

NEVADA

M A G A Z I N E

October 1997

INSIDE:
Complete Guide
to Events & Shows

Animal Attractions

Nevada's zoos and sanctuaries offer the chance to see animals up close

Wild About Wendover

Exploring the hotels and historic attractions of the border town on the salt flats

Mystery of the City of San Francisco

Was the famous train wreck of 1939 caused by speed or sabotage?

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Dominic Silva makes a friend
at Sierra Safari near Reno

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On the Cover:

Dominic Silva, 4, visits the petting zoo at Sierra Safari north of Reno. Photo by Gary Elam

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Wild About Wendover

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The Mystery of the Speedy Streamliner

Was it sabotage? The wreck of the *City of San Francisco* occurred west of Elko nearly 60 years ago, but its cause remains a mystery for many folks today.

By Howard Hickson



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We'll be back next issue with the answer to another frequently asked question.

Trains of Thought

One of Nevada's great unsolved mysteries is the 1939 wreck of the *City of San Francisco*. Was the train's derailment west of Elko caused by speed or sabotage? That is the question **Howard Hickson** reviews in "The Mystery of the Speedy Streamliner" in this issue.

"I think it was the combination of tragedy and big business that intrigued me about this event," Howard says. "Most of the local people said they thought it was caused by speed. Of course, there was the question of sabotage. In '39 they were already fighting in Europe. During the war soldiers lived in tents by the tracks around Elko and guarded the tunnels."

Howard has long been fascinated by Nevada and Elko history. He ran his own graphic-design studio in Reno and Carson City and served as curator of exhibits at the Nevada State Museum. Then he moved to Elko to take the directorship of the Northeastern Nevada Museum.

"When I came to Elko in 1969, I thought I might last only a year," he says. "But this is a great place. I love the people and the land, and here I am in Elko 28 years later."

As the director (or dictator, as he used to joke) of the Elko museum for 25 years, he edited its historical quarterly, designed



Howard Hickson at home in Elko.

exhibits, created a highly successful traveling photo show, and developed one of the state's elite museums. His work has led to many honors, including selection by the university system as a Distinguished Nevadan. His numerous articles include a *Nevada Magazine* story on a wily cattle rustler who fooled the sheriff's trackers by strapping hoofs to his feet.

After retiring with the title of museum director emeritus in 1993, Howard has been "busier than I ever thought I would be."

Besides his graphics work, writing, and travels with his wife Terry, a retired teacher and journalist, Howard has visited museums in California, Arizona, Virginia, and Vermont as an accreditation surveyor for the American Association of Museums.

Howard's story on the *City of San Francisco* grew out of a Rotary Club meeting in 1979 when several Elkoans recalled their experiences at the wreck. Howard later prepared a slide show for the museum and published a story in the historical quarterly.

Around town, he still hears folks talk about the wreck of the *City of San Francisco*. Elko barber Joe Bell saw the scene as a youngster. Joe has strong opinions on the subject, Howard notes, "and I've been getting my hair cut by Joe for 28 years."—David Moore

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Letters

Surfing the state and following Area 51.

Surfing Nevada

I've just returned from spending eight days in Nevada. As usual, it topped my expectations!

In the July/August issue of *Nevada Magazine*, I want to thank you and writer Carolyn Graham for the helpful "Surfing the Silver State" article. What a terrific idea. I'm recommending the article to all my friends on the Internet.

Bob Carter
Oxnard, CA

About Face

Congratulations on the change in typeface. It makes the magazine much more readable—and enjoyable.

Dan Burns
Carson City

Eventful Section

Regarding the Nevada Events and Shows section of the magazine, I am concerned about the events area being spread all over the magazine, rather than each area being concentrated, as they were before. It makes it harder for me to check the events and shows that are going on in each area.

Jerry Carpentier
Columbia, IL

Cover Shock

I've long enjoyed *Nevada Magazine*, but I shall not be resubscribing. I can well believe that it took you over a year to redesign the

cover—it's that bad. It's aesthetically offensive visually. It's obscenely nondescript.



I've been proud to display the magazine previously. I shall not allow the May/June issue to be seen on my library table. I've torn the cover from it.

To further express what a vital error you've made with "freshening," consider the total goof-ups of New Coke, the 1984 Cadillac Eldorado, the 1958 Edsel, and beehive hairdos.

M.H.E. McKusick
Phoenix, AZ

A Breath of Fresh Air

As a longtime subscriber to *Nevada Magazine*, I'd like to thank you for the breath of fresh air. I'm referring to the new logo and somewhat changed format of the magazine.

Knowing most of us don't take to change in our daily lives, the fresh look of the magazine gives it a much wider appeal. As I have been reading this publication for more than 10 years, I have come to rely on it for a great deal of my information

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about Nevada. I'm still getting pertinent and timely information from *Nevada Magazine*—that hasn't changed.

Dianna Bassett
Las Vegas

Area 51, Where Are You?

I was deeply depressed to read in *Newsweek* that the Pentagon has moved Area 51 from Groom Lake to Utah's Green River. Say it ain't so, Joe!

I had a memorable experience last summer traveling the Extraterrestrial Highway and staying at the Little A 'Le' Inn in Rachel and had been looking forward to a return visit. Things just would not be the same without the threat of arrest by government goons. Can you confirm or deny the story, which is apparently from the June issue of *Popular Mechanics*? Fans of UFOs and government conspiracies look to you for clarification.

Kyle Renick
New York, NY

Kyle, we called Joe and Pat Travis, owners of the Little A 'Le' Inn, for clarification. Pat reports that Area 51, the super-secret military base 150 miles north of Las Vegas, is staying put. Besides, she adds, "how can they move something that [they say] doesn't exist? Rest assured there is still activity out here—and we're not going anywhere."—Ed.

Pining for Prometheus

It's good to see *Nevada* celebrating the 5,000-plus years of the world's oldest known tree's life—in what is now Great Basin National Park—and reviewing the circumstance and aftermath of its felling in August 1964 ("Whatever Happened to the World's Oldest Tree?" by Ronald M. Lanner, May/June '97).

That chainsawing echoed around the world in the later '60s and early '70s. As one of those who had visited that amazing bristlecone pine in the late 1950s and begun referring to it as Prometheus, I was also one of those who publicly mourned its death.

Let's never forget Prometheus or his living kin. Let's hope *Nevada Magazine* and others will review and mourn at intervals on into the future. The life and death of this so-old tree continue to be meaningful worldwide.

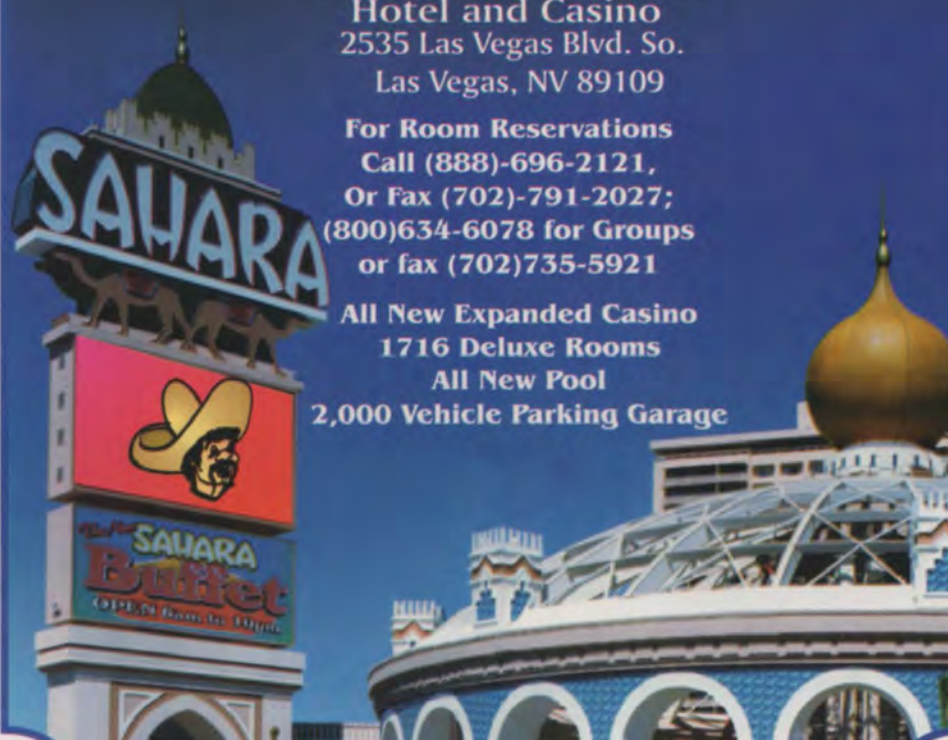
A final note: The beautiful photo of Wheeler Peak and hikers by Tom Gamache on page 29 is reversed. Wheeler Peak should be on the right. Though the reversal fuzzes my orientation, I'd guess the hikers are on Bald Mountain.

Darwin Lambert
Luray, VA (formerly of Ely) ■

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A large, ornate sign for the Sahara Hotel and Casino. The sign features the word "SAHARA" in large, stylized letters at the top. Below it is a smaller sign with a cowboy hat logo and the word "SAHARA" again. At the bottom of the sign is a sign for "SAHARA Buffet". The background of the sign is blue and white, with a large, ornate building visible in the background.

Fantastic Sundays – Cash & Prize Giveaways

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A logo for Red Garter Hotel & Casino. It features a stylized illustration of a woman in a red dress and high heels, holding a garter. The text "RED GARTER" is written in large, bold, red letters, and "HOTEL & CASINO" is written in smaller, black letters below it.

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Roadside Attractions

Pumpkins, roses, and a giant Coke bottle.

Pumpkin Patch Kids

WASHOE VALLEY—A good place to get in the Halloween spirit is **Nevada Lynn's Emporium**, a quaint country store packed with produce, crafts, candy, and pumpkins.

Kids can frolic in the Harvest Pumpkin Patch, a yearly attraction created by owner Lynn Garofalo. The play area has a slide and is filled with pumpkins, corn stalks, hay, and a scarecrow. This year, Garofalo plans to add hay wagon rides for the kids with a tour through a spooky graveyard. Live music is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

The Harvest Pumpkin Patch will be open from September 15 to October 31. Nevada Lynn's, located midway between Carson City and Reno on U.S. 395, is open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Call 702-849-3333 for details.—*Carolyn Graham*



Kids fall into the pumpkin patch at Nevada Lynn's Emporium.

This Bud's for You

HAWTHORNE—Fall is a good time to stop and smell the roses at the **Memorial Rose Garden** near the Mount Grant General Hospital and Mineral County Public Library at First and A streets.

The garden has three sections. The first, on the north side of the hospital, was established in 1963 by the Green Thumb Garden Club of Hawthorne and is filled with 257 rose bushes. The second was built

in 1984 and surrounds the library. This "library garden" has 154 plants as well as statues and park benches. The newest section, which was started in 1988, is located across the library parking lot and has 263 rose bushes. The third garden is surrounded on three sides by hedge roses and has native rocks, walking paths, park benches, and a bird bath.

The Memorial Rose Garden is planted and maintained by volunteers under the direction of Hawthorne resident and green thumb Wanda Nolan. She says clipping the plants keeps the roses blooming throughout the spring, summer, and fall. "When it cools off, they get real pretty again," she says. The roses come in all colors and varieties, such as the Magic Lantern, which is yellow

with a hint of orange, and the Dolly Parton rose, which, not surprisingly, is lipstick red.

To reach the garden, head south on State Route 359, take a right on First Street to A Street. Nolan spends many hours at the rose garden, but you often can reach her at the TLC Nursery, 702-945-5805, for more information.

Up a Creek

LAKE TAHOE—If you've ever wanted to observe fish underwater without having to hold your breath, try the **Lake Tahoe Stream Profile Chamber** on Taylor Creek.

In the fall, kokanee salmon turn bright-red as they swim up the creek to spawn. This year visitors can see the spectacle through a newly renovated stream-profile chamber at the U.S. Forest Service Visitor Center, three miles west of South Lake Tahoe on Highway 89.

Upon entering the chamber you will be fully immersed in a simulated stream ecosystem. The chamber stands in a diverted section of Taylor Creek, which visitors can study through a series of floor-to-ceiling windows. Also, a



Visitors can catch a new view of the spawning salmon at the south end of Lake Tahoe.

12-foot-tall, 180-degree curved diorama shows life above and below the water.

While watching the stream life, you can get comfortable on one of the benches that resemble logs and boulders while sounds of the stream and nature are piped in. Children can find surprises hidden in



The Memorial Rose Garden in Hawthorne is planted and pruned solely by volunteer green thumbs.

shelves that resemble tree limbs. Call the U.S. Forest Service Visitor Center, 916-573-2674, for information.—*Jenifer Walker*



Shopkeepers Steve Moore (left) and Bill Sjovangen carry turn-of-the-century merchandise at Kiefer and Bateson in Virginia City.

Old-Fashioned Shopping

VIRGINIA CITY—You almost expect to see a Wells Fargo wagon unloading freight on the boardwalk in front of **Kiefer and Bateson**, the new general mercantile in Virginia City. This old-fashioned store is stocked only with goods whose manufacture dates back prior to 1900.

The mercantile is located across from the Savage Mansion in a two-story brick building occupied by a general store in the late 1800s. Today's proprietors, Bill Sjovangen and Steve Moore, are attempting to re-create the shopping experience of yesteryear. Visitors step past the copper washtubs, wooden barrels, butter churns, and wheelbarrows that line the entry to the store.

"We both retired from the Air Force a little over a year ago and wanted to work with something that had to do with history," says Sjovangen. "I had a degree in history, and Steve and I were both involved in historical reenactment, taught living history in the schools, and Kiefer and Bateson just came about from what we like to do."

Why "Kiefer and Bateson"? Moore explains, "Sjovangen and Moore didn't sound like storeowner's names that would have been common in the 1880s, so we used our mothers' maiden names, Kiefer and Bateson. It works, too—good German

and English-Welsh names that were common then."

Kiefer and Bateson is not an antique store—all of the Williamsburg and Old Sturbridge Village pottery, candle lamps, tinware, pewter, hand-forged ironware, Wells Fargo trunks, jewelry, playing cards, kitchen gadgets, and children's toys are new but were originally designed and manufactured before the turn of the century.

The emporium is divided in the center with racks of woolen blankets made by the Early's Company, which first wove blankets for the Hudson Bay Company in 1669. Overhead are wooden canteens, leather parfleches, powder horns, and period clothing.

When the proprietors renovated the old brick building, they wanted the store to be historically accurate, so no sheetrock, electrical outlets, heating ducts, or light switches were placed on the interior rock walls or newly laid knotty-pine floors. Cabinets hide the outlets and wiring.

Kiefer and Bateson is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This winter they'll be bringing out the "draughts" (checker) board for games around the pot-bellied stove. Call 702-847-7406 for more information.—*Cynthia Kennedy*

A Tall Cool One

LAS VEGAS—When you visit the **World of Coca-Cola Las Vegas**, you'll find bottle art, a polar bear that grunts when you sit on its lap, Norman Rockwell prints, old Coke machines, an enormous gift store—everything except the secret recipe.

The World of Coca-Cola occupies four stories in the Showcase Mall next to the MGM Grand. A giant Coke bottle faces the Strip, and one can't help but imagine it filled to capacity with the syrupy beverage, ready to be chug-a-lugged by King Kong.

You can ride close to the top of the big bottle in one of two elevators and then explore the realm floor by floor. A dozen attractions are dedicated to the notion that things go better with Coke, and they provide an intriguing tour of Coca-bilia through the years. In the upper levels you'll find the Time Walk, where street scenes present the history of Coca-Cola,

which dates back 111 years. One 1886 scene depicts a bank in Atlanta, home of the closely guarded secret formula. Santa's Toy Store displays the familiar paintings of the Coca-Cola Santa by artist Haddon Sundblom.

You can get into some serious sipping at the soda fountain, which dispenses all kinds of Coca-Cola drinks, such as Simba Piña, a pineapple-flavored drink favored by thirsty residents of Paraguay.

Later, in the 12,000-square-foot gift store, you can browse the fairly astonishing array of merchandise—stuffed polar bears,



Coke fans will find the real thing at the Showcase Mall on the Strip.

toy trucks, Coke machines, miniature Coke bottles, T-shirts, sports apparel, pins, and other collectibles. Appropriately, the store's name is Everything Coca-Cola—meaning everything, of course, except the secret recipe.

The World of Coca-Cola Las Vegas is open from 10 a.m. to midnight (to 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday). Admission is \$5 adults, \$3 children. Call 800-720-COKE for more information.—*David Moore*



Leafing Through History

RENO—As you soak up the fall colors in Northern Nevada, you can also admire some of the city's most interesting trees by taking **Reno's Landmark and State Champion Trees driving tours**.

The Reno Parks and Recreation Division publishes brochures for two driving tours. Landmark trees, according to the guides, are those on "public property

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having special status due to their age, size, shape, species, location, historical association, visual quality or other contributions to the city's character." A champion tree "is the largest tree of its kind located within the state."

Tour Number 1, in the Idlewild Park area along the Truckee River, visits nine trees, including a 100-foot-tall sycamore that is 75 years old and a 34-foot tree of heaven. The park's amur maple tree, which is 20 feet tall and 25 years old, is especially colorful in the fall. Tour Number 2 visits the older residential areas around Virginia Lake. You'll find such trees as a 90-foot-tall giant sequoia and the state champion bur oak, which is 50 feet tall.

The black-and-white brochures have photos of each tree, tour directions, and detailed maps. For brochures contact Reno Parks and Recreation, 2055 Idlewild Drive, Box 1900, Reno, NV 89505-1900 or call 702-334-2270.—Carolyn Graham

Scanning the Skies

LAS VEGAS—Stargazers can view the cosmos and even enjoy some astronaut edibles at the **Planetarium** located on the Community College of Southern Nevada's



Stargazers learn about centrifugal force at the Planetarium in North Las Vegas.

Cheyenne Campus in North Las Vegas.

Southern Nevada's only public planetarium and observatory offers planetary programs, movies, nighttime viewings through several telescopes, and a uniquely themed gift shop. Its domed theater presents such shows as *Through the Eyes of Hubble* and *Beautiful Nevada*, which change every three or four months. Double features usually last about an hour.

Telescope-viewing sessions are held on Friday and Saturday evenings after the movies and during special astronomical events, such as eclipses and comets. The planetarium's three outdoor observing

domes have refracting telescopes from six to 16 inches. A fourth pad is set up for portable telescopes. In October, gazers will be able to see Saturn in the east beginning at sunset. The constellation Andromeda also will be visible in the eastern sky, and the star cluster in Hercules can be seen in the west.

Shows are presented at 6 and 7:30 p.m. every Friday and 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday. Free public telescope-viewing sessions are held after the 7:30 p.m. shows (around 8:30 p.m.), weather permitting.

The Astronomy Store is open 5 to 8 p.m. Friday and 3 to 8 p.m. Saturday. The gift shop carries posters, books, T-shirts, and freeze-dried astronaut munchies called Action Snacks. Visitors also can pick up a copy of the planetarium's monthly magazine, *onOrbit*, which features a sky calendar, information about special events and programs, photos, maps, and news from NASA.

Admission to the planetarium is \$3.50, or \$2.25 for Community College of Southern Nevada students, seniors, and children under 12. For show times call 702-651-4SKY (or 702-651-5059 for more information). You also can visit the planetarium's Web site at <http://www.ccsn.nevada.edu>.—*Katherine McDonnell*

Trotting Tours

ELKO—If you've ever wanted to sample Old West-style travel, John and Kathy Downing have a surrey for you, complete with the fringe on top.

The Downings offer horse-drawn carriage tours of Elko attractions, including the Northeastern Nevada Museum and the Western Folklife Center. The carriage, built by Amish craftspeople in Iowa, holds 12 to 15 passengers and is equipped with turn signals, emergency flashers, and hydraulic brakes. Downing, who used to operate a stagecoach tour in Cody, Wyoming, notes that his stepson, Mike Golden, a former Western outfitter and all-around buckaroo, does most of the driving. The surrey is pulled by a pair of Belgian coach horses named Ruby and Garnet.

Elko Custom Carriage Tours (702-778-6969) offers two hour-long morning and afternoon tours as well as a dinner tour. The route begins at the Red Lion Hotel and continues down Idaho Street to the Elko Chamber of Commerce and the Northeastern Nevada Museum, the tour's base of operations. The carriage completes



Elko Custom Carriage Tours offers a trot through town in an old-time surrey.

a figure-eight ride between Third and Fourth streets and Court and Commercial streets and then returns to the Red Lion.

The Downings also offer special champagne rides as well as a Western dinner held every other Friday. For a more rugged experience, you can join their fall cattle drive on September 13-14.

Further information on the tours is available at the Red Lion (702-738-2111), which sells tickets for the rides. Prices are \$30 for adults (10-percent senior-citizen discount), \$15 for children ages six to 12, and free for kids under six.—*Kerry Jamison*



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Animal Attractions

By
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Graham

Animal
lovers will
find places
in Nevada
to take a
walk on the
wild side.



A dolphin makes a splash at the Mirage, where
nine Atlantic bottlenose dolphins make their
home near the hotel's Secret Garden.



Today Cougie the mountain lion is a star in Las Vegas, admired by the hundreds of people who visit the Southern Nevada Zoological-Botanical Park each week. But when visitors watch the cat romp around his enclosure or nap in his favorite grassy spot, few realize that Cougie's story began 10 years ago as a harrowing tale of survival.

It was winter in Nevada, and a miner near Battle Mountain had stumbled upon the nearly frozen mountain lion cub curled up in the rut of a logging road. Hoping the mother would return, the miner went on his way but returned 12 hours later to check on him. The cub was still there, apparently abandoned by his mother.

The miner scooped up the cub and took him to the Nevada Division of Wildlife office in Elko. There, officials estimated he was five weeks old and judged that he had been born on October 31, Nevada Day. They contacted the Southern Nevada Zoological-Botanical Park, at the time the only place in Nevada that could care for the cat.

Zoo founder Pat Dingle was worried: How could he get the animal from Elko, nearly 500 miles away, quickly enough to save its life? Dingle, a former homicide detective in North Las Vegas, decided to call on his one-time colleagues in blue: the Nevada Highway Patrol. From Elko to Vegas, the five-pound cub was

relayed from patrol car to patrol car. He arrived near death, but Dingle, with the help of a veterinarian and others at the zoo, nursed the cub back to health. Today Cougie ("I had nothing to do with naming him," Dingle is quick to point out) is a full-grown mountain lion living among other wild creatures at the Southern Nevada Zoological-Botanical Park.

The park is one of a growing number of places in Nevada where humans can get close to animals. Aspiring Dr. Doolittles can touch, talk to, and learn about the world's animals at all sorts of places, from peaceful, out-of-the-way sanctuaries to attractions that are mere steps from the casino. Nevada's animal places allow visitors to get close to exotic critters—white tigers from the Himalayas, rare apes from Africa, majestic birds of prey—as well as a few animals we take for granted, like cows, chickens, and pigs.

The Southern Nevada Zoological-Botanical Park became Nevada's first zoo in 1980, when Dingle decided to expand his tropical bird store in Las Vegas. "We started with modest—and I do mean modest—means," he says. Today visitors strolling through the compound will find shade trees and exotic types of bamboo that add greenery and a natural setting for the 150 species of animals that live there. Guineas and peacocks strut freely in the park and often follow families as they tour the exhibits.

The park is the last and only place in the United States where you can see Barbary apes, bright-eyed little animals that stare curiously at visitors. Zookeepers feed them "monkey biscuits," and visitors can watch as the animals take the biscuits and gingerly nibble on them with their sharp teeth. The Barbary apes come from North Africa and, like many of the zoo's animals, are quite comfortable in Las Vegas' warm, arid climate.

"About 80 percent of the world's species live in this kind of climate. The advantage here is that we don't



Pat Dingle (above) is head zookeeper and founder of the Southern Nevada Zoological-Botanical Park in Las Vegas. Visitors there can see Cougie (bottom), who came to the zoo 10 years ago as an orphaned cub.

have severe cold and blizzards," Dingle says, whose calm demeanor, sandy blond hair, and brown zookeeper's shirt reminds one of TV animal handler Jim Fowler.

The zoo also has emus, wallabies, mule deer, pheasants, and an American alligator. Visitors can see such creepy crawlers as Gila monsters (which are involved in a breeding program at the zoo), iguanas, geckos, and diamondback rattlesnakes. Dingle is a rock hound, and he collects samples from the Southern Nevada desert to add a decorator's touch to the reptile habitats.

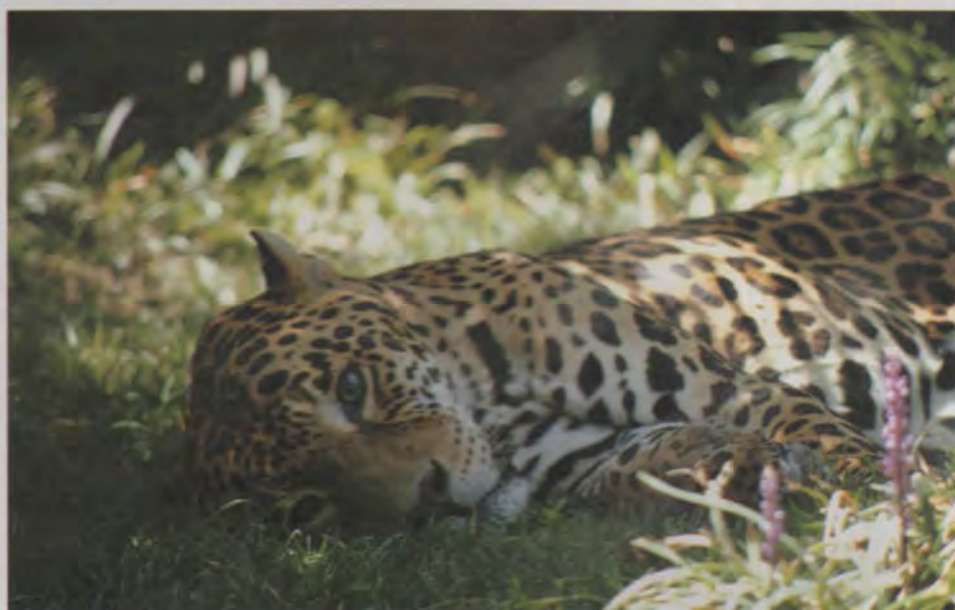
A pair of coyotes, a cottontail rabbit, and a desert tortoise occupy the desert exhibit, as does Billy Bob the badger, who was brought to the zoo after he washed up during a flood in Boulder City 10 years ago. Two golden eagles named George and Martha ("Again, I didn't name them," Dingle jokes) perch stoically nearby.

Naturally in Las Vegas, you also can find animals at the hotels. At the Mirage visitors can take a mini-safari through the jungles of the Secret Garden, home of the rare white tigers who appear and disappear in Siegfried and Roy's stage show at the hotel.

At the Secret Garden, a guide leads visitors to see the hotel's Atlantic bottlenose dolphins. Nine dolphins currently live in the 2.5-million-gallon tank. Squirt was the first dolphin born there, and his birth was captured on videotape. The youngest is Sagebrush, who was born in June. In the underwater viewing area, the dolphins seem to be smiling as they swim by the window where visitors gawk and take photos.

As you stroll deeper into the Secret Garden, attendants hand you radios that provide narration by Siegfried and Roy and Mirage CEO Steve Wynn. Visitors can see the white tigers and a new family of white lions. There are tawny-colored tigers, which carry the recessive genes that produce pure-white offspring. A pair of black panthers and a rare snow leopard often make appearances, as does the garden's Asian elephant, the only resident vegetarian. The elephant steals the show from the tigers when she plays the harmonica and rolls over on her side for a scratch from her trainer.

The white cubs are a target for poachers and trophy hunters, so Siegfried and Roy not only have begun a white tiger and lion breeding program, but the illusionists also provide the animals with a lavish "jungle" at the pair's sprawling Las Vegas home. The number of white tigers in the program has grown from two to 40, and Siegfried and Roy have dubbed them



A peacock struts his stuff at the Southern Nevada Zoological-Botanical Park (top), while a leopard lounges amid the tropical foliage at the Secret Garden at the Mirage (middle). During the 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. feedings of the Flamingo Hilton penguins (bottom), wildlife specialists give informal talks to spectators while the birds snack on smelt.



Volunteer Ron Martinez wings it with Max, a red-tailed hawk, at the Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary (top). Jim Martin, one of the cofounders of Sierra Safari north of Reno, is joined by Scarlett the snow monkey in the zoo's petting area (middle). Kids can pet, feed, and milk the cows at the Milky Way Farm north of Minden (bottom).

Photos: Kate Butler (top), Ralph Willits (middle), Jay Aldrich (bottom)

the "Royal White Tigers of Nevada."

At the Tropicana Hotel, the Wildlife Walk is a soothing indoor retreat where you can take a close look at colorful birds and other residents of the tropics. Visitors can pick up a brochure that tells the name, habitat, and habits of each bird. Their vocabularies also are detailed, and visitors are encouraged to talk to the birds.

"Gimme a kiss. Gimme a kiss," coos a friendly tourist, oblivious to everything except a silent cockatoo, who cocks his head at the talkative human.

Along the walk you'll meet Hank, a 17-year-old macaw who is the hotel's oldest bird. Tiki is a rare Hyacinth macaw from southern Brazil, and Baby is a Catalina macaw who would rather wave hello with his wing than speak. You'll find cockatoos, love birds, and African grey parrots. At the end of the walkway you can order a piña colada at the sunken bar, where parrots and macaws are perched in the rocks and foliage.

While lounging near the pool at the Flamingo Hilton, sunbathers often are surprised to see a flock of bright-pink Chilean flamingos enjoying the warm Las Vegas climate. The stilt-legged birds, on the other hand, seem not to notice the tourists aiming video cameras at them.

Other birds living among the Flamingo's ponds and streams include black swans and sacred ibis, which were worshipped by ancient Egyptians. Visitors strolling to the buffet will notice a family of penguins—the South African, not polar, species—and their habitat near the hotel's back entrance. The penguins swim by like little black torpedoes.

If you're looking for a more natural communion with birds, the Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary, 10 miles north of Las Vegas, provides a peaceful setting for birds and humans. The sanctuary is home to the Wild Wing Project, an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization that rehabilitates injured, ill, and orphaned birds and, when possible, returns them to the wild.

The sanctuary is situated in a scenic greenbelt. At the adjacent Gilcrease family farm, visitors can buy and pick fresh fruits and vegetables during harvest season—fall is a good season for picking pumpkins and pears. Jack Perea and his wife Natalie are caretakers at the sanctuary, and when he has time Jack will stroll among the outdoor cages with visitors and talk about the birds.

"Petunia here is a turkey vulture," he says of the bird, who was shot in a wing and is recovering at the sanctuary. "He just eats whatever's dead. The more rotten, the

better." Mr. Poe, explains Perea, is a raven with the gift of gab: "He barks like a dog. He imitates the turkeys. Once he starts talking, he never shuts up."

Like visitors, Perea enjoys the antics of Charlie, a cockatoo with a lot of character. The bird likes to spin around in his water dish till he's too dizzy to walk or fly. "He looks like he's drunk," Perea says.

People bring Perea many injured birds, especially in the spring when babies are prone to tipping out of nests. Wild Wing publishes a pamphlet describing how to care for baby birds that are not endangered or threatened.

Animal lovers in the Reno area will find several attractions. The state's largest zoo is Sierra Safari, 10 miles north of Reno. Sierra Safari has nearly 200 exotic animals. Kids love the place because they can pet the pot-bellied pigs and Tennessee fainting goats while fallow deer tug on their clothes and shoelaces. The enclosure leads to other exotic animals, such as a hyena, llamas, and wallabies. The cats are king at the zoo, which this summer opened a new exercise area with more romping room for Tasha the Siberian tiger, Hobbs the rare liger (half lion,

half tiger), and Kenya the African lion.

Dale McDaniel cofounded the zoo in 1990 with Jim Martin and Dave Dawson. McDaniel, who grew up in Sparks, always had animals, and as former special-education teacher he often brought students home on field trips to see his menagerie. He and his partners opened Sierra Safari in the foothills of Peavine Mountain after they realized Reno didn't have a place where kids could see and learn to appreciate animals. When McDaniel bought the property, it had no electricity or other modern amenities. The house, an old barracks moved from Stead in the 1930s, had served as a toothpaste factory, brothel, nursing home, bar, and real estate office before it became zoo headquarters.

All of Sierra Safari's animals were bred in captivity, so they're curious and friendly

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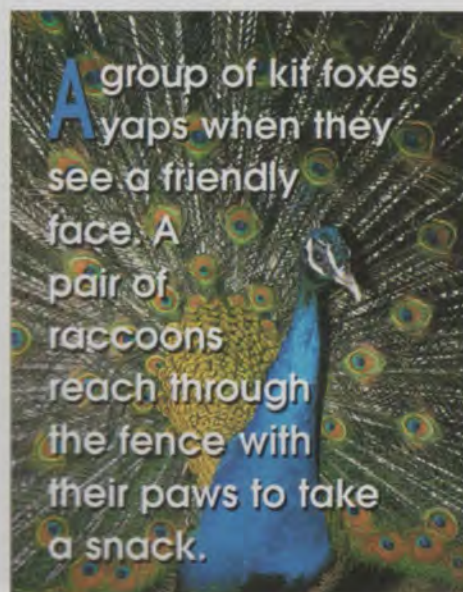
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toward humans. Animal lovers can pet the exotic deer and then march right up to a bison named Honey, who lounges in a large enclosure. The trail through the zoo leads to ring-tailed lemurs, a camel named Stormy, muntjacs (tiny deer with sharp antlers), a pair of African crested porcupines, and a group of Japanese snow monkeys. The trail ends in a grassy area where tropical birds sit on perches.

