Vhays' garden produces tomatoes, berries, and other produce that Muffy uses in her breakfast recipes.

The **Winters Creek Inn**, a 21-acre horse ranch in the Sierra foothills across from Washoe Lake, offers horseback riding along trails shared by deer, coyotes, and wild turkeys. The big, white ranch house, surrounded by pastures and pine trees, has two guest rooms, one with a library and deck. The gazebo can be converted to a wedding chapel.

The **Bliss Mansion**, located on Carson City's historic west side, was built in 1879 by Lake Tahoe lumber baron D.L. Bliss. Two years ago Theresa Sandrini, her daughter Cynthia, and son-in-law Patrick were taking a stroll when they saw a for-sale sign in front of the three-story home, which stands across the street from the Governor's Mansion. "It was destiny," Sandrini says. "We intended to just live in it but soon realized how many people in the area really loved this home. So we turned it into a bed and breakfast." At \$195 a night, the

Bliss is one of the most expensive B&Bs in the state, but guests are pampered. Sandrini serves a gourmet breakfast, wine and cheese in the afternoon, and a supply of jellybeans or cookies in each of the four rooms.

Genoa's classic storefronts and scenic setting make a perfect backdrop for B&Bs such as **Antonucci's Wild Rose Inn**. The new home on the edge of town was built as a bed and breakfast to resemble the Queen Anne Victorian architecture that dominates Genoa, Nevada's oldest permanent white settlement. One of the five rooms, the Gables, has a skylight directly above a queen-size iron bed.

The **Genoa House Inn**, built in 1872, is decorated in classic B&B: flowery curtains and comforters accenting the Victorian antiques.

The Rose Room has a private balcony and a cathedral-shaped stained-glass window. Linda and Bob Sanfilippo left the Tahoe ski business 10 years ago to buy the inn. "I love it," Linda says. "With a B&B, we get the nicest people in the nicest situation." The Garden Room, a tiny cottage next to the main house, has a clawfoot bathtub and a glistening pull-chain toilet that was

manufactured in Chicago circa 1905.

Guests can soak up the surroundings at **Walley's Hot Springs**, one-and-a-half miles south of Genoa. The rooms at the resort, which was founded in 1862, come with unlimited access to the continuously flowing mineral baths, a steam room, dry sauna, and swimming pool. Following a breakfast of croissants and fresh fruit, health-minded guests can check out Walley's workout room and yoga classes.

In Gardnerville, the **Nenzel Mansion** is a three-story colonial built in 1910. Chris Nenzel, a retired high school principal, and his wife Virginia bought the home two years ago. Hotels can be generic, Chris says. "Sometimes you wake up, and you don't know whether you're in Boston or Phoenix. At a B&B you feel at home." The Nenzels offer guests a choice of wine or liqueurs for nightcaps. Chris, the chief cook, prepares a variety of morning repasts, including French toast, Dutch babies (oven-baked pancakes), and egg dishes.





Guests can swing, paddle, and fish at Grandma's Farm House in Metropolis.

A cluster of B&Bs has appeared in the green belt formed by Mason and Smith valleys. Near downtown Yerington, you can soak up the small-town atmosphere at the **Arbor House**, located in a quiet neighborhood behind Dini's Lucky Club. Owner Donna Grulli, a former schoolteacher, has filled the yard and porch of her quaint, pink home with flowers and potted plants. Guests have a jacuzzi and a separate entrance to their bedroom, which has a king-size bed.

**Robric Ranch** is a cozy cottage surrounded by a 160-acre alfalfa farm on the outskirts of Yerington. Dick and Roberta Stebbins raised their four children in the two-bedroom, one-bath cottage, which was moved to Yerington from Aurora in 1890. They built a bigger home next-door and decided to open the cottage to travelers. "Rural Nevada doesn't have good TV reception, but it does have lots of books and coyotes," Roberta says. An old cast-iron stove heats the house on cold nights, and a bookshelf has numerous volumes. Roberta serves a ranch breakfast—"part of the mystique of rural Nevada," she says—of sourdough pancakes, eggs, bacon, and fruit.

In Wellington, Frank and Judy McBryde opened the **Hoye Mansion** as a B&B next to the Wellington Mercantile two years ago. Judy is a real estate agent, and Frank is a retired Los Angeles police officer and MGM Studios projectionist. Four of the five rooms have a Hollywood or historical theme—named for Mark Twain, *Gone With the Wind*, Jean Harlowe, and John Wayne. In the last,

guests can watch the Duke in *True Grit* and *The Shootist* on the VCR. The McBrydes offer a continental breakfast, but most guests choose to eat down the street at the Hey Day Inn, which is included in the room rate.

The **Smith Valley Bed and Breakfast** delivers a strong dose of rural Nevada history. The ranch house served as the home and office of Dr. Mary Fulstone (1892-1987), who cured many rural residents and delivered more than 6,000 babies during her 65-year practice. Relics include a old wall clock and an 1860s piano, and Fulstone portraits grace the walls leading to the two bedrooms upstairs. A "do it yourself" breakfast of coffee, juice, fruit, cereal, and coffee cake is served on the oak dining table, which overlooks the fields. The Fulstone family no longer lives in the house, so guests are asked to leave money in an envelope and sign the guest book before leaving.

Cottontail rabbits greet guests at Caroline Walters' **Bed and Breakfast-South Reno**, 10 miles south of Reno. The lawn and flower garden are perfectly presented, and a small heated swimming pool offers a dip. Walters, a retired schoolteacher with a weakness for unusual antiques, likes to give

history lessons to guests who inquire about her collections, including an extensive display of knife rests. "I have a story for everything," she says. Breakfast usually consists of omelettes or the proprietor's favorite: a giant pancake filled with applesauce.

**Snug Inn at H Bar B Farms** is a working farm in Palomino Valley, 25 miles north of Reno near Pyramid Lake. Visitors can pick their own fruit and veggies, and owner Sally Bonham will cook them per the picker's request. Guests reside in the private one-bedroom cottage above a country store where they can buy Bonham's homemade jams, vinegar, and spices. For breakfast, she leaves fruit from the orchard, cereal, yogurt, and coffee cake or homemade bread at the cottage and then tends to her chickens and goats. Guests have access to a hot tub and swimming pool.

The **Chollar Mansion** in Virginia City was built in 1861, when the Chollar and other Comstock mines were producing the first bonanzas. Owners Ken and Kathryn Benton have recreated the era with period antiques. The four-bedroom home is close to the historic Fourth Ward School, and Ken often conducts  
*(Continued on page 71)*



Owner Theresa Sandrini retreats to the parlor at the Bliss Mansion in Carson City.

# 30-Year Pin

Recalling  
two editors  
who shaped the  
magazine.

It's been 30 years since my first story appeared in *Nevada Magazine*. Looking back on those years, I see two enormous figures silhouetted against the blue Nevada sky.

One is Don Bowers, the inventor of the modern *Nevada Magazine*. The other is C.J. Hadley, who followed Don as

editor after an extended interregnum, and who gave the maturing publication its direction and personality.

The *Nevada* logo that appears on the cover of today's magazine was put there by Don Bowers (and designed by Ken Webster, a leading Reno art director) when I was still a relatively new contributor. The look and feel of the publication you're holding in your hands—including the peremptory way of addressing correspondents in the letters columns—is C.J.'s legacy.

No two people could have been more different.

Don was a Fallon kid, educated at Kenyon College in Ohio, who returned to Nevada after naval service in Moscow. In 1955 he took a public-information job with the State Highway Department, where he helped Fred Greulich with the "old" *Nevada Magazine*.

When the task of publishing the magazine was given to him, Don

made sweeping changes. He splashed color throughout, made graphic design a leading element for the first time, and enlisted freelance and casual contributors like Tony Amaral, Guy Shipler, and Basil Woon to cover subjects beyond the reach of his tiny staff. He also inaugurated a national distribution system to put *Nevada* on newsstands around the country.

In expanding the magazine's coverage, Don set a new mileage record for state employees as he visited remote locations in search of stories. One visit to isolated Jarbidge became legendary among State Motor Pool administrators when he high-centered his little white sedan on the rough road 10 miles out of the old mining city and had to wait four days for a tow truck to make the 100-mile round trip from Elko.

Don retired in 1975 and died five years later. For a couple of beats the magazine marked time where he left it. Then C.J. Hadley came along and applied her tremendous energy to continuing its development.

C.J. was decidedly not from Fallon. She was born in England and migrated to the publishing world of New York City. An experienced editor, writer, and photographer by the time she arrived in Carson City, she combined an extensive professional background with a love for the Cowboy Way of Life.

The magazine began to attract more

attention than ever as C.J. added features, fine-tuned the design, and increased the number and variety of contributors and of the topics they covered. Under C.J. "Nevada Highways and Parks" became "Nevada, The Magazine of the Real West" and attracted a significant national readership.

Perhaps because of Don's adventure, the motor pool gave her a muscle car for the thousands of miles she traveled while learning to love Nevada's hundred-mile vistas. "I was discovering Nevada as I went along, and I tried to see to it that the magazine was a true reflection of Nevada—honorable and independent," she told me once. "But I also added a bit of the New York perspective too; in a phrase, 'earn your way. During my 10 years we increased out-of-state subscriptions 800 percent."

For me the transition from Don to C.J. approximately paralleled my transition from apprentice writer to journeyman. I am amazed to see that it has been 10 years since C.J. left the magazine, and flabbergasted to notice it's been 16 years since Don's death. It's not merely that I'm in denial about the passage of time; it's that every time I look at *Nevada Magazine*, I see their handiwork.

Gone? I don't think so. □

David W. Toll is the author of *The Complete Nevada Traveler* and is now in cyberspace at <http://nevadaweb.com>.



By  
David  
W. Toll



**Pinning the past: The author (top) in the late '70s, Don Bowers (left) with Phyllis Diller in '66, and C.J. Hadley (right) with '82 photo contest winner Ray Fairbanks.**



## 60th Anniversary Feature

This article is one of a series recalling *Nevada Magazine's* 60 years of publication, which began in 1936.



# The Road to Dreamland

A wrong turn at Area 51, the top-secret military base near Rachel, led this Harley traveler on an unexpected detour. By Howard Siegel

Every summer I seek escape from the pressures and populace of New York City by heading out to the desert Southwest on my Harley. I make the trip alone, completely free to set my own schedule and alter my itinerary.

Last summer I took my ninth such desert sojourn. It turned out to lead to an unexpectedly hair-raising detour.

For several months I had researched the remote and highly secret U.S. Air Force Base known as Area 51, located 90 miles north of Las Vegas. Also known as Groom Lake and Dreamland—and until recently so cloaked in secrecy that its funding never appeared as an item in the Congressional budget—this base is said to be the government's highest-security testing area for experimental military aircraft.

There is another dimension to Groom Lake: It is reputed to be the only site of hands-on government research into UFOs. Some people believe that remains of alien spacecraft (and perhaps the re-

**Three Jeep Cherokees emerged with the frightening suddenness of a Stealth bomber**

mains of aliens themselves) are stored and studied in a clandestine concrete structure at the south end of the base (a situation explored in the recent movie *Independence Day*). This mystery piqued my interest, and I decided to investigate aboard my Heritage Special.

It was mid-July and nearly 105 degrees as I headed out of Las Vegas toward Rachel, an outpost on the recently named Extraterrestrial Highway (State Route 375) with a nicely maintained trailer park, small restaurant, and general store—the only evidence of civilization within many miles. I arrived in Rachel a little dusty but refreshed and eager to press on. After checking into my room (the northern half of trailer No. 4), I washed up, made sure I had film and plenty of water, and was back on the bike in 30 minutes. Using topographic maps, I would try roads that offered the best legal approach to Groom Lake.

Body motorized, I shot through the desert landscape, free and flying. Riding is like that for most of us. But in the desert, these feelings are intensified. The

openness, the brightness, and the heat all seem to magnify one's sense of flight.

Suddenly, the skyline changed. In an instant it was dark. I looked quickly both ways. Nothing. And then I saw it. The horizon—the entire horizon—had been obliterated by the awesome blackness of a B-1 Stealth jet bomber. I screeched to a full emergency stop, grabbed the camera, and started snapping, but the plane was gone. A distant dot in the bright-blue sky was the only reminder of the metallic mass that had covered the sky only seconds earlier.

Awestruck, I pressed on toward Dreamland. The journey's final leg—a long dirt-and-gravel road—ended after 13-1/2 miles. I saw several signs, none of them suggesting a warm welcome. "This Is A Restricted Military Installation—Entry Strictly Prohibited." "WARNING WARNING—Absolutely No Trespassing." "No Photography Allowed—Subject To Search and Confiscation." My personal favorite was the rather direct admonishment, "DO NOT ENTER—Use of Deadly Force Authorized."

True, I was curious, but I wasn't insane. I turned the bike back in search of the one traversable path that, based on my research, seemed to be a legal approach to the base's perimeter. The road began as fairly hard dirt, passable even for a Harley (which is not noted for its dune-hopping capabilities), but the road soon became much sandier. Still, I hoped to catch at least a glimpse of this mysterious facility. I was wrong. My research had not been extensive enough. The perimeter markers, which I had been so careful to follow, were no longer reliable. Unwittingly, I had crossed into a restricted area.

I was not destined to see Dreamland. Instead, I was confronted with a real-life nightmare.

Darting from behind two hills on either side of me, three white Jeep Cherokees emerged with the frightening suddenness of a Stealth bomber. Kicking up sand, the vehicles surrounded the Harley. Two camouflaged authority figures shot out of each vehicle, and one leveled a Colt pistol at me.

"Drop to your knees," he commanded. "Put both hands behind your head." I tried to find solid ground for the bike, but it went down in the sand. I followed, dropping to my knees in confused compliance. This was not the day I had planned.

After more than three hours of background checks, searches of me and the bike, lots of questions, and, of course, more questions, I was issued a sum-

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mons. This was no traffic ticket—this was a criminal offense, and I subsequently would be required to make an appearance in court in Alamo (unless I elected to plead guilty—not an option as far as I was concerned).

With a sheriff's deputy as my escort, I was finally allowed to remount the sand-covered bike. As I retraced my path back to the motel, the road I had traveled so excitedly just a few hours ago now seemed much longer.

Later that night, sitting in the Little A 'Le' Inn, which serves as Rachel's bar, restaurant, and motel office, I recounted my experiences to anyone who would listen. One of the locals quietly said that

*"You know," he said,  
almost robotically,  
"you know, I could tell you.  
But if I told you,  
I'd have to kill you."*

a man sitting alone at a table actually was an employee at the base—and a Harley rider.

Armed with our apparent common interest in motorcycles, I approached him, hoping to learn, at least second-hand, more about this mysterious government facility that I might never get to see. We chatted briefly about our Harleys and riding in the desert. Maybe my bike would help me get closer to Dreamland.

"So, I understand you work over at the base," I said as casually as I could. "What do you do over there?"

There was no question—his expression changed. The mood had changed, too. Whatever comradery I had managed to establish was now past. "You know," he said, almost robotically, "you know, I could tell you." (Really? Fantastic! Maybe I had misread his reaction after all.) "But if I told you," he continued calmly, "I'd have to kill you."

It had been a long day. I was ready for it to end. But not permanently. Clearly it was time for me to go to bed.

I had discovered twice in the same day that there are barriers, both physical and personal, that even a motorcycle cannot traverse. Maybe next summer I'll visit more accessible federal property—like the Grand Canyon. □

*Howard Siegel is an entertainment lawyer in New York City and an adjunct professor of law at Fordham Law School. He writes frequently about his motorcycle travels throughout Nevada.*

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# R&R at B&Bs

(Continued from page 22)

tours past the school and down Six Mile Canyon.

The oddly shaped **Crooked House** in Virginia City tempts passersby to take a peak inside. Crooked doorways and slanted hallways are the 1876 house's trademarks, but owners Glennda and Michael Wenzell say the house is structurally sound—it has been lifted, and cement now balances the old home.

An aromatic ghost named Rosie roams the rooms at the **Gold Hill Hotel**, one mile south of Virginia City. Owners Bill and Carol Fain say they don't mind her presence. In fact, Room 4 is named after Rosie and is decorated in pink and lace. The original "1859 section" of the hotel, where Rosie resides, has four small rooms and two baths. Across the hall is the "1986 section," where seven rooms have fireplaces, private baths, wet bars, balconies, and antiques. The Guest House Suites across the street are rented when the hotel is full. On Tuesday nights local historians present lectures in the Great Room downstairs.

The **Hardwicke House** is a handsome two-story stone structure on Main Street in Silver City, three miles south of Virginia City. Built in 1862, the Hardwicke has housed carriages, horses, an ice house, post office, general store, and dentist office. Ice-pick marks can be seen in the wooden beams downstairs in the kitchen, where owner Cleo Ross serves breakfast. The sitting parlor's bookshelves are filled with volumes ranging from Shakespeare to Nevada guidebooks.

At Incline Village, the **Haus Bavaria** is a Bavarian-style haven of peace and quiet. Tall pines shade the white-stucco home. Each of the five guest rooms opens onto a balcony, offering views of Lake Tahoe and the mountains. Owner Bick Hewitt serves a full breakfast.

Dating back to 1865, when it was known as Fort McGary, the **Soldier Meadows Bed and Breakfast** is a 14,000-acre ranch in the Black Rock Desert, 72 miles north of Gerlach. The original stone house has been refurbished, as has the willow corral and stone barn. Guests, who can sign up to help herd and brand cattle, wake up to ranch-style chow—eggs, bacon, potatoes, and pancakes.

The **Old Pioneer Garden** has been a fixture in downtown Unionville, a peaceful community 50 miles southwest of Winnemucca, since Lew and Mitzi Jones moved there 24 years ago. "We



Carol and Frank Bleuss greet their guests at the Parsonage House in Eureka.

## Sleeping in a Jewel Box

A stay at the Parsonage House in Eureka is a religious experience.

By David W Toll

When Frank and Carol Bleuss came to Eureka 14 years ago, they bought the old, long-closed Methodist Church, and Frank, a master wood worker, began restoring the old building. He set up a shop in the nave, with his planer and a turning lathe in the choir loft. The roof leaked so badly that they had to put the television in the old wood cookstove to keep it dry and move their bed around to avoid rapidly developing leaks. When they had restored the church, the Bleusses turned their attention to the parsonage next door.

Frank and Carol transformed the parsonage into a small but spacious honeymoon cottage. They paneled the living room with ash and trimmed it with Honduran mahogany. Then Frank made the furniture—the jewelry for the jewel box. That desk! It's made of rosewood and oak and combines classical design with fanciful touches.

Travelers often are surprised to discover this unique inn on Nevada's lonely Highway 50.

"It's not actually a bed and breakfast," Carol explains, "because we don't fix breakfast. Guests are always welcome to come over to the church and have a cup of coffee with us, and if they're lucky they can watch Frank create a piece of furniture. But most often they prefer to walk the block to Main Street for breakfast at the Owl or fix something for themselves. There is

a full kitchen and a large refrigerator, and Raine's Market has everything they need."

There is also a small cellar stocked with fine wines, much of it sent by guests from their own collections. Frank, who grew up in California's wine country, sometimes presents a bottle to honeymooners as a wedding gift.

And honeymooners will find much to enjoy in the Parsonage House besides one another. In addition to the modern kitchen and elegant living room, there is a luxurious bathroom with a tub big enough for Napoleon and Josephine—or Paul Bunyan and his blue ox Babe, for that matter. And in the bedroom a bed the size of Nye County (but softer) awaits.

My own last visit was in January, and I was, alas, alone. But it was delightful: Big chicken-feather snowflakes falling slowly, a thick lacy ever-descending curtain that veiled the lights of Main Street a block away and cloaked the Victorian shapes of the Jackson House, the Opera House, and the Eureka County Courthouse. In that gentle blizzard the warmth, charm, and elegance of the little cottage seemed even more delicious by contrast.

*David W. Toll of Gold Hill is the author of The Complete Nevada Traveler, now in its sixth edition.*

were on our way to Canada to see some property, and our friend told us to stop by Unionville," Mitzi says. "It was one of those places that gets under your skin, so we went back and bought our house." Guests stay at one of two nearby houses—the Bonnefield-Hadley House or the Ross House—and then converge on the Garden for breakfast in the Joneses' kitchen, where Mitzi serves pancakes, fresh fruit, and tasty egg dishes.

If you're flying across rural Nevada, you can land at the **Stonehouse Country Inn**, 35 miles north of Winnemucca near Paradise Valley. "We have a one-mile airstrip for those who come by plane," says owner Steve Lucas, who opened the inn five years ago. Lucas encourages guests to explore the scenic areas nearby and to bring their own horses. Each of the six rooms offers a view of the Santa Rosa Mountains. The living room has a cozy fireplace, antiques, and a collection of Nevada history books. Dinner and lunch are extra, but the menu is tempting: prime



The Robric Ranch in Yerington has flowers and fields.

rib, steak, lamb, pork, and seafood.

**Ruby Mountain Magic** is a 96-year-old building that originally was the hospital in the tiny town of Lamoille, 20 miles southeast of Elko. Guests include hikers and fishermen bound for Lamoille

Canyon and the Ruby Mountains. Mike and Larina Ulrich serve sourdough pancakes, eggs, meat, fruit, and a choice of pastries for breakfast.

The morning meal at **Tsawhawbitts Ranch** (pronounced "Ja-ha-bitts") in Jarbidge has an outdoor flavor. Chuck and Krinn McCoy fuel their guests for fishing and hiking with biscuits and gravy, pancakes, hash browns, bacon, eggs, and homemade bread. The house was built in 1970 as a hunting retreat for New York publisher Roscoe Fawcett.

The scene is pastoral at **Grandma's Farm House** just outside Metropolis, an agricultural ghost town nine miles north of Wells. LaRue Nixon and her husband Sterling, a retired Air Force pilot, returned a few years ago to this ranch where she grew up. Visitors

stay in one of the four rooms in the main house, and families often are placed in the two-bedroom bunkhouse. City folks clamor for a chance to swing from a rope into the pond. Guests also can use the paddleboats or fish for trout. Kids help gather eggs and feed the pigs, chickens, and ducks.

Budding buckaroos can camp with the cows at the **Cottonwood Guest House**, 70 miles north of Wells. The working ranch offers week-long cattle drives into the Jarbidge Wilderness near the Idaho border. Horace Smith and his family entertain guests with stories of life on the range and feed them breakfast, lunch, and dinner. For those guests not camping outdoors, the house has seven spacious rooms.

Jane Lindley of the **Stephoe Valley Inn** in East Ely has transformed an old grocery store into a traveler's repose. Roses, geraniums, and lilacs are planted everywhere. Inside, Lindley has decorated the rooms with rose-patterned wallpaper and quilts. The upstairs veranda offers a view of the Steptoe Valley and the nearby Nevada Northern Railway Museum. Lindley creates exotic appetizers and equally exotic breakfasts, such as a *ebelskiver*, which is a golfball-shaped pancake with a fruit center. Her husband Norman advises guests on the area's hiking trails and four-wheel-drive outings, ghost towns, garnet prospecting, and wildlife watching.

In Eureka, Frank and Carol Bleuss have restored the **Parsonage House**, a one-bedroom cottage built in 1886. The

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Maureen McClain and Steve Lucas host travelers staying at the Stonehouse Inn near Paradise Valley.

route in downtown Austin. Constructed of adobe in 1860, the rustic home has been refurbished and decorated with saddles, mail bags, and other pioneer relics. Owners Ray and Irene Salisbury call the two-bedroom house a "bed and fix-your-own breakfast." Guests need to bring their own fixings but will find silverware, dishes, a coffeepot, microwave, and electric stove.

**Almost Heaven** is perched at 7,000 feet in Kyle Canyon on Mount Charleston,

45 miles northwest of Las Vegas. "When I first saw the house, I thought this was a dream come true," says Tracy Hurst, who says she always wanted to run a B&B. The home features luxurious rooms and—unique to Nevada B&Bs—a house butler. Besides the 3,000-square-foot Great Room, Almost Heaven has

a spacious loft and a jacuzzi. Hurst offers gourmet meals and late-afternoon wine and hors d'oeuvres, which are served by butler Joon Shim. In each of the four romantic suites, you can curl up on a feather bed with a goose-down comforter near a fireplace.