In rolling juniper-covered hills, on the other side of U.S. 395, is Animal Ark, a nature sanctuary that caters to native species. A 12-mile scenic drive leads to the Ark, which is isolated and serene—you hear only the wind as it whooshes through the surrounding canyon.

After entering the gate, visitors climb a trail that leads to a peregrine falcon named Whoopi. Diana Hiibel, who opened the Ark to the public in 1994 with her husband Aaron, tries to bring out Whoopi from her wooden enclosure at

least once a day so visitors can see the falcon up close. Whoopi is blind in her left eye, the result of a cataract, and is unable to survive in the wild.

While Hiibel pulls out pieces of quail meat from her pouch, a family admires the bird. "Eeeewww," says one of the kids when she hears Whoopi crunching the bones of the quail. Hiibel explains that peregrines feed on birds and can dive-bomb at 100 to 200 mph. "She drops like a teardrop," she says in admiration.

The focus at Animal Ark is on non-releasable wildlife like Whoopi, but Hiibel says her group occasionally takes in orphaned animals and later places them back in the wild. Last spring a young black bear found near Topaz Lake spent time at the sanctuary recuperating from a broken hip. When they took him out and opened his cage, the bear went bounding across a meadow. "It's really rewarding when your efforts are fruitful," Hiibel says.

The animals are thoughtfully spaced along the hillsides amid the sagebrush and juniper, and in most cases the enclosures are built around existing terrain and vegetation. Visitors can read about each resident on plaques and play games such as "Guess the Animal."

A group of kit foxes yaps when they see a friendly face. A pair of raccoons reach through the fence with their paws to take a snack from Hiibel. Three bobcats, all of different subspecies, lounge in the shade of a small juniper. Yogi, a black bear who lived at a home in Washoe Valley before coming to the Ark, likes Hiibel to spray him with a hose on warm days.

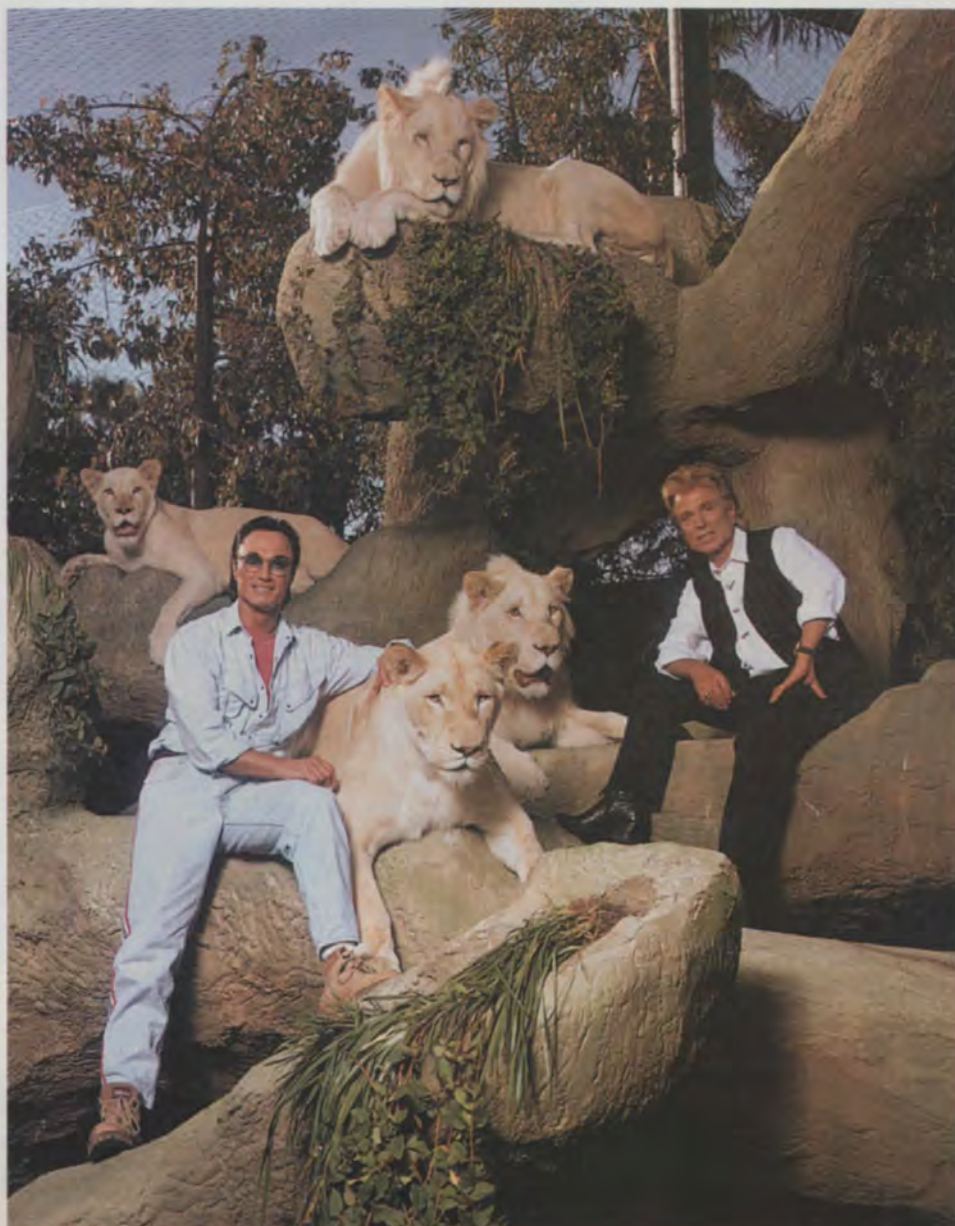
Three wolves, Annie, Raven, and Nischa, are stars of the Ark's "Wolf Howl Nights." On nights with a full moon, visitors are taught how to holler and howl with the wolves.

Two big striped tigers, a brother and sister named Shere Khan and Taja, look ferocious but are pussycats. They "chuff," a noise big cats make to greet one another, when Hiibel visits them. The covered cabana overlooking the tigers and other exhibits were built by Hiibel's husband Aaron. "He built everything here, including the house," Hiibel says.

Kids enjoy the big animals but sometimes seem more impressed with the native, free-roaming wildlife. She says, "You can be showing them something rare like a tiger and someone will say, 'Hey, there's a lizard!' Then all the kids will have to run over and look at the lizard."

At John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, you can see the hotel's elephants, Bertha and

(Continued on page 78)



In addition to white tigers, visitors can see white lions at the Secret Garden at the Mirage. Pictured with Siegfried and Roy (top) are, from left, Hope, Secret, Sarmoti, and Mystery. Diana Hiibel (bottom) feeds Whoopi, a peregrine falcon, at the Animal Ark north of Reno.



Solutions are often a phone call away for concierge Dell Gomez at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks. There are about 100 concierges working in Nevada hotels.

At Your Service

The concierges at Nevada hotels leap to the challenge of helping guests in need. **By Kim Pryor**

When comedians Penn and Teller arrived in Las Vegas for a performance at the Desert Inn three years ago, they discovered they had left their straightjacket, an essential prop in their act, in New York. So the desperate duo begged Jeanne Aleman, the hotel's concierge, for help.

"It was amusing calling around town, asking if people had a straightjacket I could borrow," recalls Aleman. "They were thinking I was out of my mind—that I probably should be fitted for one myself."

The first place Aleman called? A hospital, where she was informed that straight-

jackets, considered inhumane, have been replaced by leather straps.

With the persistence of a hound hot on a scent, Aleman continued to search, but she was running out of options. Then she had it! The theater at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas had just closed "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest." She called UNLV's theater department, borrowed a straightjacket, and delivered it to the much relieved Penn and Teller.

Such challenges are all in a day's work for the approximately 100 concierges who work in Nevada hotels. The job of a concierge (the Latin root, *conservus*, means

"fellow slave") is to make guests happy by fulfilling requests and sharing information about the city. Every day guests send concierges on multiple missions.

"The concierge department is the hotel's nerve center," says Aleman, 28, who left the Desert Inn last May to concentrate on her own firm, Concierge Concepts, which serves the Ramada Vacation Suites and Hilton Grand Vacations Club in Las Vegas. "Our sole purpose is to make guests feel as much at home in a foreign place as they can possibly feel."

"The only typical thing about the job is that it's not typical," says Dorothy Lurie,

63, a concierge at Harveys Resort at Lake Tahoe. "You wing it every day."

Say, for instance, a guest craves a roast suckling pig, as a man did while vacationing at Harveys four years ago. When the hotel chef couldn't secure the delicacy, Lurie discovered a Reno restaurant that would prepare the pork, and the guest hired a limousine to bring the cooked pig up to Tahoe.

In the European tradition, the concierge acts as a personal assistant to hotel guests. Concierges will make your dinner reservations, call for tee times, reserve show tickets, and book sightseeing tours.

These guardian angels also will handle more complicated tasks. Nevada concierges have spread rose petals across newlyweds' beds, helped a guest buy a puppy, and decorated hotel rooms for Christmas. A concierge is bound by a code of honor to accomplish just about any legal request made by a hotel guest.

"A concierge never says 'no,'" says Monica Crawford-Lloyd, 27, a concierge supervisor at Rio Suites in Las Vegas. "And if you don't know the answer to their question, you say, 'Sir, I don't know at this time, but I will get back to you as soon as I can.'"

In a bustling hotel lobby the concierges are the calm within the storm. Lurie says, "I was told by a former concierge here that you knew you were one when you could juggle two phones and help two or three people at the same time."

Most European hotels have a concierge to help guests, and the custom has caught on in Nevada. Concierges began appearing in Reno and Lake Tahoe hotels in the mid-1980s and in Las Vegas about seven years ago.

"In Las Vegas the VIP desk used to take care of high rollers, so the hotels didn't feel they needed concierges," says Julie Griffin, 48, an independent concierge who operates a desk at the Crowne Plaza. "But once Las Vegas became a general destination, the front desk was bombarded by questions. Somebody had to handle those questions."

Concierges may never tell a guest "no," but at the same time they never take "no" for an answer. Several months ago Crawford-Lloyd received a panicked call from a frequent Rio visitor. He had left a carry-on bag, stuffed with important documents, in the back seat of his limo in Vegas. Calling from New York, the businessman was leaving for South America the next morning.

"He said, 'I don't care what it takes—get me this piece of luggage by tonight,'"



Jeanne Aleman, who operates her own concierge service, helps a guest at Ramada Vacation Suites in Las Vegas. As a Desert Inn concierge, Aleman had to find some unusual stage attire for Penn and Teller.

Crawford-Lloyd says. "It was already 4 p.m.—seven o'clock New York time. I called Fed Ex, Delta Dash, but no one could get it there until 9 a.m. the next day." She finally found Action Messenger Service, which arranged to deliver the bag to the customer's hotel by 7 a.m.

"You're a detective," says Crawford-Lloyd. "You're the problem solver. My husband will tell you that I can find anything or anyone. It's amazing the skills you develop."

Those skills come in handy when deal-

ing with celebrities. Several concierges recall helping celebrities such as screen stars Burt Reynolds and Loni Anderson, baseball player Pete Rose, and John Gray, the ubiquitous author of *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus*.

Aleman remembers the night she babysat Joan Rivers's miniature terrier, Spike, while Rivers was out on the town. Aleman stayed with the dog in the comedienne's Desert Inn suite. "He's the most well-behaved dog," Aleman says. "He hung out with me and watched TV. Every so often we'd take a walk. And Joan Rivers was charming."

Dealing with foreign guests who speak little English often presents a challenge. Joe Fiore, concierge at the Hard Rock in Las Vegas, recently received a call from two Japanese guests whose rental car had a flat tire. When Fiore realized they had a minimal grasp of English, he called a local sushi restaurant and explained the situation to the Japanese-speaking chef. The chef then called the Seven-Eleven where the two guests were stranded and relayed Fiore's instructions.

A concierge must fulfill even the strangest requests. One Desert Inn guest explained to Aleman that he had to play ping-pong every day during his week-long visit. After making a few calls, Aleman directed the man to several Las Vegas bars that had ping-pong tables. "It's not my place to ask why," Aleman says, but her curiosity later was satisfied. "On the last day of his stay he told me he just had eye

(Continued on page 80)



Julie Griffin, of the Crowne Plaza in Las Vegas, explores the Strip regularly so she can advise guests on new attractions and tours.

Send in the Clouds

Clouds are the language of the skies.



When one looks closely at a Nevada landscape, there is one element that dwarfs all others—the sky. Like the mountains and valleys below, the sky has its own magical textures and moods. Quiet and blue one moment, it suddenly calls out in an upheaval of clouds and colors, pelting us with rain or sunshine, depending on the air currents and the swiftness of our cameras.

Pink altocumulus clouds, sometimes called “sheep backs,” celebrate day’s end as they dance over a forested range in Humboldt County north of Winnemucca. Linda Dufurrena captured this sunset scene during her photographic travels.



(Top) Red sky at night is a sailor's delight while red sky in morning is a sailor's warning. Of course, there are few sailing ships near the mining town of Midas, where Larry Angier of Jackson, California, took this photo of the sun bursting through stratocumulus at sunrise. (Bottom) In Carson Valley, Jay Aldrich of Minden focused on these lenticular clouds, formed by waves of air that pour over the Sierra Nevada and rise high over the valley—the same upward thermals that make the area so popular with glider pilots.

WILD ABOUT



Story
and Photos
by
RICHARD
MENZIES



Marquees create a timed collage of bright lights on Wendover Boulevard. The waving cowboy who greets Utah visitors at the state line is Wendover Will.

WENDOVER

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STRAIGHT LINES AND STATE LINES

Until just recently, no one but a mysterious band of prehistoric cave dwellers had ever looked upon the place as anything more than a desolate wasteland. Wagon trains bound for California swung to the north because there was no drinkable water and precious little in the way of oxen feed. Later, the first automobiles to cross America detoured south in order to avoid getting stuck in the surrounding salt muck.

Yet somehow Wendover came into being, thanks in large part to an abundance of invisible resources. For one thing, it lay along a straight line between the east and west coasts. Telephone poles, railroad tracks, and high-speed racing cars all run in straight lines—and so it came to pass in 1914, eight years after it was founded as a railroad town, that Wendover entered the history books as the spot where the wires of the nation's first transcontinental telephone line were joined. That same year auto racer Teddy Tetzlaff set an unofficial land speed record of 141.73 mph nearby on the Bonneville Salt Flats.

Nowadays Wendover is a bustling desert resort town that owes its prosperity to still another straight line—the border that separates Utah from Nevada. It also owes a lot to a visionary hobo by the name of Smith.

Like millions of Americans back during the Great Depression, William Smith was a man down on his luck and out of work.



Casino pioneer William Smith acquired a gas station at the Utah line a few years after he was thrown off the train near Wendover. His rest stop evolved into the State Line and Silver Smith resorts.

Traveling east via Western Pacific boxcar following an unsuccessful job search in San Francisco, he was three miles east of Wendover when the bulls collared him and tossed him off the train.

The story goes that Smith picked himself up, dusted himself off, and strode across the railroad tracks to the nearest business establishment, Bonneville Potash,

where he landed a job as a mechanic. After two years he'd managed to save up \$500, with which he bought half interest in a gas station.

"The Cobblestone, I think, was the name of it," recalls Richard Dixon, Smith's nephew and a longtime Wendover businessman. "It was just an old cobblestone building with one pump out front. But he



Standing on the skybridge, State Line CEO Larry Herron reflects on his hotel's new addition (above). At right, Richard Dixon recalls when legions of military men would pour into wartime Wendover.



and his partner Harry, they built it up, and when they decided to split, they went over before the justice of the peace in Elko and flipped a silver dollar. And I don't know whether you could say who won, but Bill ended up with the gas station."

LET THERE BE LIGHT

The new owner dressed up the station with a small bar, slot machines, and a blackjack table. Then one day a brilliant idea in the form of a light bulb took shape above his head. Pointing to an electric lamp that glimmered out front, Smith announced that from that day forward it was never to be turned off. The idea was the light would serve as a navigational beacon to hearten lonely wayfarers wending their way across the great salt desert. Like moths to a flame they'd come fluttering out of the darkness of Western Utah—into the warm, incandescent embrace of Eastern Nevada.

"Once he lit that light bulb, he said it would never go out, and it hasn't," recalls Dixon. "The place has never closed since, not for even one night. Twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year. In fact, I don't even know if they got the keys to the door."

Of course, Smith's State Line had more going for it than just a nitelite. During daylight hours, heat-flushed motorists

approaching on the Victory Highway found it equally hard to resist the siren call of cold drinks and air-conditioned rooms. But by far the most attractive thing about the joint was its location. Whereas every other business in town lay within the boundaries of Tooele County, Utah, the State Line was situated scant inches across the border inside Elko County, Nevada, where gambling and practically everything else was legal.

It's a fair guess not even Nostradamus could have foreseen the events that would transform Bill Smith's humble watering hole in the middle of nowhere into one of the busiest places on earth. The boom began, curiously enough, on December 7, 1941—the day the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. It continued apace until August 6, 1945—the day America dropped an atom bomb on Japan.

While the conflict lasted, the State Line Hotel and Casino found itself playing a vital role in the war effort as unofficial rest and recre-

ational venue serving the largest military reservation (3.5 million acres) on earth. Begun as an auxiliary to Salt Lake City's Fort Douglas, Wendover Air Base by 1942 had become a major training center for heavy bombardment crews of the Army Air Corps, including the 509th Composite Group under the command of Colonel Paul W. Tibbets Jr. (see *Nevada*, May/June

They had
20,000
men at the
base, and
nowhere to
spend their
money.

'91). It was from Wendover that Tibbets and the crew of a B-29 Stratofortress christened *Enola Gay* took off for the South Pacific island of Tinian, thence to their rendezvous with history in the skies over Hiroshima.

"During the war they had 20,000 men stationed at the base, and nowhere for 'em to spend their money," Dixon recalls. "You'd have officers and enlisted men, and they'd have a line that would go from the State Line to the railroad tracks. Single file, waiting. When one would get up from the table, another would come in."

After the war, however, the military presence diminished, the economic boom faded, and the little town of Wendover commenced a gradual decline, each year looking more and more like the tarpaper and tin-roof railroad shantytown from which it had sprung. For many years the main industry was a potash recovery plant situated east of town on the Bonneville Salt Flats. The primary tourist attraction was also the salt flats, where each August fast car enthusiasts from around the world would converge to field-test their hot rods. During Speed Week, motel rooms in town would be booked solid, and occasionally a line might even form in front of the State Line, but nothing approaching the epic queue of 1942.

WESTWARD, HO!

Then one day in the spring of 1975 a strange billboard appeared on the far end of town. "Welcome to West Wendover" it read. At the time, many
(Continued on page 82)

Nevada Events & Shows

A Section of Nevada Magazine • September/October 1997

Sky Pilots

Nonstop, engine-whining action fills the skies at the Reno Air Races. **By Mike Sion**

World War II-vintage airplanes and earlier-model biplanes compete for \$500,000 in prizes September 11-14 during the 34th annual Reno National Championship Air Races, the world's largest and longest-running air-race event. Crammed between the heated races, which are held at the Reno Stead Airport, 12 miles north of Reno, modern military aircraft perform fly-bys, and steely nerved sky jockeys wow the crowds with aerobatics. The air race's balance of speed and thrills creates a spectacular day for fans.

"I think of myself at Reno as an act to fill in between the races," says Wayne Handley,



Aerobatic daredevils provide thrills between events during the Reno National Championship Air Races.

Photo by JAY ALDRICH

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Pilots compete in four classes at the Reno National Championship Air Races: the AT-6s (above), Formula Ones, Lindbergh-era biplanes, and the big Unlimiteds.

a Californian who performs solo stunts in his black bird, *The Raven*. While organizers emphasize that their event is an air race, not an air show, Handley and other performers will ensure there's not a dull moment between races.

Each day the Confederate Air Force, with AT-6s modified to resemble Japanese Zeroes, will re-enact the bombing of Pearl Harbor, complete with pyrotechnics. There'll be skydivers, and Bob Hoover, who served as the chase pilot when Chuck Yeager busted the sound barrier in 1947, will perform stunts in his Shrike plane. Military fly-bys will include the Marine Corps' vertical-takeoff Harrier.

Also, Wayne Handley will perform about 12 minutes each day. The one-time crop-duster, who is based in the Salinas Valley, holds the record for the longest inverted flat spin: 67 turns. His specialty is a gyroscopic maneuver in which he flips *The Raven* tail over nose.

The main action, of course, is centered on who prevails in each of the race's four categories. It is no coincidence that this end-of-summer attraction draws 140,000 spectators, according to Frank Kinnell, the event's director. Air racing is the fastest motor sport, with planes in the Unlimited class pushing 500 mph while flying as low as 50 feet.

Perhaps the essential thrill is described

by John Penney, president of the Unlimited Division of the National Air Racing Group. "When you put that much energy in the air, it shakes your chest as they come by," says Penney, who won in Reno in 1994 and hopes to do so again this year. "It gives me chicken-skin."

For those who want their flesh to grow bumps, here is the lowdown on this year's event:

Essentials: Gates open at 7 a.m., with opening ceremonies at 10 a.m. and races ending about 4:30 p.m. Coolers are not

with custom designs. The biplanes are largely restored from Lindbergh's era. The Unlimiteds—the fans' favorites—are the largest and fastest, most having been restored from WWII and modified. They have reached 481 mph.

The Course: The race course has six unequal sides marked by pylons. The Formula Ones and biplanes fly a 3.11-mile distance, the AT-6s 4.99 miles, and the Unlimiteds 9.125 miles. A heat generally lasts 10 to 20 minutes. Announcer Sandy Sanders keeps spectators apprised of the racing action. ESPN will air some footage each day, and Reno television newscasts usually broadcast results.

Parking: If you're driving, take the Stead Boulevard Exit off U.S. 395 about 12 miles north of downtown Reno. Head east and follow signs to the Reno Stead Airport. Reserved parking inside the fences has one fee: \$30 for four days. General parking is \$4 a day and includes up to a half-mile hike to the main gate. It is best to arrive by 8:30 or 9 a.m. Shuttle buses will leave from Reno-Tahoe International Airport, the Reno Hilton, and John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks.

Admission: Tickets in the 10,000-seat reserved section are \$75 for all four days, with daily tickets ranging from \$12 Thursday to \$26 Saturday and Sunday. General admission tickets are \$44 for four

"When you put that much energy in the air, it shakes your chest as they come by," says pilot John Penney. "It gives me chicken-skin."

allowed, but numerous vendors will hawk food and beverages (including beer and margaritas). Weather is unpredictable, so prepare for hot or cold (rain canceled some races last year) with sunscreen, jackets, and caps. Bring your camera and plenty of film. Small children may not enjoy this day-long, outdoor event.

The Races: There are four categories. AT-6s are WWII warplanes that can reach 234 mph. The Formula Ones go up to 249 mph and are smaller, home-built planes



Pit passes enable spectators to see the gleaming airplanes up close and watch the crews in action.

days. Daily prices range from \$8 Thursday to \$14 Saturday and \$18 Sunday. Children under six are admitted free, with discounts for ages seven to 15, seniors, and those in military uniform. Box seating will likely be sold out in advance (10 seats go for \$2,200 for all four days). The best way to get tickets: order them through the air race office (702-972-6663) or BASS ticket

outlets. They will also be available at the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts box office in downtown Reno. General admission and a few reserved tickets are always available. Kinnell says there's good viewing from every seat. Many general-admission fans bring lawn chairs and set up on the ramp area in front of the stands.

Pit Passes: Pit passes—recommended

for the total experience—are \$10 for pre-race Wednesday and Thursday, \$15 Friday, and \$20 on both Saturday and Sunday.

Background: In 1949, Unlimited racing was dealt a serious blow when a plane crashed into a neighborhood during the Cleveland Air Races. But in 1964, air-racing enthusiasts in the Reno area organized a small competition at Sky Ranch north of Sparks. Northern Nevada tourism officials saw it as a good special event for the slow period following Labor Day. The next year the races moved to Stead.

While pilots relish the tradition that has developed over the years, fans keep coming back for what Penney calls "the incredible sight and incredible sound of airplanes generating more than 4,000 horsepower and flying close to 500 miles per hour." On Sunday afternoon, when the Unlimiteds compete in the championship Gold Race, pushing their engines past their limits, the excitement soars. Says Penney: "When you feel that energy in the air when the airplanes are coming by, the incredible noise those engines make, you'll understand."

Mike Sion is an editor-writer in the Office of Communications at the University of Nevada, Reno.



Reserved grandstand seating affords good views of the military aerial-demonstration teams as they prepare to entertain spectators at the Reno Air Races.

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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.



Nevada Events

Autumn events in Las Vegas, Reno-Tahoe, and Rural territories.

Nevada offers hundreds of summer events and activities. Visitors can expect fairs, festivals, and Labor Day celebrations around the state. Las Vegas hosts the Jaycees State Fair, and the Pahrump Harvest Festival offers gritty pro rodeo. The following listing is divided into areas of interest. Be sure to call ahead to confirm dates and times. Nevada's area code is 702.

Las Vegas Territory

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Labor Day Fireworks • Sept. 1 • Avi Hotel, Laughlin, 535-5555.

Scream Park • Oct. 17-18, 24-25, and 30-Nov. 1 • Halloween thrills and chills. MGM Grand Adventures Theme Park, Las Vegas, 891-1111.

Halloween Fun House • Oct. 30-31 • Haunted house. Four Queens Hotel, Las Vegas, 385-4011, ext. 2100.

Halloween Dance Party • Oct. 31 • Costume prizes. Club Rio, Rio Suite Hotel, Las Vegas, 252-7777.

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

Festival in the Pines • Sept. 6 • Arts and crafts, educational booths, food, and entertainment. Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort and Mt. Charleston Alpine Village, Mount Charleston, 896-7213.

Democracy Challenged: Chautauqua 1997 • Sept. 12-13 • Living history portrayals of Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Carnegie, and Horace Greeley. Bicentennial Park, Boulder City, 294-4365.

Las Vegas International Mariachi Festival • Sept. 13 • Annual gathering of Mariachi enthusiasts to see performances by Mariachi Los Gavilanes, Grammy winner Jose Feliciano, guitarist Ana Barbara, and the Ballet Folklórico San Juan. Aladdin Theatre for the Performing Arts, Las Vegas, 800-945-1211.

Mexican Independence Celebration • Sept. 13-14 • Food

Nevada Events & Shows

is a section of
NEVADA MAGAZINE

Nevada Events and Shows covers the Silver State. To list an event, contact Events Editor Ann Henderson: 702-486-2433 • fax 702-486-2789 • 555 E. Washington Ave., Suite 5600, Las Vegas, NV 89101. Subscription rates for NEVADA MAGAZINE: \$16.95 for one year, U.S.; \$22.95 Foreign. To subscribe call toll-free:

1-800-495-3281



Nevada's Full of Hot Air

Each fall balloon fans eagerly await the Silver State's colorful spectacle of hot-air balloon races in Las Vegas, Laughlin, and Reno. During the events pilots maneuver their crafts, which sometimes resemble unusual objects like animals and bottles, in such events as the Target Drop and the Key Grab. On the ground, fans can watch the spectacular sight when competitors light up their balloons at dawn. The Great Reno Balloon Race (above) is September 5-7 followed by Laughlin Riverflight '97 on October 17-19 and the Las Vegas Balloon Classic on October 24-26.



Pre-Season Hoops

Young NBA star Kobe Bryant will have his eye on the goal when the Los Angeles Lakers play the Washington Wizards in an exhibition contest October 22 at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas. The game will offer a pre-season look at Chris Webber, Juwan Howard, and other Wizards following their team's name change from the Bullets.

and entertainment. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 678-5600.

Celebration of the Arts • Sept. 20-21 • Outdoor fine art and crafts sale and festival offering entertainment, food vendors, and children's art activities. Summerlin Performing Arts Center, Las Vegas, 255-6645.

Cranberry Festival • Sept. 26-28 • Parade, exhibits, recipe contest, craft fair, carnival rides, and entertainment. Cranberry World West, Henderson, 566-7160.

KNPR's Artworks • Sept. 27-28 • Annual fine arts and crafts show with 120 artists, entertainment, and children's activities. Sunset Park, Las Vegas, 456-6695.

Las Vegas Basque Festival • Oct. 6 • Church service, Basque feast, and dancing, weight lifting, and wood chopping exhibitions. St. Viator Community Center, Las Vegas, 270-9198.

Las Vegas Jaycees State Fair • Oct. 7-12 • Carnival, entertainment, food booths. Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 452-8832.

Bluegrass and Old-Time Music Festival • Oct. 9-12 • Annual gathering of local and national bands. Fairgrounds, Logandale, 564-5455.

Italian Festival • Oct. 11-12 • Annual event with food, music, and entertainment. Outdoor Events Center, Rio Suite Hotel, Las Vegas, 252-7777.

Beer and Blues Festival • Oct. 11-12 • Community-wide, Mesquite, 800-21-OASIS.

Largest Paella Ever in Las Vegas • Oct. 12 • Record attempt at the largest serving of the Spanish dish. Celebration includes foods, games, clowns, darts, skits, and arts and crafts. Freedom Park, Las Vegas, 385-0909.

Oktoberfest • Oct. 17-18 • Food and entertainment. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 678-5600.

Storytelling Festival • Oct. 17-18 • Outdoor performances of tales, music, and humor by nationally known storytellers. Rainbow Library, Las Vegas, 382-3493.

Laughlin Riverflight '97 • Oct. 17-19 • Festival with 100 hot-air balloon pilots in such competitions as touching down in the Colorado River and dropping bean bags onto a target. Event includes a celebrity concert. Laughlin, 298-2214.

Las Vegas Balloon Classic • Oct. 24-26 • Hot-air balloons lift off at dawn each day for airborne races and events.

On the ground are craft booths, food, and music. Silver Bowl Park, Las Vegas, 434-0848, ext. 3800.

PERFORMANCES

"Silver Buckles on His Knee" • Sept. 4-7 and 10-14 • Actress Piper Laurie stars in film director Don Taylor's original play about World War II. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 895-3801.

Picnic Pops • Sept. 5 • Nevada Symphony Orchestra per-

forms George Gershwin's music from plays and films. Hills Park, Summerlin, Las Vegas, 792-4337.

Tannahill Weavers • Sept. 13 • Traditional Celtic music. Clark County Government Center Amphitheater, Las Vegas, 455-8264.

Concert on the Grass • Sept. 15 • Local talent showcase. Virgin Valley High School Auditorium, Mesquite, 346-2787.

Shakespeare in the Park • Sept. 26-28 • Outdoor production of "The Tempest." Foxridge Park, Henderson, 263-4963.

"The Brother's Silence" • Oct. 2-4 and 8-11 • Chilling account of the Kennedy assassination designed to provoke outrage and questions. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 895-3801.

The Hunchback of Notre Dame • Oct. 4 • Lon Chaney stars as Quasimodo in the Victor Hugo tale. The Nevada Symphony Orchestra provides music for the 1923 silent film epic. Clark County Government Center Amphitheater, Las Vegas, 455-8264.

Missoula Children's Theatre • Oct. 4 • Virgin Valley Elementary School, Mesquite, 346-2787.

Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra • Oct. 11 • Big Band sounds and swing music. Virgin Valley High School Auditorium, Mesquite, 346-2787.

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra • Oct. 13 • Charles Vanda Master Series concert. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

"Uncommon Women and Others" • Oct. 16-19 and 22, 24-26 • Play explores how the loves, lives, and aspirations of college years stay with us forever. Black Box Theatre, UNLV, 895-3801.

Stars of the Kirov Ballet • Oct. 17-18 • Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

Classical Hits • Oct. 30 • Nevada Symphony Orchestra performs such pieces as "Finlandia" and "Symphonie Fantastique." Cashman Theater, Las Vegas, 792-4337.

"Dracula" • Oct. 30-Nov. 2 • Ballet version of Bram Stoker's classic vampire tale. Nevada Dance Theatre, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 732-3838.

EXHIBITS

Las Vegas: The War Years • Permanent exhibit of photographs and artifacts on Las Vegas' coming of age during the 1940s. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 486-5205.



Fast Cars in Reno

Drivers in the SCCA Trans-Am Series Reno Grand Prix will be racing as fast as 170 mph on the 11-turn, 1.35-mile road course at the Reno Hilton on October 17-19. One of the drivers will be cycling champion Greg LeMond. The three-time Tour de France winner, who took up auto racing this year after being sidelined from cycling by a rare muscle disease, grew up in the Reno area.

Five Easy Pieces • Thru Sept. 11 • 75 invited national artists exhibit. Nevada Institute for Contemporary Art, Las Vegas, 434-2666.

Backyard Monsters: The World of Insects • Thru Sept. 13 • Las Vegas Natural History Museum's touring exhibit of giant robotic insects is displayed at the Meadows Mall. Las Vegas, 384-3466.

2-D Graphic Artworks • Thru Sept. 14 • Oils and acrylics by James Robison. West Las Vegas Library, 647-2117.

Nevada Camera Club • Thru Sept. 23 • 14th annual photo exhibit. Whitney Library Gallery, Las Vegas, 454-4575.

Cats • Thru Oct. 14 • Watercolors and lithographs of felines by Helen Bruzzone. Barrick Museum of Natural History, UNLV, 895-3381.