*Katherine Limon is a University of Nevada, Reno journalism student. Carolyn Graham is Nevada's associate editor*

## The Buzz on B&Bs

Following is a sampling of Nevada's bed-and-breakfast inns. Most B&Bs require reservations and a deposit, a portion of which may not be refundable should your plans change. Credit cards are accepted at most inns. The area code is 702 throughout Nevada.

### AUSTIN

**Pony Express House**, 964-2306; 115 Northwest Main Street, Austin, NV 89310. \$35 per night. Guests rent entire two-room house and prepare their own breakfast.

### CARSON CITY

**Bliss Mansion**, 887-8988; 710 West Robinson, Carson City, NV 89703. \$195 to \$215, four

Bleusses live in the old church next door to the home, which has a kitchen, dining room, and living area as well as a wine cellar and a six-foot tub. A continental breakfast is served, or guests can make their own.

The **Pony Express House** stands smack-dab on the old Pony Express

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Butler Joon Shim serves hors d'oeuvres to owner Tracy Hurst at Almost Heaven.

rooms with private baths. Coffee and tea in room prior to four-course breakfast.

### ELY

**Step toe Valley Inn**, 289-8687 or 435-1196 (October-May); 220 East 11th Street, Box 151110, East Ely, NV 89315-1110. Open June through September. \$79 to \$85 per couple. Five rooms, all with private baths. Exotic breakfasts.

### EUREKA

**Parsonage House**, 237-5756; 10223 Spring Street, Box 99, Eureka, NV 89316. \$54 per night for one-bedroom cottage. Continental or "make your own" breakfast.

### GARDNERVILLE

**Nenzel Mansion**, 782-7644; 1431 Ezell, Gardnerville, NV 89410. \$80 to \$130. Four rooms, two with private baths. Full breakfast.

### GENOA

**Antonucci's Wild Rose Inn**, 782-5697; 2332 Main Street, Box 256, Genoa, NV 89411. \$95 to \$130. Five rooms with private baths. Full breakfast buffet and afternoon wine. Rate includes use of Walley's Hot Springs.

**Genoa House Inn**, 782-7075; 180 Nixon Street, Box 141, Genoa, NV 89411. \$105 to \$130. Three rooms with private baths. Coffee tray at door followed by full breakfast. Rate includes use of Walley's Hot Springs.

**Walley's Hot Springs**, 782-8155 or 800-628-7831; 2001 Foothill Road, Box 26, Genoa, NV 89411, 1-1/2 miles south of Genoa. \$85 to \$120, includes full spa privileges. Five small cottages. Continental breakfast is \$3.

### GERLACH

**Soldier Meadows Bed and Breakfast**, call 800-228-0279 for B&B or 415-456-8600 to book a working-ranch vacation; Box 156, Gerlach, NV 89412, 72 miles north of Gerlach (60 miles on gravel road). \$40 for B&B, dinner is \$10; working ranch, meals, and lodging is \$100 per day. 10-room Bunkhouse, three-room Stonehouse, shared bathrooms. Full breakfast.

### INCLINE VILLAGE

**Haus Bavaria**, 831-6122 or 800-731-6222; 593 North Dyer Circle, Box 3308, Incline Village, NV 89450. \$110 to \$145 per night. Five rooms with private baths. Full breakfast. Access to private beach.

### JARBIDGE

**Tsawhawbits Ranch**, 488-2338; Box

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You'll enjoy staying at Grandma's Farm House in a quiet, country setting with a pond for fishing, boating, and swimming. Kids love to gather the eggs, feed the pigs, chickens, and ducks, and pet the kittens. The family can hike in the canyon and visit a ghost town. At day's end, watch a sunset from the front porch. Hunt in the fall. Hosts: Sterling & LaRue Nixon.

Metropolis Road • HC 62 Box 300 • Wells, NV 89835  
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### The Crooked House



Built in 1870 and completely restored in 1995, the three guest rooms have been decorated reminiscent of the 1800s Comstock era. Veranda views overlooking Virginia City's National Historic District, and 100-mile views of Nevada's mountains and valleys from the front porch. A full breakfast is included. Hosts: Glenna & Mike Wenzell.

Reservations: 702-847-0521  
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260090, Jarbidge, NV 89826. \$65 per room in main house, which has five rooms and two baths; also three-bedroom, two-bath cabin for \$100 to \$230 and one-room, one-bath cabin for \$150. Full breakfast.

### LAMOILLE

**Ruby Mountain Magic**, 753-9688; Box 281153, Lamoille, NV 89828, Lamoille Highway. \$85 to \$125 depending on season, two rooms with private baths. Full breakfast.

### LAS VEGAS AREA

**Almost Heaven**, 872-0711; 123 Rainbow Canyon Boulevard, Mount Charleston, NV 89124. \$199 to \$499. Four rooms with private baths. Full breakfast.

### RENO AREA

**Bed and Breakfast-South Reno**, 849-0772; 136 Andrew Lane, Reno, NV 89511. \$75 to \$85, two rooms with private baths. Ranch-style breakfast.

**Snug Inn at H Bar B Farms**, 475-0100; 2100

## Bathrobe Alert:

Sharing baths is normal at many B&Bs. "Most B&Bs are patterned after the European style, so homes were not built with private bathrooms," says Cleo Ross of the Hardwicke House. "Here, guests have to share the one bath." So bring a bathrobe.

Right Hand Canyon Road, Palomino Valley, Reno, NV 89510, about 25 miles northeast of Reno-Sparks off State Route 445. \$65 per night, extra for full breakfast and dinner. One room and bath. Continental breakfast. Evening beer, wine, and cheese.

### PARADISE VALLEY

**Stonehouse Country Inn**, 578-3530; State Route 290, Box 77 Paradise Valley, NV 89426. \$50 to \$85 per night. Six rooms, four with private baths. Breakfast is continental, but a full breakfast is available upon request.

### SMITH AND MASON VALLEYS

**Arbor House**, 463-2991; 39 North Center, Yerington, NV 89447 \$75 per night. One room. Continental breakfast.

**Hoye Mansion**, 465-2959; 2827 State Route 208, Box 85, Wellington, NV 89444. \$70 to \$85. Five rooms share two baths. Guests have option of a Hey Day Inn breakfast, which is included in the room rate.

**Robric Ranch**, 463-2998; Box 2, Yerington, NV 89447 five miles south of Yerington. \$65 per couple; \$45 for singles. Two-room cottage. Full ranch breakfast.



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**Smith Valley Bed and Breakfast**, 465-2222; 2400 State Route 208, 31 Rivers Road, Smith, NV 89430, between Smith and Wellington. \$55 to \$65; the entire house rents for \$155. Three rooms, one with a private bath. A "do it yourself" breakfast.

### UNIONVILLE

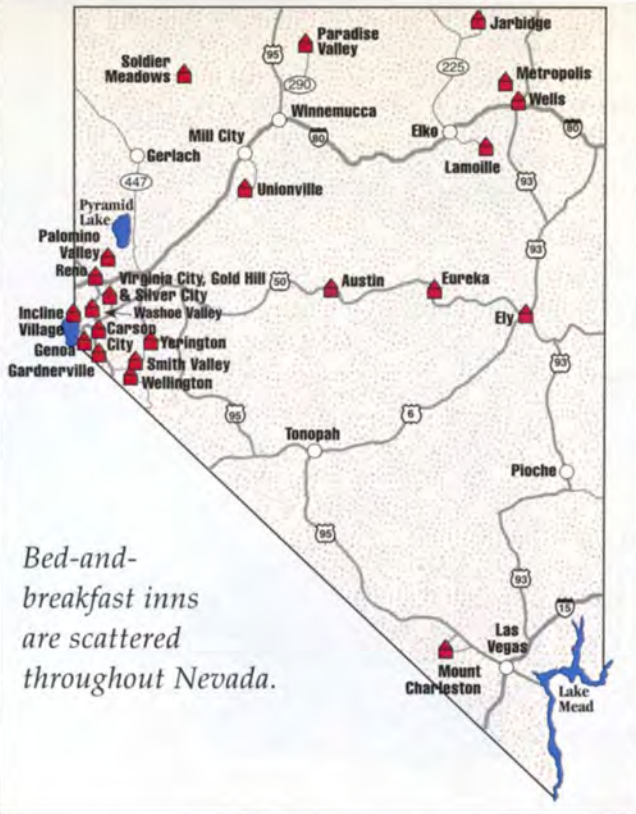
**Old Pioneer Garden**, 538-7585; 2805 Unionville Road, Unionville, NV 89418. \$65 to \$75. Hadley House has six rooms, one with private bath, or rent entire Ross House, which has three rooms. Can also rent the Tack Room in the barn next to the Garden. Full breakfast.

### VIRGINIA CITY AREA

**Chollar Mansion**, 847-9777; 565 South D Street, Virginia City NV 89440. \$70. Mansion has three rooms and two private baths. Also can rent adjacent one-bedroom cottage for \$125. Full breakfast.

**Crooked House**, 847-0521; 8 South F Street, Box 860, Virginia City, NV 89440. \$45 to \$95 depending on the room and season. Three rooms with private baths. Full breakfast.

**Gold Hill Hotel**, 847-0111; 1540 South Main Street, Box 710, Virginia City, NV 89440, one mile south of Virginia City. \$40 to \$120 per night (rates can go up to \$135 during holidays or special events). The "1859 section" has four



*Bed-and-breakfast inns are scattered throughout Nevada.*

rooms with two private baths. The 1986 addition has seven rooms with private baths and two suites with private baths. Continental breakfast.

**Hardwicke House**, 847-0215; 99 Main Street, Box 96, Silver City, NV 89428. \$35 to \$55

per night. Three rooms, one with private half bath; all rooms share shower and sitting room. Full breakfast.

### WASHOE VALLEY

**Deer Run Ranch**, 882-3643; 5440 Eastlake Boulevard, Carson City NV 89704. \$80 to \$95. Two rooms with private baths. Full breakfast.

**Winters Creek Inn**, 849-3500; 1201 Highway 395 North, Carson City, NV 89704, 10 miles north of Carson City. \$95 and \$115. One room with private bath; one suite with bath, deck, and library. Full breakfast.

### WELLS

**Cottonwood Guest House**, 488-2355; HC 62, Box 1300, Wells, NV 89835, 70 miles north of Wells. \$95; \$995 for six-day pack trips July through September. Cattle drives of three to five days cost \$125 per day. Seven rooms with private baths. Room price includes a full breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

**Grandma's Farm House**, 752-3065; HC 62, Box 300, Wells, NV 89835, nine miles north of Wells in

Metropolis. \$65 for adults, \$15 for children 12 and under in their own room. Four rooms, two with private baths in farmhouse and two rooms with one bath in bunkhouse. Full breakfast. □

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# The Elephant Man

(Continued from page 19)

wild they'd walk many miles every day to catch food, and they'd wear down their feet naturally," he says. "But in captivity even the largest zoo doesn't have enough room for them to wear down."

Dental work is also a large task. When the elephants' two incisor teeth—called tushes—grow jagged, Bloomer files them down. Bertha and Angel are both female Asian elephants, so their tushes remain stunted. On male Asian elephants, and on both male and female African elephants, those same teeth grow into tusks.

Bertha eats 100 pounds of food a day, Angel about half as much. They feast on hay, carrots, lettuce, apples, and two special treats: watermelon and bananas.

**Bertha eats 100 pounds of food a day, Angel about half as much.**

After Bloomer dumps the food in front of them, the elephants wait for him to examine it for debris. Once he gives the OK, each takes her share with her trunk.

At night, all is peaceful in the elephant barn. Angel sleeps the entire night. Bertha sleeps four or five hours lying down and then naps the rest of the night on her feet. As the oldest female, Bertha must remain alert for predators.

Bloomer can coax Bertha to trumpet. "Bertha, speak," he says, and she belts out a sound louder than the loudest car horn.

The elephants trumpet also when they want attention. Once, when Bloomer and Bertha were practicing their routine in the back yard, Angel remained inside the barn, peeking out the open door. After five minutes of watching her friends' routine, Angel trumpeted her frustration as if to say, "Hey, what about me?"

The elephants may trumpet, but most often they purr. When Bloomer pets Bertha, cooing, "Good Giiiir!" she purrs contentedly, her lower face vibrating with the sound. "Some people have heard her purring loud and said she sounds like she's growling," he says. "They thought she was mad."

As an elephant trainer, Bloomer took a roundabout route to his current job.

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After earning a degree in animal science from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, he volunteered at the San Francisco Zoo. When zoo administrators discovered he knew sign language, he began working with a researcher who was teaching a gorilla how to sign.

Next came a summer job at Marine World Africa USA, where he worked with elephants and emus. Then he joined a zoo in Virginia—his first full-time job working with exotic animals. He later worked at the Brookfield Zoo near Chicago and a Little Rock, Arkansas, zoo before joining the San Diego Wild Animal Park to work with elephants and camels. In 1984, after two of Bloomer's elephant-trainer friends recommended him, he became the Nugget's elephant expert.

Bloomer says he loves every aspect of his job, but one of his favorites is teaching visitors about the plight of elephants in the wild. In Africa, poachers kill elephants for the ivory in their tusks. He hopes that seeing Bertha and Angel up close will discourage visitors from buying ivory.

Bloomer, who says he is always amazed at the elephants' intelligence, uses treats, praise, and persistence when teaching them new tricks. "It's a lot of

manipulating their bodies until they figure out what you want them to do," he says. "It's like having a pet dog. When you want the dog to sit, you push its rear end down. Then you praise them and give them a treat."

The food reward isn't so important with Bertha and Angel, he says. "It's mostly that they are herd animals, and they consider me the leader of the herd and their best friend. It's important to them that I show approval.

"If I wasn't a good friend of theirs, they wouldn't care if I said, 'Good girl,' or not. If we didn't have that strong social bond, it wouldn't be safe for me to work with them, and I wouldn't be able to get them to do all the stuff they do."

Bloomer trusts the elephants almost as much as they trust him. When the Nugget was building its new tower, Bloomer and Bertha would take a detour through what used to be the hotel's bus-loading area. Every day the wind blasted Bloomer as he rounded the building. So Bloomer closed his eyes, letting Bertha lead him.

"Then, after weeks of doing this, I happened to look at her," Bloomer says. "She had her eyes closed, too." □

*Kim Pryor is a Lake Tahoe writer*



**At the elephant barn's pool, visitors can watch Bertha (at left) and Angel take a swim in warm weather.**

## Elephant Sightings

**V**isitors have several chances to meet the biggest stars at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks.

Twice daily, Bertha and Angel stroll down Victorian Avenue. The elephants' first trek is unscheduled, but the second usually takes place about 7:15 p.m. as they walk to the showroom for their 8 o'clock show.

In warm weather, around 1 p.m., visitors can watch Bertha and Angel splashing in their back-yard pool in the parking lot on the corner of 14th Street and Nugget Avenue. Also,

the elephant barn is open for visiting most days starting at 10 a.m. In case Bertha and Angel are performing at an event, call 702-356-3316 first to confirm.

The elephants appear with trainer Don Bloomer as the Celebrity Showroom's opening act at 8 p.m. nightly, with an additional show at 10:30 p.m. Saturday. On Bloomer's days off (usually Tuesday and Wednesday) assistant Jim Sanford performs with Bertha and Angel.

—Kim Pryor



Key Pittman was a powerful politician—and legendary as a hard drinker—when he ran for reelection in 1940.

# The Mysterious Demise of Key Pittman

Was the late U.S. senator really preserved on ice in a Tonopah hotel room?  
A historian looks at the longstanding mystery. By Guy Louis Rocha

One of Nevada's most enduring historical myths involves Key Pittman, the dapper Tonopah lawyer who served 28 years in the U.S. Senate. According to the bizarre tale, Pittman died just before the election of 1940, prompting prominent Democrats to pack his body in ice in the bathtub of his Tonopah hotel room until the balloting was over. His Republican opponent, perennial candidate Samuel Platt of Carson City, firmly believed to his last day that he had been beaten by a dead man.

That story, with some variations, has been told in newspapers, speeches, barrooms, and even restaurant menus ever since. *The Green Felt Jungle*, published in 1963, went so far as to report

that "cracked" ice had been used to preserve the senator.

I heard a version of the story shortly after joining the staff of the Nevada His-

There had to be something to the rumor besides Nevada-style partisan politics.

torical Society in Reno as curator of manuscripts in 1976. I learned that the tale was accepted as fact by many

Nevadans. Even Andy Welliver, Reno's police chief in 1940 and the husband of a former director of the historical society, swore it was true. I thought there had to be something to the rumor besides Nevada-style partisan politics. What was the story behind the myth? As it turned out, new evidence, an old acquaintance, and a little luck would shed light on the mysterious circumstances surrounding Pittman's death.

In his day, Key Pittman was one of Nevada's most popular politicians. An attorney, he had spent time in the Klondike gold fields and in Nome, Alaska. Later he made his name and fortune during the Tonopah-Goldfield mining boom in the early 1900s. Elected

six times to the U.S. Senate beginning in 1912, he wielded great power as the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee prior to World War II. He also was a mining man and was responsible for the Pittman Silver Acts, which provided for federally subsidized silver prices to support mining in Nevada and the intermountain West. President Franklin Roosevelt considered Pittman, who was president pro tempore of the Senate, one of his closest political allies.

Pittman also was legendary as a hard drinker. Stories of his prodigious drinking bouts were widely circulated, particularly in 1933 when he attended the London Monetary Conference as a member of the U.S. delegation. While his wife Mimosa stayed home in the states, the senator reportedly entertained two women of questionable character who were later evicted from his hotel. A waiter claimed that Pittman went through the pantries, presumably looking for liquor. It was also reported that he enjoyed shooting out London street lights with his six-shooter.

On another evening, Lady Nancy Astor gave a sumptuous dinner for the American delegation. When the men went into the library following the meal, Pittman was absent. Suddenly, uncontrolled laughter was heard coming from the drawing room where the women were meeting. The men went to investigate and found the senator tickling Lady Astor. Despite his high jinks, Pittman served Nevada's and the country's interests well until alcoholism got the best of him in his final years.

I encountered an important clue about the mystery surrounding Pittman's death in 1979, when Reno's Ross-Burke & Knobel Mortuary offered the historical society copies of old death certificates it had on file.

While picking up the files, it struck me that Pittman's death certificate might be among them. It was! I read the entries with anticipation. According to his death certificate, Pittman officially had died of "congestive heart failure" at Washoe General Hospital in Reno five days after the election. The certificate and cause of death both seemed legitimate, although if a body had been kept on ice somewhere, who would record it?

I looked for the name of the reporting physician, and, to my astonishment, dis-

covered it was Dr. A.J. "Bart" Hood, who was still alive and residing in Reno. I had met Bart Hood when he gave the society a family collection related to his father, who became Nevada's first licensed physician in 1899. I pondered how to approach Dr. Hood to ask what actually happened to Pittman, particularly if the doctor had participated in the cover-up of a U.S. senator's death.

In the meantime, I showed the death certificate to a mortician at Ross-Burke & Knobel and asked, "If Pittman had been kept on ice, would there have been evidence of freezing on the body?" He said there would have been freeze damage to the skin tissues, yet the death record made no mention of it. Of course, if the



Dr. A.J. "Bart" Hood attended during Pittman's final days. Later, he told the author what really happened.

senator had been kept on ice to deceive the voters of Nevada, I didn't expect to find the whole truth on the certificate.

The time to speak with Dr. Hood came sooner than I had expected. Bart had come to the society to make another donation, and I was careful about broaching the subject of Pittman's peculiar demise. I discreetly asked Dr. Hood about his prominent patients during Reno's heyday in the 1920s and '30s. I finally told him about the sensational stories I had heard about Pittman's death and that I found them incredible.

Dr. Hood, then 84, looked at me with a twinkle in his eye, smiled, and said, "Son, do you want to know what really

happened?" I said, of course, trying to suppress my elation. Most of the original players in the tale had died, and Bart apparently felt he had nothing to lose or hide late in life by telling his story.

According to Dr. Hood's version of Pittman's final days, the senator was in the last stage of the 1940 campaign and staying at the Riverside Hotel in downtown Reno. He did not stay at the Mapes Hotel, as some stories have it—the Mapes would not be completed for another seven years. Nor was he staying at the Mizpah Hotel in Tonopah, as the hotel's Key Pittman Restaurant menu once claimed, citing *The Green Felt Jungle* as its source.

At the Riverside, Pittman fell ill after another one of his drinking binges, and Dr. Hood was monitoring his condition. Pittman's drinking had even his rivals on edge. A political confidant of Patrick McCarran, the junior U.S. senator from Nevada, wrote McCarran that "if [Pittman] continues to try to drink the entire supply of John Barleycorn and keeps making a fool out of himself, no one can tell what will happen. He has been drunk practically every day he has been in the State of Nevada, and last Monday night [October 21] he appeared at a Democratic rally in Sparks, at which time he had to hold himself up in order to stand."

Pittman was so inebriated on Friday, November 1, that he missed the final Democratic campaign parade and rally in Reno. Albert E. Cahlan, state Democratic chairman and managing editor of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, told the press that Pittman could not attend the meeting due to a serious illness in the senator's family (a statement that was, at least, literally true).

On November 4, the night before the election, Bart Hood received a phone call from a Pittman aide at the Riverside who informed the doctor the senator had passed out, dead drunk, on the living-room floor in his suite. Arriving within minutes, the doctor discovered that Pittman not only was in a drunken stupor but also appeared to have had a massive heart attack.

Pittman was secretly rushed to Washoe General Hospital. Dr. Hood insisted that a heart specialist from San Francisco be flown to Reno to conduct further examinations. The specialist



Governor E.P. "Ted" Carville (left) appointed Berkeley Bunker to Pittman's Senate seat. Pat McCarran (right) became the undisputed boss of Nevada politics upon the death of Key Pittman, a rival and fellow senator.

arrived early the next day. Upon examining Pittman, the doctor reported that Key was in a terminal condition and might not even survive long enough to know the election result. Pittman certainly would never serve again in Washington, D.C., if he were to be reelected U.S. senator from Nevada.

Upon hearing the news, Governor Edward P. "Ted" Carville, a Democrat, and members of the State Democratic Central Committee decided not to tell the press that Pittman had suffered a life-threatening heart attack so as not to jeopardize his reelection. After Pittman's death, Governor Carville would then be able to appoint a Democrat to the vacant Senate seat. News reports on election day stated that Pittman had been hospitalized and would not be able to travel to Tonopah to cast his vote as was his custom. Reno's *Nevada State Journal* quoted Dr. Hood as saying that "the Senator was suffering from sheer exhaustion and fatigue, and the strain of the campaign through the state has been too much for 'an already overworked condition' The Senator's condition is not critical, but he will be kept in the hospital several days, principally for the rest."

On election day, November 5, only a few people were aware of Pittman's true condition. He won handily, by a vote of 31,351 to 20,488, over poor Sam Platt; it was Pittman's third and largest victory over the former U.S. attorney for Nevada.

The senator's wife, Mimosa, arrived at his bedside on election day from Washington, D.C. Her journal stated that she saw Pittman alive: "Went straight to hospital with Dr. Hood. Key happy." However Pittman, at age 68, lapsed into a coma on November 9 and died shortly after midnight the next day.

Thus, although Pittman's body had not been kept on ice, Nevadans had elected a terminally ill man to the U.S. Senate.

Democratic Party leaders soon began to fight over who would be appointed to Pittman's seat. Initially, Ted Carville wanted to resign as governor and have Democratic Lieutenant Governor Maurice Sullivan, as acting governor, appoint him to the U.S.

Senate. But Carville's wife, Irma, would not support his ambition. While Senator McCarran, a Pittman foe, tried to influence the governor's decision, Nevada's lone Congressman and former governor James G. Scrugham asked to be appointed to the vacant seat. After talking with Carville, Las Vegas newspaperman Al Cahlan believed he was in line for the appointment. A host of other prominent Democrats sought the position.

Carville, after much anguish, surprised everyone by appointing Berkeley Bunker, the 34-year-old speaker of the State Assembly, to the vacant Senate seat on November 26. Bunker, a Mormon bishop and service-station owner from Las Vegas, had helped Carville

carry Clark County in the election of 1938. As a Southern Nevadan, Bunker also provided the desired regional balance among the state's U.S. senators since McCarran was from Reno.