Splendor in Stone • Thru Nov. 9 • Exhibit presents the microscopic world of rocks. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955.

Beautiful Southern Nevada • Thru Dec. 31 • Boulder City Art Guild depicts scenes of Lake Mead National Recreation Area at the Alan Bible Visitor Center. Boulder City, 293-2138.

Lost City Exhibit • Sept. 1-30 • Paintings by Tammy Nielson of Overton. Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193.

Yishai Jusidam: Pictorial Investigations • Sept. 25-Nov. 9 • Wooden spheres and oversize paintings of landscapes,

Colorado Avalanche in an NHL pre-season game. MGM Grand, Las Vegas, 474-4000.

Walk to Cure Diabetes • Sept. 20 • 10K walk to benefit Juvenile Diabetes. MGM Grand Adventures Theme Park, Las Vegas, 732-4795.

UNLV Football • The Rebels play Sept. 20 v. Hawaii; Sept. 27 v. Illinois State; Oct. 11 v. Texas Christian. Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas, 895-3900.

Laughlin Desert Challenge • Sept. 25-28 • Off-road race with more than 400 drivers including Robby Gordon and Ivan "Iron Man" Stewart. Event includes the Laughlin Leap, the high jump of desert racing. Laughlin, 298-2214.

NHRA Division 7 Finals • Sept. 25-28 • Drag races. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 644-4443.

Rattlin' Rails Handcar Races • Sept. 27-28 • Amateur teams race side-by-side pumping railroad handcars on a 450-foot track. Yucca Street and Railroad Crossing, Boulder City, 293-4857.

Las Vegas Thunder • Oct-April • Play dates TBA for the

41 home games of the IHL pro hockey team. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 798-PUCK.

AMA Superbike Championships • Oct. 3-5 • Motorcycle races. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 644-4443.

Las Vegas 500K • Oct. 9-11 • Indy Racing League. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 644-4443.

Los Angeles Lakers v. Washington Wizards • Oct. 22 • NBA pre-season game. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 895-3900.

REMAX Long Drive Golf Competition • Oct. 22-25 • National contest for long-driving qualifiers. CasaBlanca Golf Course (formerly Players Island), Mesquite, 888-233-4654.

Las Vegas Invitational Golf Tournament • Oct. 22-26 • PGA event played at TPC at Summerlin, Desert Inn, and Las Vegas Country Club courses. Las Vegas, 242-3000.

International Tournament of Champions • Oct. 23-26 • Radio-control aerobatic aircraft competition sponsored by the Sahara Hotel. Silver Bowl, Las Vegas, 737-2777.

Bluegrass in Logandale

Two nationally known bluegrass bands, Ricochet from North Carolina and James King from Virginia, headline the annual Bluegrass and Old-Time Music Festival October 9-12 at the fairgrounds in Logandale. There will be a contest among local combos and food vendors at the family-oriented event, which offers RV and tent camping.

portraits, and figures done by the Mexican-born artist. Nevada Institute for Contemporary Art, Las Vegas, 434-2666.

Boulder City Art Guild Show • Sept. 25-Dec. 14 • Whitney Library Gallery, Las Vegas, 454-4575.

Lost City Exhibit • Oct. 1-31 • Mixed media display by Moapa Valley Art Guild. Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193.

Harrah's 60th Anniversary Diamond Exhibit • Oct. 8-19 • Harrah's Las Vegas, 369-5000.

Nevada Watercolor Society • Oct. 16-Dec. 7 • Annual fall competition. Sahara West Library Gallery, Las Vegas, 228-1940.

Irish Artists Exhibit • Oct. 17-Jan. 24 • Mixed media works by Irish artists. Marjorie Barrick Museum, UNLV, 895-3381.

National League of Pen Women, Nevada Chapter • Oct. 30-Jan. 11 • Mixed media exhibit. West Charleston Library Gallery, Las Vegas, 878-3682.

SPORTS

Las Vegas Stars • The Triple A affiliate of the San Diego Padres plays Aug. 29-Sept. 1 v. Salt Lake Buzz (fireworks on Aug. 30). Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 386-7200.

Oscar De La Hoya v. Hector Camacho WBC Championship • Sept. 13 • Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, 800-634-6698.

Hydroplane Display • Sept. 17 • In conjunction with the hydroplane races at Lake Mead. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 678-5600.

Las Vegas Cup • Sept. 17-21 • Hydroplane and Formula One races. Special Events Beach, Lake Mead, Boulder City, 390-5439.

UNLV v. Hawaii Pep Rally • Sept. 19 • In conjunction with the football game between the two schools. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 678-5600.

Vegas to Reno Off-Road Race • Sept. 19 • 500-mile, one-way race starting in Las Vegas and finishing in Reno. 457-5775.

IMSA Championship • Sept. 19-20 • Sports cars on the road course. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 644-4443.

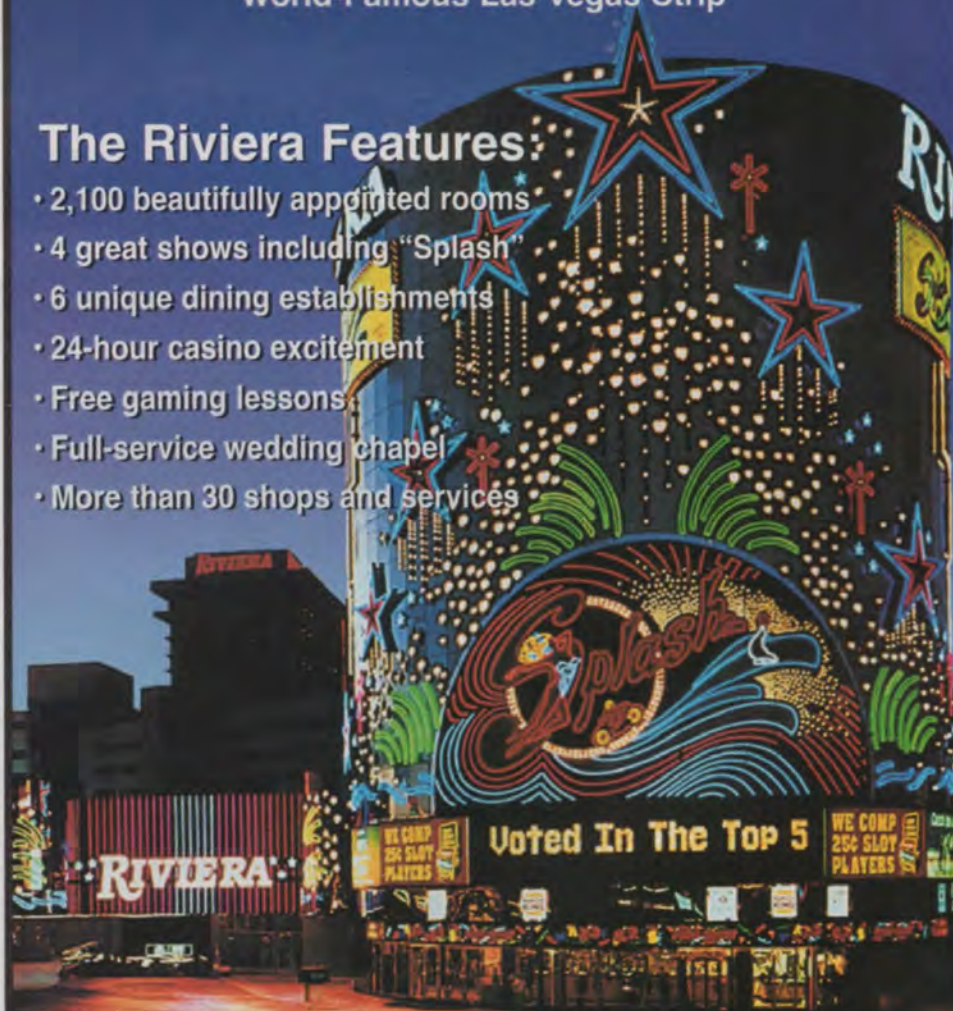
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GENERAL INTEREST

Living History Programs • Helen Stewart: First Lady of Las Vegas, Sept. 6; Chet Lauck: Radio star Lum of "Lum and Abner" in Nevada, Sept. 7; Vera Krupp: Heiress, Actress, and Las Vegas Rancher, Sept. 14; Mountain Men: Life in the Early 1800s, Sept. 20; Gold Panning, Sept. 21; A Soldier's Life, Oct. 4-5; Pioneer Living, Oct. 11; Olive Lake: Pioneer Settler, Oct. 18; Pioneer Women, Oct. 25. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 18 miles west of Las Vegas, 875-4141.

Mineral Identification Workshop • Sept. 13 • Two-hour session on recognizing mineral rocks. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955.

Bachelor Auction • Sept. 13 • Annual Arthritis Foundation benefit. Alexis Park Resort, Las Vegas, 367-1626.

Black and White Party • Sept. 20 • Dress code for annual event is black and white. Admission of \$25 in nonperishables or sundries to be donated to the Aid for AIDS of Nevada Food Bank includes evening's beverages, food, and entertainment. Clark County Government Amphitheatre, Las Vegas, 792-6006.

Roddin' on the River • Sept. 25-28 • Car show involving all classes in events such as poker runs, slow drags. Riverside Resort, Laughlin, 520-754-5112.

Virgin Valley Car Show • Sept. 26-27 • Pancake breakfast, concert, and dance. Highlight includes mud races. Bunkerville Park, Bunkerville, 346-2902.

Las Vegas Super Run • Oct. 3-4 • Concerts, food, and display of classic cars highlight event in the downtown area.



Transylvanian Slurpee

Count Dracula gets close to the latest object of his affections during the Nevada Dance Theatre's ballet about the vampire's thirst-quenching quest. "Dracula," Bram Stoker's gothic tale, opens the company's Season to Die For on October 30-November 2 in UNLV's Judy Bayley Theatre.

Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 678-5600.

Art in the Park • Oct. 4-5 • Fine art display and sale.

Bicentennial Park, Boulder City, 293-2034.

Professional Bull Riders Bud Light Cup World Finals • Oct.

Vegas, 731-2115.

Las Vegas Rugby Challenge • Dec. 6 • Las Vegas, 798-8345.

Las Vegas Bowl VI • Dec. 18 • College football. Las Vegas, 895-3900.

10-12 • Grand Garden Arena, MGM Grand Hotel, Las Vegas, 800-929-1111.

Fantasy '97 • Oct. 17 • Lied Discovery Children's Museum's annual gala, auction, and dinner-dance. Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, 382-3445.

Dinosaur Ball • Oct. 18 • Dinner-dance. Las Vegas Natural History Museum, 384-3466.

Clark County Gem and Mineral Fair and Symposium • Oct. 18-19 • Speakers, gold panning, lapidary demonstrations. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955.

Sandstone Canyon Hike • Oct. 19 • Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 18 miles west of Las Vegas, 875-4141.

Clark County Gypsum Localities Field Trip • Oct. 25 • Travel by van to collect specimens from three locations and tour the Blue Diamond Mine and the Pabco Gypsum Plant. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955.

COMING EVENTS

Festival Americana • Nov. 1 • Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193.

Gold Eagle World of Outlaws Finale • Nov. 4-5 • Sprint car racing. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 644-4443.

Laughlin Invitational Professional Bull Riders Series • Nov. 7-9 • Laughlin, 298-2214.

NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series • Nov. 7-9 • Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 644-4443.

National Finals Rodeo • Dec. 5-14 • Las



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Laughlin Desert Challenge • Jan. 29-Feb. 1 • Laughlin, 298-2214.

Las Vegas International Marathon • Feb. 1 • Las Vegas, 876-3870.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

HOLIDAYS & FESTIVALS

Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off • Aug. 29-Sept. 1 • Victorian Square and John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 353-2284.

Great Reno Balloon Race • Sept. 5-7 • 150 hot-air balloon pilots race in three events: Hare and Hound, Target Drop, and Key Grab. Also includes a light show and mass ascension. Rancho San Rafael Park, Reno, 826-1181.

Virginia City Camel Races • Sept. 5-7 • Cantankerous beasts and determined jockeys try to finish the race. Camel Arena, Virginia City, 847-0311.

National Championship Air Races • Sept. 11-14 • The only air racing event to feature four race classes, military jets, aerobatics, and skywriters. Reno Stead Airport, 972-6663.

Folklife Festival • Sept. 14 • Music, dance, crafts, and food representing about 30 cultural and ethnic groups. Wingfield Park, Reno, 329-1324.

Street Vibrations • Sept. 18-21 • Motorcycle fest for Harleys and custom tour bikes. Crafts, parades, auction, and entertainment includes John Kay and Steppenwolf. Reno, 329-6469.

Genoa Candy Dance • Sept. 27-28 • 3,000 to 4,000 pounds of homemade candy are sold to support town utilities. Event includes a dance, dinner, and 300 food, arts, and crafts vendors. Genoa, 782-8696.

Scarecrow Festival • Oct. 4-5 • Make your own scarecrow or purchase one designed by an artist. Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 782-7629.

Celtic New Year Celebration • Oct. 10-12 • Biggest pipe band competition in the U.S. with Celtic dancing, entertainment, food, and crafts. Reno, 323-3138.

Oktoberfest • Oct. 10-12 • Lake Tahoe Horizon, Stateline, 800-322-7723.

Great Italian Festival • Oct. 11-12 • Grape stomp, spaghetti-eating contest, food booths, and entertainment. Eldorado Hotel, Reno, 786-5700.

Native American Snow Dance • Oct. 11-12 • Dancing demonstrations, arts and crafts, and food. Preston Field, Incline Village, 800-468-2463.

Nevada Day Parade • Oct. 31 • Largest parade in the state celebrates Nevada's statehood. Also has a carnival, miners' drilling contest, waterfights, booths, and live bands. Carson City, 687-7410.

La' Ka' Le-Be Nevada Day Powwow • Oct. 31-Nov. 2 • Traditional Indian dancing, arts and crafts, food vendors. Carson Indian Colony, Carson City, 885-6818.

PERFORMANCES

Reno Municipal Band Noontime Concerts • Mon.-Fri. thru Sept. • Wingfield Park, Reno, 789-2878.

Rolling on the River • Fridays thru Sept. • Evening concerts. River Walk Special Events Area, Reno, 324-4440.

"Ravenscroft" • Aug. 30-Sept. 1 and Sept. 7-8 • Mystery-comedy. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" • Sept. 13-15 • Comedy. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

Reno Philharmonic Concert • Sept. 16 • Selections from Beethoven, Barber, Sibelius, and Respighi. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 323-6393.

"West Side Story" • Sept. 19-21 • Touring Broadway show. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 686-6600.

Preservation Hall Jazz Band • Oct. 3 • New Orleans jazz. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 784-4046.

Reno Philharmonic Concert • Oct. 14 • Selections from Gershwin, Mozart, and Mendelssohn. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 323-6393.

David Grisman Quintet • Oct. 17 • Grammy Award-winning mandolinist performs a blend of jazz, bluegrass, gypsy, and Latin. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 784-4046.

Carson City Chamber Orchestra • Oct. 19 • Concert. Community Center, Carson City, 883-4154.

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Nevada Magazine

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Nevada Magazine

Guaranteed TOURS



Rib Tickling in Sparks

Spectators can sample more than 60,000 pounds of ribs during the Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off, August 29-September 1 in Sparks. The barbecue competition, which attracts chefs from the United States and Australia, has free concerts, entertainers, booths, clowns, and face painters.

"The Magic Flute" • Oct. 23 and 25 • Opera about the fanciful adventures of Tamino and his feathered friend Papageno as they rescue a beautiful princess. Nevada Opera, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 786-4046.

"Damn Yankees" • Oct. 31-Nov. 2 • Touring Broadway show. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 323-6393.

EXHIBITS

Kickstand Corner • Thru Sept. 22 • Motorcycle exhibit. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.

Don Dondoro Exhibit • Thru Sept. 30 • Photos by the legendary Reno photographer displayed. Heritage Bank Gallery, Reno, 348-1000.

I Made That! Nevada Crafts, Past and Present • Thru Oct. 1 • Historical crafts and contemporary baskets by the

Great Basin Basketmakers. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 688-1191.

Photography Exhibit • Thru Oct. 3 • Black-and-white photos by Christopher Tsouras and metal sculptures by Ray Taylor. Western Nevada Community College Gallery, Carson City, 887-3000.

Comics, Characters, and Cartoons, Circa 1930s • Thru Oct. 31 • Display of more than 100 dolls, including Charlie McCarthy, Little Orphan Annie, and Popeye. Children's Museum of Northern Nevada, Carson City, 884-2226.

Die Cast Model Exhibit • Thru Jan. 2 • Model cars. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.

Art Exhibit • Sept. 4-Oct. 30 • Watercolors of Nevada by Ginger Rose, reception Sept. 11. Nevada State Library and Archives, Carson City, 883-0495.

Open Studio Art Tour • Sept. 5-7 • Artists exhibit their paintings, sculpture, craftwork, and mixed-media at more than 20 Lake Tahoe locations. 916-542-7141.

Perspicacious • Sept. 5-Oct. 2 • Los Angeles-based artists Dunnighe Slawson and Bruce Wallin exhibit. Sheppard Art Gallery, U of N, Reno, 784-6658.

Harrah's 60th Anniversary Diamond Exhibit • Sept. 11-20 • Harrah's Reno, 786-3232.

Harrah's 60th Anniversary Diamond Exhibit • Sept. 24-Oct. 4 • Harrah's Lake Tahoe, Stateline, 588-6611.

Juried Art Show • Sept. 27-28 • Nevada and California artists. Walley's Hot Springs, Genoa, 782-7576.

Horseless Carriages • Oct. 13-March 30 • Cars from local collectors. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.

Home on the Road • Oct. 20-Feb. 17 • Auto camping exhibit with some of the first RVs. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.

SPORTS

Motocross Stadium • Thru Sept. • Friday nights. Silver State Raceway, Carson City, 885-2079.

Silver State Raceway • Thru Oct. • Races on Saturday nights on high-banked paved oval. Carson City, 885-2079.

Carson Valley Bocce Bash • Aug. 29-Sept. 1 • Tournament.

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Mixed Scramble Golf Tournament • Sept. 5-6 • Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 800-321-6983, ext. 625.

Gridiron Classic: UNLV v. U of N • Sept. 6 • Intrastate college football game. Mackay Stadium, Reno, 348-PACK.

Barrel Racing • Sept. 12-14 • Livestock Events Center, Reno, 800-FOR-RENO.

Squaw Valley Knobular • Sept. 13-14 • Mountain bike race, inline skating, aggressive street skating contest. Squaw Valley Ski Resort, Lake Tahoe, 916-582-8900.

University of Nevada Football • After the Sept. 6 game v. UNLV, the Wolf Pack plays Sept. 13 v. Oregon; Oct. 11 v. Wyoming; Oct. 18 v. Idaho; Oct. 25 v. North Texas; Nov. 15 v. Utah State. Mackay Stadium, Reno, 348-PACK.

Hike-A-Thon • Sept. 20 • Annual eight-mile-plus hike on the Tahoe Rim Trail from Tunnel Creek Road (above Sand Harbor) north to the Mount Rose Highway. Lake Tahoe, 588-0686.

Rage'n at the Ranch Mountain Bike Race • Sept. 20-21 • Donner Ski Ranch, 916-426-3635.

Stride and Ride for SageWind • Sept. 21 • Three-mile run



Pasta Festivities

Pasta fans can expect savory sampling at the Italian Festivals in Reno and Las Vegas—both scheduled for the weekend of October 11-12. In addition to entertainment and food booths, the Great Italian Festival at the Eldorado Hotel in Reno (above) will have grape-stomping and spaghetti-eating contests. The Rio Suite Hotel in Las Vegas will have music and other entertainment during its Italian fest.

and 20-mile bicycle race, start and finish at Bowers Mansion. Washoe Valley, 786-5531.

O.A.T.B.R.A.N. "One Awesome Tour: Bike Ride Across Nevada" • Sept. 21-27 • Fully-supported camping-style bike ride across U.S. 50, America's Loneliest Road, from Stateline to Great Basin National Park. Visits Fallon, Austin, Eureka, Ely, and Baker. 588-9658.

Ferrari Virginia City Hillclimb • Sept. 27-28 • Ferrari Club of America car owners race on State Route 342. Includes

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parade and car show. Virginia City, 847-0311.

Journal Jog • Sept. 28 • More than 2,200 participants in the *Reno Gazette-Journal's* annual 8K run, walk, and jog for charity. Includes pre-race pasta feed. Start and finish at YMCA. Reno, 324-0225, ext. 1564.

Hole-in-One Tournament • Sept. 29-Oct. 5 • Players pay \$1 a ball to shoot for \$1 million. Wildcreek Golf Course, Sparks, 800-525-9474.

Indian National Finals Rodeo • Oct. 2-5 • Four performances with representatives from 35 Indian tribes competing for a \$145,000 purse. Includes powwow. Livestock Events Center, Reno, 829-2810.

Professional Team Penning Association National Finals • Oct. 3-5 • Fairgrounds, Carson City, 849-2844.

Lake Tahoe Marathon • Oct. 12 • Marathon, half-marathon, 10K, 5K courses. Racewalkers, relay runners, and walkers welcome. Finish line at Pope Beach, South Lake Tahoe, 916-544-7095.

Reno Grand Prix Stars and Cars Party • Oct. 17 • Celebrities and drivers. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.

Reno Grand Prix • Oct. 17-19 • Final Trans Am Points event includes three days of racing. Reno Hilton, 789-2285.

Team Roping • Oct. 30-Nov. 2 • Livestock Events Center, Reno, 800-FOR-RENO.

Snow Ski Season Opening Day • Oct. 31 • Boreal Ski Area, 916-426-3666.

GENERAL INTEREST

Steam Up • Aug. 30-Sept. 1 • Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 687-6953.

Tahoe Rim Trail Back Country Camp • Aug. 30-Sept. 1 • Volunteers camp out and work on the Tahoe Rim Trail. Lake Tahoe, 588-0686.

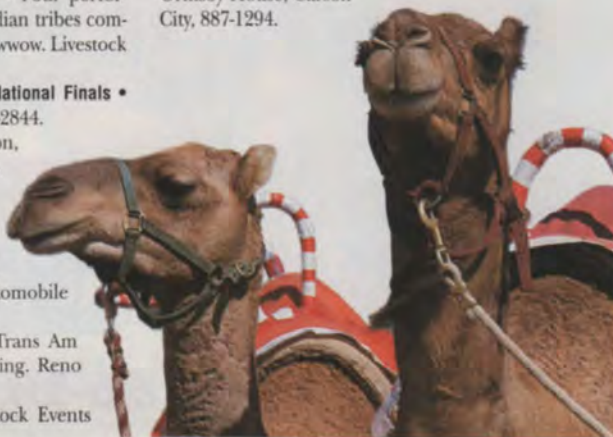
Classic Film Festival • Sept. 3, 10, 17, and 24 • Films include *The Greatest Show on Earth*, *Bridge on the River Kwai*, *A Man For All Seasons*, and *Ben Hur*. Valhalla Boathouse Theatre, South Lake Tahoe, 916-542-4166.

Carson City Mint Coin Show • Sept. 6-7 • Rare coins, medals, tokens, paper money, collectibles, and jewelry. Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 687-4810, ext. 243.

The Magic of Fantasy • Sept. 6-7 • Ceramics and porcelain doll and craft show. Outlet Mall, Sparks, 358-1226.

Farmer's Market • Sundays thru Sept. 7 • Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 916-583-6985.

Suds Fest '97 • Sept. 12 • Beers, brews, and live music. Ormsby House, Carson City, 887-1294.



Four-Legged Racers

These beasts laugh all the way to the finish line—sometimes without their riders—during racing action at the Virginia City Camel Races September 5-7

Cool September Days • Sept. 13-14 • Car show and craft fair. Lake Tahoe Horizon, Stateline, 800-322-7723.

Carson Station Anniversary Chili Cook-Off • Sept. 13 •

Cooking contest, craft fair, and music. Carson Station, Carson City, 883-0900.

Biggest Little Quilt Show in the West • Sept. 13-14 • Demonstrations, country store, vendors. Livestock Events Center, Reno, 825-4923.

Sparks Hometown Farmer's Market • Thursdays thru Sept. 18, except Aug. 28 • Market takes place on Victorian Square, Sparks, 353-2291.

High Sierra Chili Cook-Off and Kodak Lake Tahoe Regional Chili Cook-Off • Sept. 21 • Chili and salsa cooking contests, craft fair, entertainment. Lake Tahoe Horizon, Stateline, 488-6211.

Silver Sire Horse Show • Sept. 20 • Livestock Events Center, Reno, 800-FOR-RENO.

Mountain Men Encampment • Sept. 20-21 • Tents, cooking, and crafts from the 1800s. D and Taylor streets, Virginia City, 847-0311.

Appahann Appaloosa Horse Show • Sept. 21 • Livestock Events Center, Reno, 800-FOR-RENO.

Great Basin Book Festival • Sept. 26-27 • Fri. night presentation by Robert Pinsky, poet laureate of the U.S., at Nightingale Hall, U of N campus; Sat. festival includes readings and discussions by Great Basin writers, panels on literary subjects, children's programs and activities, and book show and sale. Wingfield Park, Reno, 784-6587.

Roberts House Museum • Weekends thru Sept. 28 • Tours of Victorian residence. Carson City, 887-2174.

ICS World Championship Chili Cook-Off • Oct. 3-5 • 200 chili cooks vie for a \$35,000 purse. Reno Hilton, 631-1780.

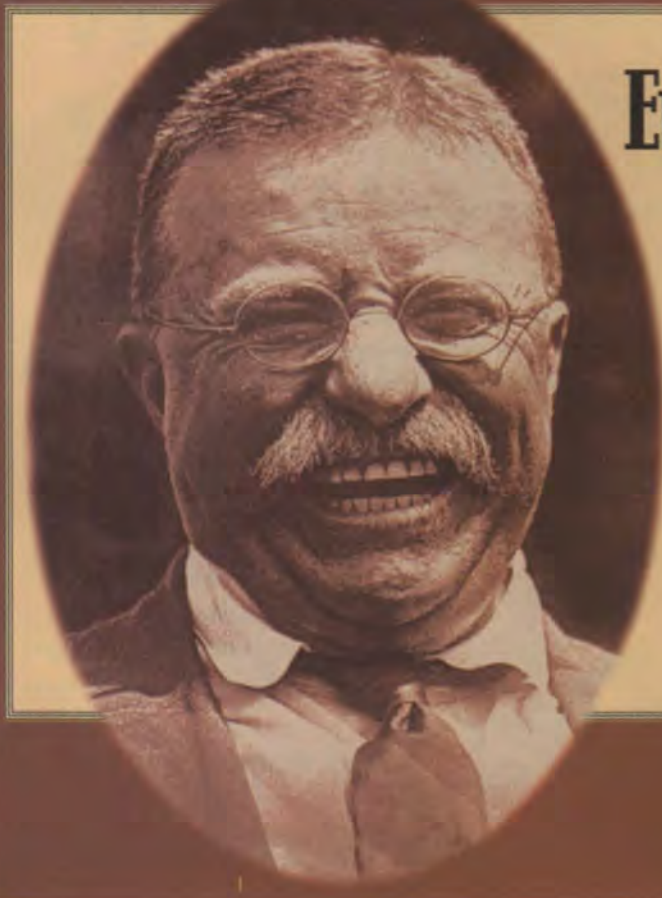
Antique Show and Sale • Oct. 4-5 • Lakeside Inn, Stateline, 782-4951.

Carson Farmer's Market • Wednesdays thru Oct. 8 • Carson City, 687-7410.

Carson City Great Chili Cook-Off • Oct. 11 • Downtown, Carson City, 887-1294.

Oktoberfest and Beer Tasting • Oct. 17 • Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 800-321-6983.

Western States Celebration Horse Show • Oct. 17-19 • Livestock Events Center, Reno, 800-FOR-RENO.



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CARSON CITY

Black and Black Ball • Oct. 25 • Music, food, and dancing for ghouls and witches. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 916-542-4166.

Cemetery Tour and Historical Lecture • Oct. 25 • Guided tour of Mottsville Cemetery. Carson Valley Historical Society, Genoa, 782-2555.

Kit Carson Trail Ghost Walk • Oct. 25 • Narrated, guided tour through historic district and homes that have spir-



Mountain Music

The music of the Andes is performed by Chaskinakuy, featuring Francy Vidal (left) and Edmond Badoux, on the traditional instruments of Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. The duo plays October 8 at the Community Center in Lovelock.

its. Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 687-7410.

A Tisket, A Tasket, A Literary Basket • Oct. 25 • Food, wine, music, and auction of literary-themed baskets. Washoe County Library, Reno, 785-4585.

COMING EVENTS

National Senior Pro Rodeo Finals • Nov. 3-9 • Reno, 788-4218.

Rhymer's Rodeer Cowboy Poetry • Nov. 7-9 • Minden, 782-9711, ext. 711.

Championship Snaffle Bit Futurity • Nov. 20-23 • Reno, 800-FOR-RENO.

Sparks Hometown Christmas • Dec. 6 • Sparks, 353-2284.

Celebrate Christmas on the River • Dec. 7 • Reno, 334-2414.

Buck 'n Ball • Dec. 31 • Reno, 800-FOR-RENO.

Cowboy's New Year's Eve Ball • Dec. 31 • CVIC Hall, Minden, 782-8679.

Sharkey's Serbian Christmas Feast • Jan. 7 • Gardnerville, 782-3133.

Snowfest! • March 1-8 • North Lake Tahoe and Truckee, 916-583-7625.

Mother Earth's Awakening Powwow • March 21 • Carson City, 882-1808.

Cowboy Country

RODEOS & FESTIVALS

Elko County Fair and Horse Races • Aug. 23-24, 29-Sept. 1

• Home arts, exhibits, working cow horses, branding, roping, and barrel racing. Fairgrounds, Elko, 738-3616.

Tri-County Fair and Stampede • Aug. 29-Sept. 1 • Rodeo, fair, art roundup, cowboy poetry. Fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-5071.

C&C Roping and Rodeo Show • Sept. 3-7 • Equestrian Park, West Wendover, 664-3289.

Ranch Hand Rodeo • Sept. 13-14 • Fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-5071.

Nevada Cutting Spectacular • Sept. 16-21 • Horses in a futurity, derby, and classic challenge. Fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-5071.

TeMoak Powwow • Oct. 17-20 • Native American dancers and singers perform. Indian Colony Gym, Elko, 738-7681.

PERFORMANCES

Little Elmo and the Cosmos • Sept. 13 • Concert featuring '50s and '60s music. Convention Center, Elko, 738-4091.

Chaskinakuy: Music of the Andes • Oct. 8 • Traditional instruments of Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia played by

Edmond Badoux and Francy Vidal. Community Center, Lovelock, 273-2082.

EXHIBITS

Wendover Field Open House • Aug. 30-Sept. 1 • Static display of military aircraft. Wendover, 800-426-6862.

Benedicte Wrensted: An Idaho Photographer in Focus • Sept. 1-Oct. 31 • Photos of Pocatello locals, Northern Shoshone, Bannock, and Lemhi Indians. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418.

A Common Thread • Oct. 31-Nov. 30 • Statewide juried craft show. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418.

SPORTS

Race to the Angel • Sept. 13 • 13.1-mile race through the Humboldt National Forest. Open to mountain bikes, road bikes, runners, walkers. Downtown Wells to Angel Lake, Wells, 752-3540.

Men's Softball Tournament • Sept. 13-14 • LaCombe Softball Field, West Wendover, 664-3289.



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- Oct. 17 **Oktoberfest and Beer Tasting:** A delightful evening of German beers, ales, stouts, and food in the Carson Valley Inn's Shannon Ballroom. Ext. 611.
- Oct. 24-25 **CVI \$25,000 Tri Game-A-Thon Tournament:** A full weekend of slot, Keno, and blackjack plus a Friday night reception and a Saturday night Awards Banquet. Lots of cash prizes. Ext. 711.
- Nov. 7-9 **Rhymers Rodeer Cowboy Poetry Weekend:** The 10th annual brings back all the performers from the original 1988 event to CVI's Shannon Ballroom. Ext. 625.
- Nov. 14-16 **Carson Valley Inn Cribbage Classic:** A weekend of competition for 100% payback plus trophies in this ACC sanctioned event Ext. 625.

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1627 US Hwy 395 N
Minden NV 89423

Classic Auto Open Road Race • Sept. 14 • Race from Carlin to Eureka over State Route 278. Elko, 738-04091.

World of Speed • Sept. 24-27 • 10-mile straight track, racing against time. Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 801-785-5364.

Wendover Hot Rod Races • Sept. 28 • Drag racing. Wendover Airport, Wendover, 801-665-2563.

World Finals • Oct. 15-18 • Straight track race to set world records. Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 805-526-1805.

Wendover Hot Rod Races • Oct. 19 • Wendover Airport, Wendover, 801-665-2563.

GENERAL INTEREST

1863 in Paradise • Sept. 5-7 • Reenactment camp with artillery demonstrations and Victorian-style dance and instruction. Paradise Valley, 40 miles north of Winnemucca off U.S. 95, 623-5704 or 623-3505.

Morrodgers • Sept. 12-14 • '50s car show, sock hop, concerts. Convention Center and City Park, Elko, 738-4091.

World Fast Draw • Sept. 19-20 • Gunfighters compete for the title and bragging rights. Courthouse Park, Lovelock, 273-7144.

Kid's Festival • Sept. 20 • Activities and games. Convention Center, Elko, 738-4091.

Military Vehicle Rally • Sept. 25-27 • Tanks, Jeeps, and



Vote for Me or Else...

Livestock and poultry judging can be an intense business during Nevada's county fairs on Labor Day weekend, August 29-September 1. The Elko County Fair offers horse racing, branding, roping, and barrel racing, while the Tri-County Fair and Stampede in Winnemucca is busy with a rodeo, fair, art roundup, and cowboy poetry.

other military vehicles available for rides and demonstrations. Downtown, Winnemucca, 623-5071.

Nevada's Best Stock Dog Series • Sept. 27 • Working sheep and cattle dogs compete. Maggie Creek Ranch, Elko, 728-4682.

Hometown Follies • Sept. 28 • Annual talent show. Pershing County High School Auditorium, Lovelock, 273-2082.

Oktoberfest • Oct. 4 • German music, food, microbrew tasting, home brew contest, dance. Community Center, Lovelock, 273-7144.

Craftasia • Oct. 10-12 • Juried craft show. Convention Center, Elko, 800-248-3556.

Deer Widow's Weekend • Oct. 17-18 • Casinos offer entertainment for women seeking to play while spouses are away for the first weekend of deer hunting. Rainbow, Red



While You're Here...

tour a world-class gold mine...learn to rope a steer...go bird-watching at the Ruby Marshes...listen to cowboy poets and musicians...trail ride or hike or bike through Lamoille Canyon...fish...photograph wildlife...eat a Dutch oven meal...heli-ski...ride the range...learn to cook the cowboy way...walk the California Trail and view historic markers...float in a canoe down the Humboldt...watch a Native American Pow-Wow... eat a Basque meal...watch a master saddle-maker complete his work...be entertained by Basque dancers and learn to dance the jota...sit around a campfire and listen to stories from the range...cross-country ski...watch a PRCA Rodeo...see an original Pony Express cabin...snowmobile...tour an award-winning brewery and do some beer tasting...walk through fields of wildflowers...gamble *Nevada Style*

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Garter, Peppermill, State Line, and Silver Smith casinos, West Wendover, 800-426-6862.

Annual Pig Roast • Oct. 25 • Baked-goods auction, costume party. Outdoor Inn, Jarbidge, 488-2311.

COMING EVENTS

Wendover 100 Hare and Hound • Nov. 9 • West Wendover, 801-967-9673.

Festival of the Trees • Dec. 1-5 • Elko, 738-4091.

Parade of Lights • Dec. 13 • Elko, 738-7135.

Cowboy Poetry Gathering • Jan. 24-31 • Elko, 748-4466.

Shooting the West Photo Seminar • March 6-8 • Winnemucca, 623-6388.

Bordertown Bike Challenge • June 6 • Wendover, 208-342-3910.

National Basque Festival • July 2-5 • Elko, 738-3418.

Pony Express Territory

FESTIVALS & RODEOS

Nevada Northern Railway Raildays • Aug. 30 • Battle of the Rails handcar races, dinner, dancing, children's games and contests. Nevada Northern Railway Museum, East Ely, 289-2085.

Fernley Rodeo and Frontier Days • Sept. 27-28 • Craft and food booths, entertainment. Out of Town Park, Fernley, 575-4459.

GENERAL INTEREST

Fort Churchill State Historic Park Ruins Tours • Sept. 6 and 20 • Guided tours of the frontier outpost. Fort Churchill State Historic Park, Silver Springs, 577-2345.

Hidden Cave Tours • Sept. 13, 27 and Oct. 11, 25 • Guided tour of archaeological site. Leaves from the Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677.

National Public Lands Day • Sept. 27 • Volunteer project on Murray Summit to improve cross-country ski trails and install a warming hut, cosponsored by BLM, U.S. Forest Service, and BHP Copper. Ward Mountain Campground, five miles south of Ely, 289-1800.

Allison Brown Concert • Oct. 10 • Banjo player. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 237-6006.

Sagebrush Quilt Show • Oct. 11 • Demonstrations and quilting contests. Bristlecone Convention Center, Ely, 289-3334.

Civil War Encampment • Oct. 11-12 • Battle skirmishes and living history demonstrations. Fort Churchill State Historic Park, Silver Springs, 577-2345.

Sara Bard Field and Her Nevada Suffrage Connection • Docudrama plays Oct. 19, Churchill County Museum, Fallon; Oct. 20, Town Hall, Austin; Oct. 21, Eureka Opera House, Eureka; Oct. 22, White Pine County High School, Ely. 322-7754.

SPORTS

Top Gun Raceway • Selected weekends thru Nov. 28 • Drag races. Schurz Hwy., Fallon, 423-2544.

Rattlesnake Raceway • Selected weekends thru Nov. 29 • Stock cars. Fallon, 423-2544.

Silver State Classic Challenge • Sept. 19-21 • Open road race between Lund to Hiko over State Route 318. Ely, 289-6267.

COMING EVENTS

Photographer's Special • Nov. 8-9 • Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 289-2085.

Native Peoples' Celebration • Nov. 14 • Ely, 800-496-9350.

Silver State Classic Challenge Auto Race • May 16-17 • Ely, 289-8877.

Gridley Days • June 19-20 • Austin, 964-2200.

Silver State International Rodeo • July 1-5 • Fallon, 423-2544.

All-Indian Rodeo, Stampede, and Pioneer Days • July 17-19 • Fallon, 423-2544.

Pioneer Territory

FESTIVALS & RODEOS

Pioche Labor Day Celebration • Aug. 29-Sept. 1 • Dances, electric light parade, games, kids' activities, mining com-



Pray for Snow

The colorful Native American Snow Dance is a pre-ski season festival that began in 1990 after several years of drought at Lake Tahoe. The ritual continues October 11-12 with dancing, demonstrations, arts and crafts, and food booths at Preston Field in Incline Village.

petitions, fishing derby, softball tournament, jackpot roping, horseshoe pitching, log cutting contest, pie and hot dog eating competitions, wildlife expo, talent show, fireworks, crafts, 10K run. Pioche, 962-5544.

Mineral County Fair and Rodeo • Sept. 12-14 • Parade,

street dance, IPRA Rodeo. Rodeo Grounds and Convention Center, Hawthorne, 945-5854.

Pahrump Harvest Festival • Sept. 12-14 • PRCA rodeo, parade, booths, fair, carnival. Rodeo Arena and Community Park, Pahrump, 727-8195 or 727-5800.

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Happy Birthday, Nevada

President Abraham Lincoln was in such a hurry to get the Silver State into the Union that the state's constitution was telegraphed to Washington at a cost of \$3,416.77. To celebrate the occasion, firefighters and their antique carts join more than 200 entries in a Carson City parade that will celebrate Nevada's 133rd birthday on Friday, October 31. A carnival, miners' drilling contest, booths, and music liven the holiday, as does a powwow with traditional Indian dancing at the Carson Indian Colony.

Smith Valley Fun Day • Oct. 5 • Car show, arts, crafts, barbecue, hay ride. Wellington, 465-2354.

GENERAL INTEREST

Labor Day Party • Aug. 31-Sept. 1 • Golf course grand opening, Labor Day barbecue and entertainment. Longstreet Inn, Amargosa, 372-1777.

Chili Cook-Off • Oct. 18 • Saddle West Casino, Pahrump, 800-433-3987.

Harvest Auction • Oct. 19 • Annual antique sale. Community Hall, Wellington, 463-2353.

Beatty Burro Races • Oct. 25 • Racers push, pull, and drag their asses around the track before cooking flapjacks and cajoling the beasts to eat them. The Arena, Beatty, 553-2424.

SPORTS

Mineral County Raceway • Saturday nights thru Oct. 31 • 1/4-mile low bank oval. Hawthorne, 945-5896.

Pahrump Valley Speedway • Saturday nights thru Oct. 31 • 1/4-mile dirt oval. Pahrump, 727-7172.

Yerington to Fallon Off-Road Race • Aug. 30-Sept. 1 • 125-mile point-to-point race from Yerington to Fallon and back. 916-925-1702.

Harvest Festival Classic • Sept. 12-13 • Car races. Pahrump Valley Speedway, Pahrump, 727-7172.

Hare and Hound Race • Sept. 21 • 95-mile motorcycle race. Yerington, 463-5511.

COMING EVENTS

Christmas Celebration on Main Street • Dec. 13 • Yerington, 463-2245.

Armed Forces Day • May 16-17 • Hawthorne, 945-5896.

UFO Friendship Campout • May 23-25 • Gathering at capital of the Extraterrestrial Highway. Rachel, 729-2515.

Lincoln County Memorial Day Homecoming Celebration • May 23-25 • Caliente, 726-3121.

Portuguese Festa • May 30-31 • Yerington, 463-3842.

Pizen Switch Roundup • June 28 • Yerington, 588-5372.

Jim Butler Days • July 31-Aug. 2 • Annual town party. Tonopah, 482-3859.

A Reminder: To confirm dates and times, please use the phone number listed with each event. Nevada's area code is 702.



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Nevada Showguide

Where the stars and shows are playing in September and October.

Nevada offers big-name entertainment and production shows at many clubs and hotels. During September and October the Doobie Brothers drop in at the Desert Inn in Las Vegas, George Jones plays the Silver Legacy in Reno, and Trisha Yearwood appears at Harrah's Lake Tahoe. Showrooms often fill fast, so call ahead for show times and reservations. Nevada's area code is 702.

Las Vegas Territory

BOULDER CITY

Gold Strike Inn • Between Boulder City and Hoover Dam, 293-5000 or 800-245-6380: Country-western entertainment.

HENDERSON

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

Sunset Station • 547-7777: Amphitheater: Concert performers TBA; Club Madrid: entertainment nightly.

JEAN

Gold Strike Hotel • 477-5000 or 800-634-1359: Bands play at the hotel off Interstate 15 (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: Vincente Fernandez, Sept. 12; Mariachi Festival, Sept. 13; Counting Crows/Wallflowers, Sept. 18; Las Vegas Night at the Soaps, Sept. 20; "Singin' in the Rain," Broadway musical, Oct. 16-19; Diana Ross, Nov. 22.

Arizona Charlie's • 258-5100: Naughty Lady Saloon: Live music Tues.-Sun.; Palace Grand Theatre: Concerts TBA.

Bally's • 739-4567 or 800-237-SHOW: Jubilee Theater: "Jubilee!" (dark Fri.); Celebrity Room: Engelbert Humperdinck, Sept. 4-10; Liza Minnelli, Sept. 11-14; Lotie Anderson, Sept. 15-Oct. 1; Andrew Dice Clay, Sept. 26-27.

The Beach • 731-9298: Concerts TBA.

Boomtown • 263-7777 or 800-588-7711: Rattlesnake Rickey's Saloon: Live entertainment 4pm-3am; Opera House Theatre: TBA.

Boulder Station • 432-7777 or 800-683-7777: Railhead Saloon: Performers TBA;



No Smoking Zone

Foi Tui Tama, the fire and knife dancer in "Hawaiian Hot Luau," experiences an Alka Seltzer moment at the Imperial Palace in Las Vegas. The Polynesian revue entertains diners at a poolside buffet on Tuesday and Thursday through October, weather permitting. The show price is \$24.95, which includes all the mai tais, piña coladas, and food you can consume.

Karaoke sessions are scheduled for Sun. **Caesars Palace** • 731-7333 or 800-445-4544: Circus Maximus: Kenny Loggins, Sept. 5-7; Luis Miguel, Sept. 12-14; Chicago, Sept. 18-21; Huey Lewis and the News, Sept. 25-28; Drew Carey, Oct. 10-12; Julio Iglesias, Oct. 22-26; Natalie Cole, Nov. 6-9; bands play in the La Piazza Lounge, Olympic Lounge, and Cleopatra's Barge.

Casino Royale • 737-3500: Volcano Room: "Which Way to the Rat Pack?" variety show, Fri. and Sat.

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

Continental • 737-5555: Silver Slipper Theater: "Jukebox Rock," (dark Sun.) indf.

Debbie Reynolds Hollywood Hotel • 7-DEBBIE or 800-633-1777: Star Theatre: "The Debbie Reynolds Show" (dark Sat.-Sun.); "Kenny Kerr and His Women of Hollywood" (dark Sun.).

Desert Inn • 733-4566 or 800-634-6909: Crystal Showroom: Lucero, Sept. 13-14; Willie Nelson, Sept. 26-28; Doobie Brothers, Oct. 3-5; Dennis Miller, Oct. 8-12; Don Rickles, Oct. 24-26; The Golden Boys: Frankie Valli/Fabian/Bobby Rydell, Oct. 31-Nov. 2; Starlight Theatre: Opens this fall, entertainment TBA.

Excalibur • 597-7600: King Arthur's Arena: "King Arthur's Tournament," nightly; Wild Bills Saloon and Steakhouse and Minstrel's Theatre Lounge: Dance music nightly; Court Jesters Stage: Strolling entertainers 10am-11pm daily.

Fitzgeralds Holiday Inn • 388-2400 or 800-274-LUCK (U.S. outside Nevada): Casino Stage: Entertainment TBA.

Flamingo Hilton • 733-3333 or 800-221-7299: 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: Royal Pavilion Room: "Comedy Fun House at the Four Queens," nightly.

Gold Coast • 367-7111 or 888-402-6278 (U.S. outside Nevada): East Lounge: Sorta Dixie Jazz Band, noon to 6pm Mon.-Fri.; bands play in the East and West lounges; Karaoke Tuesdays in the West Lounge; Gold Coast Showroom: Lacy J. Dalton, Sept. 4-7; Highway 101, Oct. 1-5; Exile, Oct. 22-26; Dan Seals, Oct. 29-Nov. 2. Dance Hall and Saloon: disk jockey Larry Taylor, Tues. and Sun.

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

Hard Rock Hotel • 226-4650 or 800-HARD-ROCK: The Joint: Concerts TBA.

Harrah's Las Vegas • 369-5222 or 800-392-9002: Commanders Theatre: "Spellbound '97"; "The Improv at

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Truly Mystical

"**Mystère**," the stylish Cirque du Soleil production at Treasure Island in Las Vegas, has an otherworldly aura with its dramatic costumes and gravity-defying acrobatics. The circus fantasy, which includes a 12-performer trapeze act, a bungee-jumping aerial ballet, and a rousing display of Taiko drums, has been playing to full houses since it opened on Christmas Day 1993.

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

Holiday Inn Boardwalk • 730-3194: Lighthouse Showroom: Boardwalk Comedy Club (dark Mon.); "The Dream King" with Trent Carlini (dark Mon.); Dixie Dooley's Magic Show, 4 and 5:30pm, Tues.-Sun.; "Heroes of Rock 'n' Roll" (dark Mon.).

Imperial Palace • 794-3261: Imperial Theatre: "Legends in Concert" (dark Sun.); Howie Gold, piano, Fri. and Sat.; "Hawaiian Hot Luau," Tues. and Thurs. poolside buffet and Polynesian revue thru Oct., weather permitting.

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

King 8 Hotel • 736-8988:

Bands play nightly except Mon.

Lady Luck • 477-3000 or 800-523-9582: Lady Luck Showroom: "Sexy Magic With Steve Wyrick."

Las Vegas Hilton • 732-5755 or 800-222-5361: Starlight Theatre: Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Starlight Express" (dark Fri.); also appearing Grover Washington/Norman Brown, Sept. 12; Harry Belafonte, Sept. 19.

Luxor • 262-4000 or 800-288-1000: Showroom: "Imagine: A Theatrical Odyssey," production show opens in September; Nefertiti's Lounge: Live entertainment.

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

MGM Grand • 891-7777 or 800-929-1111: Grand Theatre: "EFX" starring David Cassidy (dark Thurs.); Hollywood Theatre: TBA; Center Stage Cabaret: "Catch a Rising Star," comedy-variety club; bands play during Late Night

after the comedy; Flying Monkey Bar: Bobby Dickerson (dark Mon.), Christy Bryant (dark Sun.), Chuy's Company, Sun.; entertainment in the Santa Fe Lounge, the Brown Derby, and Gatsby's; Grand Garden: Professional Bull Riders, Oct. 10-12.

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

Monte Carlo • 730-7000: Lance Burton Theatre: "Lance Burton, Master Magician" (dark Sun.-Mon.).

New York-New York • 740-6969: "MADhattan," musical production (dark Wed.-Thurs.); Empire Bar and Bar at Times Square: bands play nightly.

The Orleans • 800-OR-LEANS: Orleans Showroom: Roger Whittaker, Sept. 3-7; Eddie Money, Sept. 25-27; Frankie Valli, Oct. 1-4; Beach Boys, Oct. 9-11; Neville Brothers, Oct. 22-25; Charlie Prose, Oct. 27-30; Lou Rawls, Nov. 4-8; Eddy Arnold, Nov. 12-16; bands play in the Bourbon Street Cabaret; strolling Orleans

Slips and Giggles

Stand-up comic Lowell Sanders, who frequently opens for comedian Tim Allen in nightclubs, appears September 8-14 at the new Comedy Fun House at the Four Queens in Las Vegas. The comedy club opened last summer at the downtown hotel and offers two shows nightly at 7:30 and 9:30. Admission is \$9.95 plus tax; drinks are optional.

Parade Band (dark Sat.-Sun.).

Palace Station • 367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Entertainment TBA.

Rio Suite • 252-7776 or 800-PLAYRIO (U.S. and Canada): Copacabana Entertainment Complex: Impressionist Danny Gans (dark Mon.-Tues.); "Masquerade Show in the Sky," carnival-themed parade above the casino, every two hours beginning at noon Sun.-Tues. and 1pm Thurs.-Sat. (dark Wed.); Ipanema Piano Bar: Steven Boyd, indf. (dark Mon.); Shutters Piano Bar, Voo Doo Lounge, and Cucina, Masquerade, Village, and Mambos

bars have live entertainment; Club Rio: Dance-video nightclub Wed.-Sun.

Riviera • 794-9301: Splash Theatre: "Splash," nightly; Grand Ballroom: Dion and the Shangrilas, Sept. 5-6; Jackie Martling, Nov. 7-8; Top of the Riv: "Playboy Live Nite Calls," adult talk-format taping for the Playboy Channel, Sept. 17; Frank Santos, Nov. 1; Mardi Gras Showroom (third floor): "An Evening at La Cage," celebrity female impersonators revue (dark Tues.); Toshiko Akiyoshi Jazz Orchestra, Oct. 28; second floor theater: "Crazy Girls: Sensuality and Passion," adult revue (dark Mon.); "Riviera Comedy Club"; Le Bistro Lounge: Lon Bronson's All-Star Band, Mon. and Sat., indf.; bands play Tues.-Sun.; Jazz on the Strip, Mon.

Sahara • 737-2515: Congo Showroom: The Smothers Brothers, thru Sept. 14; Gallagher, Sept. 15-22; Jeff Dunham, Oct. 13-26; Jackie Mason, Oct. 29-Nov. 18; bands play in the Casbar Lounge.

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

Santa Fe • 658-4900: Entertainment Tues.-Sat. in the Ice

Tahoe Duo

The revues "Sugar Pie Honey Bunch" and "Heart of Rock and Roll" play back-to-back through October 8 at Harrah's Lake Tahoe. "Sugar Pie" was created for general audiences and salutes the Motown sounds of the '60s, while "Heart," an adults-only rock-and-roll production, showcases musical greats such as the Rolling Stones.

Lounge; nightly in the Atrium; Grand Ballroom: Don Burke Big Band, Sept. 3 and Oct. 1.

Showboat • 383-9232 or 800-826-2800: Mardi Gras Room: Gigolo Showband (dark Mon.), Sept. 9-28; Latin Breeze (dark Mon.), indf.; Avenue, Mon., indf.; Country Music Assoc., Oct. 14-18.

Stardust • 732-6111 or 800-824-6033: Stardust Theatre: "Enter the Night," production show (dark Fri.); Banscombe Richmond and the Renegade Posse Band, Sept. 12; bands play in the Starlight Lounge.

Stratosphere • 382-4446 or 800-99-TOWER: Broadway Showroom: "American Superstars," impersonator revue (dark Thurs.); "Viva Las Vegas," musical revue 2 and 4pm daily except Sun.; Images Cabaret: Hypnotist Marshall Sylver (dark Mon.-Tues.); L'Isles Bar: Caribbean and reggae music.

Treasure Island • 894-7111: Cirque du Soleil in "Mystère" (dark Mon.-Tues. and Oct. 8-9); entertainment nightly in Captain Morgan's piano bar and the Doubloon Saloon.

Tropicana • 739-2411: Tiffany Theatre: "The Best of the Folies Bergere...Sexier Than Ever" (dark Thurs.); "The Magic of Rick Thomas," 2 and 4pm daily except Tues.; Comedy Stop Theatre: "The Comedy Stop," stand-up comedy nightly; bands play in the Atrium 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 • 535-5555: Bands play nightly.

Colorado Belle • 298-4000: "D" Deck: Riverboat Ramblers, strolling musicians.

Edgewater • 298-2453: Kokopelli's Lounge: Sneak Preview, Aug. 26-Sept. 7; Billy Erickson, Sept. 23-28; Gigolo, Sept. 30-Oct. 19; Sneak Preview, Oct. 28-Nov. 9.

Flamingo Hilton Laughlin • 298-5028 or 800-435-8469: Club Flamingo: "Country Dreamin'" country music show; Outdoor Amphitheater: Harry Belafonte, Sept. 20; Sheena Easton, Sept. 27; Mark Chesnutt, Oct. 4; Engelbert Humperdinck, Oct. 25.

Gold River • 298-2242 or 800-835-7904: Fantasy Theatre:

"Flash! A Magical Mystical Adventure" (dark Mon.); Cody's Saloon: A Tribute to Patsy Cline (dark Mon. and Thurs.); Sandy Hackett's Comedy Club, Mon. and Thurs.

Golden Nugget Laughlin • 298-7111 or 800-237-1739:

Tarzan's Lounge: Unity, Sept. 2-14; Grove Movement,

Sept. 16-21; Stinger, Sept. 23-Oct. 19; Wildlife, Oct. 7-19;

Calente, Oct. 21-Nov. 1.

Harrah's Laughlin • 298-4600 or 800-447-8700: Fiesta

Showroom: "The Great American Wild Wild West Show,"

musical revue (dark Fri. and Sun.); "Hot Salsa," produc-

tion show (dark Sun.); Rio Vista Outdoor Amphitheater:

Kenny Rogers, Oct. 11-12; Club La Bamba: Bands play.

Ramada Express • 298-4200 or 800-243-6846: Caboose

Lounge: Entertainment featuring groups such as Gigolo,

Inside Out, and Tony Vee.

Riverside Resort • 298-2535 or 800-227-3849 ext. 616:

Don's Celebrity Theatre: Bill Medley, Oct. 9-11.

MESQUITE

CasaBlanca (formerly Players Island) • 346-7529 or 800-459-

7529: Bali Hai Theater: Entertainment TBA; bands play nightly in the Cascades Lounge.

Si Redd's Oasis • 346-5232 or 800-621-0187: Red Boot Club: Big-band dancing, Wed.; karaoke, Thurs.; dance contests, Fri.; live bands perform Fri. and Sat.; Casino Lounge: Bands play nightly.

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.

Jerry's Nugget • 399-3000: Royal Street Lounge: Dance bands play Fri.-Sun.

Texas Station • 631-1000: Armadillo Honky Tonk Lounge: Live entertainment nightly.

PRIMM

Buffalo Bill's Resort • 382-1111 or 800-FUN-STOP: Star of the Desert Arena: Tracy Lawrence/Tracy Byrd, Sept. 12; Travis Tritt/Hank Williams Jr./Charlie Daniels/Jo Dee

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Messina, Oct. 12; Carolee's Theatre: "Carolee's Comedy Club," Fri.-Sun.; Stage Bar: Bands like the Coates Twins play Thurs.-Sun.
Primm Valley • 382-1212 or 800-826-4471.
Whiskey Pete's • 382-1212 or 800-367-7383.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

RENO/SPARKS

Atlantis • 825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Concert: Steppen Stonz, thru Sept. 21; Band on the Run, Sept. 23-Oct. 5; Edy Gainer and Dezire, Oct. 7-Oct. 19; Speedy Garfin, Oct. 21-Nov. 2.

Circus Circus • 329-0711: Free circus acts, 11am-midnight.

Club Cal-Neva • 323-1046: Glenn Little Swing Band, Fri.-Sat.

Comstock • 329-1880.

Eldorado • 786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside Nevada) or 800-648-3024 (Canada): Showroom: "Smokey Joe's Cafe: The Music of Leiber and Stoller," Broadway musical (dark Tues.); Brew Brothers: bands play nightly; piano music in the Bistro Roxy Wed.-Sun.

Eddie's Fabulous '50s • 329-1950.

Fitzgeralds • 785-3300 or 800-648-5022 (U.S. outside Nevada): bands play nightly.

Flamingo Hilton Reno • 785-7080: Flamingo Showroom: "American Superstars" (dark Tues.); bands play in the Showspot Cabaret; music at Top of the Hilton restaurant (dark Tues.).



The Heart of Rock 'n' Roll

Huey Lewis and the News perform at the Reno Hilton September 19 and then move to Caesars Palace in Las Vegas September 25-28. Lewis' group, which started playing its American style of rock music in the '70s, has outlasted music trends and sold more than 20 million albums worldwide.

Harrah's Reno • 788-3773 or 800-HARRAHS: Sammy's Showroom: "New York, New York" and "Heart Beat" (dark Thurs.); Al Martino and the Gaylords, Oct. 9-12.

Exposition Hall: Engelbert Humperdinck, Sept. 12-13; Righteous Brothers, Oct. 17-18; George Jones, Oct. 25; Legacy Saloon: Wally Jones and Perry Joe Schirmer, 2-

John Ascuaga's Nugget • Sparks, 356-3304 or 800-648-1177 (U.S. and Nevada): Rose Ballroom: Jay Leno, Oct. 17-18; Celebrity Showroom: Lacy J. Dalton, thru Sept. 3; America, Sept. 4-17; The Lettermen, Sept. 18-Oct. 1; Confederate Railroad, Oct. 2-15; Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Oct. 16-29; Bellamy Brothers, Oct. 30-Nov. 12; Bands play nightly in the Casino Cabaret and Trader Dick's restaurant.

Peppermill • 826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Tanzania/The Lelands, Sept. 1-7; Suzanne Lee Price/Tommy Bell, Sept. 8-14; Zella Lehr, Sept. 15-21; Prime Time, Sept. 15-28; Johnny Baron, Sept. 22-28; David Proud, Sept. 29-Oct. 5; Heart and Sol/Dynatoners, Oct. 6-12; Jerry Zu/Rubber Biscuit, Oct. 13-19; Bruce Conti, Oct. 20-25; T.K. Kellman and the Band, Oct. 20-26; Convention Showroom: Danny Marona appears on Oct. 10-12.

Reno Hilton • 789-2285 or 800-648-3568 (U.S. outside Nevada): Hilton Theatre: "Aireus," production show; Outdoor Amphitheater: Tracy Lawrence/Tracy Byrd, Sept. 5; Santana/Rusted Root, Sept. 12; Kenny Loggins, Sept. 17; Huey Lewis and the News, Sept. 19; Harry Belafonte, Sept. 25; Aspen Lounge: Bands play Tues.-Sun.; Just for Laughs Comedy Club: Stand-up comedy nightly except Mon.

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): Grande

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Travel Update

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► INSIDE

Selling Adventure

Silence and breathtaking scenery await vacationers who wish to soar above the Carson Valley in a glider. **Page T-2**

Destination

Visitors to the border town of Jackpot will find big-city amenities in a small-town atmosphere. **Page T-3**

► SITE INSPECTION

Spanish Style at Sunset Station

As resorts go, Southern Nevada's newest property is not the largest in a tourist mecca that has 80 hotels, 190 motels, and more than 101,000 rooms. However, the Spanish-themed 448-room Sunset Station in Henderson is one of the most architecturally interesting.

"We've created an elegant hotel with authentic effects and Spanish-style furnishings," says Don Marrandino, the hotel's vice president and general manager. "Guests are going to be very surprised and pleased."

When your clients enter Sunset Station, Marrandino wants them to feel as if they are entering a town plaza with tile walkways and an airy sky-ceiling that displays the colors of a Mediterranean day from morning to sunset. There are fountains, ceramic-tiled columns, and red and ochre color schemes.

At the entrance, a small number of slot machines is the only reminder that you are entering a Nevada casino. Sunset Station officials decided to place the property's restaurants up front to welcome visitors to the gaming floor with the facades, iron balconies, windows, and rustic brick fronts of a village. The theme works beautifully.

Sunset Station's centerpiece is the Gaudi Bar, which has no right angles, only curves, right down to the shot glasses. The 140-seat bar is in the middle of the casino and has more than 24,000 pounds of stained glass in its colorful ceiling.

Entertainment: The Club Madrid's 600-seat lounge will feature rock, country, jazz, and blues entertainers such as Rare Earth and John Cafferty and the Beaver Brown Band. Special events and concerts with headliners are planned for the hotel's outdoor amphitheater.

Restaurants: Sunset Station offers six restaurants, including a microbrewery, as well as seven fast-serve eateries. There are seafood and steak at the Costa Del Sol and appetizers in the adjacent Oyster Bar. The 800-seat Feast Around the World consists of five buffets where chefs prepare Italian, Mexican, Chinese, barbecue, and classic American dishes on the serving line.

A taste for south-of-the-border food is satisfied by Rosalita's Mexican Cantina, which has such specialties as dessert chocolate tacos and fish and poultry cooked in banana leaves. Rosali-



Fireworks greeted the opening this summer of Henderson's major hotel-casino, Sunset Station, a Spanish-themed 448-room property with a strong locals market and, of course, a microbrewery.

ta's has a Sunday margarita buffet brunch. The Sunset Cafe is open 24 hours for all-American dishes, while Italian cuisine is found in the Capri Ristorante.

Hearty brews and food are available at Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant. Quick bites are found at Fatburger, The Last Great Hamburger Stand; Manhattan Bagel; Ben and Jerry's

(Continued on page 8)

► SELLING ADVENTURE

Experiencing the Sounds of Silence

BY BRENDA HUGHES

Nevada is known for its excellent soaring conditions, particularly in the twin communities of Minden and Gardnerville, 45 miles south of Reno, where numerous glider competitions are held. When I was offered the opportunity to discover the world of "silent flight," there was no hesitation—only anticipation.

Before taking to the air at the Douglas County Airport, Joe Rasyamas, my instructor at Soar Minden, explained the basics. He noted that ideal conditions for gliding combine a high altitude with clear, dry weather. Since the airport is located 4,700 feet above sea level at the base of the Sierra Nevada in an area known for low humidity, superior soaring conditions are common. Thermals, the rising columns of warm air, allow the glider to gain altitude, and with ideal conditions the sailplanes can reach higher than 30,000 feet. The gliders are equipped with radios, and pilots and passengers use oxygen above 12,500 feet.

Soar Minden has several single-seater gliders, some two-seaters, and a three-seater that can hold two passengers and a pilot. We selected a craft with a seat in front for me and a second seat immediately behind for Rasyamas. Our glider was



The author sits in a sailplane at Soar Minden, ready to catch the Carson Valley thermals.

attached to the tow plane, and the take-off was smooth as we rapidly gained altitude. On this afternoon the tow plane took us to slightly over 10,000 feet above sea level to catch the best air currents before the instructor released the tow rope.

Immediately I was struck by the quiet as the tow plane faded into the distance. The Carson Valley was below us, Lake Tahoe was visible over the mountain, and Reno could be seen faintly in the distance. It was magical as we soared closer to the mountain ridges, searching for thermals to take us higher. Not much luck on this day, so we headed back to the valley, where we caught a small thermal. The instructor guided the glider in small circles to get the best altitude from the rising air. His advice—to lean with the sailplane and follow the circles—helped keep my stomach calm as we got the final lift available from the thermal.

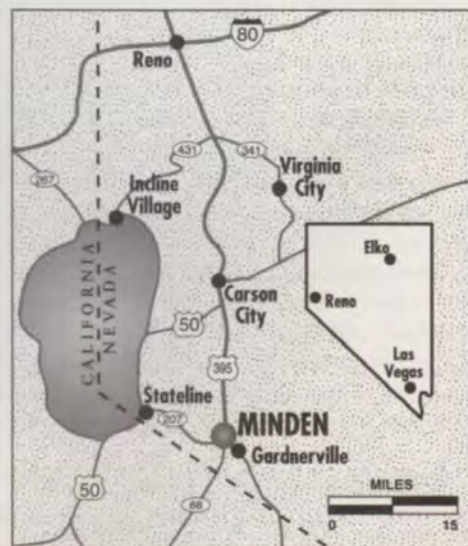
When we headed back to the airport, I savored the last few minutes of this peaceful pastime, taking note of the beautiful vista before me—and the quiet. After the smooth landing, I opened my canopy, and the sounds of the everyday world once again surrounded me.

Fast Facts: Soar Minden sailplane rides start at \$45 for a one-passenger Valley View

Ride, \$55 for the Lake Tahoe View Ride, and \$75 for the Mile-High Intro. For further details, contact Soar Minden, Box 1764, Minden, NV 89423; 800-345-7627, 702-782-7627, fax 702-782-7505, e-mail: soarminden@power.net.

High Country Soaring (702-782-4944) also provides a similar service from the Douglas County Airport.

Brenda Hughes is the tour and travel manager for the Nevada Commission on Tourism.



► NEVADA Travel Update SECTION

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► DESTINATION

Jackpot: The Town That Knows How to Laugh

Located on the Nevada-Idaho border, the community of Jackpot has thrived not only by catering to people from surrounding states who enjoy gambling, but also because it has a unique sense of humor.