Most aspirants and political pundits were shocked at the decision. Cahlan felt betrayed. Vail Pittman, Key's younger brother and publisher of the *Ely Daily Times*, claimed the powers-that-be had given away what was rightfully his. "[T]he Governor chose to give the high

On election day, only a few people were aware of Pittman's true condition.

post to a filling station owner," wrote Pittman, adding that "it was purely a political appointment, with the idea of placating and obtaining the Mormon vote."

In another game of political musical chairs five years later, Vail Pittman became Nevada's chief executive when Carville resigned the governorship. Then Pittman, as lieutenant and acting governor, appointed Carville to the U.S. Senate seat vacated when James Scrugham died in office.



Pittman (right) and Vice President John Garner chat with President Franklin Roosevelt after the signing of the Neutrality Act in 1939.

Bunker's brief Senate tenure had come to an end after Scrugham beat him in the 1942 Democratic primary. Bunker rebounded to be elected Nevada's lone Congressman in 1944, but two years later Pat McCarran persuaded Bunker to run against his former benefactor, Ted Carville, in the Senate primary. Bunker defeated Carville, but the party was badly splintered, and Bunker lost the general election to Republican George W. "Molly" Malone. Thus, Key Pittman's death precipitated years of divisiveness for Democrats and left McCarran the undisputed king of Nevada politics.

On the Sunday morning Key Pittman died, President Roosevelt sent Mimoso a telegram expressing his shock and grief at the "sudden and unexpected passing of my old friend Key." Pittman's death was formally announced to Congress on November 12. Three days later, the largest state ceremonial funeral in Nevada history was held in Reno, and Pittman was laid to rest in Mountain View Cemetery.

At a memorial service for Pittman in Washington, D.C., Berkeley Bunker

gave a warm speech, remembering how as a boy in St. Thomas—a "little frontier town in Nevada"—he had seen Pittman for the first time. Bunker also recalled Key's roots in the mining town of Tonopah:

"A few days ago I visited Senator Pittman's home town. I found many of his old-time friends, their hands scarred

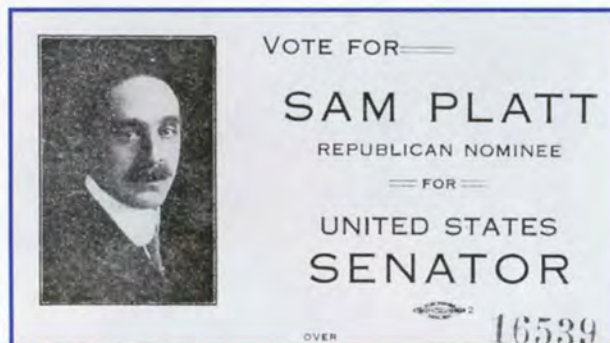
kind words, departed the stage with more dignity than the bathtub-full-of-ice story would suggest. That tale, likely spread by Republicans and other political opponents, probably was sparked by the real-life delaying tactics of the associates who kept his weakened condition a secret from the public.

As we have seen, the evidence indicates that the senator died after the election of 1940, not before. Dr. Hood, who died in 1980 at age 85, was at the center of events, and his account is supported by documents and reports. Ninety-year-old Berkeley Bunker, who still lives in Las Vegas, is the last surviving player in the 1940 drama, but he declines to comment.

The story of Key Pittman's mysterious demise has never been laid to rest, especially among old-time Nevadans, and

it may never be. After all, that is the nature of folklore. Once a story gains a place in the public mind, it takes on a life of its own. □

*Guy Louis Rocha of Carson City is the state archivist and a frequent writer on historical Nevada subjects.*



Sam Platt fought a futile campaign against Pittman.

with years of toil, who spoke affectionately of their 'friend, Key. One of them put into words to me the feeling that is so much a part of them all. He said: 'I voted for him the first time he ever ran, and for 30 years I've been voting the same way.'"

And so Pittman, remembered with

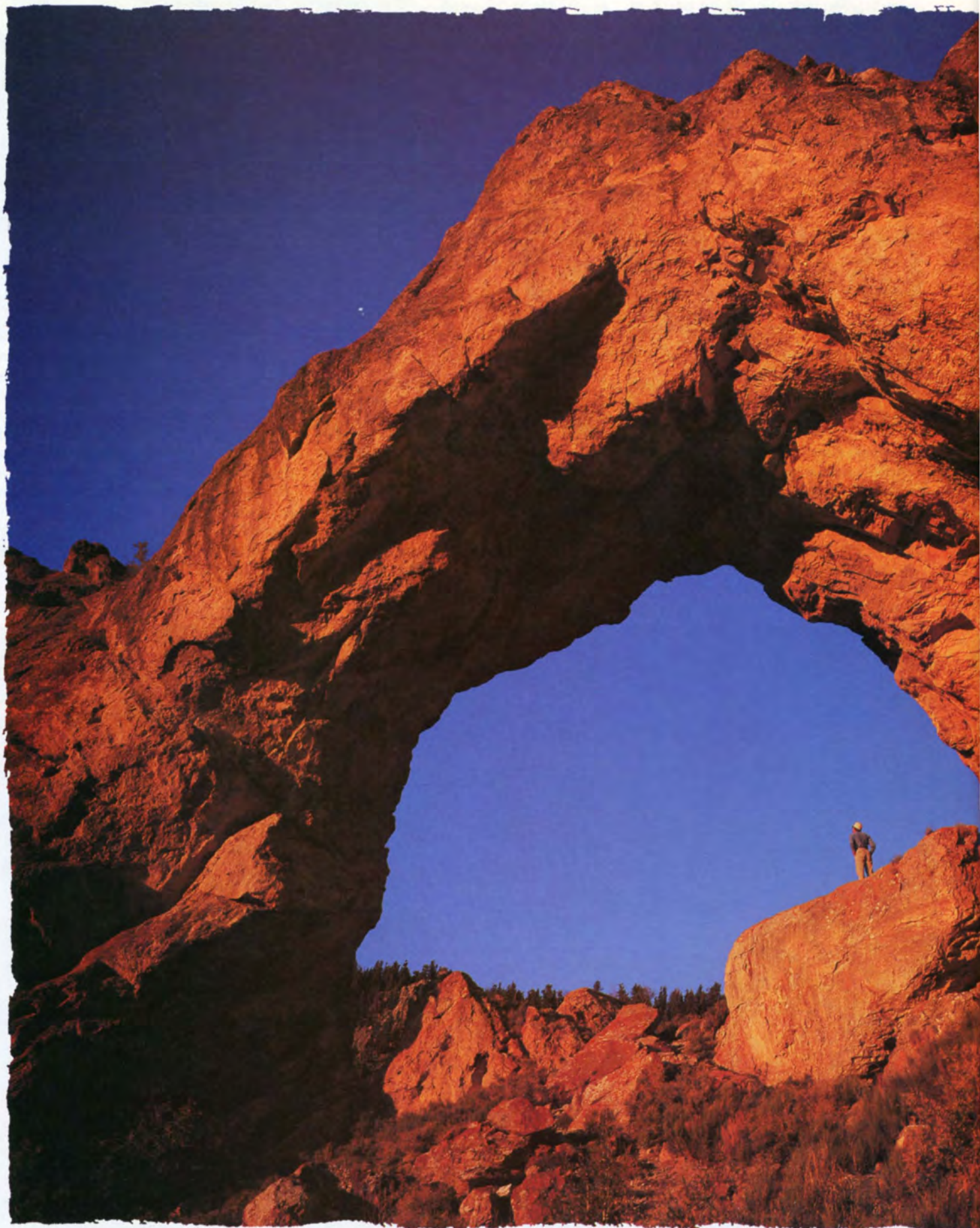
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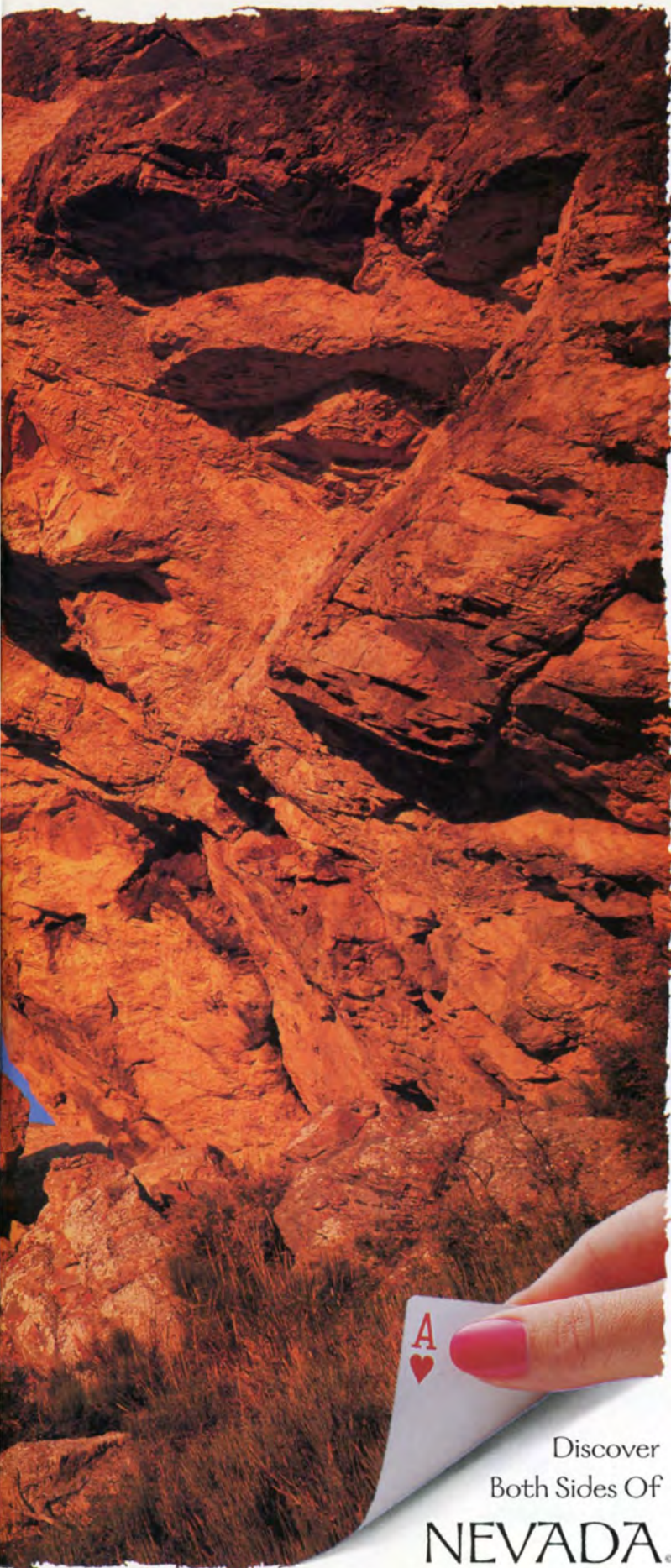


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# A Town's Time Capsule

McGill Drug, now a public museum, is frozen in time.

By Dan Robrish

Step into a time machine dialed to the decade of Watergate and disco, and you'll find yourself in a place like McGill Drug.

McGill Drug, which stands on the east side of U.S. 93 in downtown McGill, 12 miles north of Ely, is an old, rural drugstore frozen in time by the refusal of its late pharmacist and his widow to throw anything away.

Brand names whose luster faded decades ago remain on the store's shelves. Tubes of Ipana toothpaste sit across the aisle from jars of Dippity-Do, an industrial-strength styling gel used to hold a woman's hair in place several inches above her head.

Top Flight kites, a 1965 *World Almanac*, and old birthday cards let visitors imagine what it was like to make impulse purchases 20 or 30 years ago. Ukulele strings remain in the back near dozens of old White Owl cigar boxes that pharmacist Jerry Culbert used to keep records of who owed how much for what prescriptions.

The store quit filling prescriptions in 1979 when Culbert died. His wife Elsa kept the store open sporadically until her death in 1984.

Elsa Culbert's estate recently gave the store to the White Pine Public Museum in Ely. Museum officials and a team of volunteers conducted an inventory, opened the store to the public in July, and hope to keep it open during the fall this year. Admission is free (phone 702-289-4710 for more information). At the store, volunteers can tell visitors about other historic sites in McGill, which was a bustling, ethnically diverse copper-mill town before Ken-



McGill Drug's soda fountain remains a hangout. Above, Tim Goddard and Christie Ball take a step back in time.

necott pulled out in the 1980s.

"This drugstore was one of the first buildings in McGill," says Dick Goddard, director of the White Pine museum and enthusiastic curator of McGill Drug. "It opened in 1906 and continued to operate as a pharmacy until 1979." The Culberts took over the store in the 1940s. Goddard points out that the pharmacy was one of the few places in town where citizens from all ethnic groups shopped and mingled.

Customers used not only store-bought drugs but also home remedies,

many of which were mixed in the store. "Some of those tonics run 20-percent alcohol or higher," Goddard notes.

Goddard says the store's layout also interests him. The ice-cream counter and

popular items such as stationery supplies were up front. Other things were hidden—condoms, for example. "It took us weeks to find those," Goddard said. The only person who knew where to find them was a volunteer who used to work in the store as a clerk. Culbert, who died before the discovery of AIDS, kept them in the back of a drawer behind the pharmacy counter.

The museum's volunteers unearthed ancient cartons of Coca-Cola syrup, packages of Sylvania Blue Dot flashbulbs, and Schick razors. Also gathering dust was a child's plaid lunch box that was left there and forgotten. The name written in the box says, "Danny Papez." Dan L. Papez, as he is now known, is one of two district judges presiding at the Ely courthouse.

The future jurist left his lunch box at the store in the late 1950s. "I was in first or second grade," Papez recalls. "I got into trouble with my mom for losing my lunch box. It disappeared. I didn't know what happened to it."

Papez says that whenever he had an extra dime as a youngster, he rode his bicycle to the store to buy a Marvel comic. "They had the best supply of comic books in McGill," he says, adding, "It was just one of those small-town places where people stopped and had fun. I have nothing but fond memories of the McGill drugstore."

Goddard asked Papez if he wanted his old lunch box back, but the judge decreed, "That lunch box needs to stay here." Jerry and Elsa Culbert would have approved. □

Dan Robrish moved to Nevada from Minneapolis in January to take a job as the only reporter for the Ely Daily Times. He says he's still adjusting to his first home in a community of fewer than a million people.



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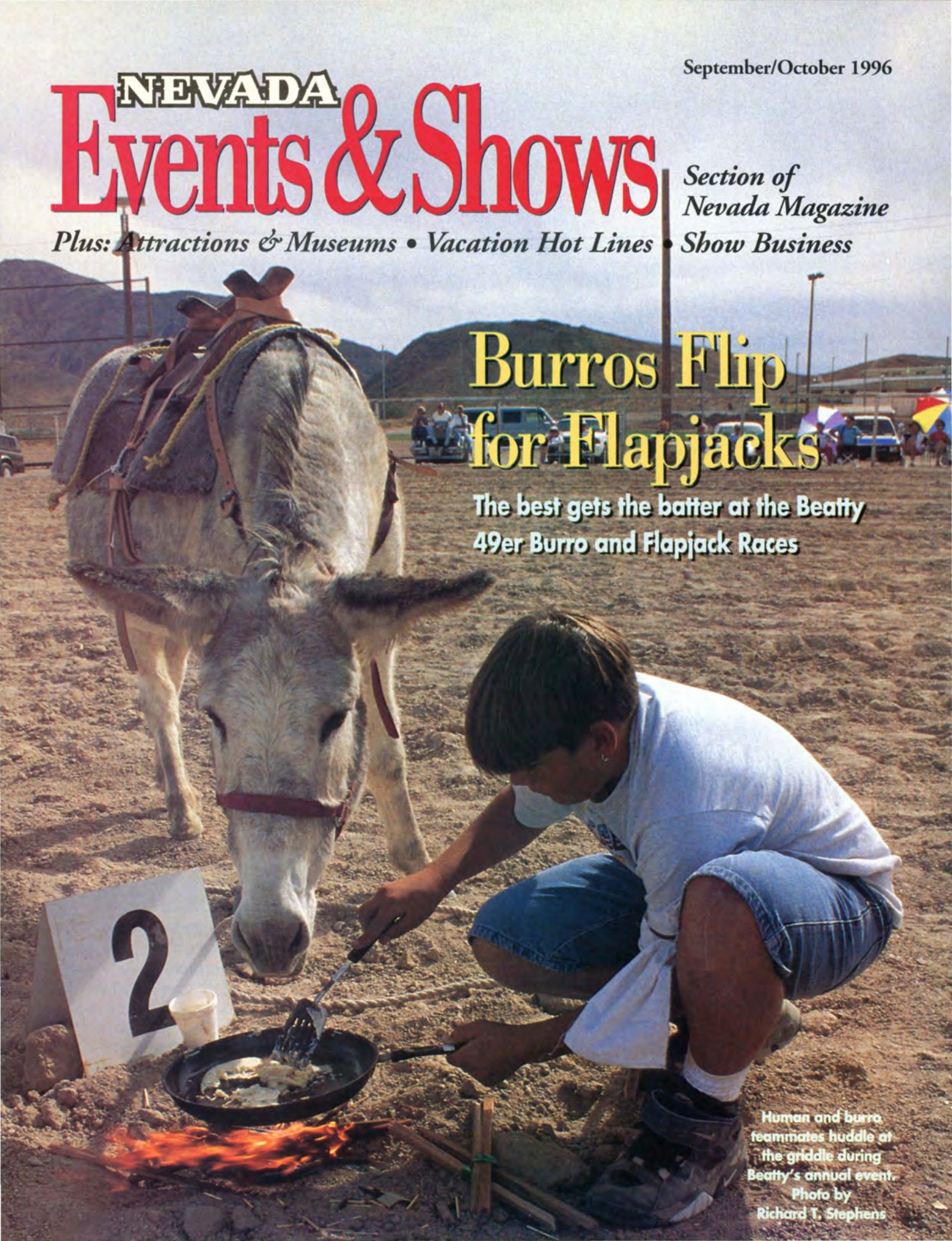
# NEVADA Events & Shows

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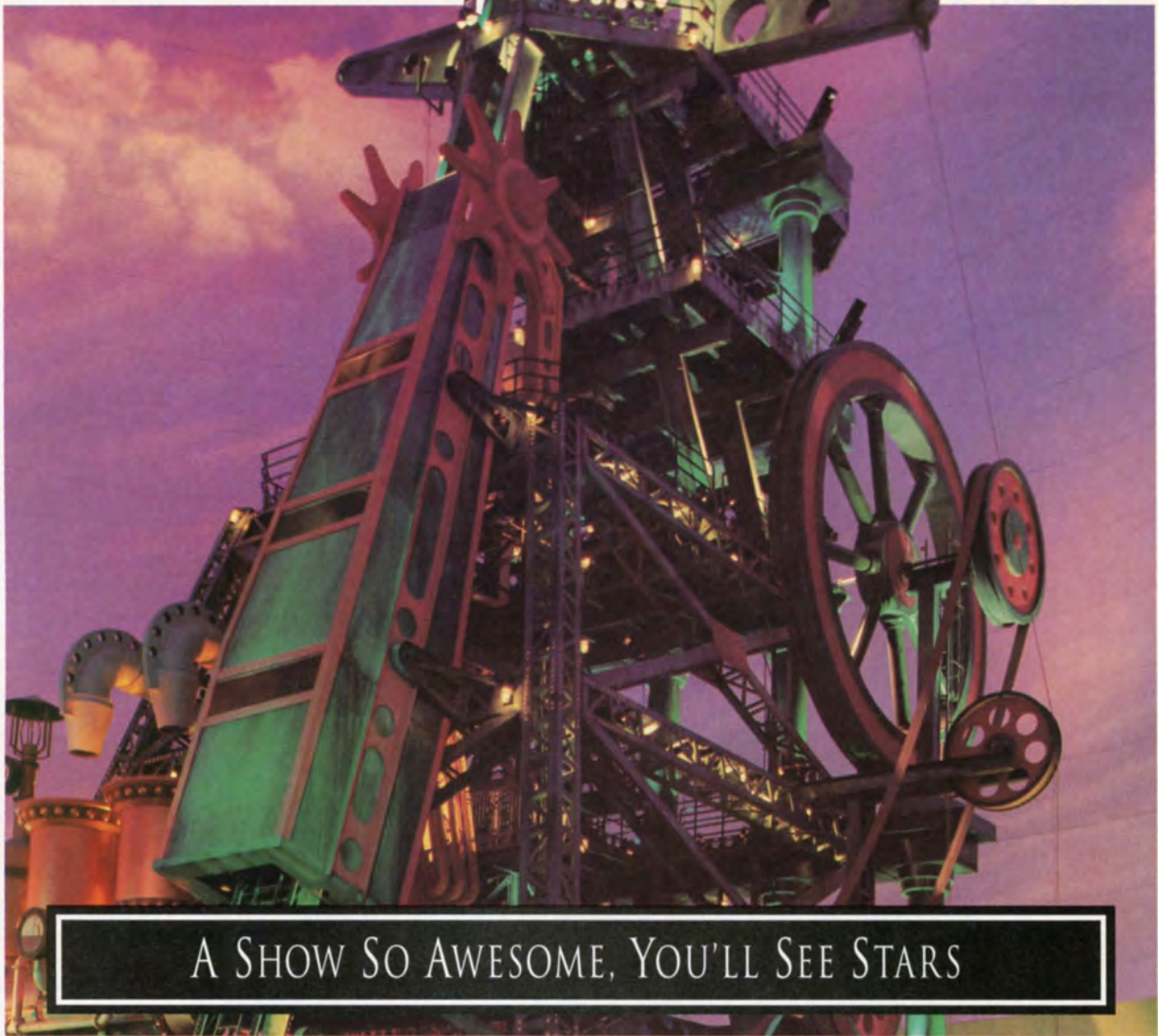
Section of  
Nevada Magazine

## Burros Flip for Flapjacks

The best gets the batter at the Beatty  
49er Burro and Flapjack Races

A photograph showing a man in a white t-shirt and blue shorts crouching on the ground, cooking flapjacks on a black griddle over a small fire. A white burro is standing next to him, looking at the food. A sign with the number '2' is visible on the ground. The background shows a dirt field with other people and vehicles, suggesting an outdoor event.

Human and burro  
teammates huddle at  
the griddle during  
Beatty's annual event.  
Photo by  
Richard T. Stephens



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Righteous Bros.  
 Oct. 25 & 26

COMING  
 ATTRACTIONS

Bob Newhart  
 September 7

Bo Diddley  
 September 21

America  
 September 30

Everly Brothers  
 October 18 & 19



Contestant Paulette Dawson faces the reality of the Beatty 49er Burro and Flapjack Races. Like their forebears, the burros of Beatty have never been to obedience school.

# Burros Brace for Beatty Batter Battle

Beatty's "flapjack race" winners are not necessarily determined by foot speed or culinary skill. Story by K.J. Evans, photos by Richard T. Stephens

**B**urro racing, the equine equivalent of professional wrestling, is returning to Beatty, the town that made the sport famous. The 49er-style competition, an annual event until the 1970s, was revived in 1993. This year's Beatty 49er Burro and Flapjack Races will take place on Saturday, October 26, in the former freighting camp 115 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

Typically, the event involves four to six burro-human teams and six to 10 races. Virtually anyone familiar with burros and flapjacks can enter, says Alpheus C. Bruton, Beatty resident and veteran burro racer.

"I entered, but I didn't do too well," he

laughs. In burro racing, victory does not necessarily go to the fleet of foot. Luck and the fickle temperament of the crit-

**"Burros get stubborn at any time. This is not an animal with a long attention span."**

ters play large roles in the race's outcome.

Racing is only part of the event, which is properly called a "flapjack race." It's

not what you would consider a traditional Western sporting event, although it does have some ties to the old days—the burros, for instance. In the 19th century, prospectors and other pioneers used the sturdy animals in the same way that modern adventurers use four-wheel drive. When times went bad, as they invariably did in the prospecting business, the old-timers simply turned their animals loose in the desert and pushed on. Being as tough as the country, the burros survived, and their descendants now wander in small groups all over Southern and Central Nevada. The burros used in the Beatty races are their domesticated cousins.