You can blame the latter on Carl Hayden, who from 1973 until his death in 1992 was responsible for concocting a series of often outlandish, attention-grabbing events that helped to put the community on the map. Among his more far-out ideas were jackrabbit races, golf club-throwing contests, and the Jackpot Hollerin' Contest.

Hayden served as publicist for the Cactus Petes Resort Casino and Horseshu Hotel and Casino in Jackpot. He previously had worked for the *Salt Lake City Tribune* for 35 years, interviewing five presidents during his career. He wrote his news releases in a quirky, pun-filled style and inspired a popular fiction writing contest, which is sponsored each year by Cactus Petes.

Part of Hayden's impetus for drawing attention to the small community was its

**Depending on the way
one looked at it,
early-day Jackpot
had unlimited
or little parking.**

location on U.S. 93. Sitting in scenic high-mesa country, Jackpot is, nonetheless, not near a major city. Elko, Nevada (pop: 18,570), is 118 miles southwest, and Twin Falls, Idaho (pop: 33,000), is 47 miles north.

Jackpot was founded in 1954 after Idaho lawmakers outlawed slot machines, which had previously been legal in the state. The town came about when, according to Carl Hayden, "gamer Don French scratched his noggin. What could he do for those slot-craving residents of



The casino town of Jackpot offers first-class amenities such as golf, gaming, and shows on U.S. 93 at the Nevada-Idaho state line.

Idaho? What he did was establish a town by erecting a slot-machine emporium in the lonely spaces of mesa country. So came into being the Horseshu Casino, notched into Nevada a dice throw from Idaho's southern border.

"On the north of the Horseshu was a ragtag barn so low a horse had to keep his head at half-mast even when its owner called, 'Oats time!' There was a pole corral that sagged from the weight of a flopped-over rawhide quirt. But it held for the horses of fast-riding cowboys from surrounding ranches. Depending on the way one looked at it, the place had unlimited or little parking."

Services: Jackpot has boomed over the years. The ragtag barn has become a paved parking lot, and the small casino has blossomed into a handful of hotels. Additionally, Jackpot has an 18-hole golf course, a small airfield, and RV facilities.

There are five hotel-casinos in Jackpot, all of which can accommodate motorcoach groups, including:

- Cactus Petes (800-821-1103), which has 299 rooms, 25 luxury suites, five restaurants, showroom, styling salon, gift shop, tennis courts, deluxe RV park, and swimming pool.
- Horseshu (800-484-9429), which has 100 rooms, 10 hot-tub suites, live music, dancing, restaurant, and swimming pool.
- Barton's Club 93 (800-258-2937),

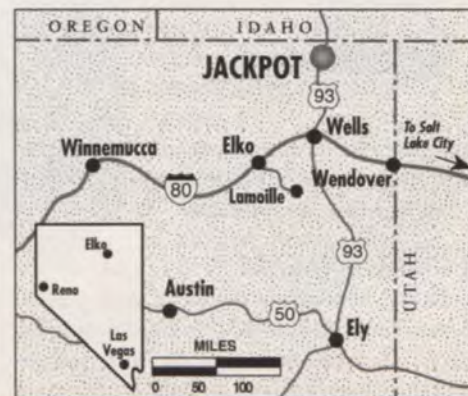
which has a restaurant, buffet, and 100 rooms.

- Four Jacks Hotel-Casino (800-251-6313), which has 60 rooms and a restaurant.

- Holiday Inn Express (800-665-0643), which has 75 rooms.

Sightseeing: Seventy miles west of Jackpot via an unpaved road is the historic mining ghost town of Jarbidge, which was the site of the West's last stagecoach robbery in 1916. Jackpot borders the 113,327-acre Jarbidge Wilderness Area, which is the state's oldest federal wilderness area. Within the wilderness area, visitors will find hiking trails leading into some of the state's most spectacular mountain ranges.

Information: Contact Jackpot Visitor Information, Box 627, Jackpot, NV 89825, 702-755-2653.—Richard Moreno



POSITIVE SIGNS

Visitors to Nevada numbered 41,498,648 during calendar year 1996, a 2.4-percent increase over the previous year. The Silver State's hotels and motels also posted an 85.3-percent occupancy rate, up 0.6 of a percentage point from 1995.

What's New

The Latest Information on Travel Around the Silver State

Wheelie Themed

Lovers of motorcycles and "road food" will find both at Las Vegas' latest themed restaurant, the Harley-Davidson Cafe on the Strip. The eatery will have Harley memorabilia as well as celebrity pieces such as Ann-Margret's 1953 Harley-Davidson Flat Track Racer, which was featured in her performances at the Las Vegas Hilton.

Lake Tahoe by a Landslide

Lake Tahoe was voted in the top three 1997 ideal vacation destinations in the United States by National Leisure Travel MONITOR. The Nevada destination was ranked by MONITOR after Orlando and the Florida Keys and named for its wide range of activities, from casino gambling to world-class recreation. The Reno-Tahoe area was previously selected by Rand McNally as number one in the country for outdoor activities. In 1996, the American Society of Travel Agents named Lake Tahoe the top ski destination requested by its customers.

Mountain Course

Mt. Charleston Golf Resort, located at 7,000 feet in the Spring Mountain National Recreation Area, is the Las Vegas area's first mountain golf course. The nine-hole, par-36 links and two 18-hole miniature golf courses are 30 miles northwest of Las Vegas on State Route 157 via U.S. 95. They are part of the first phase of a recreation complex that will include an ice skating rink. For information call 702-870-2591.



Buffet Beepers

Buffet lovers are a determined group. They will stand, albeit restlessly, in line for what can seem like an eternity, a problem the Showboat in Las Vegas has solved



Clients planning December vacations in Nevada have their choice of the ski slopes in the Reno-Lake Tahoe area, the golf courses in the more temperate Las Vegas, and seasonal events such as the Sparks Hometowne Christmas Parade (above) to set the holiday mood.

for its Captain's Buffet customers. Starting this summer, diners pay for their meal, choose smoking or nonsmoking seating, and receive a beeper that signals them when their table is ready. Meanwhile the customers are free to gamble, drink, or wander the casino.

Ski News

Heavenly Lake Tahoe will have two new trails and a new lift in time for the 1997-98 ski season. The six-passenger lift, the Tamarack Express, will be 3,564 feet long and capable of carrying 2,400 passengers per hour. The Express and new terrain are the first improvements in a 20-year master plan that also



includes an eight-passenger gondola, seven new lifts, two lodges, new trails on the Nevada side of the mountain, and remodeling the base facilities.

Shopping Wonder

The Forum Shops at Caesars added 35 new specialty shops and upscale restaurants in August when it opened a 225,000-square-foot addition. The expansion almost doubles the mall's selling space. A new attraction, the "Atlantis," features interactive human and animatronic figures and a 50,000-gallon aquarium stocked with rare and exotic fish from around the world.

Changes at Excalibur

The castle-themed Excalibur in Las Vegas will open a 13,100-square-foot banquet and convention facility in late

September. The new facility will be one large room that can be broken down into as many as eight smaller rooms. The expansion is part of a master plan of renovations, which include a walkway connecting Excalibur and Luxor, 13 new suites, more retail space, and a gourmet restaurant.

Reno Airport Takes Off

Reno/Tahoe International Airport officials gave the green light to a project that will complete dual parallel taxiway systems and mean more efficient movement of airplanes. In 1996, 6.7 million passengers came through the airport, a 16 percent increase over the prior year. To meet the expected double-digit growth, an additional eight gates will be needed by the year 2000.

Earthlings Welcome

The Little A'Le'Inn in Rachel, 133 miles north of Las Vegas via U.S. 93, advertises itself as the "UFO capital of Nevada, located on planet Earth." Situated on State Route 375, which has been designated by state officials as the Extraterrestrial Highway, the Inn markets itself as a destination with 10 motel rooms—\$25 single and \$30 double—that "are not big and fancy, but they are neat and clean." The Inn's restaurant serves Alien Burgers and offers gaming: three video poker machines. For information call 702-729-2515.



Making Plans for NFR

Gina of Lake Country Travel in Salmon Arm, British Columbia, asked which hotels will be offering transfers to and from the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas December 5-14. "I have clients who are already making travel arrangements to attend this event, and the info is a vital deciding factor as to the accommodations they choose," she wrote.

Hotel shuttle stops on the Strip and downtown will be determined in late September. Normally there are 10 to 12 stops,



A Nevada Moment: Charlie McCarthy proved he was no dummy when it came to roulette in this 1955 photo of the famed ventriloquist Edgar Bergen and his sidekick at the Sahara Hotel. Such publicity stunts helped establish Las Vegas' reputation for glamour and gambling.

and most are within walking distance of several hotels. For information and schedules call Las Vegas Events, 702-731-2115. Shuttle ticket prices will be \$5 one way.

If your clients are interested in the hotel that will be hosting their favorite rodeo athletes, Binion's Horseshoe has saddle

bronc riders; the Gold Coast, bareback riders; the Maxim, bull riders; Palace Station and Tropicana, team ropers; Rio Suite, steer wrestlers; Boulder Station, calf ropers; Aladdin, barrel racers, and the Las Vegas Club, bullfighters (an event for rodeo clowns).

You're Invited

Tourism professionals will gather at the Reno Hilton on December 14-16 for the 14th Annual Governor's Conference, "Perspectives on a Global Future." Featured national speakers will update delegates on issues such as the state of the gaming industry and the economy.

Sessions will look at trends that will have a significant impact in the 21st century and deal with the question, Customer 2000, who will it be? Other topics include Generational-Targeted Marketing, different strategic approaches to the World War II Generation, Baby Boomers, and Generation X; Workforce 2020, understanding the diverse makeup of this unique group and what we need to know to prepare for it; Glob-

al Marketing, opportunities for new customers; and Multicultural Tourism, a means of improving America's competitive position in the world market.

The conference will also address the critical need for a diverse customer base. Top clients from the meetings, incentive, and leisure markets will again be special invited guests of the conference and participate in roundtable discussions with suppliers for an exchange of ideas to facilitate stronger and more rewarding relationships.

For programs and registration materials, call the Nevada Commission on Tourism, 702-687-4322. The registration fee for the conference is \$225 prior to November 1, \$275 after that date.

**The 14th Annual
Governor's
Conference is
December 14-16
at the Reno Hilton.**



► SITE INSPECTION

Hampton Inn Combines Business and Pleasure

When Reno's Hampton Inn opened in October 1995, a partnership was formed with its sister property, Harrah's Reno, that well serves your clients. Both hotels were able to capitalize on each other's reputation—Harrah's as a leader in gaming and the hospitality industry, and Hampton Inn, which according to *Consumer Reports* is considered the leading chain in the moderately priced hotel category.

The 26-story, 408-room Reno hotel is the largest Hampton Inn in the world and has an unusual display of original art on each floor, ranging from frog figurines playing slot machines to giant gaming cards.

The nongaming Hampton Inn is connected by a walkway to Harrah's casino, allowing easy access to the gambling and other shared amenities. Guests at both hotels can use Harrah's exercise room, swimming pool, showroom, and seven restaurants. Nevertheless, each property has a distinctly different atmosphere.

The Hampton Inn's lobby, where three check-in pods replace the more common



The Hampton Inn in downtown Reno has no gaming but offers easy access to its sister property, Harrah's Reno.

hotel desk, exudes quiet professionalism. The first floor's 3,200-square-foot public area has comfortable seating arrange-

ments, while 4,216 square feet of meeting space and the Hobby Horse Cafe are housed on the second floor. The restaurant serves a complimentary continental breakfast from 6 to 10 a.m. daily in a relaxed dining area that has a buffet-style array of fresh fruit, pastries, bread, juices, and coffee.

Fast Facts: Hampton Inn offers valet parking, airport shuttles, valet and room service, and more than 300 rooms for non-smoking guests. All rooms have king or double beds. Midweek rates range from \$59 to \$69, weekends \$89 to \$119, depending on the season and special-event periods. Guests who are age 50 and over and members of Hampton Inn's free Lifestyle 50 program may pay the one-person rate with up to three additional adults staying in their room. Children and teenagers may stay free with a parent, and there is no extra charge for third and fourth adults sharing a room. Travel agents receive 10-percent commission. For room reservations and information on the Hampton Inn in Reno call 800-367-9544.

—Bev Loranger

World of Malls

For shoppers, Nevada casinos have an array of signature and specialty stores. Also, shoppers will find that the following major malls offer more than 1,100 shops. Nevada's area code is 702.

Las Vegas Area

Belz Factory Outlet World: 7400 Las Vegas Blvd. South (the Strip across from Vacation Village Hotel), 896-5599. 147 stores including Spiegel, Nike, Reebok, and Off Fifth (Saks Fifth Avenue outlet).

Boulevard Mall: Maryland Parkway at Desert Inn Road, 735-8268. 160 stores anchored by Dillard's, Macy's, JC Penney, and Sears.

Fashion Show Mall: Spring Mountain Road and the Strip, 369-8382. 145 stores anchored by Macy's, Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue, Robinsons

May, Dillard's, and Bullock's.

Forum Shops: Next to Caesars Palace, 3500 Las Vegas Blvd. South, 893-4800. 105 shops including Guess, Limited Express, Ann Taylor, and Victoria's Secret.

Galleria Mall at Sunset: Sunset Road and Stephanie off U.S. 95/93 South, 434-0202. 130 stores anchored by Dillard's, Robinsons May, and JC Penney.



The 35-store addition to the Forum Shops at Caesars in Las Vegas opened with its own attraction, Atlantis, which is in the grand scale of the mall's decorative centerpiece (above).

Las Vegas Factory Stores: 9155 Las Vegas Blvd. South (the Strip south of Vacation Village Hotel), 897-9090. 45 stores including Mikasa, Kasper, Nine West, and Vanity Fair.

Meadows Mall: U.S. 95 North at Valley View Blvd., 878-4849. 135 stores anchored by Macy's, JC Penney, and Dillard's.

Laughlin

Horizon Outlet Center: 1955 South Casino Drive (on casino row), 298-3003. 52 stores including Polo, Van Heusen, Osh Kosh, and Carter's.

Reno

Meadowood Mall: McCarran Blvd. and South Virginia Street at U.S. 395 South, 827-8450. 130 stores anchored by Macy's, JC Penney, and Sears.

Park Lane Mall: South Virginia Street and Plumb Lane, 825-9452. 90 stores anchored by Gottschalks.

► DINING TIPS

Steakhouses: Where to Find the Beef

When your clients visit the Silver State, they can expect to find hundreds of outstanding restaurants that served more than 41 million visitors in 1996. Some of the best eateries are known for the all-American staples of steak and prime rib. The following restaurants were recommended by Nevada travel-industry professionals for their quality, value, and attention to steaks and prime rib.

Las Vegas Territory

The Golden Steer gets high marks from Sunny Barkley, owner of ASAP, a destination-management company in Las Vegas. "The Golden Steer is convenient, has impeccable food, and a quaint Victorian atmosphere," she says. Located two blocks west of the Sahara Hotel, the restaurant opened in 1959 and is known for its king-size baked potatoes, which are called Honkers.

Fast Facts: The Golden Steer, 308 W. Sahara, Las Vegas, 702-384-4470. Prime rib prices run \$26.50 to \$39 for a 32-ounce Diamond Jim cut. Hours are 4:30-11:30 p.m. daily. Reservations recommended; all major credit cards accepted.

Lawry's The Prime Rib is a favorite of Jaki Baskow of the Baskow Agency, a Las Vegas destination-management, party-planning, and entertainment company. "Lawry's has the best prime rib I've ever eaten," Baskow, who describes herself as "fussy," says. "I like Lawry's for my clients who are entertainers and have eaten in some of the world's best restaurants." Lawry's has also done a first-class job with the agency's groups, including a recent party for 200 people.

The restaurant's look matches its food, says Baskow. There are waitresses in '40s outfits, table-side carving stations, and art deco mahogany.

Fast Facts: Lawry's The Prime Rib, 4043

Howard Hughes Parkway, Las Vegas, 702-893-2223. Prime rib prices range from \$18.95 to \$25.95 for the 16-ounce Diamond Jim Brady cut. Hours are 5-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 5 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday-Saturday. Reservations recommended; all major credit cards accepted.

Ruth's Chris Steak House is for those who are serious about their steak, according to Lori Williamson, sales manager for USA

a.m.-10:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, 4:30-10:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The West Flamingo location is open 4:30 p.m.-3 a.m. daily, with live jazz 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Wednesday-Saturday. Reservations recommended; all major credit cards accepted.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Harrah's Steakhouse in Reno is considered top of the line by Jan Tilzey, owner of Western Discovery International, a Reno destination-management company. "The food is superb, and the service is absolutely flawless," she says. "The servers are attentive, but they don't hover. When you want their attention, just raise your eyebrow." The Steakhouse is located downstairs in Harrah's, away from the casino, so it is very quiet and has a casual elegance that appeals to Tilzey.

Fast Facts: Harrah's Steakhouse, 219 N. Center, Reno, 702-786-3232. Filet mignon price is \$20.50 (eight-ounce). Hours are 5-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 5-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday. Reservations recommended; all major credit cards accepted.

The Steak House at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks has never failed Sylvia Sparks (a little coincidence here), owner of Bonanza World

Travel in Carson City. "In all the years I've been going to the Nugget, I've never once been disappointed with the food or service," she says. Sparks says she alternates between Trader Dick's, the Polynesian restaurant at John Ascuaga's Nugget, and the hotel's steakhouse, where she is partial to the prime rib.

Fast Facts: The Steak House at John Ascuaga's Nugget, 1100 Nugget Ave., Sparks, 702-356-3300. Prime rib prices are \$16.95 and \$19.95 (16-ounce). Hours are 5-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 5-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday. Reservations recommended; all major credit cards accepted.

—Ann Henderson



Excellent food and service put the steakhouse at Harrah's Reno on the recommended list.

Hosts, a Las Vegas destination-management company. "We always get great feedback from our customers who go to Ruth's Chris," says Williamson. "We try to recommend restaurants that suit the mood and price of our clients, and the last thing you want is a negative report." Williamson notes the restaurant's large portions, prime-quality meat that is "better than we can buy in the grocery store," and an excellent wine cellar.

Fast Facts: Ruth's Chris Steak House, 3900 Paradise Rd., Las Vegas, 702-791-7011, and 4561 W. Flamingo, 702-248-7011. Filet mignon prices are \$23 (eight-ounce) and \$29 (12-ounce). Hours are 11

► SIGHTSEEING

Cruising the Colorado River

Blue water and green cottonwoods, brown sand and black lava rock. White concrete, pink neon, and mirrored glass. Indian petroglyphs and modern architecture. Among these hues and textures is woven the story of a historic area turned gambler's paradise—the riverside town of Laughlin, 93 miles south of Las Vegas.

To experience Laughlin this way, simply take a cruise on the Colorado River.

"We have four unique boats that offer scenic cruises every day," says Jo Elle Murray, executive director of the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce. "The captain tells you all about the history of the area—from the Indian petroglyphs in Grapevine Canyon to the features of each of the resorts you pass along the way. One of the best ways to see Laughlin is by boat."

The newest river cruiser is the *Celebration*, christened last May. Fashioned after a double-deck, turn-of-the-century paddlewheeler, this 65-foot, rainbow-hued vessel offers seating for 150. The lower, air-conditioned deck has a full bar and banquet-style seating. Above, you'll find deck chairs and tables under a bright awning, which has the feel of a floating patio. Forward, a small band fits nicely; aft, American flags fly proudly. In addition to scenic cruises, the *Celebration* offers a continental breakfast, lunch, or happy-hour voyages (with drink specials and live entertainment) and a sunset champagne trip.

"Along with our fully narrated cruises, we offer dinners, weddings, any kind of party," says Shirley Parke, who with her husband, Warren, has owned and operated Laughlin River Tours for a decade. Their fleet is comprised of the *Celebration*, which docks at the Flamingo Hilton Laughlin, and the *Edgewater Belle*, a boat of the same style that docks between the Edgewater and Colorado Belle hotels.

The *Del Rio Yacht*, docked at Harrah's, is a different type of boat. It is a traditionally styled, 55-foot Blue Water Yacht with plush leather upholstery, flying bridge, and open bow. The smallest of the Laughlin boats, it holds up to 49 passengers.

The *U.S.S. Riverside* resembles a hybrid of the paddlewheel and yacht designs, with a sleek hull, large enclosed cabin, and open-air upper deck.



Sightseers can board the *Del Rio Yacht*, one of four tour boats based in Laughlin.

"This boat was specially built for the Colorado River, to fit under the bridge and go up to Davis Dam," says Ed Papke of the Riverside Resort. The boat is 65 feet long, holds 119 passengers, and has a bar and private wedding chapel.

Weddings are a booming business aboard the four boats.

"I'd say we do about 300 weddings a year," Papke says, explaining that the Riverside offers a package deal with champagne, toasting glasses, a video of the ceremony, and commemorative T-shirts. Wedding licenses are provided; all the couple needs is identification. The captain, an ordained minister, performs the ceremony in full dress uniform. Catering and flowers are

extra. Prices start at about \$150 for a small party to \$500 for a chartered cruise.

But for those whose goal is to relax with a cocktail while drinking in the history and striking scenery of the Mojave Desert, a Colorado River excursion can be magic elixir. Cruises last about 90 minutes, and prices for adult tickets start at \$10.

For more information call Laughlin River Tours, which pays commissions on weddings and offers group rates on cruises aboard the *Celebration* or *Edgewater Belle*, 702-298-1047; Del Rio Beach Club, for tickets to ride the *Del Rio Yacht*, 702-298-6828; or the Riverside Resort, which has group rates on the *U.S.S. Riverside*, 702-298-2535. —Jill McCoomber

Sunset Station

(Continued from page 1)

Scoop Shop; and Kenya's Cakes of the Stars, which has desserts created by Gladys Knight's daughter, Kenya Jackson.

Fast Facts: Sunset Station is located off U.S. 93/95 at Sunset Road in Henderson, 10 miles southeast of downtown Las Vegas. It offers a Kids Quest child-care facility that is open to ages six weeks to 12 years. The hotel-casino has a 13-screen movie

complex, swimming pool, and a 80,000-square-foot casino with 2,746 slot and video games, 41 table games, race and sports book, and bingo parlor. Rooms have coffee makers. Sunday-Thursday rack rates are \$49-\$69 for a standard room, \$69-\$89 for a petite suite, and \$125-\$175 for a suite. Weekends are higher. Travel agents receive a 10-percent commission. A major shopping complex, the Galleria Mall at Sunset, is near the hotel. For reservations call Sunset Station, 888-786-7389 or 702-221-6698. —Ann Henderson

8pm (dark Mon.); bands play Fri.-Wed.
Western Village • Sparks, 331-1069 or 800-648-1170.

CARSON AREA

Carson Nugget • Carson City, 882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (continental U.S. including Nevada): Nugget Show Bar: Get Ready, Sept. 2-7; Big Tiny Little, Sept. 9-14; Impact, Sept. 16-21; David Proud, Sept. 23-28; The Motifs, Sept. 30-Oct. 5; Wild Angel, Oct. 7-12; Speedy Garfin, Oct. 14-19; Suzanne Lee Price, Oct. 21-26; Get Ready, Oct. 28-Nov. 2.

Carson Station • Carson City, 883-0900: Bands play.

Carson Valley Inn • Minden, 782-9711 or 800-321-6983: Cabaret Lounge: Bands play nightly; Shannon Ballroom: Comedy Night Live, Sept. 19.

Ormsby House • Carson City, 882-1890: Mark Twain Lounge: Bands play nightly.

Piñon Plaza • Carson City, 885-9000: Sports Book Lounge: Bands play Thurs.-Sat.



The King of Mean

Comedian Don Rickles, the master of insults, appears September 26-28 at Harrah's Lake Tahoe and October 24-26 at the Desert Inn in Las Vegas. Rickles, who played a casino executive in the 1995 movie *Casino*, has the same cherubic face, goofy grin, and scorching sarcasm that has made him a Nevada headliner since his first appearance at the Sahara in 1959.

Sharkey's Nugget • Gardnerville, 782-3133: Dance to live music, Oct. 4.

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: Willie Nelson, Sept. 19-20; Tom Jones, Oct. 3-4; Nero's 2000 nightclub has live music; Cleo's Bar and Entertainment Lounge: Pianist Arthur Hervey, indf.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe • 588-6606 or 800-HARRAHS: South Shore Room: "Sugar Pie Honey Bunch: A Salute to Motown" and "Harrah's Heart of Rock and Roll," musical revues, thru Oct. 8; Asleep at the Wheel, Sept. 5-7; Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles, Sept. 19-21; Don Rickles, Sept. 26-28; Trisha Yearwood, Oct. 10-11; Casino Center Stage: Nightly bands.

Harveys • 588-2411 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.

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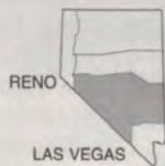
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Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe • Incline Village, 832-1234.

Jim Kelley's Tahoe Nugget • Crystal Bay, 831-7157.

Richmond's Renegades

Banscombe Richmond, who plays the savvy Native American bounty hunter Bobby SixKiller in the television series *Renegade*, frequently appears on stage at Las Vegas hotels. Richmond and his Renegade Posse Band perform country, rock, and blues September 12 at the Stardust on the Strip.

Richmond will be joined by comedian Tom McGillen, a one-time waterbed salesman who is known for his three-character spoof of Japanese monster movies.

Tahoe Biltmore • Crystal Bay, 831-0660: Music and dancing nightly in the Aspen Lounge.

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Owl Club • 635-5155.

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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: Headliners TBA; Top 40 bands, Thurs.-Sat.

Stockmen's Hotel • 738-5141 or 800-648-2345 (U.S. and Nevada).

JACKPOT

Barton's Club 93 • 755-2341.

Cactus Petes • 755-2321 or 800-821-1103: Cabaret Lounge: Entertainment TBA.

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

Peppermill • 664-2255 or 800-648-9660 (U.S. outside Nevada): Tommy Bell, thru Sept. 7; The Lelands, Sept. 9-21; Edy Gainer and Dezire, Sept. 22-Oct. 5; The Brothers Owens, Oct. 6-19; Band on the Run, Oct. 20-Nov. 2;

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, 800-354-3671: The Smothers Brothers, Sept. 28-29.

WINNEMUCCA

Winners Hotel • 623-2511: Carrie Folks, Sept. 9-14; Tony Vee, Sept. 16-24; Almost Persuaded, Sept. 23-28; Scott Joss, Sept. 30-Oct. 5; Denis Holland, Oct. 7-12; American Made, Oct. 14-19; Jayce Johnson, Oct. 21-26.

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First Impressions

"Jubilee!" the musical spectacular at Bally's in Las Vegas, has a new, \$3-million opening. In all, the 16-minute sequence features 74 performers, although at one point enormous mirrors give the illusion of hundreds of showgirls and millions of feathers. Showgoers can anticipate more changes in the production, which opened in 1981, when new costumes arrive this fall for the "Samson and Delilah" segment.

Pioneer Territory

AMARGOSA VALLEY

Longstreet Inn • 372-1777: Weekend entertainment.

BEATTY

Stagecoach • 553-2419 or 800-4-BIGWIN (U.S. outside Nevada): Nightly entertainment.

HAWTHORNE

El Capitan • 945-3322: Entertainment TBA.

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.

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Mizpah Hotel • 482-6202.

Station House • 482-9777: Bands play nightly in the casino lounge.

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Casino West • 463-2481 or 800-227-4661 (U.S. and Nevada).

Dini's Lucky Club • 463-2868.

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



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Wild Horses

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The Nevada Magazine Cap

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Please use the handy merchandise order form on page 55

Alien Wear

Area 51. Dreamland. The Truth is Out There. The Shirt is Here. Nevada is the home of the official Extraterrestrial Highway. This deep-space black, all-cotton T-shirt has an other-worldly design of a vacationing alien created by Reno artist April Pedersen. Extra Bonus: You will receive an E.T. Highway key chain with every shirt ordered. Youth sizes M and L, #CS&K, \$13.50. Also available in adult sizes M, L, XL, #S&K,





Wild About Nevada

Wildflowers. The name connotes chaos. The reality is beauty and order directed by nature's unseen hand. Wear your appreciation. T-shirts—Puff-printed flowers on red (#TFLR) or white (#TFLW). Sizes S, M, L, and XL, \$19.95; add \$2.00 for XXL. Sweats—Puff-printed flowers on red (#SFLR) or white (#SFLW). Sizes S, M, L, and XL, \$25.95; add \$3.00 for XXL.

The Official Nevada-tude Coffee Cup/Travel Mug

It's early. You need that first cup of "joe" to wake up. Reach for your Nevada-tude Coffee Cup/Travel Mug and fill 'er up. This insulated travel mug fits into most car drink-holders and is considerably more sophisticated than a flimsy paper cup. The Nevada-tude mug is blue plastic featuring the little dude with the Nevada-tude on one side and the NEVADA MAGAZINE logo on the other. #MUG, \$6.95.



The Nevada Magazine Tote Bag

To have style. It's more than driving a nice car or drinking the right wine. It's a definition. It's a declaration. Of you. And this tote bag says you. Made of natural, heavyweight canvas, the bag is all-cotton and features a double-thick bottom gusset, an outside pocket, and sturdy fabric handles. Available in natural with navy blue straps. TOTE, \$17.95.



Nevada Suspenders

Left or right. The eternal question. Which pant leg goes on first? With suspenders it really doesn't matter. It's more a question of style. With the new NEVADA MAGAZINE logo printed on both straps and a cross-patch with a discreet logo, these suspenders not only hold up your pants, they answer all



the questions. Suspenders are available in blue or red in regular and extra-long sizes. Regular suspenders: Blue, #SUSBR; Red, #SUSRR, \$14.50. Extra-long suspenders: Blue, #SUSBX; Red, #SUSRX, \$14.50.

Symbolic Nevada

A shirt should make a statement. It should be fun yet sophisticated, artful but accessible. The Symbolic Nevada T-shirt spells out those qualities that define Nevada. Wearing one says you understand, even when others cannot. Or will not. T-shirts—Full-color design on neutral (beige) (#TSYN) or black (#TSYB). Sizes M, L, and XL, \$19.95; add \$2.00 for XXL. Sweats—Full-color design on black. Sizes M, L, and XL, #SSYB, \$25.95; add \$3.00 for XXL. Beige T-shirts in youth sizes M and L, #CSYM, \$11.95.



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Nevada Emblem Shirts

A state's symbols are its talismans. They are those plants, animals, rocks, fish, and fowl considered sacrosanct. Carson City artist Brenda Locke-Knight has captured the essence of several of Nevada's most precious symbols in two new, full-color T-shirt designs. The Lahontan Cutthroat Trout T-shirt (right) features a beautiful image of Nevada's official state fish. The Mountain Bluebird T-shirt (left) offers the official state bird perched on a branch of a piñon pine, which is the official state tree. Both shirts are 100% preshrunk cotton. Trout T-shirts (#FISH) are printed on oatmeal-colored shirt. Sizes M, L, XL, \$19.95; add \$2.00 for XXL. Bluebird T-shirts (#TBIRD) are printed on a sage-colored shirt. Sizes M, L, XL, \$19.95; add \$2.00 for XXL.



Nevada Explorer

The ghosts have tales to tell. Hidden in remote parts of the state are the ghosts' towns. It is there that they wait. For an eternity. Speak to the ghosts for they will hear. They will know the Explorer. Gold design on green cotton T-shirt. Youth sizes M and L, #CEK, \$11.50. Also available in adult sizes M, L, XL, #TEK, \$15.95; add \$2.00 for XXL.



Nevada-tude

Sometimes it's not enough to have attitude if no one knows it. The Nevada-tude T-shirt shouts your intentions to the world and in return—I.R.—instant respect. Youth sizes in purple, M and L, #CTD, \$11.95. For adults, the shirt comes in either black with gold lettering (#TTDB) or purple with black lettering (#TTDP), sizes M, L, XL, \$15.95; add \$2.00 for XXL.

The Great Nevada Food Festival Cookbook

Doctor Chili's world championship chili cook-off recipe. The "secret" ingredients for Genoa Candy Dance fudge. Basque garlic soup. Every year, Nevada hosts dozens of food festivals ranging from the Las Vegas Greek Food Festival to Reno's Great Italian Festival. Nearly two dozen food festival-inspired recipes are featured in NEVADA MAGAZINE's newest publication. 32 pages, #FFCB, \$4.95.



Nevada Ghost Town Map

They're fascinating. They're photogenic. And they're dead. By one estimate, there are 10 ghost town sites in Nevada for every living community. The full-color Nevada Ghost Town Map shows where the bodies are buried. #GTM, \$5.50.



1998 Nevada Historical Calendar

A picture is worth a thousand words. That's an understatement when it comes to the 1998 **NEVADA HISTORICAL CALENDAR**. Historic black and white photos eloquently tell Nevada's story. This oversized wall calendar has plenty of room for personal notes and includes listings for major Nevada special events and important historical dates. #C98, \$7.95 (retail price is \$8.75).



The Great Nevada Cookbook A guarantee. This the only cookbook in which you'll find recipes for Basque picon punch, succotash, rabbit stew, cioppino, and Dutch Oven bread side-by-side. It's eclectic. It's Nevada. This cookbook is a sampler of 28 recipes representing various ethnic groups associated with the state. 32 pages, #CB, \$4.95.

Nevada's Living Ghost Towns It's important to know the past. It could have a bearing on the future. This illustrated guidebook focuses on nine of the state's most historic living ghost towns with introductions to another 13 sites. 32 pages, #LGT, \$4.95.

Great Nevada Day Hikes Nevada has more mountains than any other state. That's a fact. With more than 300 ranges, it's a hiker's paradise. This guidebook describes 15 popular day hikes ranging from easy trails marked by petroglyphs (Valley of Fire) to more challenging walks such as the Mount Rose Trail overlooking Reno and Lake Tahoe. 32 pages, #EKHIKE, \$4.95.



Nevada Writing Paper

Ichthyosaurs and tortoises and trout. Oh my! This 64-page notepad features beautiful illustrations of nine of the official state symbols that make Nevada, Nevada. How else will you remember that sagebrush is the state flower or that the desert tortoise is the state reptile? One notepad, #1NOTEP, \$4.50. Two notepads, #2NOTEP, \$8.00.



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From Partridge to "EFX"

Former teen heartthrob David Cassidy has put new energy in the Las Vegas show.

By Mike Weatherford



Cassidy mingles with wood sprites who inhabit the world of Merlin, one of four characters portrayed in "EFX." The sprites' ballet sets the mood for a duel between two fire-breathing dragons in the MGM show.



When Cassidy (above) replaced Michael Crawford as the star of "EFX," he insisted on major changes in the MGM's mega-production.

You can see David Cassidy in a familiar guise on the wall of his dressing room. It's a picture of him serenading a stadium in the early '70s, complete with shag haircut, bell bottoms, and screaming girls in the background.

For some, it's still easier to accept Cassidy as the teen heartthrob of *The Partridge Family* than it is as the star, savior, and script doctor of a \$41-million Las Vegas production show.

Yet it's Cassidy who replaced Broadway's "Phantom of the Opera," Michael Crawford, as the star of the MGM Grand Hotel's "EFX" show last fall. And it's Cassidy who insisted upon changes that gave the show what he describes as "an energy and humanness that it didn't have before."

Crawford performed "EFX" more than 600 times after it opened in 1994, but he was sidelined by a hip injury in the summer of 1996. His failure to return was no real surprise to most who had seen the revue. Crawford never quite seemed to gibe with a show based on "special effects"

such as flying time machines and two fire-breathing dragons and which cast him in four roles: Merlin, P.T. Barnum, Houdini, and H.G. Wells.

"In the beginning there wasn't one person who was driving the ship creatively," Cassidy, 46, says of the show that combined the ideas of Landmark Entertainment, which specializes in theme park rides such as the Las Vegas Hilton's new *Star Trek* attraction, with those of Crawford and his manager. "I don't think all of them were on the same page necessarily."

Cassidy agreed to take the job if the producers would agree to some major restructuring. Three songs were replaced with new ones that were less Broadway and more gospel-rock in flavor, reflecting the eight-year age difference between the two stars. Instead of the cloaked EFX Master, Cassidy became an everyman busboy pulled from the audience to recapture his imagination and lost sense of wonder.

"As opposed to trying to compete with the effects, my take on it is to bring a much more human, humorous element to it,"

Cassidy says, "where the audience goes on a journey with the character as opposed to the character showing you these effects."

Cassidy's theatrical background goes beyond his parentage: late actor Jack Cassidy and *Partridge Family* mom Shirley Jones. Before coming to "EFX," he had toured with brother (and fellow bubble-gum pop veteran) Shaun in the Broadway musical "Blood Brothers."

"It's a major move for myself and my family, but I think it's a great opportunity for me," he says of Las Vegas. "When you're in an environment that's successful, it's a really wonderful thing."

He says he might have played a Las Vegas concert once during his Keith Partridge days—as he jokes during the show, the '70s are a blur to him. But he says entertainment in those days was "completely casino driven, as opposed to family or mainstream." Now he has his own family—wife Sue and six-year-old son Beau—and a house in the Green Valley area of Las Vegas, as well as one in Connecticut.

"I like this town. I think it offers a lot. My son really enjoys it here," he says. "It is a good place in many respects for families. The schools are good, I've met a lot of interesting people... I feel the town has embraced me, and you have to embrace that."

The summer before "EFX" Cassidy was producing a sitcom pilot, *Asking Harriet*, that he created for the Fox network. Originally he was going to star in the show, but since he began slaying dragons twice a day, he's concentrated on his executive role in the TV project.

While he seems a little frustrated with that realization, he has something to fall back on: "I'm told I could do this now as long as I want to do it," he says of "EFX." "I don't mean just this show, but to be here and be part of this community and perform here. It's great because I've been just about everywhere on the planet. I feel very much at home."

Show Notes

David Cassidy stars in "EFX" at the MGM Grand Hotel on the Las Vegas Strip. Show times are 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday (dark Sunday and Monday). Prices, which include tax but not drinks, are \$49.50 for general admission and \$70 for preferred seating. There is a \$2 service charge for reservations made by phone. Call 800-646-7787 or 702-891-1111 for reservations.

Mike Weatherford is a Las Vegas Review-Journal entertainment reporter.

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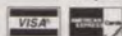
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Casino Notes

News from hotel-casinoland. By Ann Henderson

Las Vegas Territory

Oom-Pah-Pah: With fall comes Oktober-fests and days of suds, music, and German food. In Laughlin the Colorado Belle celebrates its annual Beer and Brats Fest September 26-28 with grilled sausages, live music, booths, and cash drawings. Visitors can hoist a few designer brews at the Belle's pub, the Boiler Room, which opened last summer. Another spirit-raising fall event in Laughlin will be the Riverflight '97 Balloon Races on October 17-19.

Hard Rock Makes Hot List: The Hard Rock Hotel in Las Vegas made *Condé Nast Traveler's* 1997 hot list when it was nominated as one of the top 25 coolest places to stay. The rock 'n' roll-themed hotel was the only Nevada property to be named. Like the other 24 nominees, the Hard Rock Hotel opened within the last two years.

Sahara Show Time: Over the years Las Vegas showgoers saw some of the business' best and most unusual performers in the Sahara's Congo Showroom, including a one-night stand by boxing champ Sugar Ray Robinson and frequent appearances by a young Johnny Carson. Earlier this year new owner Bill Bennett sought to restore the room's luster when he refurbished it during the hotel's expansion and reopened the theater with comedienne Elayne Boosler. Look for entertainers such as ventriloquist Jeff Dunham and veggie masher Gallagher to play the Congo Showroom.

Shower of Feathers: Bally's Las Vegas last summer unveiled a new, \$3-million opening number in its mega-production show, "Jubilee!," as well as a \$2.6-million renovation of the Jubilee Theater. The 16-minute opening sequence features 74 performers in extravagantly feathered and beaded costumes. The refurbishment of the showroom provides more comfort with theater-style seating except for tables next to the stage. Sit there and you're liable to get a dusting of feathers.

Wheels of Fortune: Players Island in Mesquite has a new name, CasaBlanca,



Fancy Watering Hole

Straight lines are banned in the Gaudi Bar, the heart and soul of Sunset Station, Henderson's new 3448-room, Mediterranean-themed hotel. Inspired by Spanish architect Antonio Gaudi, the 140-seat bar has a psychedelic stained-glass dome and art nouveau touches such wavy walls and a fountain. Between 5 and 7 p.m. on weekdays, bartenders blow whistles to signal the start of Gaudi Time, which sends cocktail servers into the Gaudi Dance. Drinking glasses used in the bar were selected or specially made so they would reflect Gaudi's architectural style of all curves, no angles.

and new owners. The hotel-casino, 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas off Interstate 15, has a golf course and an extensive health spa. Game-show creator and entertainer Merv Griffin was a major partner in the casino, which opened in 1995.

Trouble With the Warp Drive? The opening of the Las Vegas Hilton's Star Trek: The Experience has been postponed while technical problems are being solved, according to hotel officials. The space-age attraction, when completed, will allow trekkies to take simulated journeys across the galaxy in a 27-seat shuttlecraft. So, where's Scotty? He could always fix problems in less than an hour.

Refurbishing in Laughlin: Renovations get under way this fall at the Flamingo Hilton Laughlin. Each of the hotel's 2,000 rooms will be refurbished and in-room amenities

added such as coffee makers, hair dryers, clothing irons, and ironing boards. Last summer the Flamingo constructed a dock for its new tour boat, the *Celebration*. Officials also announced plans to develop a waterfront on the Colorado River to include a beach and an area for personal-watercraft rental and docking.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Web Feat: The Atlantis in Reno was recognized by the Luckman Interactive World Wide Web Yellow Pages as a Luckman Four-Star Award winner. The hotel was given the mark of excellence for its Web site, which clearly outlines accommodations, amenities, dining, entertainment,

and casino games. The Web site can be found at <http://www.atlantis casino.com>.

Cosby at Harveys: On November 1 Bill Cosby headlines at Harveys at Stateline. His appearance is part of an agreement to act as a spokesman for Harveys and to perform at the Lake Tahoe hotel several times a year. Cosby was long associated with Harrah's, a bond that began with the casino's late founder, Bill Harrah. During his show Cosby is known for dragging up a chair and having a low-key, funny chat with his audience.

New Game in Town: Odyssey, a three-dimensional interactive slot machine, is the hot new game at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks and the Atlantis in Reno. During play a ghostly pair of gloved hands deals the cards and claps when the gambler wins. Players can touch the machine's screen to choose from six different games, including a nostalgic '50s-style machine that displays cherries, lemons, and oranges on the screen and emits sounds typical of that era's devices. For the curious or confused there is a help button for step-by-step instructions.

Music Done to a Turn: Free concerts accompany four days of gorging on barbecued ribs August 29-September 1 during the Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks. On

Friday evening, Mumbo Gumbo and its blend of zydeco, rhythm and blues, Tex-Mex, and boogie-woogie kicks off the Labor Day weekend. The Guess Who follows on Saturday, with Chris LeDoux and Bob Marley's Original Wailers closing the cook-off on Sunday. The evening concerts are free, and during the day other performers rotate among three stages and roam through the crowd.

50 Is the Magic Number: The Stadium Senior Classic bowling tournament rolls into Reno September 15-19 and 22-26 at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno. Sponsored by the American Association of Retired Persons, the tournament is open to anyone over age 50. Entries may be submitted up to the day of the event, which is free to spectators. Call 702-334-2600 for an entry form and the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority, 800-367-7366, for room reservations.

One Thin Dime: The Peppermill in Reno offers 10-cent keno that has a payoff of \$14,444 when an eight-spot ticket is hit. The dime game appeals to beginners who want to play for a small amount while attracting veterans because they can play 50- or 100-way tickets at budget wagers.

Reach Out and Touch a Slot: Slot handles and buttons are a thing of the past for gamblers playing the VLC Winning Touch slot games at the Peppermill in Reno. Players touch the video screen to select one of the 10 games or to perform other slot functions, including making a bet. The machines have a maximum payout of 200,000 coins.

Musical Buffet: Buffets can be similar, but the Silver Legacy in Reno has added two new twists to dress up the Sunday Brunch at Sterling's—a strolling violinist who sets the mood for food and a kid-size buffet that fits the tastes of the younger set with entrees like French toast, scrambled eggs, and pastries. Brunch is served from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and prices are \$15.95 for adults and \$7.95 for children two to 10.

New RV Retreat: The Piñon Plaza in Carson City has opened a 70-space RV park for snowbirds and other campers. The park has hookups for water, power, sewer, and television.



Diamond Anniversary

The Mask, a 136-carat Mardi Gras-style mask, is part of a dazzling exhibit of diamonds belonging to celebrities and Hollywood stars that is touring the Harrah's properties to mark the company's 60th anniversary. The display includes the 259-diamond Cullinan Blue Necklace, a 30-carat gift that Thomas Cullinan had made for his wife from a diamond weighing 3,106 carats that was unearthed in 1905 at his South African mine. The diamond-anniversary tour of diamonds will stop at Harrah's Reno on September 11-20, Harrah's Lake Tahoe on September 24-October 4, and Harrah's Las Vegas on October 8-19.

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Attractions, Tours & Museums

Places to go and things to do around the Silver State.

Visitors can explore Nevada's diverse attractions—from the new Coca-Cola museum in Las Vegas to the Central Nevada Museum in Tonopah—when they visit the Silver State's many museums, hotels, and state parks.

Las Vegas Territory

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.
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 or 888-627-0990.
Favorite Brands 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 • 733-2334.
Excalibur • Dragon battle in front moat and motion simulators, 597-7777.
Floyd Lamb State Park • Picnicking and fishing. 9200 Tule Springs Rd., 486-5413.
Forum Shops at Caesars • Animatronic attractions. Caesars Palace, 893-4800.
Fremont Street Experience • Light show on the hour from dusk to midnight. Downtown, 678-5600.
Gameworks • Climbing wall and arcade. Showcase Mall, 597-3122.
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 • 9600 W. Sahara Ave., 647-4300.
Las Vegas Club • Sports memorabilia. Downtown, 385-1664.
Las Vegas Museum of Natural History • 900 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 384-DINO.
Liberace Museum • Pianos and memorabilia. 1775 E. Tropicana, 798-5595.
Lied Discovery Children's Museum • Science and other learning exhibits. 833 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 382-KIDS.
Luxor • Motion rides and IMAX Theatre, 262-4000.
Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History • 4505 Maryland Pkwy., UNLV, 895-3381.
MGM Grand Adventures • Theme park, 891-7979.
Mirage • Dolphin habitat, volcano, and Secret Garden with tigers, elephant, lions, and panthers, 791-7111.



Hang 'em High

Visitors to the Million Dollar Courthouse in Pioche can seat themselves on a jury dispensing frontier justice. Here, Larry Angier (alert juror, center right) of Jackson, California, takes advantage of the photo opportunity in the town where legend says 75 men died with their boots on before one died of natural causes. Corruption and bad management created a \$1-million debt—and the nickname—for the historic courthouse in Lincoln County.

Mount Charleston • Recreation info., 222-1597.
Nevada State Museum and Historical Society • Lorenzi Park, 700 Twin Lakes Dr., 486-5205.
New York-New York • Roller coaster, 740-6969.
Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort Historic State Park • 908 Las Vegas Blvd. N. at Washington, 486-3511.
Omnimax Theatre • Caesars Palace, 731-7900.
Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area • 363-1921.
Sam's Town • Water and laser show, 456-7777.
Southern Nevada Zoological Park • 1775 N. Rancho Dr., 648-5955.
Spring Mountain Ranch State Park • Red Rock Canyon, 875-4141.
Stratosphere • Roller coaster and Big Shot ride, 380-7777.
Treasure Island • Sea battle every 90 minutes from 4 to 11:30 p.m., 894-7111.
Wet 'n Wild • Seasonal, 734-0088.
World of Coca-Cola • Museum, Showcase Mall, 270-5985.

LAUGHLIN

Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area • Four miles south of Laughlin, 298-1859.
Boiler Room Microbrewery • Colorado Belle, 298-4000.
Del Rio Beach Club • Colorado River sightseeing boat tour, 298-6828.
Lake Mohave Resort • 602-754-3245.
Laughlin River Tours • Colorado River sightseeing, 298-1047.
Nevada Gold Museum • Gaming memorabilia display. Flamingo Hilton Laughlin, 800-FLAMINGO.
Riverside Resort • Classic-car collection with gaming

memorabilia, Colorado River tour boat, 298-2535.

MESQUITE

Desert Valley Museum • 346-5705.
Si Redd's Oasis • Gun club, hayrides, 346-5232.

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.

PRIMM

Primadonna Resorts • Roller coaster, water flume, and Turbo Drop rides at Buffalo Bill's; cars belonging to Bonnie and Clyde and Dutch Schultz at Whiskey Pete's; Ferris wheel at Primm Valley Resort, Primm, 382-1111.

SEARCHLIGHT

Searchlight Gallery • 297-1540.
Searchlight Historic Museum • 455-7955.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

CARSON CITY

Brewery Arts Center • 449 W. King St., 883-1976.
Carson and Mills Park Railroad • Seasonal, Mills Park, 887-2523.
Children's Museum of Northern Nevada • 813 N. Carson St., 884-2226.

Kit Carson Trail • Walking tour, 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

Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center • Old Douglas County High School on U.S. 395 S., 782-2555.

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 Rim Trail • 150-mile system, 588-0686.
U.S. Forest Service Visitors Center • 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 • 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.
Playland • Train, rides, picnicking, Idlewild Park, 329-6008.
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.

Silver Legacy • Giant mining rig shows every hour, 325-7396.

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 • Seasonal, 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.

Kershaw Opens

Kershaw-Ryan State Park, a cozy picnic spot three miles south of Caliente, has reopened.

The tree-lined park—with its wading pool, grape arbors, and hiking trails—was rebuilt after being destroyed by a flood in 1984. There's no camping, but Kershaw-Ryan is open for day use from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.



No Bum Steer

Cowboy actor Leo Carrillo, who played Pancho in the television show *The Cisco Kid*, decorated this 1948 Chrysler Town and Country Sedan with the head of a longhorn steer. (The steer's eyes glow when the headlights are turned on.) The car, the official pace car of the 1991 Tournament of Roses parade in Pasadena, can be seen at the Imperial Palace Auto Collection in Las Vegas.

Photo: Imperial Palace

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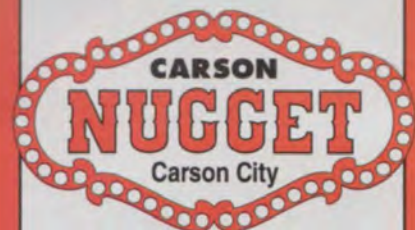
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Liberty Engine Co. No. 1 Comstock Firemen's Museum • Seasonal, 847-0717.

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 • Historic opera house on B Street. 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

Boomtoun Family Fun Center • 345-8668.

WASHOE VALLEY

Bowers Mansion Park • Historic mansion of Comstock millionaires on the west side of Washoe Valley, seasonal, 849-1825.

Davis Creek Park • 849-0684.

Washoe Lake State Park • Picnicking, camping. East Lake Blvd., 687-4319.

Cowboy Country

ELKO

Jarbridge Wilderness Area • North of Elko, 208-543-4129.

Northeastern Nevada Museum • 1515 Idaho St., 738-3418.

Western Folklife Center • 501 Railroad St., 738-7508 or 800-748-4466.

Wild Horse State Recreation Area • 65 miles north of Elko, 758-6493.

LOVELOCK

Giant Tufa Park • West of Lovelock, 273-7213.

Pershing County Marzen House Museum • Marzen Ln., 273-7213.

WENDOVER

Bonneville Salt Flats • 801-977-4300.

WINNEMUCCA

Buckaroo Hall of Fame • 623-2225.

Humboldt Museum • 623-2912.

Pony Express Territory

AUSTIN

Hickison Petroglyph Recreation Site • 24 miles east of Austin on U.S. 50.

ELY/Great Basin N.P.

Cave Lake State Recreation Area • 15 miles south of Ely, 728-4467.

East Ely Railroad Depot Museum • Tours, 289-1663.

Great Basin National Park • Baker, 65 miles east of Ely, 234-7331.

Nevada Northern Railway Museum • Train rides on historic locomotives, seasonal. 1100 Ave. A, East Ely, 289-2085.

Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Site • 16 miles (11 dirt) south of Ely, 728-4467.

White Pine Public Museum • 2000 Aultman St., 289-4710.

EUREKA

Eureka Opera House • Open Mon.-Fri. or by appointment, tours, 237-6006.

Eureka Sentinel Museum • 237-5010.

FALLON

Churchill County Museum and Hidden Cave • Tours, 1050 S. Maine St., 423-3677.

Fort Churchill State Historic Park • 35 miles southeast of Fallon at Silver Springs, 577-2345.

Sand Mountain • 20 miles east of Fallon, 885-6000.

GABBS

Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park • 23 miles east of Gabbs, 964-2440.

Pioneer Territory

BEATTY

Beatty Museum • Mining exhibits, 553-2424.

Death Valley National Park • Park can be reached via Beatty, 619-786-2331.

Rhyolite Bottle House Historic Site • Four miles west of Beatty, 553-2424.

HAWTHORNE

Mineral County Historical Museum • 400 10th St., 945-5142.

Walker Lake State Recreation Area • 945-5896.

PAHRUMP

Death Valley National Park • Park can be reached via Pahrump, 619-786-2331.

Pahrump Valley Winery • Tours, 3810 Winery Rd., 727-6900 or 800-368-WINE.

PIOCHE/CALIENTE

Cathedral Gorge State Park • 11 miles south of Pioche, 728-4460.

Kershaw-Ryan State Park • Five miles south of Caliente, 728-4460.

Lincoln County Historical Museum • Pioche, 962-5207.

Million Dollar Courthouse • Pioche, 962-5207.

Spring Valley State Park • 728-4460.

Stone Cabin Living History Museum • One mile north of Eagle Valley Reservoir, seasonal, 728-4460.

TONOPAH

Belmont Courthouse State Historic Site • 50 miles north of Tonopah, 867-3001.

Central Nevada Museum • 482-9676.

YERINGTON

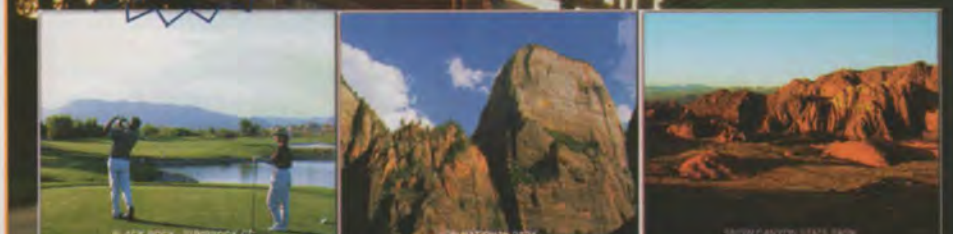
Lyon County Museum • 463-2245.

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* PHOTO: Sunbrook Golf Course, rated by Golf Digest in 1997 as the number one course in Utah. Photo by Dick Dumbance



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Gaming Tournaments

A guide to hotel-casino tourneys.

Gaming tournaments are designed for players of all levels. Some hotels offer daily, weekly, and monthly tournaments, such as the free video poker tournaments every other weekend at Bill's Casino at Stateline, Lake Tahoe. Nevada's area code is 702.

Las Vegas Territory

Jazzing on Bourbon Street Slots • Sept. 1-4 • Rio Suite Hotel, Las Vegas, 800-PLAYRIO.

Blackjack • Sept. 5-6 • Flamingo Hilton Laughlin, 800-662-6004.

Treasures of Atlantis Slots • Sept. 7-10 • MGM Grand, 800-929-9410.

Slots • Sept. 14-16 • Showboat, Las Vegas, 385-9123.

Red Hot Chili Nites Slots • Sept. 14-17 • Aladdin, Las Vegas, 800-367-2850.

World Tour Slots • Sept. 15-17 • Colorado Belle, Laughlin, 800-572-3553.

Slots • Sept. 19-20 • Excalibur, Las Vegas, 597-7777.

\$25,000 Blackjack • Sept. 19-20 • Blackjack tournament

at Santa Fe Hotel-Casino, Las Vegas, 658-4900.

Millionaire-Maker National Slots • Sept. 19-20 • Harrah's Laughlin, 298-4600.

Slots • Sept. 28-30 • Imperial Palace, Las Vegas, 800-351-7400.

Super Star Bingo • Sept. 29-30 • Showboat, Las Vegas, 385-9123.

Video Poker • Oct. 3-4 • Flamingo Hilton Laughlin, 800-662-6004.

Motor City Memories Keno • Oct. 5-8 • Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, 800-262-2502.

Pirates of the Caribbean Slots • Oct. 10-11 • Golden Nugget, Laughlin, 800-237-1739.

Great Hawaiian Adventure Slots and Video Poker • Oct. 10-12 • Colorado Belle, Laughlin, 800-572-3553.

Masquerade Slots • Oct. 16-19 • MGM Grand, 800-929-9410.

Emperor's Extravaganza Slots • Oct. 17-20 • Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, 800-262-2502.

Halloween Slots • Oct. 19-22 • Aladdin, Las Vegas, 800-367-2850.

Abracadabra Slots • Oct. 21-23 • Edgewater, Laughlin, 800-289-8777.

Caesars Palace Frankenslot Halloween Slots • Oct. 23-26 • Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, 800-262-2502.

Spookeasy Slots • Oct. 26-29 • Rio Suite Hotel, Las Vegas, 800-PLAYRIO.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Caribbean Cruise \$60,000 Slots • Sept. 14-15 • Silver Legacy, Reno, 800-215-7721.

Slots and Poker • Sept. 19 • Lakeside Inn, Lake Tahoe, 800-523-1291, ext. 7702.

Three Lucky 7's Slots • Sept. 21-22 • Silver Legacy, Reno, 800-215-7721.

\$25,000 Tri Game-A-Thon • Oct. 24-25 • Slots, keno, and blackjack, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 800-321-6983, ext. 611.

Golden Dollar Slot Marathon • Oct. 26-28 • Eldorado, Reno, 800-648-5966.

Cowboy Country

Blackjack • Wednesdays • Longstreet Inn, Amargosa, 800-508-9493.

Video Poker • Saturdays • Saddle West, Pahrump, 800-433-3987.

Bingo • Sun.-Wed. • Longstreet Inn, Amargosa, 800-508-9493.

Bingo • Monthly • Saddle West, Pahrump, 800-433-3987.

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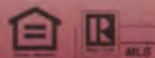
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- 015 Eureka Opera House & Chamber of Commerce
- 017 Fernley Chamber of Commerce/Lyon County
- 022 Elko Convention Center
- 028 Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority
- 030 Laughlin Division/Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority
- 035 Mineral County Chamber of Commerce
- 038 Nevada Commission on Tourism
- 041 Pahrump Chamber of Commerce
- 043 Reno-Sparks Convention & Visitors Authority
- 048 Virginia City Convention & Tourism Authority
- 050 Wendover Convention & Visitors Authority
- 052 Winnemucca Convention Bureau
- 053 Pershing County Convention & Visitors Authority/Lovelock
- 055 Pony Express Territory
- 057 Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce
- 062 Truckee Donner Chamber of Commerce
- 064 Silver Springs/Smith Valley/Yerington
- 067 Primm Division/Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority

HOTELS/CASINOS

- 113 Caesars Tahoe
- 116 Carson Nugget/Carson City
- 117 Carson Valley Inn/Minden
- 120 Circus Circus/Las Vegas
- 138 Fitzgeralds Hotel & Casino/Reno
- 139 Flamingo Hilton/Laughlin
- 153 Harrah's Nevada/Laughlin
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- 191 Red Garter Casino/Wendover
- 198 Riviera Hotel & Casino/Las Vegas
- 200 Sahara Hotel/Las Vegas
- 207 Sturgeon's/Lovelock
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- 212 The Station House/Tonopah
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- 238 Winners Hotel & Casino/Winnemucca
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Vacation Hot Lines

Where to call or write for Nevada travel tips.

When planning your Nevada trip or vacation, be sure to write or phone these one-stop sources for information. If you plan to stop by a chamber (C of C) office, chances are it will be open in the daytime Monday through Friday. Nevada's area code is 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: 1305 Arizona, 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: 3720 Howard Hughes Pkwy., 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.

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: 1512 Hwy. 395, No. 1, Gardnerville, NV 89410-7814; 782-8144 or 800-727-7677 in U.S.

Dayton Area C of C: 15 Main St., Box 408, Dayton, NV 89403; 246-7909 (open Thurs.-Sun.).

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.



Jurassic vistas greet hikers in Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 12 miles west of Las Vegas.

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

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

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

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

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

Tahoe North Visitors and Convention Bureau: Box 5578, Tahoe City, CA 96145; 916-583-3494 or 800-TAHOE-4-U.

Virginia City C of C: Chamber of commerce is inside 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, 800-248-ELKO outside Nevada.

Jackpot Visitor Information: Box 627, Jackpot, NV 89825; 800-411-2052.

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

Lovelock C of C: Box 821, Lovelock, NV 89419; for information phone 273-7213.

McDermitt Information: Box 278, McDermitt, NV 89421; 532-8742.

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

Wendover USA Visitors/Convention Bureau: Box 2468, Wendover, NV 89883; 664-3414 or 800-426-6862.
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.
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: Information on Baker and Great Basin National Park. Box 90, Baker, NV 89311; 234-7302.

Greater Fallon Area C of C: 379 W. Williams Ave., Fallon, NV 89406; 423-2544.

Silver Springs EDASS (Econ. Dev. Authority of Silver Springs): Box 269, Silver Springs, NV 89429; 577-2069.

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

Pioneer Territory

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

Beatty C of C: 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 Brounger Ave., Box 869, Tonopah, NV 89049; 482-3859.

Tonopah Convention Center: Box 408, Tonopah, NV 89049; for information phone 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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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

Circus Circus/Circus Buffet—734-0410. B, L, D. \$, major.
Circus Circus/Pink Pony Cafe—734-0410. A 24-hour cafe just off the main casino. B, L, D. \$, major.
Circus Circus/Promenade Cafe—734-0410. A 24-hour cafe with a cobblestone promenade. B, L, D. \$, major.
Imperial Palace Emperor's Buffet—731-3311. Carving station featuring roast baron of beef. B, L, D. \$, major.
Imperial Palace/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. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.
Sahara Hotel/Caravan Coffee Shop—737-2407. Crab legs, New York steak. B, L, D. \$, major.
Sahara Hotel/Casablanca—737-2407. Prime rib. D. \$\$, major.
Sahara Hotel/Sahara Buffet—737-2407. Pizza, roast beef, turkey, ham. B, L, D. \$, major.

INTERNATIONAL

Riviera Hotel/Mardi Gras Food Court—734-5110. Nine quick-service eateries, food from around the world. B, L, D. \$, no CC.
Riviera Hotel/World's Fare Buffet—794-9400. International cuisines plus prime rib. B, L, D. \$, major.

ITALIAN

Circus Circus/Stivali Italian Ristorante—691-5820. Italian eatery featuring homemade sauces, pastas, and Saturday champagne brunch. D. \$\$, major.
Circus Circus/The Pizzeria—734-0410. Fresh-baked pizza, calzones, and salads. L, D. \$, major.
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. D. \$-\$\$, major.

MEXICAN

Circus Circus/Comida Rica Restaurant—734-0410. Fajitas, quesadillas, authentic meals from south of the border. L, D. \$, major.
Sahara Hotel/Paco's Hideaway—737-2407. D. \$, major.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

Circus Circus/The Steak House—794-3767. Award-winning restaurant features steaks cooked over an exhibition-style mesquite grill, prime rib, lobster, and Sunday champagne brunch. D. \$\$\$, major.
Imperial Palace/Seahouse—794-3261. Alaskan King crab legs, seafood salads. D. \$\$, major.

Riviera Hotel/Kristofer's—794-9233. Steak, seafood, and chicken. D. \$\$, major.
Sahara Hotel/House of Lords—737-2407. Salmon, lobster, lamb, veal, duckling. D. \$\$ major.

Laughlin

AMERICAN

Colorado Belle/Boiler Room—298-4000. Brew pub with hand-crafted beers, hot wings, pizza, hamburgers. L, D. \$, major.
Colorado Belle/Captain's Food Fare—298-4000. Seafood buffet. B, L, D. \$. No credit cards.
Colorado Belle/Mark Twain's—298-4000. Chicken and rib special, baby back ribs. D. \$, major.
Colorado Belle/Paddlewheel—298-4000. Chicken-fried steak, halibut steak, fajitas. B, L, D. \$, major.
Harrah's Laughlin/Colorado Cafe—298-4600. Beef broccoli, pizza, salmon, California burger. B, L, D. \$, major.
Ramada Express/Dining Car Coffee Shop—298-6231. Open 24 hours. Steak-and-egg special, New York steak and shrimp dinner, Cobb salad. B, L, D. \$, major.
Ramada Express/Roundhouse Buffet—298-4200. B, L, D. \$, major.

ASIAN

Colorado Belle/River Wok—298-4000. Combination plates, teriyaki bowl. L, D. \$. No credit cards accepted.

MEXICAN

Harrah's Laughlin/Colorado Cafe—298-4600. Sizzling fajitas, De Hacienda Burrito, fish tacos, filet mignon on new La Parrilla side menu. D. \$, major.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

Colorado Belle/Orleans Room—298-4000. Rack of lamb, king cut prime rib, lobster tails. D. \$, major.
Colorado Belle/Mississippi Lounge—298-4000. Shrimp scampi, oysters Rockefeller, seafood gumbo, peel-and-eat shrimp. L, D. \$, major.
Harrah's Laughlin/William Fisk's Steakhouse—298-4600. Coconut prawns, filet mignon, broiled salmon. D. \$, major.
Ramada Express/The Steakhouse—298-4200. Specializing in flame-broiled meats. D. \$, major.

ITALIAN

Ramada Express/Passaggio Italian Gardens—298-4200. Homemade pastas and pizzas. D. \$, major.

Reno-Carson Area

AMERICAN

Carson Nugget/Bufet—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.
Carson Valley Inn/Fiona's—Minden, 782-4347. Steaks, seafood, veal. 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.

Fitzgeralds Reno/Molly's Garden—785-3300. Omelets, prime rib, sandwiches, salads. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. \$, major.

Fitzgeralds Reno/O'Luckey's Buffet—785-3300. Casino buffet restaurant, open daily. B, L, D. \$, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/General Store—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, giant apple pancake, seafood Louis, Sunday brunch. B, L, D. \$, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Rotisserie—Sparks, 356-3300. Buffet, Sunday brunch. L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

Napa-Sonoma Grocery Co.—2309 Kietzke, Reno, 826-0595. Made to order sandwiches, quiche, salads, soups, chef's specials daily. L, \$, AE, MC, V.