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Burros like pancakes. After the "prospector" builds a fire and pours the batter, the trick is to keep the burro from eating the pancake right out of the frying pan. The first contestant to feed a cooked pancake to a burro wins.

Following the Old West theme, the contestants assume the role of prospectors. At the race's start, each must load the beast's backpack with pick, shovel, and suchlike. That accomplished, he may lead his four-legged teammate around the race course.

It is at this point that burro racing becomes a truly splendid spectator sport. The creatures sometimes trot agreeably along at the ends of their tethers—but not always. Sometimes they just sit down. The prospector is allowed, under

the rules of the sport, to pick the animal up and carry it around the track. Few take advantage of this option, however, preferring various kinds of cajolery to get their asses moving.

At the end of the race course, the "prospector" must open his pack, arrange his gear on the ground, and build a small fire without using any tinder. He then must cook a pancake and feed it to the burro. That's the easy part—burros are fond of flapjacks. But even if the burro balks at eating, the prospector may not

force-feed the animal. The first prospector to successfully serve a fully cooked pancake to a burro is the winner.

"Sometimes," says Bruton, "they come over to the fire and try to eat the pancake before the contestant has finished cooking it." That's a no-no. All pancakes must be completely cooked before being presented to the burros.

"They usually get easier to handle after the first race and the first pancake," Bruton observes. "They can still get stubborn at any time. This is not an animal with a long attention span."

To participate, one does not need to bring one's own animal. Gentle burros,

**When they hit the course, burro racing becomes a truly splendid spectator sport.**

with a highly developed sense of sports-burroship, are provided.

The races get under way at noon on Saturday, October 26, at the Beatty Horse Arena. The entry fee is tentatively set at \$10, and all money will be returned to contestants as prize purses, the amount depending upon the number of racers who enter. Ample food and drink will be available.

Between races there will be old-time fiddle playing and some lively gunslinging by the High Desert Drifters, who will try to kill each other but will not harm members of the audience. Other weekend activities include a horseshoe tournament, crafts fair, trap shoot, a display of antique gas engines and motorcycles, and a Halloween Dance and Costume Party.

The Beatty 49er Burro and Flapjack Races are sponsored by the Beatty Chamber of Commerce, the Death Valley 49ers, Pioneer Territory, and the Nevada Commission on Tourism. Contact the Beatty Chamber of Commerce at 702-553-2424, the Beatty Club at 702-553-2112, the Exchange Club at 702-553-2368, or the Burro Inn at 702-553-2445 for more information.

*K.J. Evans is developing a pancake recipe that burros will find irresistible.*

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# 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.*



# Las Vegas Territory

## EVENTS

The Las Vegas area hosts festivals, musicals, and many sporting events. You can watch the races at the newly opened Las Vegas Motor Speedway, admire the motorized activities at the Desert Challenge in Laughlin, and enjoy an outdoor performance of "Macbeth" in Henderson. The following listing is divided into areas of interest. Be sure to call ahead to confirm dates and times.

## September & October FESTIVALS

**Mexican Fiesta** • Sept. 14 • Games, piñatas, and a magic show. Hadland Park, Las Vegas, 229-4600.

**Moapa Valley Showcase** • Sept. 16 • Musical talent show. Ron Dalley Theatre for the Performing Arts, high school, Overton, 398-3090.

**Roddin' on the River** • Sept. 26-28 • Hot rod show and festival. Riverside Resort, Laughlin, 298-2535 ext. 5042.

**Searchlight's 98th Birthday Celebration** • Oct. 5 • Food, music, and cow-chip bingo. Community Center, Searchlight, 297-1201.

**Las Vegas Jaycees State Fair** • Oct. 8-13 • Carnival midway. Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 457-8832.

**Bluegrass and Old-Time Music Festival** • Oct. 11-13 • Clark County Fairgrounds, Logandale, 564-5455.

**Italian Festival** • Oct. 13 • Outdoor celebration with food and entertainment. Rio Suite Hotel, Las Vegas, 247-7895.

**Storytelling Festival** • Oct. 18-19 • Outdoor performances. Rainbow Library Amphitheater, Las Vegas, 382-3493.

**Clark County Gem and Mineral Fair** • Oct. 26-27 • Demonstrations, displays, and sale. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955.

## OCTOBERFEST

**Oktoberfest** • Sept. 27-Oct. 19 • Dancing, German folk music, food, and beers. Nevada Palace, Las Vegas, 458-8810 ext. 7175.

**Wurstfest** • Sept. 28 • Bicentennial Park, Boulder City, 293-2034.

**October Fest** • Oct. 1-31 • German food and drink. Railroad Pass Hotel, Boulder City, 294-5000.

**Oktoberfest** • Oct. 4-7 • Ramada Express, Laughlin, 800-243-6846.

**Oktoberfest at the Barn** • Oct. 5 • Outdoor beer garden, music, and food. Draft House Barn and Casino, Las Vegas, 368-3715.

## PERFORMANCES

**Chautauqua** • Sept. 13-14 • Reenactment with presentations by historical celebrities. Wilbur Square Park, Boulder City, 294-4365.

**"Give 'em Hell, Harry!"** • Sept. 15 • Academy Award-nominated actor Kevin McCarthy stars in the one-man



Drivers put their trucks to the test during the Laughlin Desert Challenge: SCORE Off-Road Race on October 4-6.

play about Harry Truman. Clark County Government Center Amphitheatre, Las Vegas, 455-8200.

**Walter Boenig Big Band Concert** • Sept. 15 • Nicholas Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, Cheyenne Campus, North Las Vegas, 651-5483.

**Olive Lake Living History Program** • Sept. 15 • Presentation on early Las Vegas settler. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 875-4141.

**Picnic Pops** • Sept. 21 • Nevada Symphony Orchestra concert. Hills Park at Summerlin, Las Vegas, 792-4337.

**Gold Panning** • Sept. 22 • Living-history demonstration. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 875-4141.

**"Frankie and Johnny" and "Dances With Songs"** • Sept. 24 • Ballets by Tony Award winner Michael Smun, Nevada Dance Theatre production. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

**Afterburner** • Sept. 26 • Jazz concert. Nicholas Horn Theatre production. Community College of Southern Nevada, Cheyenne Campus, North Las Vegas, 651-5483.

**Shakespeare in the Park** • Sept. 27-29 • Outdoor performances of "Macbeth." Foxridge Park, Green Valley in Henderson, 226-9101.

**Ballet Folklorico de Vera Cruz** • Sept. 28 • Mexican folk music and dance. Clark County Government Center Amphitheatre, Las Vegas, 455-8200.

**Sousa's Revenge!** • Sept. 29 • The March King's compositions. Nicholas Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, Cheyenne Campus, North Las Vegas, 651-5483.

**The Klezmatics** • Oct. 5 • Traditional Jewish music adapted to the '90s. Clark County Government Center Amphitheatre, Las Vegas, 455-8200.

**A Soldier's Life** • Oct. 5-6 • Civil War living-history program. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 875-4141.

**"Arsenic and Old Lace"** • Oct. 11-12 and 18-19 at 8pm; Oct. 13 and 20 at 2pm • Classic play. Nicholas Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, Cheyenne Campus, North Las Vegas, 651-5483.

**Pioneer Living** • Oct. 12 • Living-history demonstrations. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 875-4141.

**Concert 20** • Oct. 12-13 • Ballet, jazz, and modern-dance program. Tropicana Hotel, Las Vegas, 732-9646.

**State Symphony of Russia** • Oct. 15 • Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

**Dance Arts Concert I** • Oct. 18-19 • Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 895-3827.

**Mountain Man Program** • Oct. 19 • Living-history demonstration. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 875-4141.

**John Fremont Program** • Oct. 20 • Living history of the famous explorer. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 875-4141.

**Robert Bluestone Concert** • Oct. 24 • Classical guitarist. Virgin Valley High School, Mesquite, 346-2787.

**St. Paul Chamber Orchestra** • Oct. 24 • Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

**Carmen Plus Three** • Oct. 24-27 • Ballet medley by

## Nevada Events & Shows

Nevada Events & Shows is a section of Nevada Magazine. To list an event, contact Events Editor Ann Henderson: 702-486-2433 • fax 702-486-2789 • 555 E. Washington, Suite 5600, Las Vegas, NV 89101. 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.



Hot-air balloon races take flight this fall in Southern Nevada at two colorful events: the Laughlin Riverflight on October 18-20 and the Las Vegas Balloon Classic (above) October 25-27

Nevada Dance Theatre. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 895-3801.

**Helen Stewart Program** • Oct. 26 • Living history on one of Las Vegas' pioneers. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 875-4141.

**String Concert** • Oct. 27 • Boulder Theatre, Boulder City, 293-7731.

### EXHIBITS

**Natural Treasures of the Las Vegas Area** • Thru Sept. 8 • Photographic exhibit. Visitor center, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 254-8062.

**Bats** • Thru Oct. 31 • Exhibit featuring species common to the Las Vegas area. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 486-5205.

**Mine and Mining Promotions of Southern Nevada and Death Valley** • Thru Nov. 2 • Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955.

**Beyond Gum San: The Story of the Chinese in Nevada** • Thru May 18 • Exhibit honors the importance of the Chinese people in the history of Nevada. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 486-5205.

**Photographs of Hopi Life** • Sept. 1-30 • Hopi culture depicted by early-20th-century photographers. Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193.

**Art in the Park** • Oct. 5-6 • Fine-arts exhibit and sale. Bicentennial Park, Boulder City, 293-0973.

**City Series in Desert Form: Sculptured Bowls and Teapots** • Oct. 22-Jan. 7 • Ceramic sculptures by Robin Stark. West Charleston Library, Las Vegas, 878-3682.

### FOOD & DRINK

**Holy Smokes V** • Sept. 18 • Sampling of cigars, cognac. Big Dog's Cafe and Casino, Las Vegas, 368-3715.

**Lobster Fair** • Oct. 19 • Live and cooked lobsters, bazaar, and entertainment, benefits Fraternity of Chefs charities and outreach programs. Christ Church Episcopal, Las Vegas, 735-7655.

### SPORTS & COMPETITIONS

**Bruce Seldon v. Mike Tyson Prizefight** • Sept. 7 • WBA heavyweight championship, MGM Grand, 800-929-1111.

**UNLV Football** • The Rebels play Sept. 7 v. Air Force Academy, Sept. 14 v. Wisconsin, Sept. 28 v. Wyoming, Oct. 5 v. Nevada-Reno, Oct. 26 v. Fresno State. Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas, 895-3614.

**Lake Mead Marathon** • Sept. 7-8 • 50- and 75-mile waterski races. Boulder Beach, Lake Mead, 714-994-4572.

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**Indy Racing League: Las Vegas 500K** • Sept. 13-15 • Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 644-4444.

**Las Vegas Cup Powerboat Races** • Sept. 21-22 • Formula One boats and an unlimited exhibition race. Hemenway Harbor, Lake Mead, 368-2885.

**10K Walk for the Cure** • Sept. 28 • Benefit for Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. MGM Grand Adventures Theme Park, Las Vegas, 732-4795.

**Rattlin' Rails Handcar Races** • Sept. 28-29 • Yucca Street Railroad Yard, Boulder City, 294-1988.

**Las Vegas Invitational** • Oct. 2-6 • PGA event played at TPC Summerlin, Las Vegas Hilton, and Desert Inn golf courses for \$1.6-million purse, 382-6616.

**AMA Superbike Series** • Oct. 4-6 • Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 644-4444.

**Laughlin Desert Challenge: SCORE Off-Road Race** • Oct. 4-6 • Special Events Area, Laughlin, 298-2214.

**Las Vegas Senior Olympic Games** • Oct. 4-13 • UNLV, 294-2954.

**Las Vegas Offshore Powerboat Races** • Oct. 5 • Special Events Beach, Lake Mead, 368-2885.

**Bud Light Cup Professional Bull Riders** • Oct. 11-13 • Top 45 bull riders compete for \$1 million in prize money. MGM Grand Garden, Las Vegas, 891-7777.

**Chicago Bulls v. Seattle SuperSonics** • Oct. 12 • Exhibition basketball game. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 895-3900.

**Hard Rock 5K Run** • Oct. 12 • Benefit for Children's Miracle Network. Hard Rock Cafe, Las Vegas, 383-2326.

**Laughlin Riverflight** • Oct. 18-20 • Hot-air balloon races, crafts fair, early morning balloon rides, concert, and balloon glow Sat. night. Special Events Area, Laughlin, 298-2214.

**Flamingo Hilton Laughlin Grand Prix** • Oct. 25-27 • Championship Kart Challenge race. Hotel parking lot, 800-FLAMINGO.

**Las Vegas Balloon Classic** • Oct. 25-27 • 100 hot-air balloons compete for Silver State championship. Silver Bowl Park, Las Vegas, 434-0848.

## GENERAL INTEREST

**Las Vegas Book Festival** • Sept. 19 • University of Nevada Press book sale. Community College of Southern Nevada, West Charleston Campus, Las Vegas, 784-6573.

**Denim to Diamonds** • Sept. 21 • Country-western dance to benefit Boulder Dam Hotel restoration project. Community College, Boulder City, 293-7731.

**Rocktoberfest 1996** • Oct. 10-14 • American and European classic cars 1972 and older, parade, poker run, auctions, entertainment. Fremont Street Experience and Las Vegas Convention Center, 247-7625.

**Dinosaur Ball** • Oct. 12 • Dining, dancing, and silent auction. Las Vegas Natural History Museum, Las Vegas, 384-3466.

**Columbus Day Parade** • Oct. 14 • Downtown Las Vegas, 736-4293.

**Anchors Aweigh Dinner-Dance** • Oct. 18 • Sponsored by Lied Discovery Children's Museum. Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, 382-3445.

**MGM Scream Park** • Oct. 18-19, 24-25, and 30 • Halloween shows and events. MGM Grand Adventures Theme Park, Las Vegas, 891-7777.

**Expo '95** • Oct. 18-20 • Business, crafts, and entertainment. Henderson Convention Center, 565-8951.

**Creature Feature** • Oct. 26 • Halloween costumes, carnival booths, and haunted house. Freedom Park, Las Vegas, 229-6729.

**St. Jude's Ranch for Children's Open House** • Oct. 27 • Annual event with entertainment, tours, and religious services. Boulder City, 293-3131.

## SHOW PEOPLE

# Maximum Magic

## Nick Lewin spins comedy and magic afternoons at the Maxim.

By Mike Weatherford



Nick Lewin at the Maxim: Lounge lizards are welcome.

Nick Lewin finds an advantage to being a relative newcomer to Las Vegas, a city already crowded with magicians.

"I'm not weird here," says the affable British-born entertainer. "Being a magician is something that people in Las Vegas can understand. I can go in for a bank loan and they'll say, 'Oh, that's solid.' I don't have to explain that I'm not doing kids' parties [for a living]."

Besides, Lewin's one-man shows at the Maxim Hotel aren't like most Nevada magic acts. "I don't need a whole stage of lions and tigers—though that is fun," he tells audiences amid an array of one-liners as he prepares to shred a newspaper and magically reinstate it. Lewin relies more on his own personality during a 65-minute show that stands out as a throwback to the traditional sleight-of-hand seldom seen in Las Vegas. Although his shows begin at 1 and 3 p.m., Lewin's droll humor and sophisticated demeanor quickly establish an intimate, nightclub atmosphere. His patter includes comparisons between England and the United States. "The Americans and British only had one little squabble, the War of Independence," he says. "By the way, how are you enjoying life without taxation?"

Like many of the prestidigitators on the Nevada circuit, Lewin cut his teeth at the Magic Castle, a 33-year-old Hollywood nightclub and magical fraternity. Lewin grew up in London and attended drama school before a magic act became his top priority. He moved to Los Angeles in 1974 and at age 21 debuted at the Magic Castle before an audience that included Cary Grant and David Niven. ("They were both blotto," he recalls.)

Lewin was a regular at the nightclub before adapting his act for the stand-up comedy-club circuit, which frequently took him to Reno and Lake Tahoe. In 1994, after working the evening "Com-

edy Max" showcase at the Maxim, Lewin

approached management about doing afternoon shows in the hotel's cozy 130-seat showroom.

"It's perfect for a one-man show," he says of the room. "I have the freedom to expand beyond a nightclub act and yet keep it intimate enough." In larger rooms, his showstopper trick—borrowing wedding rings from audience members and locking them together—can get lost. If he learns an audience member has seen his show before, he'll make sure that at least one of the 14 tricks in the show is one the return visitor hasn't seen (he has 46 tricks to choose from).

Lewin, who lives in Henderson, is happy that his current gig gives him evenings free to spend with his 11- and nine-year-old daughters and to view his collection of vintage British film comedies.

He says he can't help but notice colleagues such as Lance Burton moving into custom-designed showrooms with big-money contracts. That may be in his future, but Lewin is in no rush. For now he seems delighted when, after a show, the woman he pulled out of the audience for a card trick comes back to the showroom to thank him. "I'd never heard of you before, but I really had a good time," she says.

"That was very touching," Lewin says after she leaves. "I think I've found my niche."

## Magic Facts

"Nick Lewin's Comedy Magic" materializes at 1 and 3 p.m. daily except Sunday at the Maxim Hotel in Las Vegas. Tickets are \$9.95, which includes two drinks, tax, and tip. For information call 702-731-4323.

*Mike Weatherford is a Las Vegas Review-Journal entertainment writer.*

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## COMING EVENTS

**NASCAR Winston West** • Nov. 2 • Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 644-4444.

**NASCAR SuperTruck Series** • Nov. 3 • Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 644-4444.

**Travel Adventure to Bullfrog and Rhyolite** • Nov. 9 • Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955.

**LPGA Golf Tournament** • Nov. 21-24 • Desert Inn Country Club, Las Vegas, 733-4288.

**WAC Volleyball Tournament** • Nov. 26-30 • MGM Grand Garden, Las Vegas, 891-7777.

**Cowboy Christmas Gift Show** • Dec. 4-14 • Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 731-2115.

**National Finals Rodeo** • Dec. 6-15 • Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 731-2115.

**Lake Mead Parade of Lights** • Dec. 7 • 457-2797 or 438-2485.

**"The Nutcracker"** • Dec. 12-28 • Nevada Dance Theatre, Las Vegas, 895-3801.

## SHOWGUIDE

The Las Vegas area offers big-name entertainment and production shows at many clubs and hotels. Freddy Fender is coming to the Riverside in Laughlin, and the Temptations perform at the Desert Inn. Showrooms of ten 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: Country-western entertainment.

### HENDERSON

**Eldorado** • 564-1811: Margaritaville Lounge: Dance bands play Wed.-Sun.

**Joker's Wild** • 564-8100: Live entertainment Wed.-Sun.

### JEAN

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

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

### LAS VEGAS

**Aladdin** • 736-0240 or 736-0419: "Country Tonight," revue (dark Tues.); Sinbad Lounge: Entertainment nightly; Theatre for the Performing Arts: Las Vegas International Mariachi Festival, Sept. 14; "Andrew Lloyd Webber's Music of the Night," touring Broadway company starring Melissa Manchester, Oct. 1-6.

**Arizona Charlie's** • 258-5100: Naughty Lady Saloon: Live music Tues.-Sun.; Palace Grand Theatre: The Buckingham/The Association, Sept. 19; Terri Clark, Sept. 26; Tower of Power/Average White Band, Oct. 8-9.

**Bally's** • 739-4567 or 800-237-SHOW: Jubilee Theater: "Jubilee!" (dark Fri.); Celebrity Room: Paul

Anka, thru Sept. 4; Louie Anderson, Sept. 5-18; Penn and Teller, Sept. 19-25; Andrew Dice Clay, Sept. 20-21; Englebert Humperdinck, Sept. 26-Oct. 2; bands play nightly in the Panda Lounge.

**The Beach** • 731-9298: Concerts.

**Boomtown** • 263-7777 or 800-588-7711: Rattlesnake Ricky's Lounge: Country-western revue; Opera House Theatre: TBA.

**Boulder Station** • 432-7777 or 800-683-7777: Railroad Saloon: Headline entertainer monthly, dance bands nightly.

**Bourbon Street** • 737-7200: Basin Street Lounge: Entertainment TBA.

**Caesars Palace** • 731-7333 or 800-445-4544: Circus Maximus: Ray Charles/Tony D'Andrea, thru Sept. 1; Chicago, Sept. 5-8; Johnny Mathis, Oct. 3-6; Julio Iglesias, Oct. 15-20; Natalie Cole, Oct. 24-27; David Copperfield, Oct. 29-Nov. 17; live bands play in the La Piazza Lounge, Olympic Lounge, and Cleopatra's Barge.

**Circus Circus** • 734-0410 or 800-444-CIRCUS: Free circus acts, 11am-midnight.

**Continental** • 737-5555: Continental Theater: Cook E. Jarr, Wed.-Sat.

**Debbie Reynolds Hollywood Hotel** • 7-DEBBIE or 800-633-1777: Star Theatre: "The Debbie Reynolds Show Featuring the Uptown Country Singers" (dark Sun.); "Boylesque! Starring Kenny Kerr and His Women of Hollywood," Mon.-Sat.

**Desert Inn** • 733-4566 or 800-634-6909: Crystal Room: Lucero, Sept. 14-15; Rita Rudner, Oct. 10-13; Neil Sedaka, Oct. 16-20; the Temptations, Oct. 23-27; Starlight Theatre: TBA.

**Excalibur** • 597-7600: King Arthur's Arena: "King Arthur's Tournament," nightly; "An Evening in Vienna,"



Pasta lovers will converge on the Rio for the Italian Festival October 13.

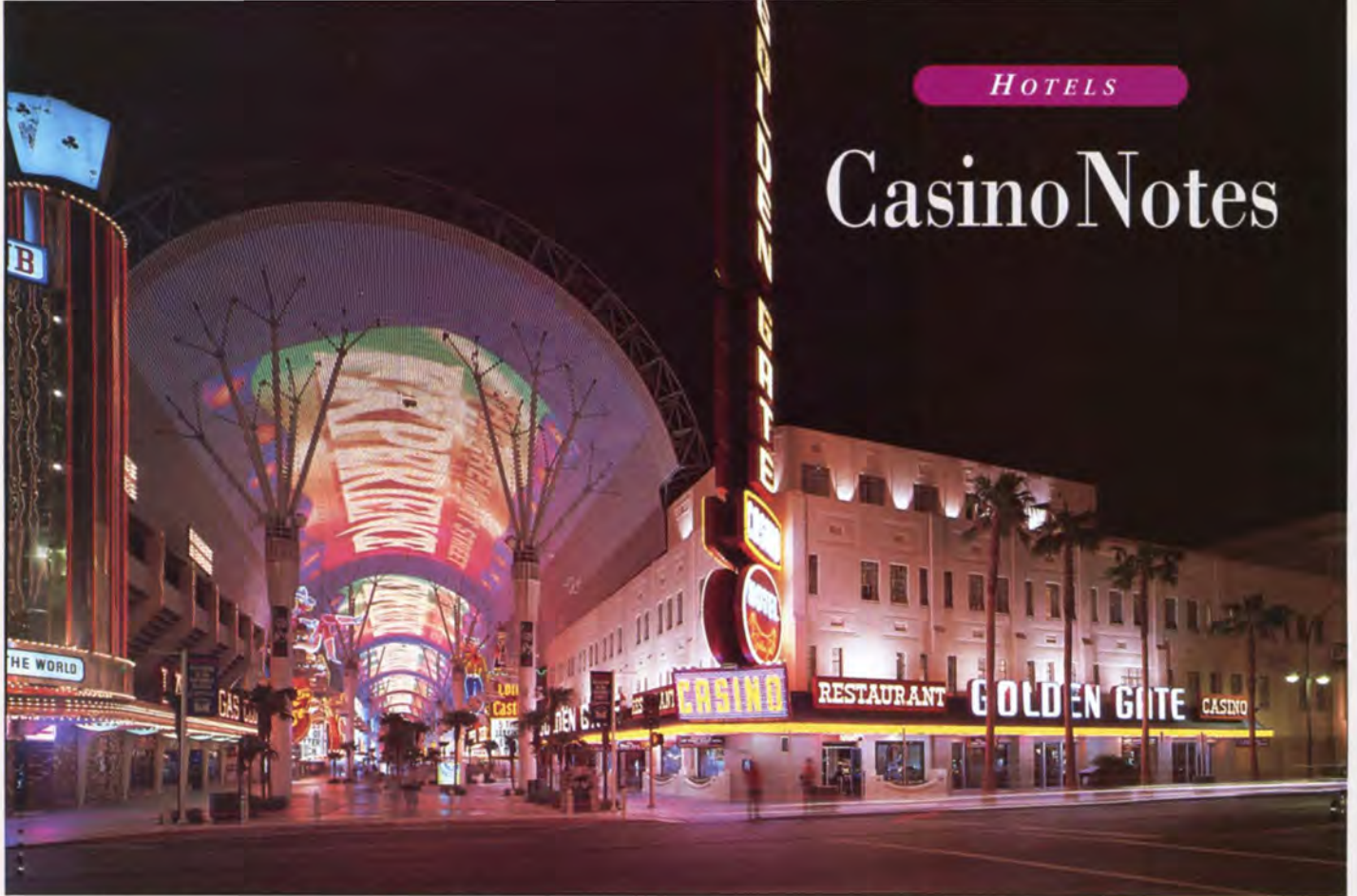
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# Casino Notes



The historic Golden Gate Hotel, illuminated by the canopy of the high-tech Fremont Street Experience, recently celebrated its 90th anniversary. The 1906 hotel is noted for introducing the 50-cent "Giant Shrimp Cocktail" in 1959, beginning a long-running Las Vegas tradition. Today the Golden Gate's spicy shrimp cocktail sells for 99 cents.

**Catching Stars:** The Alexis Park Resort and Spa was honored with two Five Star Diamond Awards from the American Academy of Restaurant and Hospitality Sciences. The hotel and its Pegasus Gourmet Room were commended for ambiance, gastronomy, hospitality, cleanliness, and value. The resort is the only Las Vegas property to receive commendations for both resort and gourmet restaurant.

**Boulder Bingo:** A high-tech bingo room has been added to the Boulder Station. The 8,000-square-foot bingo room seats more than 600 players. Its main-floor location has six 50-inch televisions to show numbers during the 10 daily sessions.

**The Wave:** Boulder Station guests can dine, gamble, see a movie—and then have their cars washed. The Wave, a brushless automated car wash, was recently added to the first floor of the Boulder Station's parking garage. The new service is open 24 hours a day, and prices start at \$6.95.

**Top Steakhouse:** The *Las Vegas Review-Journal* readers poll recently named Circus Circus' Steak House as "Best of Las Vegas" steakhouse for the 10th time. The

Steak House was described as "a moderately priced haven of dignity."

**Preview Model:** Visitors can view Harrah's Las Vegas' proposed Carnavale theme expansion at the hotel's preview center, which is open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. in front of the hotel. The model displays the new facade, a 35-story hotel tower with 671 rooms and 28 suites, and six new restaurants.

**Go Underground:** Work has begun on an underground roadway that will connect the Harrah's Las Vegas parking garage to Las Vegas Boulevard. Construction is expected to be completed in 1997.

**New Buffet:** The Fresh Market Square Buffet has replaced the Del Rio Buffet at Harrah's Laughlin. In a farmer's market decor, the restaurant has a variety of food stations such as a Mexican fajita bar, pasta station, The Wok, and American Bounty. The customers can watch as chefs prepare food at each station.

**Tower Expansion:** The sports-themed Las Vegas Club has added a second 16-story tower. The additional 18,000 square feet will include three new restaurants, gift shops, 185 rooms, six penthouse jacuzzi suites, and convention space for 400 peo-

ple. The Dugout Restaurant has been converted to a sports bar.

**Showgirls on the Net:** Get advice on men, learn what it was like growing up with nine other siblings, or hear about Monica's trip to Chicago. Those and other topics appear on a World Wide Web site that includes a page dedicated to the dancers of "Crazy Girls" at the Riviera. You can call up "vegasradio.com" and click from page to page to get an image of one of the eight showgirls and hear their audio message.

**Lone Star Bingo:** The Texas Station now operates a state-of-the-art bingo hall. Complimentary doughnuts are offered in the morning, and free drinks are served at 10 daily sessions.

**Players Paradise:** The Tropicana Resort has a new \$1.4-million baccarat room. Guests can play at one of four baccarat tables in the Mediterranean-style area. It also has Las Vegas' largest vivarium, an enclosed ecological habitat for amphibians and plants. The baccarat room is one phase of the Tropicana's expansion and renovation that will include a new entrance, carpeting, and casino layout and a premium slot area.

starring the Royal Lipizzaner Stallions, Sat.-Thurs.; Wild Bills Saloon and Steakhouse: Dance music nightly; Minstrel's Theatre Lounge: Entertainment nightly.

**Fitzgeralds Holiday Inn** • 388-2400 or 800-274-LUCK (U.S. outside Nevada): Don Cloe (dark Tues.), Ray Perez (dark Wed.-Thurs.).

**Flamingo Hilton** • 733-3333: Flamingo Showroom: "The Great Radio City Spectacular" with the Rockettes (dark Fri.); Bugsy's Celebrity Theatre: "Forever Plaid," '50s musical revue (dark Mon.).

**Four Queens** • 385-4011 or 800-634-6045: Monday Night Jazz with Alan Grant in the Royal Pavillion.

**Gold Coast** • 367-7111 or 800-331-5334 (U.S. outside Nevada): East Lounge: Sorta Dixie Jazz Band, noon to

6pm Mon.-Fri.; bands play in the East and West lounges; Dance Hall and Saloon: Western Rain, thru Sept. 2; Tropical Splash, thru Sept. 7; Randy Anderson, Sept. 4-16 and Oct. 9-21; Gold Coast Orchestra, Oct. 23-Nov. 4; ballroom dancing with deejay Larry Taylor, 7:30-11:30pm Tues. and 1-5pm Sun.

**Golden Nugget** • 386-8100: Theatre Ballroom: "Country Fever," look-alike variety revue (dark Fri.); entertainment nightly in the lounge.

**Hacienda** • 739-8911: Fiesta Theatre: "The Four Kinsmen," musical comedy (dark Mon.); entertainment nightly in the Bolero Lounge.

**Hard Rock Hotel** • 226-4650 or 800-HARD-ROCK: The Joint: Rock concerts.

**Harrah's Las Vegas** • 369-5222 or 800-392-9002: Commanders Theatre: "Spellbound: Starring Mark Kalin and Jinger" (dark Sun.); "The Improv at Har-

rah's" (dark Mon.); entertainment nightly in the Court of Two Gators Lounge.

**Holiday Inn Boardwalk** • 735-2400: Lighthouse Showroom: The Unknown Comic (dark Mon.).

**Imperial Palace** • 794-3261: Imperial Theatre: "Legends in Concert" (dark Sun.); "Hawaiian Hot Luau: 'Imperial Style,'" held poolside Tues. and Thurs. nights, thru Oct. weather permitting; entertainment in the Nomiya Bar.

**Jackie Gaughan's Plaza** • 386-2110 or 800-634-6575 (U.S. outside Nevada): Plaza Showroom: "Xposed," adult revue (dark Fri.).

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

**Lady Luck** • 477-3000 or 800-523-9582: Entertainment TBA.

**Las Vegas Hilton** • 732-5755 or 800-222-5361: Starlight Theatre: Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Starlight Express" (dark Fri.); The Nightclub: Kristine W and the Sting.

**Luxor** • 262-4000 or 800-288-1000: Bands play in Nefertiti's Lounge.

**Maxim** • 731-4300 or 800-634-6987: "Comedy Max," comedy nightclub; "Nick Lewin's Comedy Magic," 1 and 3pm (dark Sun.); entertainment in Muldoon's Room.

**MGM Grand** • 891-7777 or 800-929-1111: Grand Theatre: "EFX" starring Michael Crawford (dark Thurs.); Hollywood Theatre: Wayne Newton, thru Sept. 11; Center Stage Cabaret: "Catch a Rising Star," comedy-variety club; bands play during Late Night after the comedy; Bobby Dickerson, nightly except Mon. in the Flying Monkey Bar; entertainment in the Santa Fe Lounge; Grand Garden: Sting, Sept. 1; Andre Agassi's "Grand Slam for Children: Twice the Magic," with Elton John and Vanessa Williams, Sept. 21.

**The Mirage** • 792-7777: Siegfried and Roy Theatre: "Siegfried and Roy," magic spectacular (dark Wed.-Thurs., Sept. 24, Oct. 15); bands play in the Lagoon Saloon and Barcarat Bar (piano bar).

**Monte Carlo** • 730-7777: Lance Burton Theatre: "Lance Burton, Master Magician" (dark Sun.-Mon.).

**Palace Station** • 367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Dancing to bands nightly in the Loading Dock Lounge.

**Rio Suite** • 252-7776 or 800-PLAYRIO (U.S. and Canada): Copacabana Supper Club Theatre: "Copacabana Dinner Show," revue (dark Sun.-Mon.); Ipanema Piano Bar: Entertainment nightly; Club Rio: Dance-video nightclub, Wed.-Sat.; Mambo's Lounge: Sergio Alberti nightly except Sun.; Concerts on the Beach: Donna Summer, Sept. 1; Beach Boys, Sept. 27; Tony Bennett, Oct. 11.

**Riviera** • 794-9301 (477-5274 Splash): Splash Theatre: Jeff Kutash's "Splash II, Voyage of a Lifetime," nightly; Grand Ballroom: The Doobie Brothers, Sept. 6-7; Gilbert Gottfried/Bobcat Goldthwait, Sept. 21; Mardi Gras Showroom (third floor): "An Evening at La Cage," celebrity female impersonators revue (dark Tues.); Mardi Gras Showroom (second floor): "Crazy Girls: Sensuality, Passion, and Pudgy!" adult revue (dark Mon.); "Bottoms Up," burlesque-style revue, 2 and 4pm (dark Thurs.); "Riviera Comedy Club," David Tyree, Sept. 20-21; Le Bistro Lounge: "Jazz on the Strip," Mon.; music Tues.-Sat.

**Sahara** • 737-2515: Congo Theatre: TBA; Casbar Lounge: Earl Turner, Sept. 17-22; Thompson Project, Sept. 24-Oct. 6.

**Sam's Town** • 454-8048: Western Dance Hall: Bands play 9pm-3am; Roxy's Saloon: Entertainment noon-5am.

**San Remo** • 597-6028 or 800-522-7366: Parisian Cabaret: "Showgirls of Magic," 8 and 10:30pm (late

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show for adults only); bands play in the Bon Chance Lounge.

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

**Showboat** • 383-9232 or 800-634-3484: Mardi Gras Room: "Rain: Tribute to the Beatles," Oct. 22-27.

**Stardust** • 732-6111 or 800-824-6033: Stardust Theatre: "Enter the Night," production show (dark Fri.); bands play in the Starlight Lounge.

**Stratosphere** • 382-4446 or 800-99-TOWER: Images Cabaret: "American Superstars," impersonator revue (dark Thurs.); show bands play nightly; Broadway Showroom: Danny Gans, comic impressionist (dark Tues.-Wed.); L'Isles Bar: Tropical-themed lounge featuring Caribbean and Reggae music; Big Sky Lounge: Country music nightly 5pm-3am.

**Treasure Island** • 894-7111: Cirque du Soleil in "Mystère" (dark Mon.-Tues. and Oct. 9-10 and 16); entertainment nightly in Captain Morgan's piano bar and the Doubloon Saloon.

**Tropicana** • 739-2411: Tiffany Theatre: "Folies Bergere" (dark Sat.); Vikki Carr, Sept. 13-14; Aaron Tippin/Asleep at the Wheel, Sept. 27-28; Comedy Stop Theatre: "The Comedy Stop," stand-up comedy; bands play in the Atrium Lounge and the Tropics Lounge.

**Vacation Village** • 897-1700 or 800-658-5000: Koo Koo's Lounge: Entertainment and dancing Tues.-Sun.

**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: Riverboat Lounge: Entertainment nightly except Mon.; the Riverboat Ramblers,



Fast boats will flood Hemenway Harbor at Lake Mead for the Las Vegas Cup Powerboat Races September 21-22.

strolling musicians; entertainment on "D" Deck nightly except Fri.

**Edgewater** • 298-2453: Kokopelli's Lounge: Lip Service, Sept. 1-8; Billy Erickson, Sept. 24-Oct. 6 (dark Mon.).

**Flamingo Hilton Laughlin** • 298-5028 or 800-435-8469: Club Flamingo Room: "Hot Country Nights," musical revue; Flamingo Outdoor Amphitheater: Fall concert series Sept. 21 and 28, Oct. 5 and 12, entertainers TBA.

**Gold River** • 298-2242 or 800-835-7904: Cody's Saloon: Entertainment Tues.-Sun.

**Golden Nugget Laughlin** • 298-7111 or 800-237-

1739: Tarzan's Lounge: Entertainment Tues.-Sun.

**Harrah's Laughlin** • 298-4600 or 800-447-8700: Fiesta Showroom: "The Great American Wild Wild West," musical revue; "Hot Salsa," production show; Club La Bamba: Entertainment nightly except Mon.

**Ramada Express** • 298-4200 or 800-243-6846: America, Sept. 1-4; Three Dog Night, Sept. 8-11; Firefall, Sept. 15-18; The Association/The Buckingham, Sept. 21-24.

**Regency** • 298-2439.

**Riverside Resort** • 298-2535 or 800-227-3849 ext. 616: Don's Celebrity Theatre: "Showgirls," thru Sept. 5; Freddy Fender, Sept. 12-16; Foster Brooks, Sept. 23-

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25; Bill Medley, Oct. 10-12; Harry Blackstone, Oct. 31-Nov. 2.

## MESQUITE

**Players Island** • 346-7529 or 800-459-7529: Bali Hai Theater: "Hot Country Nites," Oct. 2-Nov. 30, musical revue featuring look-alike performers; bands play nightly in the Cascades Lounge.

**Si Redd's Oasis** • 346-5232 or 800-621-0187: Entertainment nightly in the Cabaret Lounge.

**Virgin River** • 346-7777 or 800-346-7721: Entertainment TBA.

## NORTH LAS VEGAS

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

**Texas Station** • 631-1000: Nightly music in the Armadillo Honky Tonk Lounge.

## STATE LINE

**Buffalo Bill's Resort** • 382-1111 or 800-FUN-STOP: Star of the Desert Arena: Entertainment TBA; Carolee's Theatre: "Carolee's Comedy Club," Fri.-Sun.

**Primadonna** • 382-1212 or 800-826-4471.

**Whiskey Pete's** • 382-1212 or 800-367-7383.

## GAMING TOURNAMENTS

**Mad Money Celebration Slots** • Sept. 2-5 • Lady Luck, 800-634-6580.

**Queens Bounty Poker** • Sept. 2-20 • Four Queens, 385-4011.

**Thunder Down Under Slots** • Sept. 9-12 • Theme slot



Spectators and pro golfers gather at TPC Summerlin for the Las Vegas Invitational on October 2-6.

tournament. Stratosphere, 383-4752.

**Mexican Independence Day Slots** • Sept. 15-18 • Lady Luck, 800-634-6580.

**Rags to Riches Slots** • Sept. 16-19 • MGM Grand, 800-929-9410.

**Slots** • Sept. 18-22 • Westward Ho, 800-223-1709.

**Slots** • Sept. 19-21 • Imperial Palace, 800-351-7400.

**Blackbeard Pirate Blackjack** • Sept. 29-Oct. 2 • Lady Luck, 800-634-6580.

**Slots** • Oct. 2-6 • Westward Ho, 800-223-1709.

**Putting on the Ritz Blackjack** • Oct. 4-6 • Four Queens, 385-4011.

**It's All in the Game—Twin Stakes Slots** • Oct. 6-9 •

MGM Grand, 800-929-9410.

**Campaign for Cash Video Poker** • Oct. 20-23 • Tropicana, 739-2222.

**World Championship of Video Poker** • Oct. 21-22 • Santa Fe, 800-457-2882.

**Halloween Slots** • Oct. 27-30 • Desert Inn, 800-347-5687 or 733-4444 ext. 6262.

**Slots** • Oct. 28-30 • Binion's Horseshoe, 800-727-7568.

**Slots** • Oct. 30-Nov. 3 • Westward Ho, 800-223-1709.

**Great Heights, Parisian Nights Slots** • Nov. 10-13 • Stratosphere, 383-4752.

**Blast from the Past Slots** • Nov. 11-14 • Theme slot

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tournament. MGM Grand, 800-929-9410.

**Luck Be a Lady Craps** • Nov. 15-17 • Four Queens, 385-4011.

## 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 Plaza, 294-1988.

**Hoover Dam and Visitor Center** • Tours, theaters, exhibit hall. U.S. 93, 293-8367, 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** • Tours of Ocean Spray facility. 1301 American Pacific Dr., 566-7160.

**Ethel M Chocolate Factory and Cactus Garden** • Tours. 2 Cactus Garden Dr., 458-8864.

**Kidd Marshmallow Factory** • Tours. 8203 Gibson Rd., 564-3878 or 800-234-2383.

**Ron Lee's World of Clowns** • Free factory tours. 330 Carousel Pkwy., 434-1700.

### LAS VEGAS

**A.J. Hackett Bungy** • 810 Circus Circus, 385-4321.

**Debbie Reynolds Hollywood Movie Museum** • Tours, 733-2334.

**Floyd Lamb State Park** • Picnicking and fishing. 9200 Tule Springs Rd., 486-5413.

**Fremont Street Experience** • Light show on the hour from dusk to 11pm. Downtown Las Vegas, 678-5600.

**Grand Slam Canyon** • Adventure park with rides and attractions. Next to Circus Circus, 800-444-CIRCUS.

**Guinness World of Records Museum** • 2780 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 792-3766.

**Holy Cow! Casino** • Brewery tours, 732-2697.

**Imperial Palace Auto Collection** • 794-3174.

**Las Vegas Art Museum** • 6130 W. Charleston Blvd., 647-4300.

**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.

**Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History** • 4505 Maryland Pkwy., UNLV, 895-3381.

**MGM Grand Adventures** • Theme park, 891-7979.

**Mirage** • Dolphin habitat, white tigers, 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 Historic State Park** • 908 Las Vegas Blvd. N. at Washington (enter from Cashman Field parking lot B only), 486-3511.

**Omnimax Theatre** • Caesars Palace, 731-7900.

**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.

**Sam's Town** • Water and laser show, 456-7777.

**Treasure Island** • Pirate battle, 894-7111.

**Wet 'n Wild** • 2601 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 737-SURE.

### LAUGHLIN

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**Lake Mohave Resort** • 602-754-3245.

**Riverside Resort** • Classic cars, 298-2535.

### MESQUITE

**Arvada Gun Club** • Si Redd's Oasis, 346-5232.

**Desert Valley Museum** • 346-5705.

### NORTH LAS VEGAS

**The Planetarium** • Community College of Southern Nevada, 651-5059.

### OVERTON

**Lost City Museum of Archaeology** • Pueblo culture, 397-2193.

**Valley of Fire State Park** • 397-2088.

### SEARCHLIGHT

**Searchlight Gallery** • 297-1540.

**Searchlight Historic Museum** • 455-7955.

### STATE LINE

**Buffalo Bill's** • Roller coaster and water-flume ride, 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 numbers, call 800-555-1212.

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# Reno-Tahoe Territory

## EVENTS

The Reno-Lake Tahoe area offers plays, historic tours, sports events, and festivals. You can be there for the checkered flag at the first Reno Grand Prix or help skiers pray for snow at Incline Village's Native American Snow Dance Festival. The following listing is divided into areas of interest. Be sure to call ahead to confirm dates and times.

## September & October

### FAIRS & FESTIVALS

**Cool September Days** • Sept. 13-15 • Classic cars, dance contests, craft fair. Lake Tahoe Horizon, State-line, 800-AT-TAHOE.

**Dayton Valley Days** • Sept. 20-22 • Fiddle-off, parade, barbecue, Civil War encampment, and cowboy poetry. Downtown Dayton, 246-3281.

**Street Vibrations** • Sept. 21-24 • Motorcycle festival with parades, street cruises, and rock and blues concerts. Downtown Reno, 329-7469.

**Genoa Candy Dance** • Sept. 28-29 • Homemade candy and arts and crafts fair, melodrama at the town hall, dance. Genoa, 782-8696.

**Native American Snow Dance Festival** • Oct. 11-12 • Pray for snow party Fri. followed by "Taste of Tahoe," featuring local restaurants and a live concert at Tahoe Biltmore, Crystal Bay (831-0660). Snow dance Sat. at Preston Field. Incline Village, 800-GO-TAHOE.

**Columbus Day Parade** • Oct. 12 • Downtown Reno, 786-5700.

**Kit Carson Trail Ghost Walk** • Oct. 26 • Tour has a Halloween theme with a graveyard visit and costumed guides. Carson City Historic District, 687-7410.

**Nevada Day Celebration** • Oct. 30-Nov. 3 • Big day is Thurs., Oct. 31, with 10am parade followed by band concert, miners' rock-drilling contest, and waterfights. Fair and carnival at Mills Park. Carson City, 687-7410.

### PERFORMANCES

**"How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying"** • Sept. 9-11 • Broadway musical starring Ralph Macchio. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 686-6603.

**"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum"** • Sept. 13-22 • Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

**Reno Philharmonic** • Sept. 17 • Violinist Cory Cerovsek. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 323-6393.

**Ray Willie Hubbard** • Sept. 18 • Country-folk music. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

**"Cosmic Conclusions: The End of All Things"** • Sept. 24-Nov. 17 • Fleischmann Planetarium, U of N, Reno, 784-4811.

**Tannahill Weavers** • Oct. 2 • Traditional Celtic music. Nightingale Concert Hall, U of N, Reno, 784-4046.

**McAvoy Layne as Mark Twain** • Oct. 4 • Twain im-



Camel jockeys will urge their unruly steeds forward during the Virginia City Camel Races on September 6-8.

personator. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

**Reno Chamber Orchestra Concert** • Oct. 5 • Piano soloist Fabio Bidini. Nightingale Concert Hall, U of N, Reno, 348-9413.

**Reno Jazz Quintet** • Oct. 10 • Nightingale Concert Hall, U of N, Reno, 784-6145.

**Chinese Youth Goodwill Mission Performance** • Oct. 11 • Nightingale Concert Hall, U of N, Reno, 784-6145.

**Reno Philharmonic** • Oct. 15 • Pianist Santiago Rodriguez. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 323-6393.

**Southern Rail** • Oct. 17 • Bluegrass band. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

**"Puttin' on the Ritz"** • Oct. 18 • Performance honoring Nightingale Concert Hall, U of N, Reno, 784-4831.

**"Macbeth"** • Oct. 24-26 • Nevada Opera, Verdi's interpretation of the Shakespeare classic. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 786-4046.

**Carson City Chamber Orchestra Concert** • Oct. 27 • Community Center, Carson City, 883-4154.

### EXHIBITS

**Kings, Queens, and Soup Tureens From the Campbell Museum** • Thru Sept. 1 • Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 329-3333.

**Nevada Gold Museum** • Thru Sept. 2 • Gaming chips and memorabilia. Skyway of the Flamingo Hilton Reno, 322-1111.

**It's a Gas** • Thru Sept. 27 • Gas station memorabilia, part of the Summer Arts Festival. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.

**The Classics: 1925-1935 Cars Exhibit** • Thru Sept. 30

• National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.

**Don't Fence Me In** • Sept. 1-30 • Painter Joan Scott's fence landscapes. Artists Co-Op Gallery, Reno, 322-8896.

**Nevada in the Nuclear Age** • Sept. 7-27 • Photo exhibit. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 833-1976.

**Wild and Washoe** • Sept. 12-20 • The works of potter John Doderer inspired by the Washoe Indians. Silver State Gallery, Reno, 324-2323.

**The Jazz Photographs of Milt Hinton** • Sept. 13-Oct. 20 • Photos include Cab Calloway and Billie Holiday. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 329-3333.

**The Faces of Nevada** • Oct. 1-30 • Portraits of Nevadans by Gini Campbell-Annis. Artists Co-Op Gallery, Reno, 825-9293.

**Fantastic Plastic** • Oct. 14-Jan. 3 • Model car display. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.

**The Works of Gene Speck** • Oct. 20-Nov. 19 • Oil paintings portray ranch scenes and Indian encampments. Silver State Gallery, Reno, 324-2323.