Ormsby House/Bufet—Carson City, 882-1890. Sunday champagne brunch, Friday seafood, daily prime rib. L, D. \$, major.



The Steak House at Circus Circus in Las Vegas.

Ormsby House/Coffee Shop—Carson City, 882-1890. Open 24 hours, breakfast special, one-pound T-bone steak. B, L, D. \$, major.

Ormsby House/Sports Grill—Carson City, 882-1890. Sandwich and appetizer specials. L, D. \$, major.

Silver Legacy/Legacy Saloon and Deli Exchange—Reno, 329-4777. Roast garlic Rosemary chicken with spinach pizza, chicken. 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.

BASQUE

Louis' Basque Corner—301 E. Fourth St., Reno, 323-7203. Sweetbreads, tripe, paella, other seafood dishes. L, D. \$\$, major.

ASIAN

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Trader Dick's—Sparks, 356-3300. Cashew chicken, Szechwan specialties, flaming dagger brochette. L, D. \$\$, major.

Silver Legacy/Sweetwater Cafe—Reno, 329-4777. Baked homemade tortellini, fried shrimp, prime rib, Cantonese pepper steak. B, L, D. \$, major.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

Carson Nugget/Oyster Bar—882-1626. Clam

chowder, fish and chips, and pan roasts. L, D, \$, major.
Carson Nugget/Steak House—882-1626. Veal scalloppini, scampi in dill sauce, escargot. D, \$, major.
Fitzgeralds/Limerick's Pub and Grille—Reno, 785-3300. Scampi St. Patrick, Emerald Isle Herb Chicken, Erin Creme Filet. L, D, \$, major.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/Oyster Bar—Sparks, 356-3300. Lazyman's cioppino, seafood stews. L, D, \$, major.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/Steak House—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, steak and lobster. L, D, \$, major.
Ormsby House/Baron's—Carson City, 882-1890. Supper club with tableside preparation and live piano music. Steak, pasta, and seafood. D, \$, major.
Silver Legacy/Fairchild's Oyster Bar—Reno, 329-4777. Crab cakes, oyster pan roast. 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. 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. D, \$, major.
Caesars Tahoe/Piscis—Stateline, 588-3515. Salmon, lobster, sea bass. Flown in fresh daily. D, \$, major.

Around the State

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.

PRIMM: Buffalo Bill's/Baja Bar and Grill—382-1212. Seafood fajitas, chimichangas, steak à la Tampiqueña. D, \$, major.

PRIMM: Buffalo Bill's/Prima Ristorante—382-1212. Veal marsala, seafood primavera. D, \$, major.

PRIMM: Whiskey Pete's/Silver Spur Steakhouse—382-1212. 32-ounce porterhouse, prime rib, chateaubriand. D, \$, major.

TONOPAH: Station House/Mary's Kitchen—482-9777. Hamburgers, steaks, seafood. B, L, D, \$, AE, MC, V.

WENDOVER: State Line Casino Resort/Anna's Kitchen—664-2221. Steak and eggs, hamburgers, sandwiches. B, L, D, \$, major.

WENDOVER: State Line Casino Resort/Salt Cellar Restaurant—664-2221. Steak and lobster, rack of lamb, Pacific salmon. D, \$, major.

WENDOVER: State Line Casino Resort/Bonneville Buffet—664-2221. Prime rib, roast turkey, halibut. D, \$, major.

WINNEMUCCA: Model T/Casino Restaurant—623-2588. Chicken strips, chicken-fried steak, prime rib special, rib-eye steak, fried prawns. B, L, D, \$, major.

WINNEMUCCA: Model T/Kentucky Fried Chicken Express—623-2588. L, D, \$. No cc.

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. Cafe and buffet. B, L, D, \$, major.

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The Air Up There

"Aireus," the new show at the Reno Hilton, truly flies by night.

By Carolyn Graham



Performers bathed in mystical lighting enhance the dreamy impact of "Aireus," the Reno Hilton's aerial musical.

The Reno Hilton's new show, "Aireus," has neither story nor plot. Instead, the show offers an evening of entertainment that is breezy and surreal.

The central theme of "Aireus," named for the Norse goddess of flight, is up in the air—literally. Dancers and gymnasts perform aerial stunts and ballet movements as they float into and above the audience members, who quickly learn to look up to the action rather than straight ahead.

"Aireus" uses every inch of space on and above the Reno Hilton's one-acre stage, which over the years has been home to several big productions, such as "Hello, Hollywood, Hello" and "Splash." "Aireus" replaced "Splash II" last spring and uses the elaborate sets and gimmicks left from its predecessors, including platforms that drop from the ceiling and a water curtain.

The opening number is probably the least enjoyable in the show. The futuristic sets and costumes, bright lights, and loud, thumping music rattle the audience out of its collective seat. While the routine gets your attention, it isn't representative of the show's many soothing, dream-like sequences.

With showgoers still buzzing from the raucous opening, a dancer dressed in white pheasant feathers appears on stage as a graceful bird. Oriental music calms the nerves while the extremely flexible feathered dancer, Emma Svendsen, performs a classical ballet. Her partner, Dmitri Nekrossov, soon descends from the ceiling, hanging by his arms from a pair of

straps and wearing only a tiny white bikini. Both are strong athletes—Nekrossov is a former member of the Russian gymnastics team, which is evident in his ability to hold himself in various poses in midair.

When the dancers aren't wearing harnesses and pulleys to fly across the stage, they're using props such as big day-glo balls that they expertly toss and roll. Then, with the stage draped in black lights, the dancers in neon costumes and bright plastic wigs bring out hula-hoops for a Caribbean-style number.

The mood becomes soft and ethereal later in the show. During "Adage En L'air," the production's most artistic sequence, a wall of water serves as a misty curtain between the audience and the dancers, who are illuminated in aqua-colored lights and surrounded by a dense fog. Two female dancers perform an aerial ballet between two male dancers. The women create the illusion of a pair of dragonflies as they spin, twirl, fly, and land in their partners' arms.

Most showgoers dread the thought of being called on stage, but the "foot juggling" Fausto Scorpions don't make their victims look silly—instead, they put them to work. Audience members find themselves balancing on the hands and feet of the performers while becoming part of a human pyramid.

The most exhilarating performance in "Aireus" is saved for last. The Flying Cranes, a troupe of five men and one woman from Russia, perform a trapeze act

in memory of Russians who were killed in World War II. The act was inspired by Russian poet Rasul Gamzatov, who wrote, "I sometimes think that soldiers killed in action turned into white cranes." Using equipment specially designed by one of the Cranes, the troupe's dramatic performance is choreographed to Wagner's "Flight of the Valkyries" as they perform heart-stopping feats on the trapeze.

"Aireus" was created by veteran show producers Breck Wall and Patrick Maes, a team responsible for more than 60 shows, including the long-running "Bottoms Up." A far cry from the vaudevillian style of "Bottoms Up," "Aireus" is as light as a feather, putting the audience in a dreamy haze. The show even left some of us feeling as though we were walking on air.

Show Notes

"Aireus" appears nightly except Thursday at the Reno Hilton Theatre. Show times are 8 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday and 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Ticket prices are \$24.95 per person (\$16.50 for ages five through 12) and include tax. Drinks are self serve and not included in the ticket price. Dinner-and-show packages are \$27.95 for the Grand Canyon Buffet, \$36.95 for Andiamo's (Italian), and \$41.95 for The Steakhouse. Call 702-789-2285 or 800-648-3568 (U.S. outside Nevada).

Carolyn Graham is Nevada's associate editor.

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People Page

A horse psychic, a top shoer, and one tough firefighter.

Horse Sense

Has Trigger not been feeling his oats lately? Horse owners having problems with their equine companions can turn to East Washoe Valley resident **Terri Jay Colthorp**, a horse psychic who specializes in reading what's on the minds of animals.

"You'd be amazed at what some horses tell me," says Colthorp, one of a growing number of animal psychics who are also referred to as "animal communicators" or as "horse whisperers."

Colthorp's communication with animals grew out of her work with handicapped children at the Sierra Nevada Handicapped Riding Association, a program she developed with her horse-trainer husband, Steve. She recalls, "I was helping a child ride who couldn't use his vocal chords. As I put him on the horse, I felt him telling me he had a cramp in his hip. So I adjusted his position. Later, he typed this message to his teacher: '[The] horse lady can hear me. After that I began listening to horses in the same way.'"

Horses have Terri Jay Colthorp's ear.

Gardnerville attorney Debbie King sought Colthorp's help after her gelding Influence began returning to the barn lame after every ride. Colthorp "asked" him what the problem was, and the horse "replied" that his saddle was pinching. Indeed, the saddle tree was fractured. The problem was fixed, and Influence has been sound ever since.

Colthorp also communicates with dogs, cats, birds, and snakes. She has even "talked" with a newt named Newt Gingrich. His problem was loneliness, so on Colthorp's recommendation, his

owner gave him a mate. Newt the newt is now eating better, and his listlessness has disappeared.—*Anna Macdonnell*

Of Mules and Men

Tony Baratti of Dayton is a world-champion muleshoer. That means he has both an artistic eye and fast reflexes.

"When you're shoeing his front hoofs, a mule can pick up the back hoof on the same side and strike you in the forehead," Baratti says in admiration. "A mule's balance is incredible."

Baratti, who admits, "I've had my forehead dinged and hat knocked off more than once," won his third world muleshoeing championship during Mule Days in Bishop, California, last May. After handling mules for 15 years, Baratti says he respects the animal's sensitivity and intelligence—which others confuse with stubbornness.

"Mules are smarter than horses. They don't like to hurt themselves. On the pack trail, they are sure-footed, don't panic in a crisis on a ledge, and pay attention," says Baratti, who is known for his derby, wire-rimmed glasses, shoeing leathers, and his sponsor Boomtown's T-shirt when he



Tony Baratti of Dayton gets a kick out of shoeing mules.

competes in muleshoeing competitions.

Humans have employed mules since pre-Biblical times, but they are "freaks of nature," notes Baratti, who owns Hoof Handlers in Dayton. When a female horse and a jackass is bred, the offspring is a hybrid, sterile mule.

"Humans can't dominate mules like



Donovan Hansen hoses away the competition.

they can horses," Baratti says. "If you hurt a mule, one day he'll get you back. You may be pleasure riding, packing, or shoeing. It may not be the next day, but one day, look out."—*Laura Tennant*

The Heat Is On

Several days a week firefighter **Donovan Hansen** runs up and down the stairwells of Fitzgeralds Hotel or the Stratosphere Tower in Las Vegas. Hansen isn't fighting a fire—he's just trying to stay in shape. He is the World's Toughest Firefighter, a title he earned for the second year in a row at the International Firefighter's Games last summer in Las Vegas.

Hansen, 27, says his competitive drive keeps him fired up for his job with the North Las Vegas Fire Department. "I can stay motivated all year long," he says. "Every day after work I go to the gym. Maybe before work I'll run towers."

At six-feet-two and 200 pounds, Hansen tests his stamina in competitions such as the International Combat Challenge on September 6 in Salt Lake City and a national competition in Las Vegas in November. He often competes against his main rival, Darrell Aaronson, 27, a City of Las Vegas firefighter who held the World's Toughest Firefighter title before Hansen.

Hansen says his best competitive event is the stairwell climb, in which he must carry about 60 pounds of gear. Other events are the hose drag, a 185-pound weight carry, and a series of strength and dexterity tests.

After moving to Las Vegas from South Dakota five years ago, Hansen worked for the Bureau of Land Management before joining Station 52 in North Las Vegas.

Following his Las Vegas win last summer, Hansen and his three teammates were awarded cash prizes and bronzed axes. He later donated his turnout coat, helmet, and an antique nozzle and ax to the Official All-Star Cafe on the Las Vegas Strip.—*Katherine McDonnell*



Dining Out

Gourmet retreats in Battle Mountain and Las Vegas.

Dining at Donna's

By David W. Toll

Donna's Diner is not really a diner at all—there is no counter, no stools—but a restaurant large enough to accommodate 50 or 60 at a time. It occupies a much-remodeled two-story house in Battle Mountain, and it's so friendly that there are two welcome mats outside the screen door that slaps softly behind each arriving and departing guest.

The early morning sun streams in through the big windows, illuminating the bright tablecloths and glinting off the coffee cups on each red-and-white place mat. My fellow diners are east- and west-bound travelers in off the freeway, crews of working men in flannel shirts and blue jeans, and an Indian family with sleepy kids spooning down their Cheerios.

Donna's menu goes on ... and on ... and on. You can choose from 20 omelettes, 22 sandwiches, 60 burgers, and 27 dinner entrees, all made fresh in owner Donna Allen's kitchen. The hot cakes and waffles, the pies, the crepes are all made from scratch. Even the hash browns are hand-grated by Donna or one of her helpers.

There's a reason scones get star billing on the hand-painted marquee outside—they're delicious. But you'll never see anything like them in Glasgow—these are Battle Mountain scones, made like Indian fry bread and about the size and shape of a small catcher's mitt, served with home-made jam. The hearty dinners are familiar favorites: pork chops, rib-eye steaks, spaghetti, chicken-fried steak. Steak and prawns is as fancy as it gets. But you won't miss the flamboyant specialties you'll find elsewhere; Donna's lavish turkey dinner makes a Thanksgiving feast any night of the year.

"When I married Jerry I couldn't boil macaroni," laughs Donna as she brushes flour from her apron. "But his mother

taught me a few things, and I found an old 1892 cookbook that taught me to cook the old-fashioned way. We're still using it in the kitchen."

Donna and Jerry started the diner in 1982, after Jerry was injured and unable to do the construction work that had been the family mainstay. The restaurant has been a family enterprise ever since. Sons Jerry Jr. and Rolly helped their father build the restaurant, and daughter Kathy helped open it. Later Rolly ran the restaurant. Son Shawn helped, too, along with cadres of cooks and waitresses. "I'm a lucky kid," Shawn says of growing up in and around the diner. "I had seven moms."

Donna's influence has spread to other small Western towns. Six years ago Kathy started another Donna's in Shelley, Idaho; Rolly now runs the place. Shawn recently took over a Bubba's BBQ in Hamilton, Montana, and Jerry Jr. and Kathy's daughter Amanda joined him there.

Nowadays Donna and Jerry run the original Donna's with Kathy, who oversees the "front end" of the operation while

Donna rules the kitchen. Kathy's own teenage daughters are working here, too—Tara is a part-time cashier, and Misty waits tables—so there are three generations at Donna's now, and that's not something you can franchise.

Donna's Diner: 150 West Front Street, Battle Mountain, 702-635-5101. Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily except Sunday, when open till 4 p.m. Prices range from \$1.95 for biscuits and gravy at breakfast to \$16.95 for the rib-eye steak and prawns at dinner. Sack lunches to-go are \$4 to \$6.50. Credit cards are not accepted.

David W. Toll is the author of The Complete Nevada Traveler and draws maps to Donna's Diner for friends.



It's a family affair at Donna's. Front row, from left, are Jerry, grandkids Miranda and Derek, Donna, and grandson Rolly Jr. Back row, from left, are niece Antonia, granddaughters Tara and Misty, daughter Kathy, granddaughters Chamae and Amanda, daughter-in-law Tonia, and son Rolly.

Forever Fish at the Rio

By Deke Castleman

If you time it right on your way to the Village Seafood Buffet, you can take in Las Vegas's newest free spectacle, the Sky Parade in the Masquerade Village wing of the Rio Suite Hotel. Singers,

dancers, stiltwalkers, and bungee swingers, all decked out in outrageous Mardi Gras-style costumes, perform on the main stage while parade floats circle overhead in the casino. You might feel like Hunter S. Thompson at Circus Circus in 1970, pop-eyed from the Big Top bedlam as players gamble oblivious to the ambient madness.

And that's just on the way to the main attraction. The fish.

The Rio's seafood buffet is one of a kind in Las Vegas. Traditionally, seafood buffets were dished up only on Friday, but a few years ago seafood night began to change: Monday at one buffet, Wednesday at another, Thursday, Saturday—you needed a photographic memory to hit the right joint on the right night.

But then the Rio opened Old Reliable: in its own room, served daily, and not only dinner but lunch, too.

The Village Seafood Buffet has a brick floor, nautical decor (nets, piscatory taxi-dermy), and an "action" format in which food is cooked in full view behind American, Mexican, Italian, Chinese, and Mongolian serving islands. Chefs at the Mongolian barbecue will grill your choice of whitefish, scallops, shrimp, mussels, and calamari with vegetables and sauces. At the American station you can load up on seafood salads, snow-crab legs, oysters on the half shell, peel-and-eat shrimp, grilled salmon, broiled swordfish, oysters Rockefeller, poached roughly, steamed clams, and lobster tails. Then come the ethnic ocean entrees, such as seafood fajitas and squid chow fun.

Did someone say dessert? The Village Seafood Buffet has arguably the best selection of high-quality after-dinner goodies in town. The pies come in chocolate cream, coconut cream, coconut pineapple, key lime, blueberry, and more; there are also assorted cheesecakes, tortes, mousses, and chocolate decadence.

And if you time it right, you can waddle out of the buffet right back into the Masquerade Village and work off dinner rocking out to the Sky Parade bedlam overhead.

Village Seafood Buffet: Rio Suite Hotel, 3700 W. Flamingo Ave., half a mile west of the Las Vegas Strip, 702-252-7777. Open daily for lunch (\$14.95) and dinner (\$18.95). All major credit cards accepted. The Sky Parade takes place every two hours starting at noon Sunday through Thursday (dark Wednesday) and 1 p.m. Friday and Saturday. ■

Deke Castleman is a roving gourmet and the managing editor of the Las Vegas Advisor.

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He's Hooked

John Kimak of Las Vegas is always angling for fish.

By Paula J. Del Giudice

There's one man in Las Vegas who has spent more time on Lake Mead than anyone else over the last 30 years, and that's John Kimak. When he's not fishing, or planning to fish, or talking about fishing, Kimak is teaching others how to fish or writing his weekly outdoor column for the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, something he's been doing for 18 years.

Kimak loves to fish. A former high school English teacher, Kimak retired in 1991 so he could spend more time fishing. While he was teaching, his students often complained that he smelled like fish. It's likely he did, too, because he fished every morning before school. Then he'd drive back into Las Vegas to his classroom—often with fish to show off to his students.

Rather than make them turn their noses at his piscatorial endeavors, Kimak hoped to turn their fancies to fishing. He wanted to instill in the youngsters a love of his lifelong sport, so he started fishing clubs at school. For more than 20 years he also worked with the Las Vegas Blind Center, frequently catching the main course for fish fries.

John's a unique kind of guy. "His idea of dressing up means tying his shoelaces," says B. Mahlon Brown, Las Vegas attorney and former chairman of the State Board of Wildlife Commissioners. "He has the biggest collection of fishing T-shirts in the world. He's also somewhat of a curmudgeon—everyone knows it," says Brown. "When it comes to fishing, he's on the ground. He tastes and feels it, uses it, and respects it. He leads me on the wildest goose chases. He's always calling to tell me the fish are biting."

Of course, John is not shy about public



Fishing from shore, Kimak catches a striped bass at Pumpphouse Cove on Lake Mead.

matters, either. When he takes up a cause, everyone knows about it. Whether the issue is trout stocking or shoreline access on Mead and Mohave, Kimak will stand on his soapbox in his *Review-Journal* column and in person before the Nevada Division of Wildlife and the State Board of Wildlife Commissioners. He is relentless in his pursuit of action when he views it necessary to make fishing in Nevada a little better for everyone.

While fishing at Lake Mead—nearly always from shore because he finds it more

"One fish I caught burned out the gears on my reel. I had to pull it in hand over hand."

challenging than fishing from a boat—he also developed another hobby: collecting old lures.

"I go out after storms," says Kimak. "I'll find five or six. Often a storm will release them, or the hooks rot away." Lures snagged on vegetation or rocks often will come loose and drift to shore after a storm stirs up the lake. Other lures are revealed as the water level drops.

Kimak estimates he has found more than 2,000 lures since he got hooked on collecting. His favorite is a Creek Chub Midget Beetle made in 1931. He figures it was lost some time after the mid-1930s, when largemouth bass were first stocked in Mead. (The water began rising behind Hoover Dam in 1935, and it took six years for the reservoir to fill.) Kimak found the lure at the high-water line at Overton. "The paint was all peeled off," says Kimak. "Most of the lures I find were used for largemouth bass. Many are red and white. A lot are made of wood, but they don't have value once they lose their color." Striped-bass lures, most of them plastic, have appeared in recent years. He says, "The plastic just bakes out. It rots away—dissolves like a block of sugar."

Kimak, 62, began fishing more than half a century ago in Pennsylvania, where he grew up. His father, a coal miner, died when John was six, and his mother supported the family by working as a waitress. To help put food on the table John began fishing and hunting. After college he taught in South Dakota ("the pay was horrible") and then fulfilled a childhood dream by going to Norway ("probably because of the Vikings and the fjords") as a guest teacher. When a friend encouraged him to test the job waters in Las Vegas,

he did and was hired right away.

After Kimak moved to Southern Nevada in 1964, he fished primarily for trout on Mead and Mohave. But he changed his ways one day in 1971 at Calville Bay. He was on shore early in the morning as usual, casting a Colorado spinner for trout. Reeling in, he saw a striper more than three feet long following the lure. "Lord, please don't let him bite," Kimak muttered as he put down his lightweight trout gear.

"I said to myself, why am I out here fishing for trout when there are all those big stripers out there? That was about the day I finished fishing for trout at Lake Mead."

Soon he began acquiring heavier rods, reels, and lines to catch striped bass, which were making a big surge in size and numbers following their 1969 release in Lake Mead. The voracious feeders were busy scarfing down all the threadfin shad in the lake, creating a heyday for anglers that has yet to be equaled.

The first striper that Kimak caught surprised him by its aggressiveness. He was amazed that an 18-inch fish could hit his line so hard. Since then, Kimak figures he has caught 40 fish that weighed more than 20 pounds. Of those, probably five were over 30 and one over 40 pounds. Most of the lunkers came from Lake Mohave between Hoover Dam and Willow Beach. He says, "All the 20 pounders I caught were taken while I fished from shore, mostly at night." Kimak says striper fishing is best in winter and spring, when rising temperatures and spawning activity attract stripers to the surface. Spawning usually occurs from March or April through May and June.

Kimak advises anglers to use good-quality equipment when fishing for stripers. He prefers a fast-action, nine-foot rod with 20-pound Stren line and a GS90 Daiwa spinning reel. He learned about using good gear the hard way.

"One fish I caught burned out the gears on my reel," says Kimak. "I had to pull it in hand over hand."

His favorite lure, a Luck E Strike, looks like a shad minnow. He also favors a Bomber Long A in yellow. Crank it slow, Kimak says.

You don't have to fish big water to catch big fish, according to Kimak. He learned that lesson at Calville Bay, too.

"It was 8 p.m., and dark as could be. I was casting relentlessly in 30 to 40 feet of water for stripers," Kimak recalls. "I had always heard 'big fish, big water.' I knew



Once Kimak caught the lure-collecting bug, there was no throwing back. His collection now numbers 2,000 lures.

there were big stripers around—there were trout that had been planted. I fished all night through trying to catch a big striper. I'd stop to take a little nap on shore. Then I'd fish for a while. Then I'd nap for a while.

"It started to get light at about 4:30 a.m. or so, and I was ready to leave. Then I heard a big splash behind me, almost

in the shallow muddy water. I ran back and caught three fish—the limit—just like that. It sure blew that theory that you can only catch big fish in deep water." The three stripers, all in two or three feet of water, weighed between 12 and 15 pounds.

Kimak also caught a 30-pound striper at Mohave in about four feet of water. He thinks they chase their prey, sunfish, crayfish, trout, or shad, into the shallow water. He likes to fish shallow water near a ledge where it drops off. He likes to fish, period.

One thing he doesn't like to do is eat the fish. He usually releases them back into the lake.

"I think it's my Appalachia background in Pennsylvania rebelling. I had enough fish to eat when I was a kid," Kimak says. "I love to catch the rascals, though." ▀

Paula J. Del Giudice of Las Vegas writes a weekly outdoor column for Southern Nevada's other daily newspaper, the Las Vegas Sun. Born and raised in Elko, she is an avid angler. Two of her fishing stories recently appeared in Wild Places, an anthology published by Foghorn Press (San Francisco).



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Photos: top, Snow Mountain, hole 8, Ken E. May; bottom, Sun Mountain, hole 1, Johnny Pott.



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Animal Attractions

(Continued from page 17)

Angel, taking their morning stroll with trainer Don Bloomer (see *Nevada*, Sept/Oct '96). The pair performs in the Nugget's showroom and are regulars at the Nevada Day parade on October 31 in Carson City. On warm days Bertha and Angel splash and play in their pool behind the hotel, and visitors are welcome to watch.

In a state where cows outnumber people in some areas, it's easy to take farm animals for granted. But at the Milky Way Farm just north of Minden, you can say "hi" to a Holstein and remind yourself that



milk doesn't just come from a carton at the grocery store.

Craig and Caren Witt offer a down-home tour of their family dairy farm for children and grownups. Tour takers can feel what it's like to put their fingers in a milking machine or to have a calf suck their thumbs. On a recent visit to the Milky Way Farm a group of kids were led into the maternity barn to see and pet all the new-borns. The cows seem to take it all in stride, going about their jobs of eating, nursing their calves, and producing milk for the dinner table.

After wrapping up a tour of the milking operation and barn, you can visit the small gift shop that's crammed with country crafts and assorted milk-themed knick-knacks. Even on the farm visitors will find a few exotics: A pen houses colorful chickens and, of all things, a breed of quackless ducks. 🦆

Carolyn Graham, Nevada's associate editor, is zookeeper for three (small) cats and a dog.

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Where the Wild Things Are...

Following is a roundup of where you'll find animals in Nevada. It's wise to call ahead since zoos and sanctuaries often close during wet or cold weather.

Las Vegas Area

The **Secret Garden of Siegfried and Roy** at the Mirage is open 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday (closed Wednesday). Admission is \$10 (children under 10 are free), and on Wednesday you can enter the Dolphin Habitat for \$5. Call 702-791-7111. You can see some of the cats for free at the Royal White Tiger Habitat near the Mirage's south entrance.

The **Wildlife Walk** at the Tropicana Hotel is free and open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. You also will find tropical birds perched at the skywalk entrance to the hotel. Call 702-739-2222.

Visitors can pet a 13-foot Burmese python and other scaly critters at the **Las Vegas Museum of Natural History** at 900 North Las Vegas Boulevard. The museum also has several snakes, lizards, and insects as well as a 3,000-gallon saltwater tank with eels, damselfish, and smooth-hound sharks. The hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily; admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, \$2.50 for kids, and free for ages three and under. Call 702-384-DINO for information.

The **Southern Nevada Zoological-Botanical Park** is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for ages two to 12, and free for kids under two. The park is located at 1775 North Rancho Drive, northwest of downtown near the Texas Station Hotel-Casino. Call 702-647-4685.

Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary is open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$1 for children six and older, and free for kids five and under. The sanctuary is located just south of Floyd Lamb State Park at 8103 Racel Street, about 10 miles north of Las Vegas via U.S. 95. Call 702-645-4224.

Bonnie Springs Ranch is 25 miles west of Las Vegas off West Charleston Boulevard south of Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. Bonnie Springs has a free zoo with deer and goats that you can pet as well as llamas, prairie dogs, birds, and a duck pond. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Call 702-875-4191.

reno-tahoe Area

Sierra Safari Zoo, 10200 North Virginia Street, is 10 miles north of Reno off U.S. 395 at the Red Rock Road exit. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for ages three to 12, and free for kids two and under. Sierra Safari is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and closes for the season on October 31. Call 702-677-1101.

Across from Sierra Safari on U.S. 395, you'll see the sign for **Animal Ark**, which is another 11.5 miles east on Red Rock Road and then one mile on the unpaved but well-maintained Deerlodge Road. Animal Ark is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through October. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages three to 12. The Ark has special campouts and educational programs, including Wolf Howl Nights, during which you can howl at the full moon and listen to lectures. On

September 13 the topic will be "Of Dogs and Wolves" and October 31 is "Werewolves." Admission on Wolf Howl Nights is \$6 and \$4. Call 702-969-3111.

Bertha and Angel, the elephants who live at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, can be seen relaxing at home, strolling the streets, or onstage. The elephant barn and their playground is open to visitors most days starting at 10 a.m. About 1:15 p.m. is bath time in their pool, and visitors can watch them from the bleachers outside the barn on the west side of the hotel. The elephants' morning walk with trainer Don Bloomer is unscheduled, but the second is usually around 7:15 p.m. as they make their way to the Nugget showroom for the 8 p.m. show (they often are the opening act). You also can look for Bertha and Angel in the Nevada Day parade on October 31 in Carson City. Call 702-356-3316.

The **Wild Animal Infirmary for Nevada (WAIF)**, which cares for ill, injured, and orphaned wildlife and returns them to the wild, has two open houses a year during which the public is invited to see the recovering critters. The infirmary specializes in birds of prey, which are regularly released during summer and fall. Nancee Goldwater, a longtime volunteer at WAIF, often gives informative talks about birds on days she releases them; call 702-267-2197. WAIF is located at 2920 Eagle Street off Eastlake Boulevard in New Washoe City, near the north end of Washoe Lake. Call Nancy Laird, who has operated WAIF at her home for 20 years, at 702-849-0345.

Wilbur's Farm is a petting zoo at the Wilbur D. May Great Basin Adventure in Rancho San Rafael Park, 1502 Washington Street in Reno. The 1.5-acre petting zoo has goats, rabbits, chickens, and other farm animals. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children and seniors. Call 702-785-4319.

The **Ponderosa Ranch** in Incline Village has a petting farm with sheep, goats, and birds in the summer and early fall and pony rides through Labor Day. The Ponderosa Ranch, home of the Cartwrights from TV's *Bonanza*, is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. through the end of October. Admission is \$9.50 for adults, \$5.50 for ages five to 11, and free under five. Call 702-831-0691.

Milky Way Farm's Down on the Farm in Minden offers two-hour tours at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., Monday through Friday. Children's tours are \$4 per child, \$4 per adult, minimum \$60 per tour (one adult per 10 children required). The farm folks also offer tours primarily for adults; the two-hour tour is \$7.50, and the three-hour tour is \$10 (both tours require a minimum of 15 adults). Reservations are required. The Country Gift Showroom is open Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and after tours. Milky Way Farm, located north of Minden off Airport Road, is open for tours through the end of October and reopens April 1. Call 702-782-5305.—Carolyn Graham



Preston Pollard of San Angelo, Texas, plays with the prairie dogs at Bonnie Springs in Red Rock Canyon near Las Vegas.



Kids can make hay with the goats and sheep who live at the petting farm at the Ponderosa Ranch in Incline Village.

At Your Service

(Continued from page 19)

surgery, and his surgeon recommended he work on his hand-eye coordination."

Most Nevada concierges are female, and although no one knows exactly why, some have theories. Joe Fiore believes guests see women as more approachable, less intimidating than men.

"Both men and women are suitable for the position," says Fiore, 27, the president of the Southern Nevada Hotel Concierge Association. "Women guests feel more comfortable dealing with a woman for

"Every time you leave your house or open a newspaper, you have to think concierge. You have to live and breathe the business."

womanly things. Some women are even intimidated asking me how to go about planning a bachelorette party. And men feel more comfortable dealing with a man for manly things. I work nights, and I'll have men approach the desk because they waited for my arrival."

Male or female, con-cierges say it's important to maintain a sense of humor. Two years ago at Harveys, a gentleman explained to Lurie that his wife had given him a blow-up doll as a birthday joke. Now it was payback time.

"Where do I get a male blow-up doll?" he asked.

"I don't know," Lurie replied, "but let's find out."

Find out she did. A few phone calls led her to the back room of a South Lake Tahoe record store.

"He was thrilled," Lurie says. "He said, 'The look on her face tomorrow morning when she wakes up is going to be worth it.'"

At John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, concierge supervisor Dell Gomez chuckles at other circumstances that occasionally make guests blush.

"We've had zippers pop in unseemly

places just before speakers go to the convention center," says Gomez. "You can safety pin them together to get through a 35-minute speech. We caution them not to laugh because they'll be crying if the safety pin pokes them."

Amid popped zippers and other crises, a concierge must lend a sympathetic ear, the 66-year-old Gomez points out. Sometimes a guest doesn't really want answers—just someone to listen.

"They come to the desk, and they talk and talk and talk," she says. "Then they get up and say, 'I feel a lot better. Thanks. We may not have said two words but 'Good morning. There's a little bit of psychiatrist in our jobs, too.'"

Off duty, concierges make a point to read newspapers and entertainment publications. They see nearly every show in town and exchange tips with other concierges.

"You can't just pass the guest a brochure, because you don't want to be just an information desk," says Kathy Slighter Collins, 47, a concierge at Harrah's Lake Tahoe and president of the Northern Sierra Concierge Association. "Every time you leave your house or open a newspaper, you have to think concierge. You have to live and breathe the business."

On her days off, Griffin of the Crowne Plaza strolls up and down the Strip, noting changes. Before recommending a tour to a guest, she takes the tour herself.

Like other concierges, Fiore of the



Joe Fiore of the Hard Rock serves as president of the Southern Nevada Hotel Concierge Association.

Crawford-Lloyd of the Rio received a case of Vidalia onions and a honey roasted ham from a Georgia visitor. But all concierges agree—the best reward is a simple "thank you."