**Royal Elegance** • Oct. 21-March 31 • Rolls-Royce exhibit. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.

**Charles M. Russell: The West on Paper** • Oct. 24-Jan. 5 • Paintings and illustrated letters from the collection of the C.M. Russell Museum of Great Falls, Montana. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 329-3333.

### GENERAL INTEREST

**Wonders of the Summer Sky** • Thru Sept. 15 • Show at Fleischmann Planetarium, U of N, Reno, 784-4811.

**Marlette Lake Hike** • Sept. 8 • Eight-mile round-trip hike to the lake begins at the Chimney Beach parking

# A Capital Holiday

Nevada Day in Carson City is a memorable state holiday on Halloween.

Nevada Day is celebrated every October 31 throughout the state. The holiday, once known as Admission Day, is a tip of the hat to Abraham Lincoln for making Nevada the 36th state on that day in 1864. Lincoln needed more votes in Congress to fight the Civil War and pass the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery, and as a result Nevada joined the union at a critical time in American history.

This October 31, Nevadans' motives also will be high-minded. Their goal will be to have as good a time as possible

It's best to get to the parade route early and elbow out a spot along the curb.

without risking the chance that statehood might be withdrawn.

Because Nevada Day is a state holiday, schools, banks, and other institutions close so citizens can enjoy the day to the fullest. Some Carson officials have talked of moving the festivities to a three-day Nevada Day Weekend, but generally residents take pride in the October 31 holiday, even if it does fall on Halloween. Also, many people from other states have copied the custom of taking the day off, allowing them to spend Nevada Day in the proper place.

For most folks, that place is Carson City, where Nevada Day festivities were revived in 1938. Since then the celebration has grown into a mammoth show. Capital-city citizens spend months coordinating such events as the 1864 Grand Ball, where period costumes are encouraged; the World Championship Single-

Jack Drilling Contest, a hard-pounding miners' competition; and the Nevada State Waterfights, in which fire-department teams try to push a barrel suspended on a guy wire over their opponents while drenching themselves

rodeo queens, vaqueros, mounted posses, cheerleaders, clowns on stilts, dog clubs, antique car clubs, and an endless number of kids' organizations. The biggest crowd pleasers tend to zigzag—the Kerak Clowns of Reno, buzzing by in minia-



Clowns add to the hometown circus atmosphere of the Nevada Day parade in Carson City on October 31.

(and sometimes spectators) in the process.

Carson's Nevada Day parade, which begins promptly at 10 a.m., is mammoth as well—250 entries are expected this year. But the four-hour procession down Carson Street has a small-town quality that dates back to the days when Carson City was the smallest state capital (pop: 5,000) in the nation.

You can see marching bands from Ely and Sparks, a wagon train from Fallon, a float from the Yerington Paiute Tribe,

and Cecil the Serpent, the wigwagging Walker Lake fish-monster from Hawthorne that has a large cult following.

It's best to get to the parade route early and elbow out a spot along the curb. Some strategists park their RVs and trucks along the route the night before to create their own balcony seating. You can bring chairs, blankets, and refreshments—whatever it takes to make Nevada Day a proper holiday.

—David Moore

# Casino Notes

**Keno Winner Wins Twice:** In an unusual double win, an Atlantis keno player recently hit it big on two separate tickets during the same game. Linda Doellinger of Iowa won \$22,500 on her friend's numbers and \$9,000 on her own ticket. "Before I left, my friend gave me her numbers and a \$5 bill. She said she always wins with these numbers—I guess she was right," Doellinger said.

**More Diamonds:** Caesars Tahoe received its 16th Four Diamond Award from the American Automobile Association. The AAA honors exceptional lodging and restaurants.

**Tee Up:** The Carson Valley Inn in Minden is offering golf packages through October. The two-night individual packages for Sunday through Wednesday arrivals provide advance tee-time reservations with play at Genoa Lakes or the Carson Valley Golf Course.

**Peppermill Uplifts:** The Peppermill has

opened a new hotel tower and two restaurants, part of a \$70-million expansion. The tower's two wings have 465 rooms, including 143 luxury suites and a half-dozen "super suites." The Steak House will serve beef, chops, fish, and fowl. The White Orchid is a gourmet restaurant serving contemporary cuisine. The expansion also has added a new porte cochere, health club, and swimming pool with its own active volcano.

**Sam's Town Reno?** The Boyd Gaming Corporation has announced plans for a 211-room hotel-casino south of Reno near U.S. 395 at the Virginia City turnoff. Sam's Town Reno would resemble its Las Vegas sister property and have five restaurants, a 15,000-square-foot indoor events center, and a 5,000-seat outdoor arena.

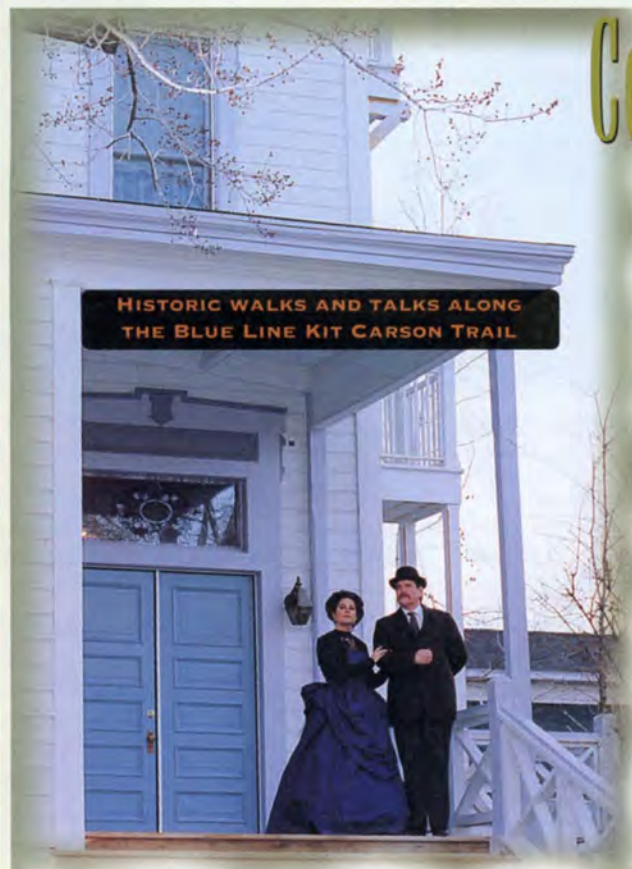
**Keno Haven:** The Silver Legacy recently installed Reno's largest keno board, eight by 11 feet, on its main casino floor. Be-



The White Orchid restaurant is one result of the Peppermill's recent expansion.

tween the Legacy Saloon and the Deli Exchange, the new lounge offers comfortable Queen Anne-style chairs for guests who play the keno "gold game." The silver game is played on the mezzanine level and the green game is played inside the Sweetwater Cafe and the Victorian Buffet.

**Free Gaming Lessons:** Beginners and experienced players can learn gambling etiquette, terminology, rules, payouts, and odds at the Silver Legacy's gambling lessons. Free lessons in blackjack and craps are offered every hour from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday at the craps pit.



## Come travel through time, on foot...

*October 26: Annual Ghost Walk.* On this historic home tour with a Halloween twist, friendly phantoms tell their own ghost stories. First tour 11 AM, last tour 5PM, from the Nevada State Museum.

*Every Day: History speaks for itself.* 24 Talking Houses broadcast their past on special radio frequencies. Just ask us how to tune in for self-guided walking (or driving) tours.

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**CARSON CITY**

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lot, Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, 782-2590.

**Half-Way to St. Patrick's Day Party** • Sept. 14 • L.A. Scots Bagpipe Band and Irish entertainment. Fitzgeralds, Reno, 785-3350.

**Biggest Little Quilt Show in the West** • Sept. 14-15 • Demonstrations and vendors. Reno Livestock Events Center, 673-4669.

**Tour to Gardnerville and Genoa Museums** • Sept. 22 • Escorted tour. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 688-1191.

**10K and 5K Volkswalk** • Oct. 5 • Noncompetitive walk. Genoa, 882-2680.

**Desert Fantasy** • Oct. 12 • Belly-dance show and workshop. Sparks Recreation Gymnasium, 323-4291.

**Antiquarian Book Fair** • Oct. 19-20 • Sundowner Hotel, Reno, 885-2720.

**Western States Open Chess Tournament** • Oct. 24-27 • Sands Regency, Reno, 348-2200.

**American Mountain Bike Championship** • Sept. 13-15 • Squaw Valley, 916-582-8900.

**University of Nevada Football** • The Wolf Pack plays Sept. 14 v. Montana State, Sept. 28 v. Kent, Oct. 12 v. Boise State at Mackay Stadium, U of N, 348-PACK.

**Reno Grand Prix** • Sept. 20-22 • Six races including the season finale of the 1996 Trans Am championship. Reno Hilton, 786-6667.

**100-Mile Horseback Endurance Ride** • Sept. 21-22 • Virginia City, 847-0311.

**Mountain Man Encampment** • Sept. 21-22 • Virginia City, 847-0311.

**America's Loneliest Bike Tour** • Sept. 22-28 • Fully supported bicycle ride across Nevada from Lake Tahoe to Great Basin National Park. 588-9658.

**Pro Team Penning Assn. National Finals** • Sept. 25-29 • Fuji Park, Carson City, 849-2844.

**Downhill Mania** • Sept. 27-29 • Slalom mountain bike



Hot air takes on unusual forms when the Great Reno Balloon Race takes off September 6-8 at Rancho San Rafael.

**North American Shuffleboard Championships** • Oct. 28-Nov. 3 • Sands Regency, Reno, 348-2200.

**Halloween Trick or Treat** • Oct. 31 • National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.

## SPORTS & COMPETITIONS

**Carson Valley Bocce Bash** • Thru Sept. 2 • Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 800-321-6983.

**The Great Reno Balloon Race** • Sept. 6-8 • 150 balloonists compete. Dawn Patrol at 5:30am offers spectacular light show. Rancho San Rafael Park, Reno, 826-1181.

**Virginia City Camel Races** • Sept. 6-8 • Ornery camels and determined jockeys create wild times. Camel Race Arena, Virginia City, 847-0311.

**Carson Valley Mixed Scramble Golf Tournament** • Sept. 6-8 • Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 800-321-6983.

**Lake Tahoe Bikeway Fun Ride** • Sept. 8 • Bicycle ride from Incline Village to Sand Harbor. 588-9658.

**National Championship Air Races** • Sept. 12-15 • The world's longest running air race and aerobatic stunts, Reno-Stead Airport. Air race display in downtown Reno. 972-6663.

racing. Northstar Mountain Bike Park, 916-562-3577.

**Autumn Open Dart Tournament** • Sept. 27-29 • \$8,000 prize money. Tahoe Biltmore, Crystal Bay, 831-0660.

**Ferrari Club of America** • Sept. 28-29 • Hill climb, parade, and car show. Virginia City, 847-0311.

**Fall Fun Stag Golf Outing** • Oct. 17-20 • Carson Valley Inn, 800-321-6983.

**Sacramento Kings v. Denver Nuggets** • Oct. 20 • Exhibition basketball game. Lawlor Events Center, U of N, Reno, 800-225-BASS.

## FOOD & SPIRITS

**Sparks Open-Air Marketplace** • Thru Sept. 26 • 4-9pm every Thurs., fresh produce, cooking demonstrations, baked goods, music. Victorian Square, 353-2291.

**Stateline Farmer's Market** • Thru Sept. 30 • 8am-1pm every Fri., fresh fruits and vegetables, plants, and baked goods. Kahle Community Park, Stateline, 588-0271.

**Carson City Farmer's Market** • Thru Oct. 9 • Weekly open-air market, 4-8pm every Wed., fresh fruits and vegetables, crafts, and food. Third and Carson streets,

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**Only \$39 per couple with this ad... Here's what you get:**

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Deluxe Motel Room	
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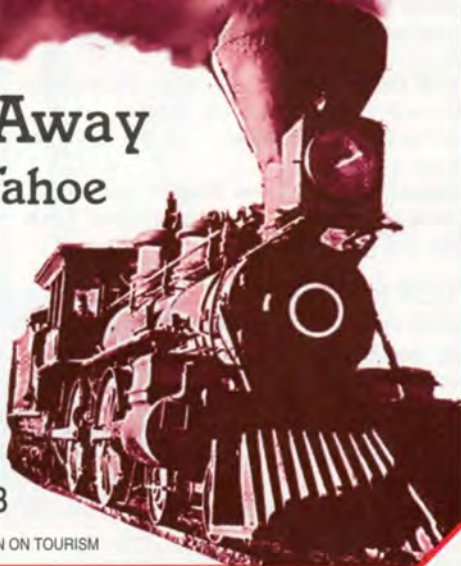
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746-5024 or 687-7410.

**South Shore's Farmers' Market** • Thru Oct. 31 • 8am-1pm every Tues., fresh produce. American Legion Hall, South Lake Tahoe, 916-622-8467.

**Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off** • Aug. 30-Sept. 2 • Rib cookers compete for "Best Ribs" and "Best Sauce," concerts, crafts. John Ascuaga's Nugget and Victorian Square, Sparks, 353-2284.

**Truckee River Beer Festival** • Sept. 7 • Microbrew tasting, food, and music to benefit the American Heart Assn. Reno Hilton, 322-7064.

**High Sierra Chili Cook-Off** • Sept. 20-22 • Chili sampling, crafts, and bands. Lake Tahoe Horizon, Stateline, 588-6211.

**World Championship Chili Cook-Off** • Oct. 4-6 • Hot



Autumn in Western Nevada means harvest festivals, cook-offs, Oktoberfests, and Halloween. Above, a scarecrow awaits trick-or-treaters in Gardnerville.

and Spicy Food Show, concert, crafts fair, and art exhibit. Reno Hilton, 789-2015.

**Oktoberfest** • Oct. 5 • 20-piece oom-pah-pah band, traditional food and beer. Alpine Meadows Ski Area, 916-581-6900.

**Vintage Nevada '96** • Oct. 11 • 700 wines to be tasted. Lawlor Events Center, U of N, Reno, 784-4831.

**Oktoberfest** • Oct. 11-13 • Lake Tahoe Horizon, Stateline, 588-6211.

**Great Chili Cook-Off** • Oct. 12 • Cactus Jack's, Carson City, 882-8770 ext. 11.

**Chocolate Festival** • Oct. 12 • Northstar-at-Tahoe, 916-546-7804.

**Great Italian Festival** • Oct. 12-13 • Grape-stomp, spaghetti-eating contest, booths, and entertainment. Eldorado Hotel and downtown Reno, 786-5700.

**Oktoberfest and Beer Tasting** • Oct. 18 • Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 800-321-6983 ext. 679.

**Dessert Competition and Travel Auction** • Oct. 24 • Reno Hilton, 829-2273.

**Celebration of Brewing in Nevada** • Oct. 30 • 100 types of beer, music, and auction. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

## COMING EVENTS

**Celtic New Year Celebration** • Nov. 1-3 • Reno, 800-535-3045.

**National Senior Pro Rodeo Finals** • Nov. 4-10 • Reno, 829-7469.

**Rhymer's Rodeer Cowboy Poetry** • Nov. 8-10 • Minden, 800-321-6983.

**Festival of the Trees** • Nov. 30 • Reno, 334-2414.

**Sparks Hometown Christmas** • Dec. 7 • 353-2284.

**Handel's "Messiah"** • Dec. 14-15 • Reno, 348-9413.

**Buck-n-Ball '96** • Dec. 31 • Reno Livestock Events Center, 800-FOR-RENO.

**Cowboy Jubilee and Poetry** • March 8 • Carson City, 883-1532.

## SHOWGUIDE

The Reno-Lake Tahoe area offers production shows and big-name entertainment. Harry Belafonte sings at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, Tony Bennett visits Harrah's Tahoe, and Jeff Foxworthy appears at the Reno Hilton. It's always wise to call ahead for show times and reservations.

### RENO/SPARKS

**Atlantis** • 825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Grand Ballroom: "Spirit of Polynesia," Hawaiian revue, Sept. 1; Bands such as Flashback and Livin' Daylights play nightly in the Center Stage Cabaret.

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

**Comstock** • 329-1880.

**Eldorado** • 786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside



The Reno Grand Prix brings Trans Am cars and racing fans to the Reno Hilton's raceway on September 20-22.

Nevada) or 800-648-3024 (Canada): Danny Marona, thru Sept. 1 and Sept. 24-Oct. 13; Brew Brothers: Crazy Copper Keys (Wed.-Sun.).

**Eddie's Fabulous '50s** • 329-1950.

**Fitzgeralds** • 785-3300 or 800-648-5022 (U.S. outside Nevada).

**Flamingo Hilton Reno** • 785-7080: Flamingo Showroom: "American Superstars" (dark Tues.); Showspot Cabaret: "Fierce," revue (dark Mon.); music at Top of the Hilton restaurant.

**Harrah's Reno** • 788-3773 or 800-HARRAHS: Sammy's Showroom: "Playboy's Ecstasy" and "The Great Reno Wild Wild West Show" (dark Tues.); Kingston Trio, thru Sept. 8; John and Donald Mills of the Mills Brothers/Kay Starr, Sept. 10-22; Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles, Sept. 24-29; Sonny Turner's Tribute to the Platters, Oct. 1-13; Patti Page, Oct. 15-27.

**John Ascuaga's Nugget** • Sparks, 356-3304 or 800-648-1177 (U.S. and Nevada): Celebrity Showroom: Charo/Brad Cummings, thru Sept. 4; The Drifters/The

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# Reno Air Days

Aircraft connoisseurs and other sky watchers will be treated to pylon racing and an appearance by the Canadian Snowbirds during the 33rd National Championship Air Races on September 12-15. The event will be held at the Reno-Stead Airport, a former Air Force base 10 miles north of Reno.

The main competitions involve four classes of racing aircraft. The Unlimited planes of World War II vintage such as the P-51 Mustangs, Hawker Sea Furies, and F-4U Corsairs will compete around a 9.128-mile course. The North American AT-6s, stock World War II training planes, will race on a five-mile course. Two classes of home-built aircraft, the Formula Ones and Biplanes, will fly 3.11 miles.

The Canadian Snowbirds, which celebrated their 25th anniversary last year,

will appear for the second straight year. Set to patriotic music and commands from the team leader's cockpit, the nine-aircraft ensemble presents maneuvers like the Big Wedge, the Hesitation Roll, and a five-plane Line Abreast Roll and Loop. During the 25-minute show, the red, white, and blue CT-114 tutor jet trainers flip, nose dive, roll, and pirouette in 50 different stunts timed no more than 10 seconds apart.

Air-show acts making their debuts include John Piggott, flying his Russian Sukhoi, and the Northern Lights, an



Tom Dwelle Sr. (left) races his son, Tom Dwelle Jr., during the AT-6 Class Bronze Championship race last year.

aerobatics team from Canada.

For information on tickets to the National Championship Air Races, call the Reno Air Racing Association, 702-972-6663, or write to Box 1429, Reno, NV 89505.—*Katherine Limon*

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Coasters/Carl Strong, Sept. 5-18; Holly Dunn/John Padon, Sept. 19-Oct. 2; Brenda Lee/Mark Schiff, Oct. 3-16; Sha Na Na/Cesar Aedo, Oct. 17-30; Rose Ballroom: Harry Belafonte, Sept. 12-13; bands play nightly in the Casino Cabaret and Trader Dick's restaurant.

**Peppermill** • 826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Nightly entertainment includes A Tribute to the Temptations, Sept. 23-Oct. 6, and Raised on Radio, Oct. 7-13.

**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.); Outdoor Amphitheater: Santana/Ottmar Liebert, Sept. 6; Tim McGraw/Faith Hill, Sept. 13; Jeff Foxworthy, Sept. 14; Jethro Tull/Emerson, Lake, and Palmer, Sept. 25; Wynonna/Blackhawk, Sept. 27; Aspen Lounge: Bands play Tues.-Sun.; Just for Laughs Comedy Club: Stand-up comedy nightly except Mon.



Blood, Sweat, and Tears plays through September 1 in the South Shore Room at Harrah's Lake Tahoe.

**Reno Hotel** • 788-2000.

**Riverboat** • 323-8877.

**Silver Club** • Sparks, 358-4771 or 800-648-1137 (U.S. outside Nevada).

**Silver Legacy** • 329-4777 or 800-225-BASS (U.S., Canada, and Mexico): Grand Exposition Hall: Randy Travis, Sept. 27-28; Everly Brothers, Oct. 18-19; Righteous Brothers, Oct. 25-26; Silver Legacy Gazebo: Wally Jones and Perry Joe Schirmer, afternoons noon-6pm; Gary Xavier, evenings till midnight; bands play in the Legacy Saloon 9pm-3am.

**Virginian** • 329-4664.

**Western Village** • Sparks, 331-1069 or 800-648-1170.

## CARSON CITY/CARSON VALLEY

**Carson Nugget** • 882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (continental U.S. including Nevada): Big Tiny Little, Motifs, Get Ready, and other bands play in the Nugget Showbar.

**Carson Station** • Carson City, 883-0900.

**Carson Valley Inn** • Minden, 782-9711 or 800-321-6983: Entertainment Tues.-Sat. includes Wild Angel, Midnight Riders, Garfin Gathering, and Louie Fontaine.

**Ormsby House** • Carson City, 882-1890: Entertainment nightly in the casino lounge.

**Piñon Plaza** • Carson City, 885-9000: Sports Book Lounge: Bands play Thurs.-Sat.; karaoke on Mon.

**Sharkey's Nugget** • Gardnerville, 782-3133.

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Ghosts and goblins from Carson City's past will come to life during the Kit Carson Trail Ghost Walk through the state capital's historic district from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on October 26. One of the stops is the Krebs-Peterson Home (above), which appeared in John Wayne's last film, "The Shootist." Not-so-ghostly guides in period costumes (right) will point out such inexplicables as the piano in the Edwards House that never needs dusting. For information about the historical Halloween-time tour call 702-687-7410.



**Topaz Lodge** • Topaz Lake, 266-3339.

## STATELINE, LAKE TAHOE

**Bill's Lake Tahoe** • 588-2455.

**Caesars Tahoe** • 588-3515 or 800-648-3353: Circus Maximus: Boz Scaggs, Aug. 30-Sept. 1; The Mavericks, Sept. 20-21; Willie Nelson, Oct. 25-26.

**Harrah's Lake Tahoe** • 588-6606 or 800-HARRAHS: South Shore Room: "New York, New York," and "Playboy After Hours," production shows thru Dec. 2; Blood, Sweat, and Tears, thru Sept. 1; Little Feat, Sept. 6-8; Tony Bennett, Sept. 13-14; Jim Nabors/Phyllis Diller, Sept. 20-22; Tom Jones, Oct. 18-19; Casino Center Stage: Nightly bands.

**Harveys** • 588-2411 ext. 2883 or 800-553-1022 ext. 2883 (U.S. and Nevada): Emerald Theatre: "Dick Clark's American Bandstand, Live at Harveys," musical revue with Dick Clark as video host (dark Wed.); Llewellyn's: Ron Rose Sound; Bands play in the Emerald Party Lounge.

**Lake Tahoe Horizon** • 588-6211 or 800-322-7723: Grande Lake Theater: Pauly Shore, thru Sept. 1; Golden Cabaret: "Phantasy," magic and comedy revue (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: Casino lounge features such groups as Band on the Run, Livin' Daylights, and Impact.

**Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe** • Incline Village, 832-1234.

**Jim Kelley's Tahoe Nugget** • Crystal Bay, 831-7157:



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Nugget Amphitheatre: Foghat, Sept. 7; Banda Maguey, Sept. 11.