Because of their warm demeanor, concierges often build lifelong friendships with hotel guests. When Crawford-Lloyd became a member of Les Clefsd'Or, the international concierge association, Rob and Amy Milo, two longtime New Jersey customers, flew to Las Vegas to celebrate. They treated her to dinner and gave her a gift of pearl earrings.

"Sometimes guests will call and wish you a Merry Christmas," says Aleman, also a member of Les Clefsd'Or. "That's really rewarding when you develop that kind of repeat customer who looks at you not as just the hotel concierge but as a friend."

Earning his or her golden keys—a pin bestowed by Les Clefsd'Or—is a high honor in the profession. Five Las Vegas concierges have earned their keys. At least three concierges in Northern



Requests sometimes seem to balloon, says Kathy Slighter Collins of Harrah's Lake Tahoe. Here Collins helps raise the spirits of guests Kathleen and Mylene Eugenio.

Hard Rock tries to sample the fare at as many local restaurants as possible. Even with a comp, he'll arrive at the restaurant incognito to take a true reading of the service and cuisine.

Grateful guests often send gifts.

Nevada are qualified, Collins says, but the \$400 cost of joining the organization, plus annual fees, precludes them from doing so.

To become a member, a concierge must have five years in the hotel industry and three years with the title of concierge.

Next, he or she must pass a 10-page written exam. Then, members of the organization pose as call-in customers to evaluate the concierge's performance.

There is a concierge school in Florida, but most of Nevada's concierges used a customer-service background to land their positions. Fiore worked as a security officer in Palace Station, Boulder Station, and the Hard Rock. Crawford-Lloyd started in guest relations at Disneyland. Lurie worked as an administrative assistant at Harveys. None of the concierges received formal training, relying instead on mentors and their own resourcefulness.

For instance, during Griffin's first week as a concierge, a man gave her \$10 to purchase a rose for his girlfriend. Griffin's first thought? Call a florist. But \$10 wouldn't cover the cost. So a fellow concierge suggested she visit the floral department at Lucky's supermarket. The concierge also suggested that she save vases from floral arrangements given to her by guests as well as snatches of ribbon.

"I now have a hundred vases underneath my desk," says Griffin. "These are things you have to come up with quickly. So I have a whole file cabinet full of junk."

In the future, all destination resorts will need concierges, according to the Nug-



Dorothy Lurie greets hotel guests at the concierge desk at Harveys. Lurie says the job requires learning to handle multiple desk inquiries and phone calls at one time.

get's Gomez. "Often, you talk to an automated system that says, 'Press button one, press button two. When the guest tires of pressing those buttons, they come to the concierge desk. And there is a smile, there is a voice, there is a person," Gomez says.

"There can't be a button for compassion and understanding."

Kim Pryor is a Lake Tahoe freelance writer. On her travels, she says, concierges always seem to know where to find the best guidebooks.

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WEST SIDE STORY

Although only a quarter of a mile long, West Wendover's "Strip" offers a kaleidoscope of color and variety. Anchoring the east end, the sister casinos **State Line** and **Silver Smith** comprise a self-contained, full-service recreational environment—think Glitter Gulch meets Biosphere. Thanks to underground tunnels and an overhead walkway it's possible to walk from the sports bar to the snack bar, or from the gift shop to the fitness center, without ever stepping outside. Big-name stars are regular attractions at both the State Line Lounge and Silver Smith Cabaret, and between shows good food and drink is always available in a variety of settings. The State Line has 248 rooms, with 250 more opening this fall, and the Silver Smith has 250 rooms. (Call 800-848-7300.)

Immediately west of the State Line and convenient to Interstate 80 stands the recently expanded **Peppermill**, known locally as the place to party because of the rock and high-energy dance bands that frequently perform there. And the club is easy to find at night thanks to the high-intensity searchlights on the roof. The Peppermill has 198 rooms. (Call 800-648-9660.)

Across the boulevard from the Peppermill is Wendover's newest casino, the colorful **Rainbow**. A clean, well-lighted parking lot features piped-in music from the '50s and '60s. Inside, the scene is an astrological-meteorological melange—planets and stars mingling with rainbows and drifting clouds. More down-to-earth is the Rainforest Buffet, complete with dense tropical foliage and babbling brooklets. Rooms are under construction. (Call 800-217-0049.)

The **Red Garter**, recently acquired by Full House, proprietors of the Stockmen's and Commercial casinos in Elko, is a photogenic facsimile of a Western frontier town that promises "old-fashioned, down-home charm."

The Garden Court Restaurant has a fountain in the middle of it and an airy, outdoorsy feel. A well-known 24-hour special is the \$1.99 ham and eggs. The Red Garter, at the western end of the strip, has 106 rooms, half of them less than a year old. (Call 800-982-2111.)

Want to give your eyes a break from the bright lights? Try **Susie's Hideaway**, secluded on the south side of town, just over the hill from the State Line in a trailer-park subdivision known locally as Scobieville. Steaks are the specialty, charbroiled to your taste and served in a no-nonsense, low-lumen atmosphere.

Places to go and things to do

For non-casino lodging, the **Super 8** has 73 rooms (call 800-800-8000), and the **Nevada Crossing**, next to the Rainbow, has 137 rooms (call 800-537-0207).

Golfers in Wendover can link up with the **Toana Vista Golf Course**, a challenging 18-holer. (Call 702-664-4300.)

Another attraction is **Horizon View Point**, where you can see the curvature of the earth. The spot is near Three Mile Hill on Wendover Boulevard, two miles west of the visitor center. As one resident said, "It's nothing formal—just a bend in the road," but the view is thought-provoking. During the day you can look southeast across the desert and at night watch the lights of Utah cars curving in from the east.

Special Events include the Border Town Bike Challenge in June, Fourth of July festivities, and several time trials on the Bonneville Salt Flats east of town. The World of Speed takes place September 24-27 (801-785-5364) and the World Finals October 15-18 (805-526-1805). Also, October 17-18 is Deer Widows Weekend.

For visitor information you can drop in or write to the **Wendover USA Visitors / Convention Bureau**, Box 2468, Wendover, NV 89883; call 702-664-3414 or toll-free 800-426-6862.

—Richard Menzies

WILD ABOUT WENDOVER

(Continued from page 24)

of us who saw it dismissed it as somebody's idea of a joke, because as far as the eye could see beyond that billboard lay a vast wasteland of shadscale and rabbitbrush, populated primarily by snakes, scorpions, badgers, jackrabbits, and ring-tailed lizards.

In the spring of 1997, I found myself standing in the same spot, looking in the same direction and rubbing my eyes in disbelief. In the 22 years since that billboard went up, the lone and level sands have given way to winding streets and leafy neighborhoods. Old Highway 40 has been renamed Wendover Boulevard, and at night it's aglow with five casinos, a truck stop, a supermarket and strip mall, a car wash, a Burger King, a Pizza Hut. West Wendover has churches, a bank, a library, a post office, a visitor and convention bureau, two newspapers, a cemetery, and a brand-new \$9-million high school. Down by the Highway 93 viaduct, where vagabonds once killed time and bottles of cheap wine, well-heeled tourists walk their poodles in the verdant splendor of Robert Scobie Park. Out on the rocky flatland, where recreation-famished citizens once pursued a bizarre sport called archery golf, now stands a real 18-hole championship golf course, with real grass.

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

When State Line CEO and General Manager Larry Herron gazes out the window of his tastefully appointed office these days, he also beholds wonderful things: a \$45-million expansion project that when completed this fall will add another 250 guest rooms to the hotel and an additional 55,000 square feet of casino floor space. Factor in the 250 rooms at the Silver Smith across the street, plus the 101 rooms at the State Line Inn, and Bill Smith's little one-pump filling station has mushroomed into a 850-room resort, by far the biggest employer in town and, economically speaking, the tail that wags Wendover.

Asked what spurred West Wendover's amazing growth spurt in the 1970s and '80s, Herron cites the 1,200-acre parcel of undeveloped real estate that came onto the market after old Fred West, owner of West Wendover's Texaco station and the tiny A-1 Casino, passed on. Then in August 1977, the U.S. Air Force deeded over the

deactivated air base to the town of Wendover, a deal that included the base's water supply at Big Springs Ranch near Oasis. The additional water made possible the Toana Vista Golf Course—a luxury previously unthinkable since water from the town's only other source, a leaky wooden flume that runs 26 miles north to Pilot Peak, is too precious for irrigation use.

So agreeable has the living become on the Nevada side of the border that many merchants and citizens living on the Utah side wish they could be adopted by the Silver State. In fact, in 1988 they petitioned the Utah Legislature to either redraw the border or legalize gambling in East Wendover, but the motion never got beyond the Business and Labor Committee.

OUT OF STATE, OUT OF MIND

The cash that fuels West Wendover's thriving economy comes largely from Salt Lake City and other nightlife-challenged communities along Utah's Wasatch Front, but not all the license plates are from Utah. Charter-tour groups from Texas, the Pacific Northwest, Minnesota, and Ohio are increasingly common. Surveys show they choose Wendover because it's less crowded and more laid-back than Vegas but still offers plenty of Nevada excitement, including such well-known entertainers as Glen Campbell, Jan and Dean, Lou Rawls, and the Smothers Brothers.

Right now things are looking rosy on the Nevada side, yet it's hard to say just how long the current boom will last, or how big West Wendover might eventually become.

"We're pretty well landlocked," says Herron of the State Line, which has now expanded horizontally in every direction as far as it can go. But since it's anchored on a bed of solid limestone, there's no telling how far it might grow upward. Even today, many hotel guests find themselves looking *down* at Wendover Will, the 65-foot-tall animatronic cowboy that only a few years ago dominated the Wendover skyline like the ancient Colossus of Rhodes.

Today, guests at the State Line may commute between hotel wings through two

Free
shuttle buses
run up and
down the
boulevard
night
and day.

underground tunnels or cross Wendover Boulevard via the elevated skybridge that links the State Line with its sibling, the Silver Smith. For those who prefer to casino-hop, free shuttle buses run up and down the boulevard day and night.

Not a whole lot of visitors seem inclined to venture beyond the strip—which is too bad, because Wendover offers more in the way of strange and unusual tourist attractions than any other place I can think of. First and foremost, there's the surreal splendor of the great salt desert—so bleak and inhospitable you can't help wondering what the alien invaders in the 1996 blockbuster film *Independence*

Day were thinking that they should ever try to take it over. Near the air base is Juke Box Cave, where during the 1940s flyboys used to swing their partners to the music of Benny Goodman on a concrete dance



Scuba divers Pauline and Steve Youngberg of Clearfield, Utah, enjoy the aquatic pleasures of Blue Lake, south of Wendover. Golfers also will feel at home, thanks to the green Toana Vista links.

floor laid atop the detritus of a vanished civilization.

Strolling about what remains of the old air base, one can almost hear the throaty rumble of Pratt and Whitney radial engines warming up on the apron. Lift up your eyes and you'll behold historic military graffiti painted on the cliffs north of town. Look closely and you might spot wild horses roaming ridges that once were the shorelines of ancient Lake Bonneville.

Drive south on U.S. 93 Alternate, and after about 15 miles you'll come to a bullet-riddled sign pointing the way to Blue Lake. Turn left and take it slow on the washboard road, lest yours become one of numerous muffler and tailpipe assemblies





Some Wendover visitors leave the driving to tour and shuttle drivers, as here at the Red Garter.

that decorate the landscape. About the time you start cursing *Nevada Magazine* for leading you astray, you'll arrive at still another of Wendover's supernatural delights: a sapphire, thermally tempered pool that teems with aquatic life, including bluegill, bass, and now and again a human being carapaced in self-contained, underwater breathing apparatus.

Scuba divers? In the middle of the desert? Not only does it sound weird, it

also looks like a lot of fun, and as soon as I earn my open-water certificate, I'm going down to see for myself whether Steve Youngberg was telling the truth or just blowing bubbles when he told me about that 20-inch-long largemouth lunger.

Richard Menzies is a Salt Lake City-based writer and photographer who got his start in journalism as feature editor of Wendover's first newspaper, The Salt Flat News.

Wendover Field Forever

Most of the 668 buildings that constituted Wendover Field during World War II have disappeared, yet enough remain to make for an unusual and informative—and potentially dangerous—trip down Memory Lane.

Pick up a free tour map at the West Wendover USA Visitors/Convention Bureau, across the street from the Peppermill Casino. Guidebooklets are also available at Icarus Aviation, housed in the base of the airfield's six-story-tall control tower. While there, check out the tabletop scale model that shows how the airfield looked in its heyday.

Directly east is Maintenance Hangar 412, so capacious that a Hollywood stunt pilot eluded murderous pursuers by hovering his helicopter inside the building during the TV movie *Birds of Prey* (1973) starring David Janssen. More recently, the building saw action in the film *Independence Day* as a backdrop in the scene where actor Bill Pullman as the president rallies his troops.

Continue east past the Base Fire Station, whereupon you'll see Hangar 1831, the largest building on base and the one that in 1945 housed the *Enola Gay*. A plywood sign nailed to the hangar's giant sliding doors reads "KEEP OUT," but local boosters are hoping to one day transform the battered edifice into a World War II museum.

Not included in any of the standard promotional literature is the very strange Land Use Museum, established at the base only last summer by the nebulous "Center For Land Use Interpretation"—or CLUI. Watch for a roadside sign bearing those letters. Then proceed until you come to a gate and another sign warning that unauthorized personnel who trespass upon U.S. Air Force property are liable to be shot. Don't go through that gate.

Turn around and look for a chain-link fence enclosing several old wooden barracks, one of which is that masterpiece of stealth architecture, the Land Use Museum. To tell you exactly which building would spoil the fun, but here's a hint: Don't expect to find any large signs, and don't bother asking directions of the codger dozing on a nearby porch. Although he lives only a stone's throw from the museum, he'll insist he's never heard of the place.

Once you find the right building, look around for a tiny instruction sheet that

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gives the long-distance telephone number that you must dial in order to learn the secret combination that unlocks the front door.

Inside, you'll find one long row of suspended bulletin boards, a few brochures, and a visitor's log compared to which the Bates Motel guest register reads like *Remembrance of Things Past*. Leave the door open during your visit; the air's a mite stuffy, and the hapless housefly that's been trying to break out since 1949 will be most grateful.

Exhibits include photographs by such noted artists as Mark Ruwedel, Richard Misrach, and Nancy Holt. See Misrach's photograph of a vintage bomb crater on public land near Pilot Peak. Marvel at the rows and rows of nerve gas bomb storage bunkers in Rush Valley, Utah.

Ever wanted to look at a picture of what remains of German Town—an assemblage built at Dugway Proving Grounds in Utah and used during World War II in testing the effects of various incendiary bombs? The Land Use Museum is the only place I know of where you can do that.

Even more intriguing than the exhibits are the personal comments scribbled in the guest register. "Our eyes have been opened to the surrounding area," write



World War II military units left graffiti on nearby hills. Wendover Field was a secret base during the war for the strike force that dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Rick and Connie Sandman. "Thank you CLUI. Until now, we didn't have a clue."

"The search was far more interesting than the exhibit," opines Lyn Stowe. "Crazy, weird, cool," gushes John Emo.

"It's like the *X-Files*," writes Rosie from Missouri. "I loved the crazy guy driving the

red truck around the barracks. Totally scary—nice touch!"

Rosie, we checked with CLUI headquarters in Culver City, California, and they deny knowing anything about any crazy guy driving around the barracks in a red truck.—Richard Menzies

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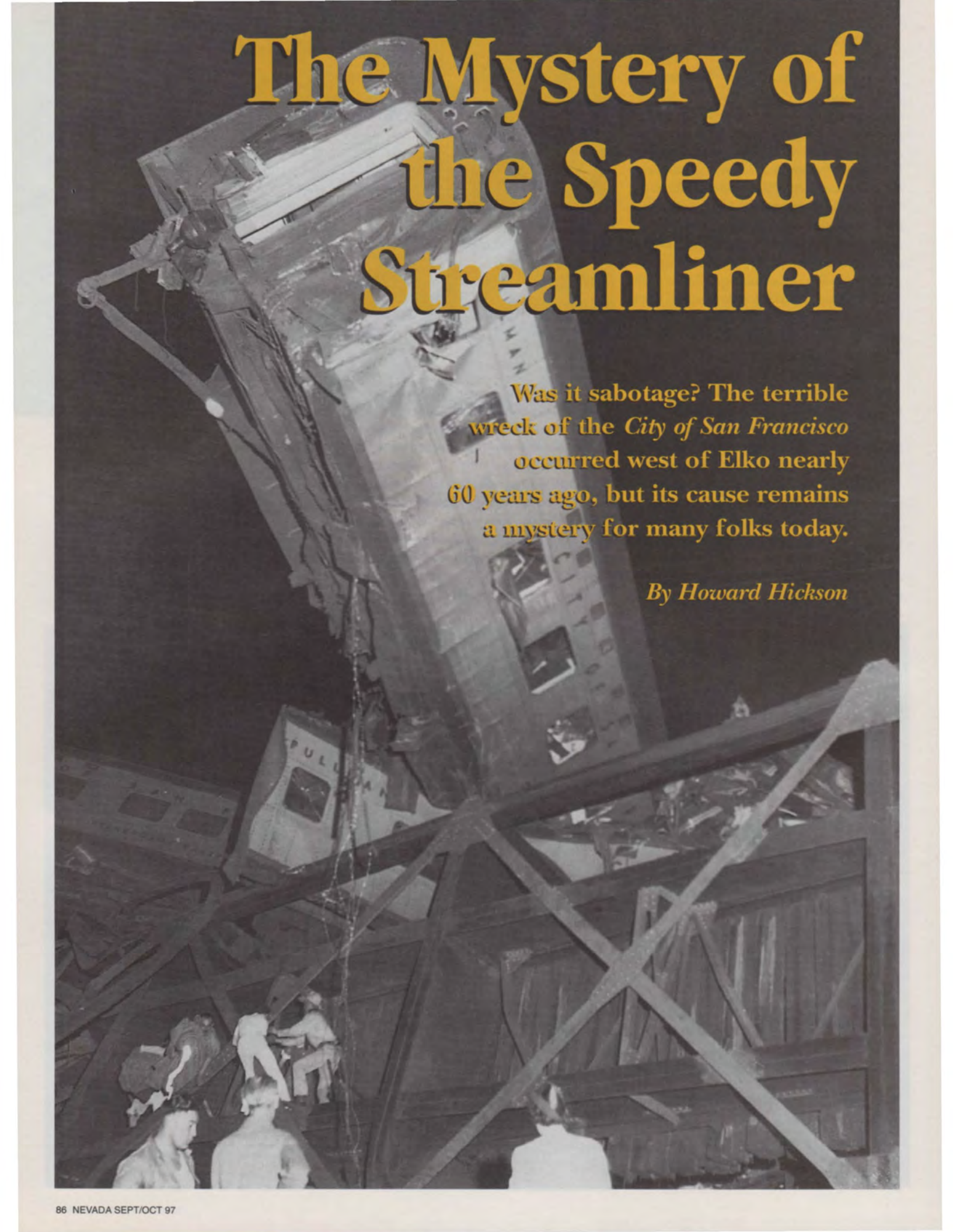
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The Mystery of the Speedy Streamliner

Was it sabotage? The terrible wreck of the *City of San Francisco* occurred west of Elko nearly 60 years ago, but its cause remains a mystery for many folks today.

By Howard Hickson

A few minutes out of Carlin, most of the 165 passengers were settling down for the evening. On the last leg of their journey, some were already in bed. Others were playing cards or socializing in the lounge car. Rail clicks, like clock ticks, counted down to a

rendezvous with death for 24 of them. In less than 15 minutes the lives of every person on board would drastically change.

E.A. Betts, a professor at Penn State, later recalled, "I was watching some of my friends playing cards. Suddenly I remembered I wanted something at the rear of the train and left them. All of a sudden the lights went off. Then there was a terrific crash. I missed death by three minutes."

Up front in the engine, Hecox saw and felt it happen. He had just checked his watch—it was 9:33 p.m.—when he noticed a tumbleweed on the tracks ahead. The train was approaching Number Four Bridge near Harney.

He felt the big unit lurch and then jump the tracks. Out of control, the power sections and two cars traveled 960 feet before grinding to a stop. Five cars dropped into the Humboldt River and three more tumbled down an embankment. Only four cars remained upright on the tracks.

Hecox reported: "As the engine stopped, I ran back. All I could hear was the screams and moans of the injured and dying. Everywhere there was dust. There was no wind and the dust settled everywhere. I could not see a single living person."

"I started to run to Harney's Station, one-and-one-half miles away. I must have fallen 20 times on the way. I called all the doctors I could, asking them to bring nurses and bandage supplies. Then I returned to the scene of the accident with the Beowawe section crew."

A passenger, F.S. "Si" Foote Jr. of Oakland, wrote his account of the derailment at the request of his attorney. Still in the hospital three weeks after the accident, he recalled the train going very fast. Just minutes before the crash, he was in the coffee shop when two beer bottles were jolted from his table to the floor. Moments later, a woman across the aisle was hurled from her

[illegible]

The "saboteurs" were never caught.



Shaken but uninjured, survivors await transport at the scene of the train wreck near Harney in Palisade Canyon. Passenger V.V. Welch of San Francisco recalled, "When the lights died, we turned end over teakettle." Opposite page: The *City of San Francisco's* Pullman cars *Chinatown* and *Twin Peaks* rest on the girders of the bridge.

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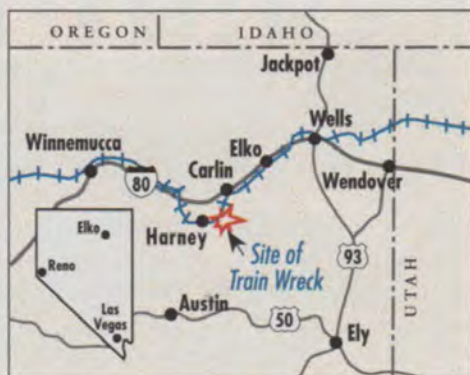
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seat. Foote noted the last several miles were rougher than any part of the trip.

Foote wrote: "The car jumped the tracks, lights went out, and I had the feeling of being a die in a dice box. There was breaking glass, grinding metal, and then a moment of things happening too fast for comprehending."

His next recollection was of being on his back, free from the train but badly injured. He lay on two piles of rock, his head resting on a prickly tumbleweed. Of 220 passengers and crew on board, 17



met death that evening, and seven others died later. Of the 121 who suffered injuries, 32 required hospitalization. Foote was one of the latter.

Ten miles to the west, 11-year-old Joe Bell, his brother Buck, his rancher father Joe, and Constable Bill Rutledge heard the news at a dance in Beowawe. They piled into the Bell pickup and arrived at the scene 90 minutes after the accident. Getting out of the truck, they heard the steady pounding of spike mauls. Under bright moonlight they worked their way through sagebrush and rocks below the track bed.

They saw lights under one car and climbed up to see what was happening. A section crew was working on a rail and not attempting to rescue survivors. A railroad worker later claimed the men were trying to get the car's front wheels back on the tracks so the last four units could be loaded with victims and pulled to Carlin. Remembering that night, Joe Bell, a longtime Elko barber, says he wonders how many lives would have been saved if the section crew had helped to promptly remove survivors from the twisted wreckage.

Seeing the lack of action, his dad yelled, "By God! Let's get some people to help those folks out of the cars!"

Joe saw crew members and passengers tending to the injured. Working by the light of bonfires on the track bed, many ignored their own pain to tend to others. Soon physicians and nurses arrived from

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The light of morning showed the extent of the wreckage. At far left can be seen two power units, the second teetering on the tracks, followed by two derailed cars. In the middle are the sleeper and kitchen cars and the bridge, fallen into the Humboldt River.

Elko and Reno. An SP doctor and scores of railroad employees gathered. People from nearby towns and ranches raced to the site. Those destined for the Elko hospital were transported on a train of three cabooses made up in Carlin.

Southern Pacific officials declared the derailment an act of sabotage. They said that unknown persons had caused the wreck by moving the end of a rail. The SP's wanted poster explained: "The track spikes and angle bars connecting two rails at a joint in the track were removed by vandals. The receiving rail of the joint was moved toward the center of the track a distance of four and five-eighths inches, then spiked to the ties in this misplaced position."

Railroad detective Dan O'Connell and his agents combed the area for clues. Several posses, outfitted at the Bell Ranch, searched for evidence on horseback.

The detectives found heavy railroad tools and a journal box jack. They also showed two jackets that SP detectives said they found in the Humboldt River. O'Connell claimed the jackets had been dropped by the saboteurs.

However, Buck Bell told detectives he had seen the same coats a couple of weeks earlier while riding fences. He and a cowhand, Art Messerly, had spotted the lighter jacket at another bridge and the darker coat where the accident occurred. Neither was in the water.

Disgruntled railroad workers, ex-employees, hobos, and members of the Nazi Bund headed a long list of suspects. Shady characters, 26 of them, were questioned. Several confessed, but all eventually were judged to be deranged or seeking publicity. Over the next six months O'Connell's records noted that 93,110 people had been interviewed. Southern Pacific of-

fered a reward of \$10,000 "for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for this train wreck." But months stretched into years, and no one was ever charged with the crime.

Shortly after the wreck, two closed inquiries were held. The press and the public were banned. Hecox, supported by his fireman, Kelly, and other SP workers, insisted that the train was going only 60 mph at the time of the accident. Both hearings ruled that the wreck had been caused by sabotage.

Meanwhile, union newspapers charged the railroad with a coverup. FBI agents disagreed with railroad officials, saying that Hecox may have slammed on the brakes, thinking the tumbleweed was a large rock on the tracks. Indeed, Hecox, when phoning the railroad office in Carlin to report the accident, said he had hit something, maybe a rock.

Constable Rutledge and Elko County Sheriff Charles A. Harper said they didn't see proof of rail tampering. After attending one of the inquiries, Harper stated

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that evidence presented by the railroad at the hearing did not show espionage.

Furthermore, it was noted that a train had passed over the same spot about three hours earlier. Would there have been enough time for the alleged saboteurs to move the rail? Such an act would have been time-consuming. The perpetrators would have had to pull out the spikes, move the rail, refit the spikes, and kept the track's alarm wire intact.

Critics pointed out that clues were lost, destroyed, and moved when 3,000 sightseers visited the wreckage in the following morning. Souvenir hunters stole items, and others handled debris. The scene of the accident was not secured until late in the afternoon.

Passenger Si Foote wrote in his account of the derailment: "The sabotage story held up well enough, although it was never believed by those of us who were on the train."

Doubts remain for others who were

there that fateful evening and on the days following the accident.

Standing in his Elko barbershop, Joe Bell was watching coverage of the derailment of Amtrak's *Sunset Limited* out of Hyder, Arizona, on October 9, 1995. He pointed his

scissors at the television and began counting the similarities in the *Sunset Limited* accident and the *City of San Francisco* wreck, which he visited with his brother, father, and uncle.

"Check this," Bell said. "Both trains were crossing bridges when derailed. One

plowed into a dry creek bed, and the other dropped into the nearly dry Humboldt River. Safety warning systems were bypassed. Eight cars were derailed, and the accidents were in remote areas. Nazi sympathizers were included as suspects in Nevada, and a note from 'Sons of Gestapo' was found in

Arizona. Disgruntled workers and former employees were suspected. Both Amtrak and Southern Pacific say it was sabotage. That's seven similarities, at least," he added.

"What still bothers me about the *City of San Francisco* is I can't come to terms with sabotage causing the wreck. I was there that night, just an hour and a half after the crash. I know what I saw, and I agree with people who believe it was speed."

At the accident site near Harney, traces of the terrible derailment have vanished in the wind. The evidence gathered by detectives was stored in the basement of the SP's San Francisco offices until a few years ago, when the items were discarded without fanfare. As for the uncollected \$10,000 reward, the Southern Pacific was absorbed by the Union Pacific last year, so the entity offering the inducement, the SP, no longer exists. Nevertheless, one official said recently that if someone steps forward with information leading to a solution of the case, the railroad would likely come up with a reward. ▀

Howard Hickson of Elko is a graphics artist, photographer, writer, audiovisual producer, and director emeritus of the Northeastern Nevada Museum.



Elko barber Joe Bell was 11 when he saw the wreck scene.



Earl Frantzen took photos of the wreck for the *Elko Daily Free Press*.



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On Golden Street

The crumbling remains of Rhyolite recall past glories.

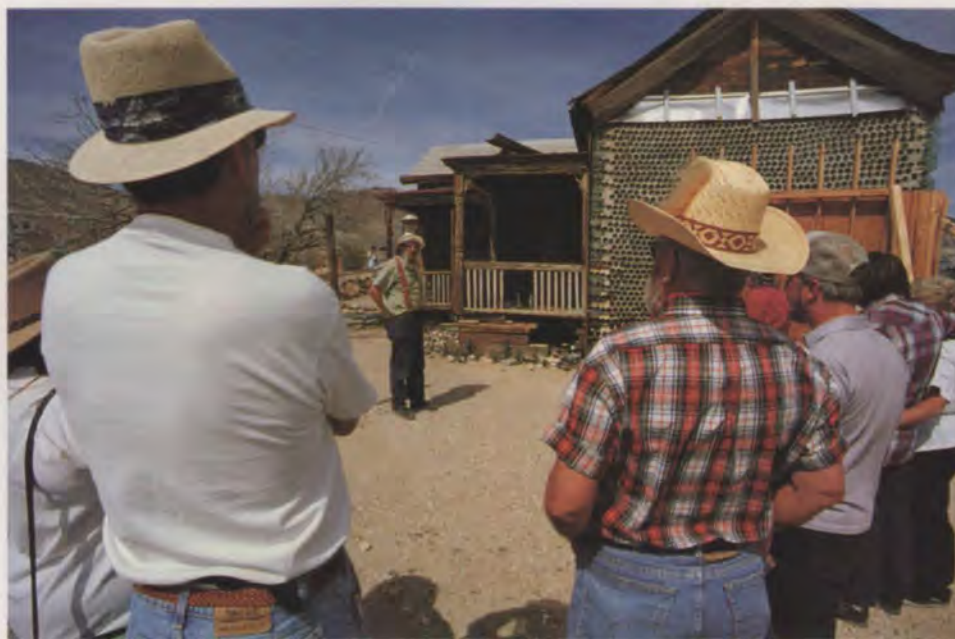
By Richard Stephens

Like gigantic sun-bleached bones, the last remains of Rhyolite stand in ruin four miles west of Beatty just off State Route 374. The turnoff takes you past the entrance of the Bullfrog Mine, where modern equipment and technology are extracting the precious metal that eluded the town's original builders.

A half mile up the road you'll see a group of modern sculptures, most by avant-garde artists from Belgium, on your left. On the right you'll see the famous Rhyolite Bottle House, where "G'hosts" (as the volunteer caretakers call themselves) will charm you with stories of Rhyolite's past and acquaint you with some of the house's 50,000 bottles, including one in which several crickets have been sealed for 90 years.

Soon you'll find yourself on Golden Street, the town's main thoroughfare. Street signs and photographic historical markers provided by the Bureau of Land Management and the Friends of Rhyolite help identify the streets and ruins.

With as many as 10,000 inhabitants at



Volunteer "G" host Riley McCoy leads visitors on a tour of the Rhyolite Bottle House, built with adobe and beer bottles in 1906. Other buildings in the ghost town have a picturesque, bombed-out appearance.

its peak in 1908, Rhyolite was constructed differently than most boom towns. Its promoters were so certain of golden riches—first discovered in 1904 when prospectors Shorty Harris and Ed Cross examined a hunk of ore the size and color of a bullfrog—that they built several large, multistoried masonry buildings, not just the usual tents and wood-frame shacks, although there were plenty of those, too. A thoroughly modern city, Rhyolite boasted electric lights and telephones. It had hotels, restaurants, churches, three newspapers, a stock exchange, an opera house, and a luxurious railroad depot. It also had plenty of saloons and a thriving red-light district.

The young capital of the Bullfrog Mining District was doomed, however. Over-speculation in mining stock, the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, which wiped out many investors, and the national banking panic of 1907 all contributed to its demise. By 1911, when the largest mine, the Montgomery-Shoshone,

closed, Rhyolite was basically dead.

As you walk down Golden Street, it's possible to imagine some of the people and events of Rhyolite's brief history. Picture Death Valley Scotty (of Scotty's Castle fame) sitting in the middle of the street in front of the Cook Bank Building, Winchester by his side, eating lunch with his friend Wong Kee, a Chinese man who had been refused service in the town's restaurants. Stand at the corner of Golden and Colorado and listen for the gunshot with which Tom J. Malone felled Jack Maher in a petty dispute over money, and picture Doc Grigsby rushing to the scene from his office next to the bank. Envision Miss Presser, the object of many a Rhyolite bachelor's attention, teaching her students in the two-story schoolhouse.

Photos, stock certificates, and other Rhyolite relics are displayed in Beatty at the museum operated by the Beatty Museum and Historical Society. Its president, Claudia Reidhead, says the museum, operated by volunteers, is open "whenever the frog flag is flying."

Richard Stephens of Beatty is a photographer, artist, and writer who once photographed Rhyolite in the middle of the night in a thunderstorm with a live bat clinging to his back.

Rhyolite Revisited



Rhyolite is located four miles west of Beatty, 10 miles east of Death Valley National Park, and 120 miles northwest of Las Vegas by U.S. 95. The Friends of Rhyolite hold an annual Rhyolite Festival in March. Write or call the Beatty Chamber of Commerce, Box 956, Beatty, NV 89003, 702-553-2424, for more information on Rhyolite and the Beatty area.

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