**Tahoe Biltmore** • Crystal Bay, 831-0660: Music and dancing nightly in the Aspen Lounge.

## GAMING TOURNAMENTS

**Keno** • Sept. 12-13 • Silver Legacy, 800-687-7733 or 329-4777.

**Blackjack** • Sept. 13-15 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427 ext. 3610.

**Paradise Slots** • Sept. 15-16 • Atlantis, 800-723-6500.

**Junior Classic Slots** • Sept. 22-25 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427 ext. 3610.

**Video Poker** • Sept. 30-Oct. 1 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427 ext. 3610.

**Fitzero Blackjack** • Oct. 10-12 • Fitzgeralds, 786-3663.

**Oktoberfest Keno** • Oct. 11-12 • Atlantis, 800-723-6500.

**Roulette** • Oct. 11-13 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427 ext. 3610.

**Oktoberfest Blackjack** • Oct. 18-19 • Atlantis, 800-723-6500.

**Bingo Blowout** • Oct. 19 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427 ext. 3610.

**Oktoberfest Slots** • Oct. 27-28 • Atlantis, 800-723-6500.

**\$50,000 Slot Marathon and Grand Prize Give-Away** • Oct. 27-29 • Eldorado, 800-777-5325 or 786-5700.

**Dollar Slot Marathon** • Oct. 27-29 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427 ext. 3610.

**Mr. O'Luckey's Slots** • Nov. 1-3 • Fitzgeralds, 786-3663.

**Blackjack** • Nov. 3-4 • Lake Tahoe Horizon, 588-6211.

**Slots** • Nov. 16-17 • Lake Tahoe Horizon, 588-6211.

## ATTRACTIONS, TOURS & MUSEUMS

### CARSON CITY

**Brewery Arts Center** • 449 W. King St., 883-1976.

**Carson and Mills Park Railroad** • Kiddie choo-choo, thru Oct. 31. Mills Park, 887-2523.

**Children's Museum of Northern Nevada** • 813 N. Carson St., 884-2226.

**Kit Carson Trail** • Walking tour, talking houses on AM radio. 687-7410 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** • S. Carson St. at Fairview Dr., 687-6953.

**Nevada Supreme Court** • Tours. Stewart St., 687-8616.

**Roberts' House Museum** • 1207 N. Carson St., 882-1805.

**Stewart Indian Museum and Cultural Center** • 5366 Snyder, 882-1808.

**Warren Engine Co. No. 1 Museum** • 777 S. Stewart St., 887-2210.

### DAYTON

**Dayton State Park** • 687-5678.

### GARDNERVILLE

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## 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.

**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** • Stream chamber in creek, 916-573-2600.

**Vikingsholm** • Tours, 916-525-7232.

**Zephyr Cove Resort** • 588-5021.

## RENO

**Animal Ark** • 10 mi. north of Reno, then 12 mi. on Red Rock Road, 969-3111.

**Earth Window Museum** • 500 N. Sierra St., Town Center Mall, 333-2828.

**Fleischmann Planetarium** • U of N, 784-4811.

**Galena Creek Regional Park** • Mount Rose Hwy., 785-4319.

**Liberty Belle Slot Collection** • Liberty Belle Saloon, 4250 S. Virginia St., 825-1776.

**National Automobile Museum** • 10 Lake St. S., 333-9300.

**National Bowling Stadium** • Domed theater. 300 N. Center St., 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.

**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.

**Sierra Safari Zoo** • 10 mi. north of Reno at Red Rock Rd., 677-1101.

**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** • 574-0290.

## SPARKS

**Sparks Heritage Foundation and Museum** • 820 Victorian Ave., 355-1144.

**Wild Island** • Off I-80, 359-2927.

## VIRGINIA CITY

**Assay Office Museum** • 847-0777.

**The Castle** • Seasonal, 847-0275.

**Chollar Mine** • Tours, seasonal, 847-0155.

**Fourth Ward School Museum** • Historical displays in 1876 school, 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** • Old gaming tables, devices, and other memorabilia, 847-9022.

**Piper's Opera House** • Seasonal, 847-0433.

**Ponderosa Mine** • Tours, 847-0757.

**Territorial Enterprise Mark Twain Museum** • 847-0525.

**Virginia and Truckee Railroad** • Tourist train to Gold Hill, seasonal, 847-0380.

**Virginia City Radio Museum** • 847-9047.

**Virginia City Tours** • Narrated trolley tour of Virginia City, 786-0866.

**Way It Was Museum** • 847-0766.

**Wild West Museum** • Seasonal, 847-0400.

## VERDI

**Boomtown Family Fun Center** • 345-8668.

**Bull Creek Ranch** • Trail, wagon, and sleigh rides, 345-7600.

## WASHOE VALLEY

**Bowers Mansion Park** • Historic mansion of Comstock millionaires, with picnic grounds near the mansion, 849-1825.

**Davis Creek Park** • 849-0684.

**Washoe Lake State Park** • Picnicking, camping. E. Lake Blvd., 687-4319.

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## A Reminder:

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



# Rural Territories

## EVENTS

Rural Nevada presents fairs, festivals, and car races this fall. Visitors can cheer for their favorite jackass in Beatty, celebrate Labor Day around the state, or catch the rodeo action at the Pahrump Harvest Festival. The listing is presented by territory and area of interest. Please call ahead to confirm dates and times.

### September & October

### COWBOY COUNTRY

#### RODEOS, FAIRS & FESTIVALS

**Elko County Fair** • Aug. 30-Sept. 2 • 75th annual, 4-H show and sale, horse races, branding, team penning and roping, parade, dance, buckaroo breakfast. Fairgrounds, Elko, 738-3616.

**Winnemucca Tri-County Fair and Stampede** • Aug. 30-Sept. 2 • 75th annual PRCA Labor Day Rodeo on Fri. and Sat., Williams and Ree perform 7pm on Sun., hot-air balloon rally, emigrant encampment, wagon train departs on Mon. to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Applegate Trail. Fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-5071.

**Burning Man Festival** • Sept. 1-2 • Gathering in the Black Rock Desert near Gerlach.

**Ranch Hand Rodeo** • Sept. 14-15 • Fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-5071.

**Te-Moak Powwow** • Oct. 18-20 • Te-Moak Indian Colony Gymnasium, Elko.

**Nevada Day Parade** • Oct. 31 • Downtown Elko, 753-4602.

#### EXHIBITS

**Sarah Sweetwater Exhibit** • Thru Sept. 30 • Memorabilia and photographs. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418.

**Western Art Roundup** • Aug. 30-Sept. 2 • Buckaroo, Indian, and pioneer heritage fine art. Winnemucca Convention Center, 529-0452 or 623-2225.

**All-Indian Art Show** • Oct. 1-31 • Western Shoshone and Paiute artists. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418.

**Museum Collection Exhibit** • Nov. 1-Dec. 15 • Andy Galy sand paintings and Ansel Adams and Edward Westin photographs. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418.

#### GENERAL INTEREST

**Annual Corn Feed** • Sept. 1 • Pit-roasted corn at the Outdoor Inn, bingo at the Community Hall. Jarbidge, 488-2311.

**Kathy Mattea Concert** • Sept. 7 • Country-western singer performs at Spring Creek Horse Palace, 12 miles south of Elko. Spring Creek, 753-6295.



Visitors can anticipate unexpected and delightful happenings during small-town festivals, such as this mud volleyball game (above) during Smith Valley Fun Day in Wellington. Known for its car show, the day-long party on October 6 will feature a barbecue, live music, hay ride, crafts, and pedal-powered tractor pulls.

**Chapman Golf Tournament** • Sept. 19-20 • Toana Vista Golf Course, Wendover, 664-2231.

**Craftasia: Celebrating American and Native American Crafts** • Oct. 5-6 • Live music, beer and wine tasting,

and workshops on papermaking, bookbinding, rawhide braiding, and quilting. Elko Convention Center, 738-4091.

**"Demons, Monks, and Nuke Waste"** • Oct. 16-18 •

# Ballistic at Bonneville



Spectators are welcome when drivers test their machines at the World of Speed.

By Chaz Kasper

Earl Wooden of La Crescenta, California, has tested his sleek coupe on the Bonneville Salt Flats near Wendover. The world record for his class is 250 mph.

Heat waves shimmer on the Bonneville Salt Flats east of Wendover, dancing over a crunchy white surface that is wonderful to race upon. As one driver says, "If you lose control at 400 mph and start to spin, you just spin and spin until you stop. You can't do that on a 100-foot-wide concrete track."

During the 10th World of Speed, September 25-28, drivers again will try to break land speed records on the prehistoric lakebed near the Nevada-Utah border. The speed demons will race against the clock in one-of-a-kind vehicles ranging from roadsters to aerodynamic masterpieces.

The event mixes fantastic machines with the air of a family picnic. To get to the action, take the Bonneville Speedway exit off Interstate

80 five miles east of Wendover and proceed to where the salt starts. Signs on the briny road will lead to the event, which usually is held a couple of miles from the interstate.

Driving toward the gathering, you will

see what appears to be a mirage of tents rippling on the white flat. Be sure to stay on the road or run the risk of getting stuck. Also, it's wise to bring portable chairs, shade umbrellas, and plenty of sunscreen. Concessionaires at the race site will offer sandwiches, sodas, and T-shirts. The Utah Salt Flats Racers Association (801-785-5364) can provide details on the World of Speed and other annual speed-trial events.

Visitors will find lodging and dining at the five hotel-casinos in Wendover (702-664-3414 or 800-426-6862). The Bonneville Speed Museum in Wendover is expected to be open until October 19.

Racers began testing their machines on the Bonneville Salt Flats before World War I. Today, visitors can



Butch Salter (above) and Bob Marchese of Wheatridge, Colorado, race a '29 Ford roadster.

see one curious image from the past: a straight, black line of oil that continues 10 miles toward the mountains. The line was first laid down by Sir Malcolm Campbell, who brought his Rolls-Royce-powered *Bluebird* here in 1935, searching for the longest, flattest place on Earth. Campbell became the first man to drive a car faster than 300 mph, setting a land speed record of 301.13 mph at the flats.

There is an irony about the salt flats, however. As speeds increase, the salt is decreasing. Once up to seven feet deep and covering 96,000 acres, the salt flats now cover only 19,000 acres, and mud shows through in places.

## In 1935 Sir Malcolm Campbell set a land speed record of 301.13 mph at the flats.

Suspected causes of the decline vary from the construction of Interstate 80 across the flats to the mining of potash for fertilizer. Both have affected the flow of briny water that deposits new layers of salt on the flats in winter. Scientists have tried pumping a salty solution back onto the flats, but the results are uncertain.

Meanwhile, the salt decline has led to shorter speed tracks and a concern for the salt flats' survival. Some experts estimate that the salt is vanishing at a rate of one percent per year; at that pace, it could be gone in a few decades. Racing enthusiasts believe the pumping is worth a try. Mary West is secretary of Save the Salt and holder of women's land speed records in the 1950s. She says, "If it doesn't work, we may lose the flats."

For those attending the World of Speed, the flats will always have a magical quality. And when streamlined shapes are propelled across the granulated white, hearts dance with the heat waves in this place of speed and salt.

*Chaz Kasper is a Lake Tahoe writer, photographer, artist, and speed-record fan who has seen many mirages on the salt flats.*

## Rural

Series of three lectures by Frank Bergon, novelist and Vassar College professor of English, on the Nuclear Age. Great Basin College, Elko, 738-8493.

**Deer Widows Weekend** • Oct. 18-19 • Community-wide party for women abandoned on the first day of deer-hunting season. Wendover, 664-3414.

**Pig Roast-Halloween Party** • Oct. 26 • Pig roasted on a spit, baked-goods auction, Halloween party. Outdoor Inn, Jarbidge, 488-2311.

### CAR SHOWS & RACES

**Pony Express 100 Open Road Race** • Sept. 6-8 • Auto race on State Route 305 between Battle Mountain and Austin, 805-274-4068.

**Morrodders Car Show and Gamblers Run** • Sept. 13-15 • Car trade show, dance to '50s and '60s music, rock 'n' roll concert. Elko Convention Center, 738-4091.

**Race to the Angel** • Sept. 14 • Hillclimb for mountain bikes, road bikes, runners, and walkers. Starting line in downtown Wells, 752-3540.

**World of Speed** • Sept. 25-28 • 10th annual land speed record attempts. Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 801-785-5364.

**Wendover 100** • Oct. 12 • Hare and hound motorcycle race. Wendover, 801-943-3508.

**World Finals** • Oct. 16-19 • Unlimited class cars in land speed record attempts. Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 664-3414.

### GAMING

**Keno Tournament** • Oct. 10-11 • State Line, Wendover, 664-2231.

**Halloween Slot and Keno Tournament** • Oct. 30-31 • State Line, Wendover, 664-2231.

## PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY

### RODEOS, FAIRS & FESTIVALS

**Raildays '96** • Aug. 31 • Battle of the Rails contest with spike driving and races, barbecue, street dance, \$12. Nevada Northern Railway Museum, East Ely, 289-2085.

**White Pine County Fair** • Aug. 31-Sept. 1 • Fairgrounds, Ely, 289-8877.

**Hearts O' Gold Cantaloupe Festival** • Sept. 1-2 • Farmer's market, arts and crafts, rodeo, and contests. Fairgrounds, Fallon, 423-2544.

**Fernley Rodeo and Frontier Days** • Sept. 28-29 • Rodeo, parade, 10K run, barbecue, and crafts. Out of Town Park, Fernley, 575-4459.

### PERFORMANCES & EXHIBITS

**The Train Plunges Into the Tunnel** • Sept. 1-30 • Exhibit by ceramicist Michael Sarich. Churchill County Library, Fallon, 423-1440.

**Fallon Naval Air Station Historical Exhibit** • Sept. 1-30 • Fallon Convention Center, 423-2544.

**Nathan and the Zydeco Cha Cha's** • Oct. 4 • Dance concert of Cajun music. Fallon Convention Center, 423-1440.

**Tannahill Weavers** • Oct. 25 • Scottish music and humor. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 237-6006.

### GENERAL INTEREST

**Snake Valley Reunion** • Aug. 31-Sept. 1 • Dance, pioneer and ranching skills demonstrations. Great Basin

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Horse-racing fans can make tracks to the 75th annual Elko County Fair, August 30-September 2. The fair also has a 4-H show and sale, parade, and buckaroo breakfast.

National Park, Baker, 234-7270.

**Rock and Bottle Show** • Sept. 1-2 • Austin, 964-2447.

**Ruins Tour** • Sept. 7 and 21 • Guided tour of Fort Churchill State Historic Park. Silver Springs, 577-2345.

**Hidden Cave Tours** • Sept. 14, 28 and Oct. 12, 26 • Hike to view archaeological site. Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677.

**Civil War Encampment** • Oct. 5-6 • Nevada Civil War Volunteers present living history programs and battle reenactments. Fort Churchill State Historic Park, Silver Springs, 577-2345.

### COMPETITIONS & CONTESTS

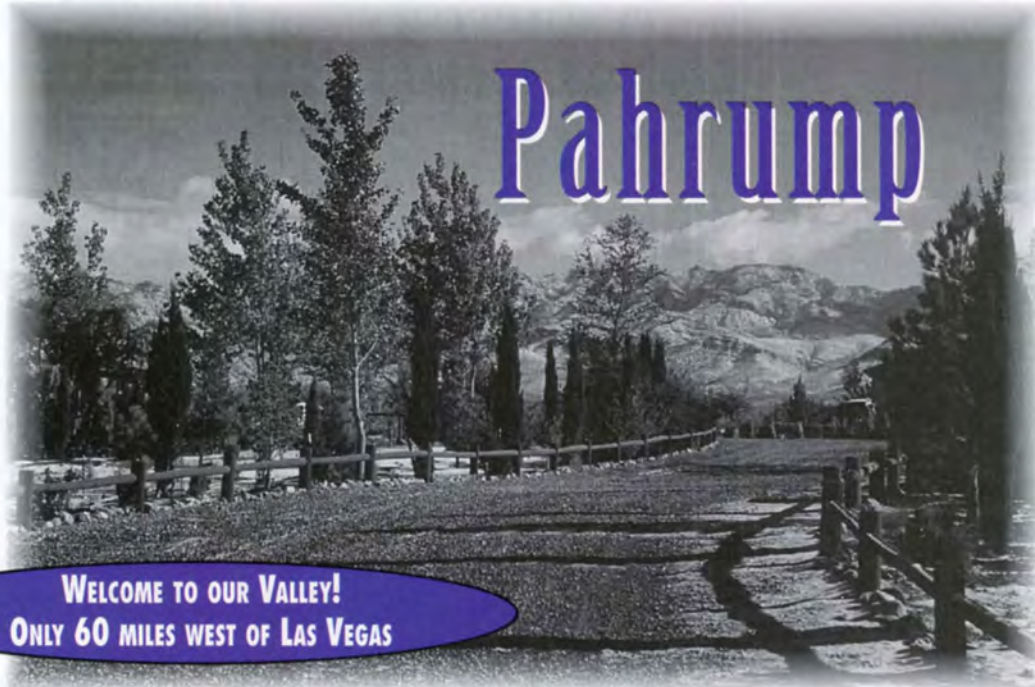
**Top Gun Raceway** • Super Groups Invitational Sept. 1,

Funny Car Fever Sept. 14, Trophy Race Sept. 15, and California Classics Nostalgia Oct. 12-13. Schurz Hwy., Fallon, 423-2544.

**Sporting Clay Target Shoot** • Sept. 14, 21, and Oct. 12 • Perdiz Shooting Range, Eureka, 237-7027.

**Silver State Classic Challenge** • Sept. 19-22 • Auto race on State Route 318 between Lund and Hiko, vari-

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ous classes, pre-race events in Ely. 289-6287.

**Great Northern Nevada Stew-Doo** • Sept. 29 • Stew cook-off and tasting, cowboy poetry, gunslingers, vendors, and exhibits. Silver Springs, 577-2333.

**Dirt Track Championship** • Oct. 12-13 • Rattlesnake Speedway, Fallon, 423-7483.

## PIONEER TERRITORY

### RODEOS, FAIRS & FESTIVALS

**Pioche Labor Day** • Aug. 30-Sept. 2 • Street dance, nighttime electric-light parade, mining events, softball tournament, Dutch-oven dinner, games, crafts. 962-5245.

**Mineral County Fair and Rodeo** • Sept. 6-8 • Carnival, arts and crafts, entertainment, and rodeo. Hawthorne, 945-5854.

**Pahrump Harvest Festival** • Sept. 13-25 • Parade, pro rodeo, exhibits, barbecue, carnival, and stock car races. Petrack Park, Pahrump, 727-8195.

**Pinenut Festival, All-Indian Rodeo, and Honoring Our Elders Powwow** • Sept. 20-22 • Rodeo and powwow at pinenut-harvest time. Schurz, 773-2300.

**Smith Valley Fun Day** • Oct. 6 • Car show, barbecue, hay ride, arts and crafts. Wellington, 465-2354.

**Harvest Sale and Auction** • Oct. 20 • Baked goods, arts and crafts, junque boutique, antiques and collectibles auction. Wellington, 465-2304.

### GENERAL INTEREST

**Jazz Festival** • Sept. 7 • Pahrump Valley Vineyards, Pahrump, 727-6900.

**Family Festival** • Sept. 28 • Melodrama. Pahrump



It's a battle of the bulls during the Winnemucca Tri-County Fair and Stampede, August 30-September 2.

Valley Vineyards, Pahrump, 727-6900.

**Grape Stomp Festival** • Oct. 12 • Pahrump Valley Vineyards, Pahrump, 727-6900.

**Chili Cook-Off** • Oct. 19 • Cook-off and motorcycle run. Saddle West Hotel, Pahrump, 727-1111.

### RACES & COMPETITIONS

**VORRA Off-Road Races** • Aug. 31-Sept. 2 • Drivers

compete in off-road vehicles. Yerington, 463-2245.

**Pizen Switch Run** • Sept. 14 • 5K and 10K run-walk. Yerington, 463-2245.

**Great American Sack Race** • Sept. 14 • Each male entrant carries a 100-pound sack over a five-mile course. Women carry 50-pound sacks. Yerington, 463-2245.

**Hound and Hare Motorcycle Cross Country Race** • Sept. 15 • Yerington, 463-2245.

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## RODEO

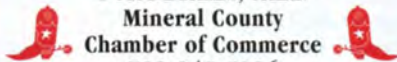
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**Labor Day Weekend**

**August 30th - September 2nd**

**1-800-WMCA-NEV or 702-623-6458**

Humboldt County Fairgrounds, Winnemucca, Nevada 89445.

### Rural

#### Western Cup Cowboy Action Shooting Championship

• Sept. 27-29 • Beatty, 553-2424.

#### Beatty 49er Burro and Flapjack Races • Oct. 26 •

Humans team with burros in ultimate test of animal behavior at the Beatty Arena. Beatty, 553-2424.

### COMING EVENTS

**Beatty Grand Prix** • Nov. 2-3 • Off-road motorcycle race. Beatty, 553-2424.

**Mining Competition** • Nov. 2-3 • Beatty, 553-2424.

**Photographers Special** • Nov. 9-10 • Nevada Northern Railway Museum, East Ely, 289-2085.

**Nevada State Cowboy Action Shooting Championship** • Jan. 17-19 • Pahrump, 564-7762.

**Cowboy Poetry Gathering** • Jan. 25-Feb. 1 • Elko, 738-7508.

**Fallon Air Show** • May 17 • Naval Air Station, Fallon, 423-4556.



"Legends in Concert" will bring familiar faces like the Righteous Brothers to Cactus Petes in Jackpot.

### VISIT HISTORIC...

# LOVELOCK

...SINCE 1868

#### WALKING TOURS

Historic Round Courthouse  
Marzen House Museum  
Other Vintage Buildings

#### SHADY PARKS

State of the Art Playground  
Tennis & Basketball  
Par/Fit Course  
Swimming

#### SIDE TRIPS

Lovelock Indian Caves  
Tufa Formations  
Ghost & Mining Towns  
Rye Patch State Park

PERSHING COUNTY  
CONVENTION & VISITORS CENTER  
(702) 273-7144

### SHOWGUIDE

Casinos often bring stage shows to rural Nevada. For example, "Legends in Concert" and "An Evening at the Improv" are scheduled for Cactus Petes in Jackpot. Many lounges have comedy or karaoke during the week and bands on weekends. Call ahead for show times.

### COWBOY COUNTRY

#### BATTLE MOUNTAIN

Owl Club • 635-5155.

#### ELKO

**Commercial Hotel** • 738-3181: Comedy on Wed.

**Holiday Inn** • 738-8425: Piano bar, Tues.-Sat., dance club, Thurs.-Sat.

**Red Lion** • 738-2111 or 800-545-0044 (Western U.S. outside Nevada): Club Max Showroom: Comedians and a country band, Tues.-Sun.

**Stockmen's Hotel** • 738-5141 or 800-648-2345 (U.S. and Nevada).

#### JACKPOT

Barton's Club 93 • 755-2341.



The Pahrump Harvest Festival, September 13-25, has a carnival, pro rodeo, parade, and stock-car races.

**Cactus Petes** • 755-2321 or 800-821-1103: Cabaret Lounge: Danny Marona, Sept. 3-15; "Legends in Concert," Sept. 17-Oct. 13; "An Evening at the Improv," Oct. 29-Nov. 3.

**Horseshu Casino** • 755-2321.

### MILL CITY

**Burns Bros. Casino** • 538-7306: Bands often appear in

Mr. B's Lounge at the Mill City casino on Interstate 80.

### WENDOVER

**Nevada Crossing** • 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).

**Silver Smith** • 664-2231 or 800-354-3671.

**State Line** • 664-2221 or 800-648-9668.

### WINNEMUCCA

**Winners Hotel** • 623-2511: Eddie Dunbar Band, thru Sept. 1; Midnight Riders, Sept. 3-15; Paul Perryman, Oct. 1-13; Kim Diamond, Oct. 15-27; Madison Avenue, Oct. 29-Nov. 3.

### PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY

#### ELY

**Hotel Nevada** • 289-6665.

#### FALLON

**Bonanza Inn** • 423-3111 ext. 47.

**Fallon Nugget** • 423-3111.

### PIONEER TERRITORY

### AMARGOSA VALLEY

**Longstreet Inn** • 372-1777: Weekend entertainment.

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# Winnemucca

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*And more...*

- Dig for opals.
- Visit a ghost town.
- Tour a gold mine.
- Dine on Basque cuisine.

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*There's more than meets the eye.*

**Winnemucca**

Call us for your free visitor's guide!

1-800-WMCA-NEV

Or write the Winnemucca Convention & Visitors Bureau, 50 West Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445

**BEATTY**

**Stagecoach** • 553-2419 or 800-4-BIGWIN (U.S. outside Nevada): Cool Water/Smoke House, Sept. 1-Oct. 31.

**HAWTHORNE**

**El Capitan** • 945-3321: X Factor, Sept. 4-8; Dan Bower Band, Sept. 11-15; Buddy Balue, Sept. 18-22; Lord and Gerard, Sept. 25-29; Rhythm and Motion, Oct. 2-6 and 9-13; Sidekix, Oct. 16-20; The Cut Ups, Oct. 23-27; Sierra, Oct. 30-Nov. 3.  
**Joe's Tavern** • 945-2302.

**PAHRUMP**

**Mountain View Casino and Bowl** • 727-7777: Bowling alley, entertainment.  
**Saddle West Casino** • 727-1111 or 800-GEDDY-UP: Casino-lounge entertainment.

**TONOPAH**

**Mizpah Hotel** • 482-6202.  
**Station House** • 482-9777: Woods Brothers, Sept. 17-29; Saddle Tramp, Oct. 1-13; Lonesome Hearts, Oct. 22-Nov. 3.

**YERINGTON**

**Casino West** • 463-2481 or 800-227-4661 (U.S. and Nevada).  
**Dini's Lucky Club** • 463-2868.

**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.  
**East Ely Railroad Depot Museum** • 289-1663.  
**Eureka Opera House** • Open Mon.-Fri. or by appointment, tours. Eureka, 237-6006.  
**Eureka Sentinel Museum** • Eureka, 237-5010.  
**Fort Churchill State Historic Park** • Silver Springs, 577-2345.  
**Great Basin National Park** • Baker, 65 miles east of Ely, 234-7331.  
**Hickison Petroglyph Recreation Site** • 24 miles east of Austin on U.S. 50.  
**Nevada Northern Railway Museum** • Seasonal, 1100 Ave. A, East Ely, 289-2085.  
**Sand Mountain** • 20 miles east of Fallon, 885-6000.  
**Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Site** • 16 miles (11 dirt) south of Ely, 728-4467.  
**White Pine Public Museum** • 2000 Aultman St., 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, 964-2440.  
**Cathedral Gorge State Park** • Panaca, 728-4460.  
**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** • 400 10th St., Hawthorne, 945-5142.  
**Pahrump Valley Winery** • Tours. 3810 Winery Rd., 727-6900 or 800-368-WINE.  
**Rhyolite Bottle House, Historic Site** • Four miles west of Beatty, 553-2424.  
**Stone Cabin Living History Museum** • One mile north of Eagle Valley Reservoir, seasonal, Pioche, 728-4460.  
**Walker Lake State Recreation Area** • Hawthorne, 945-5896.

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For more information, write  
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P.O. Box 1958, Hawthorne, NV 89415

**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.

# Nevada Gift Shop

**N**EVADA MAGAZINE makes it easy for you to have a memorable holiday season with true Nevada treasures from The Loneliest Gift Shop of the Real West. The shop is located in the magazine's main office at 1800 Hwy. 50 East in Carson City. You can do your shopping in person (and say "hi" to members of the staff) or order by mail. Either way, you'll want to consider the new Nevada Explorer's Kit. It's perfect for your Nevada outings—and as a gift.

## T-Shirts and Sweatshirts

T-shirts are either 100-percent cotton or 50/50 cotton/poly, as noted below. All sweatshirts are 50/50 cotton/poly.



### Explorer T-Shirt

**The Five P's**—Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance. You'll be ready to explore Nevada with your forest-green T-shirt, emblazoned with the Nevada Explorer logo and complementing your Nevada Explorer's Kit. The shirt is 50/50 cotton/poly in adult sizes M, L, and XL, #EKT \$15.50 (add \$2.00 for XXL), and in children's sizes M and L, #CEKT \$11.50

## Just for Kids

### Symbolic Junior T-Shirt

Sure to warm the hearts of many, the Symbolic Nevada Junior T-shirt is now available in natural (beige). The shirt is 50/50 cotton/poly in sizes S, M, and L, #SYMK, \$11.50

### Nevada Kid T-Shirt

Your children will squeal with delight when they wear this Nevada kids-only shirt. It's 50/50 cotton/poly and available in white in sizes XS, S, M, and L, #NKID, \$11.50

### Children Love Horses

Children's eyes grow as big as saucers when they discover their own T-shirts match their parents' shirts. Nevada wild horses are printed on the front. This shirt is available in sizes S, M, and L, #CHORS, \$11.50



## Wild About Nevada

A patch of Nevada wildflowers has been puff-printed on scooped-neck T-shirts, which are 100-percent cotton. You can pick red or white in sizes S, M, L, and XL, \$19.95. Add \$2.00 for XXL. Red T-shirt, #FLRTR. White T-shirt, #FLRTW. The design also is available on sweatshirts in sizes M, L, and XL, \$25.95. Red sweatshirt, #FLRSR. White sweatshirt, #FLRSW. Add \$2.50 for XXL.



### Celebrating Wild Horses

Wild horses have been captured in a wrap-around design on peppercorn-colored, all-cotton T-shirts in sizes M, L, and XL, #HORT \$17.95. Add \$2.00 for XXL. Image also is printed on ash-colored sweatshirts in sizes M, L, and XL, #HORS, \$25.95. Add \$2.50 for XXL.



## Traditional Favorites

### T-Shirts

Still among our most popular items are the traditional white and blue **NEVADA** T-shirts. Close behind are the maroon and teal T-shirts with white lettering. They are 100-percent cotton in sizes S, M, L, and XL, \$14.50. White with blue lettering T-shirt, #NVTW. Blue with white lettering T-shirt, #NVTB. Maroon with white lettering T-shirt, #NVTM. Teal with white lettering T-shirt, #NVTT. Add \$2.00 for XXL.

### Sweatshirts

Offering a warm, classic look, **NEVADA's** blue and white sweatshirts are still available in sizes S, M, L, and XL, \$23.95. White with



blue lettering sweatshirt, #NVSW. Blue with white lettering sweatshirt, #NVSB. Add \$2.50 for XXL.



## Symbolic Nevada

For those who have a special fondness for Nevada, the cat's meow is the Symbolic Nevada T-shirt showing the Silver State's diverse attractions. The image is printed on the front of an all-cotton T-shirt, in sizes M, L, and XL, \$17.95. Add \$2.00 for XXL. Neutral (beige) T-shirt, #SYMN. Black T-shirt, #SYMB. The image also is printed on black sweatshirts in sizes M, L, and XL, #SYMBS, \$25.95. Add \$2.50 for XXL.

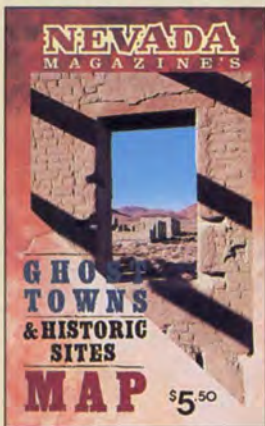


## Nevada Writing Paper

Award-winning artist Brenda Locke-Knight of Carson City illustrated many of Nevada's official emblems, from the bristlecone pine to the tule duck decoy, for the Great Nevada Notepad. The 6-1/2" x 10" tablet has 64 pages, with eight Nevada symbols alternating throughout. One notepad, #1NOTEP \$4.50. Two notepads, #2NOTEP \$8.00

## Nevada Ghost Town Map

You can explore Nevada from a different point of view with the Nevada Ghost Towns and Historic Sites Map. It points out long-forgotten mining camps that were thriving cities in their bonanza days. Included are major parks and their facilities, museums, and hot lines for vacation tips. #GTM, \$5.50



# Nevada Gift Shop

## Nevadatude



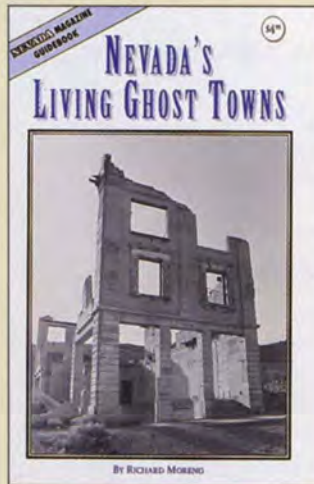
A treasure, tempting enough to buy more than one! The Nevadatude shirts are for adults and children. The shirt is 50/50 cotton/poly and available in purple in adult sizes M, L, XL, #CHIP \$15.50 (add \$2.00 for XXL), and in youth sizes M and L, #CCHIP \$11.50.

Black shirts with white lettering are available in adult sizes M, L, XL, CHIPB, \$15.50. Add \$2.00 for XXL.



## Suspenders

Here's a jaunty way to show your affection for the Silver State—NEVADA logo suspenders. The red or blue suspenders are embossed with the white NEVADA logo and have sturdy leather crosspatches. The sizes are regular and extra-long; both sizes are adjustable. Regular suspenders: Blue, #SUSBR; Red, #SUSRR, \$14.00. Extra-long suspenders: Blue, #SUSBX; Red, #SUSRX, \$14.00



## Nevada's Living Ghost Towns

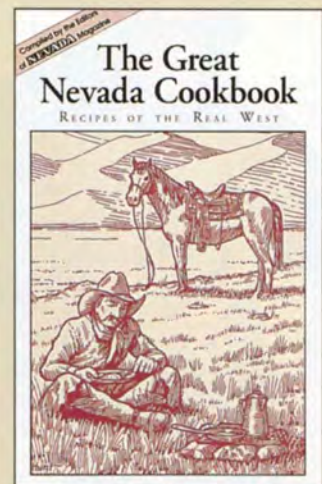
This well-illustrated guidebook highlights the history and legends surrounding nine of Nevada's living ghost towns—ranging from Goldfield to Virginia City—with brief descriptions of another dozen. 32 pages, 5-1/2" x 8-1/2" format. #LGT \$4.95

## Additional Gift Shop Items

"NEVADA MAGAZINE Index: 1980-1993," #INDX, \$14.95  
 Binder for storing NEVADA MAGAZINE Collections, #BIND, \$5.50  
 Necklace with Nevada petroglyph patterns, #NECK, \$10.00  
 Nevada logo neckties, navy blue, #BTIE; or maroon, #RTIE, #5.00

## The Nevada Cap

For shady protection while fishing, gardening, or watching a ballgame, try this classic cap. The cap is available in blue with a white NEVADA logo, #BCAP and in white with a blue NEVADA logo, #WCAP. Size is adjustable. \$7.50



## The Great Nevada Cookbook

You can enjoy recipes for many of the special dishes of Nevada's varied cultures—from Italian to Basque, from African-American to Greek, and more. Book has 32 pages, 5-1/2" x 8-1/2" format. #CB, \$4.95



# DINING DIRECTORY

The following Nevada dining directory includes current magazine advertisers. Each listing gives sample dishes, whether breakfast, lunch, or dinner (B, L, D) are served, and accepted credit cards. Price ranges refer to typical entree price per person: up to \$10 (\$), \$11 to \$20 (\$\$), \$21 to \$30 (\$\$\$), and more than \$30 (\$\$\$\$). To phone from out of state or long distance in-state, the area code is 702 throughout Nevada.

## Las Vegas Area

### AMERICAN

**Country Star/Las Vegas**—740-8400. Western cooking featuring hickory-smoked barbecued ribs and chicken, certified Angus beef, buffalo steaks, and burgers. 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.

### INTERNATIONAL

**Riviera Hotel/Mardi Gras Food Court**—734-5110. Nine quick-service restaurants serving food from around the world. B, L, D, \$, no CC.

**Riviera Hotel/World's Fare Buffet**—794-9400. Restaurant features a variety of international cuisines plus prime rib served nightly. B, L, D, \$, major.

### ITALIAN

**Imperial Palace/Pizza Palace**—794-3261. Pizza, pasta, salads. L, D, \$, major.

**Riviera Hotel/Ristorante Italiano**—794-9363. Vermicelli salsa bella vista, lobster Francaise, fresh seafood. D, \$-\$\$\$\$, major.

### ASIAN

**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 roughly with black pepper sauce. Beef, shrimp, chicken, and pork sautéed with Chinese vegetables in oyster sauce. D, \$-\$\$, major.

### STEAK & SEAFOOD

**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. Complete dinners include glass of house wine, vegetable tray, breads, salad, entree, dessert bonbons. D, \$\$, major.

## Laughlin

**Ramada Express/Dining Car Coffee Shop**—298-4200. Open 24 hours. B, L, D, \$, major.

**Ramada Express/Passaggio Italian Gardens**—298-



*Sterling's Seafood and Steakhouse at the Silver Legacy in Reno offers fine dining.*

4200. Homemade pastas and 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. Sunday champagne brunch, Saturday breakfast buffet, Friday seafood buffet. B, L, D, \$, major.

**Carson Nugget/Coffee Shop**—882-1626. Open 24 hours. B, L, D, \$, major.

# Limericks

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**Carson Valley Inn/Fiona's**—Minden, 782-4347. Steaks, seafood, veal, soup and salad bar. L, D, Sunday 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. Casino buffet restaurant, open daily. B, L, D, \$, major.

**Holiday Hotel Casino/Shore Room**—Reno, 329-0411. Entrees include fresh salmon in chive sauce, chicken, prime rib, steamed vegetable basket. B, L, D, \$, major.

**Peppermill Hotel/Coffee Shop**—Reno, 826-2121. Filet of chicken croissant, Mediterranean omelet, California tostada salad, stuffed shells Florentine. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

**Peppermill Hotel/Island Buffet**—Reno, 826-2121. Seafood buffet Friday. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, 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, assorted deli sandwiches. B, L, D, \$, major.

**Silver Legacy/Victorian Buffet**—Reno, 329-4777. Prime rib, shrimp and crab cioppino, homemade ravioli, 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. Fourth St., Reno, 323-7203. Sweetbreads, tripe, paella, other seafood dishes. L, D, \$, major.

#### FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

**Peppermill Hotel/Le Moulin**—Reno, 826-2121. Broiled swordfish Santa Cruz, filet mignon, bearnaise, veal piccata, lobster linguine a la Roma. D. \$\$-\$\$\$ major.

#### INTERNATIONAL

**Eldorado/Choices**—Reno, 786-5700. Express cafe with hoibrau, deli, bakery, ice cream. B, L, D, \$, major.

**Eldorado/Chefs' Pavilion Buffet**—Reno, 786-5700. Rotisserie chicken, mushroom ravioli, salad bar, prime rib. B, L, D, \$, major.

**Eldorado/Tivoli Gardens**—Reno, 786-5700. Multi-ethnic, 24-hour restaurant. B, L, D, \$, major.

**Peppermill Hotel/Food Court**—Reno, 826-2121. Manicotti marinara, prime rib, kung pao shrimp, chicken fajitas. B, L, D, \$, major.

#### ITALIAN

**Eldorado/La Strada**—Reno, 786-5700. Northern Italian cuisine with veal, chicken, and seafood entrees plus homemade pasta, sauces, and desserts. Award-winning wine list. D. \$\$, major.

#### ASIAN

**Silver Legacy/Sweetwater Cafe**—Reno, 329-4777. Baked homemade tortellini, fried shrimp, prime rib, Cantonese pepper steak. B, L, D, \$, major.

#### STEAK & SEAFOOD

**Carson Nugget/Oyster Bar**—882-1626. Seafood and pan roasts. L, D, \$, major.

**Carson Nugget/Steak House**—882-1626. Veal scalopini, scampi in dill sauce, chicken piccata, escargot. D. \$\$, major.

**Eldorado/Grill and Rotisserie**—Reno, 786-5700. Mahogany-fueled rotisserie and grill, fresh fish, fowl, lamb, soup and salad bar. D. \$\$, major.

**Fitzgeralds/Limerick's Pub and Grille**—Reno, 785-3300. Scampi St. Patrick, Emerald Isle Herb Chicken, Erin Creme Filet. L, D, \$, major.

**Silver Legacy/Fairchild's Oyster Bar**—Reno, 329-4777. Louisiana crab cakes, oyster pan roast, jambalaya, chef's seafood salad. L, D, \$, major.

**Silver Legacy/Sterling's Seafood and Steakhouse**—Reno, 329-4777. Medallions of filet mignon,

spicy roast chicken, seafood fettuccine. 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 pizzaiola, pollo allo spumante. D. \$\$, major.

#### ASIAN

**Caesars Tahoe/Empress Court**—Stateline, 588-3515. Szechwan, Mandarin. D. \$\$, major.

#### STEAK & SEAFOOD

**Caesars Tahoe/Broiler Room**—Stateline, 588-3515. Prime rib, seafood, Cajun specialties. Reservations

are required for large parties. D. \$\$, major.

**Caesars Tahoe/Pisces**—Stateline, 588-3515. Salmon, lobster, sea bass. Flown in fresh daily. D. \$\$, major.

## Around the State

**Elko: Stockmen's Motor Hotel**—738-5141. Coffee shop, evening dinner house. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

**Lovelock: Sturgeon's**—273-2971. Coffee shop open 24 hours, family dining room. Fiesta Room supper club Tuesday-Saturday. Steaks, seafood, Mexican dishes. B, L, D. \$-\$\$\$ major.

**Tonopah: Station House/Mary's Kitchen**—482-9777. Hamburgers, steaks, seafood. B, L, D, \$, AE, MC, V.

**Winnemucca: Winners Hotel/Grandma's Dinner House**—623-2511. Prime rib, Maine lobster, T-bone steak, chicken cordon bleu. D. \$, major.

**Winnemucca: Winners Hotel/Pete's 24-Hour Coffee Shop**—623-2511. All-you-can-eat buffet. B, L, D, \$, major.

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# Vacation Hot Lines

Where to call or write for travel tips.

**W**hen 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, be sure to 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

**African American Activities:** 3838 Raymert Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89121; 456-3838

**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; 294-1252

**Henderson C of C:** 590 S. Boulder Hwy., Henderson, NV 89015; 565-8951

**Hoover Dam Visitors Services:** Box 60400, Boulder City, NV 89006; 294-3523

**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 Road, 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 77777, Laughlin, NV 89028; 298-2214 or 800-227-5245 outside Nevada

**Laughlin Visitor Center:** 1555 Casino Dr., Laughlin, NV 89029; 298-3321 or 800-452-8445

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

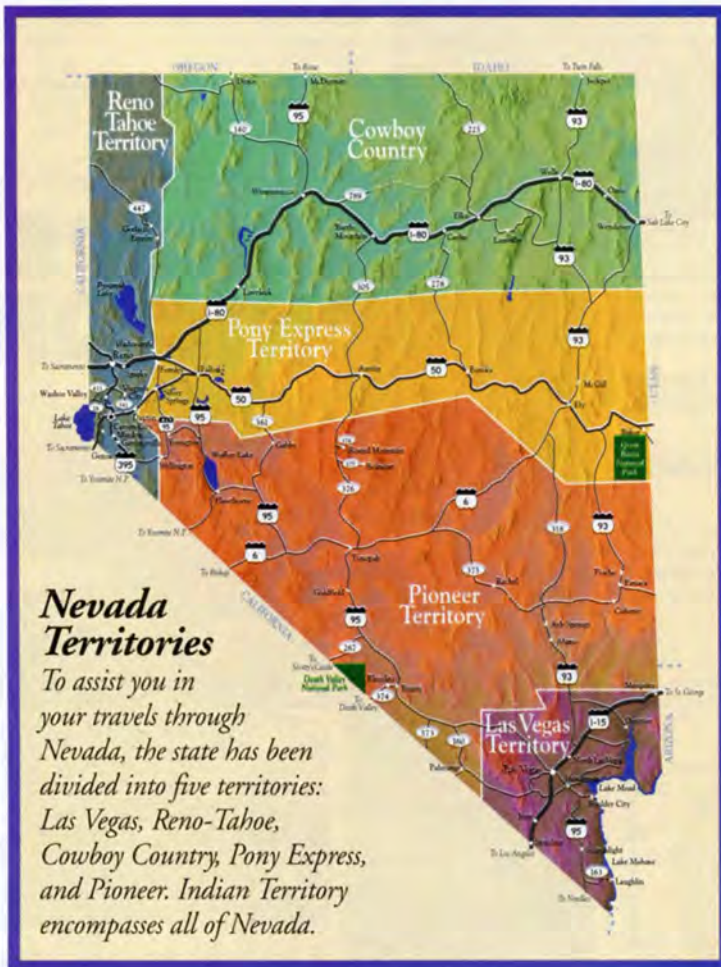
**Mesquite Visitor Center:** Interstate 15 Exit 122, Box 1560, Mesquite, NV 89024; 346-2703

**Moapa Valley C of C:** Hwy. 169, Box 361, Overton, NV 89040; 397-2160

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

## Reno-Tahoe Territory

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



### 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.

**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:** 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.

**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; for information call 827-RENO or 800-FOR-RENO in U.S.

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

**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, Fernley, NV 89408; 575-4459

**Great Basin C of C:** Box 90, Baker, NV 89311;

**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 (Cactus Petes)

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

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

**McDermitt Information:** Box 278, McDermitt, NV 89421; 532-8742

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

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:** 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 Brougher 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 Cultural Center and Museum, 5366 Snyder Ave., Carson City, NV 89701; 882-1808

## State and National Parks

**Death Valley National Park:** Beatty Visitor Center: 307 Main St., Beatty, NV 89003; 553-2200. 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:** HCR 33, Box 5500, Las Vegas, NV 89124; 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 Division 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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# The Phantom of South Shore

“Phantasy” delivers deception at the Lake Tahoe Horizon.

By Katherine McDonnell

Some lounge shows have elaborate sets and costumes. Some have jugglers and comedians. “Phantasy” at the Lake Tahoe Horizon has Tony Clark, star, executive producer, and general one-man gang of the South Shore’s new production show.

Clark, who takes a tongue-in-cheek approach to his illusions, leads a “Phantasy” that combines magic, dance, and comedy in a mesmerizing dream trilogy in which each segment tells a story.

In the show’s opening sequence, the three female dancers take the stage in Marie Antoinette-style costumes and wigs for a unique twist on Madonna’s “Vogue.” As the music swells, Clark appears dressed as the Phantom of the Opera—hence the show’s title—and with a wave of his hand unleashes white doves, seemingly from thin air.

Later, Clark dons a fedora, leather jacket, and bullwhip as Indiana Jones. He also recreates some of Harry Houdini’s great escapes.

Although “Phantasy” is flawed by tricks done in darkness, the 70-minute pro-

## A volunteer buckles Clark into a straightjacket during a Houdini tribute.

duction sparkles when Clark’s talent for comedy comes to light. In the Indiana Jones montage, which he plays effectively for laughs, Clark is captured by a tribe of beautiful warrior women. In an effort to learn his magical secrets, the women attack Indy in a martial-arts battle that showcases the star’s own athletic ability.

Less mysterious are the antics of featured act Chip Lowell, whose improvisational blend of physical comedy and



“Phantasy” dancers Judy Kim (left), Jamie Keating, and Cassandra Mistak encounter star Tony Clark in the Lake Tahoe Horizon’s magic-and-dance show.

magic has the audience literally on its feet, especially when he gets an unsuspecting volunteer to stand on a chair while Lowell juggles machetes above the showgoer’s head.

With the show’s six-member cast, which includes the three dancers who double as magician’s assistants, Clark and producer Robin Bond have created an intimate production with exceptional flow and pacing. In one sequence, Clark materializes from one trick, is pulled into a curtain, and magically reappears to begin the next segment.

During the finale Clark presents an illusion—a tribute to the Great Houdini—designed specially for the show at Lake Tahoe Horizon. A volunteer from the audience buckles Clark into a straightjacket before the magician is suspended above an industrial-size rotating fan. As Clark is slowly and torturously lowered toward the blades, the audience witnesses a suspense-filled race against

the clock while Clark tries to escape.

What “Phantasy” lacks in extravagant sets and costumes it more than makes up for in entertainment value. You’ll want to escape to see this light-hearted magic-and-dance show and watch a magician having fun with his craft.

*Katherine McDonnell, former Nevada events editor, is a Las Vegas-based freelance writer, dancer, and choreographer.*

## Phantastic Facts

“Phantasy” appears at 8 and 10:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday in the Golden Cabaret at the Lake Tahoe Horizon in Stateline. Tickets are \$14.25, which includes tax but not the one-drink minimum. The late show is for adults only. Call 702-588-6211 for information.

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