
NEVADA
MAGAZINE
April 1998
INSIDE: Complete Guide to Events & Shows
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Pirates battle the British Navy at Treasure Island in Las Vegas

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NEVADA

MAGAZINE • VOL. 58 • NUMBER 2 • MARCH/APRIL 1998

"Nevada is the last frontier.
It has all the free life that's left."
—Lorry Moiola, Elko



On the Cover:
Pirates and British seamen battle at Treasure Island in Las Vegas. Photo by Sal Maimone

Features

12
Pirates of Pizazz
Volcanoes, statues, and buccaneers come to life as Nevada hotels make a spectacle of themselves.
By Deke Castleman

16
A Preppie in Pioche
In 1946 a kid from New York gets an education as a mucker and a pitcher.
By Ralph E. Pray



Hot Spots: Page 20

20
Hot Spots
Four great Nevada hot springs where you can soak to your heart's content.
By George Williams III

82
Gypsy Librarian
Elko's bookmobile covers the longest library route in America.
By Charles Hillinger

Departments

5 **Editor's Note** This issue's contributors.

6 **Letters** Ice fishing, cigar smoking, RVing, and other sports.

7 **'Best of Nevada' Poll** Your favorite hotel? Best beach? Your ballot is waiting.

9 **Roadside Attractions** Riding a Vegas roller coaster and Tahoe sailboats.

71 **Vacations: Home-Grown Hospitality** The inn-side scoop on Nevada's bed-and-breakfast scene. **By Sharon Carter and Carolyn Graham**

75 **Gallery: Machine-Age Relics** Recalling old machines and Central Nevada's industrial past. **Photos and Words by Jim Galli**

76 **Casinoland: She Played, He Played** The game of slots. **By Diane Sims**

78 **People Page:** A Stardust star, a ghost-town explorer, and the Simpsons.

81 **Shopping Guide** Nevada's malls and shopping meccas. **By Carolyn Graham**

87 **Nevada Bookshelf** Recent releases of Nevada interest. **By Richard Moreno**

89 **Side Trip: Spring in Flower** Wildflowers south to north. **By Sharon Carter**



Flowers in Spring: Page 89

Events & Shows



Poker Faces: Page 38

23 **Spring Mountain Rendezvous** Broadway, history, and hikes come together at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park. **Story by Sky McClain, Photos by Chris Leedham**

30 **Nevada Events** Rodin in Reno and Shakespeare in Las Vegas.

38 **Poker Faces** The World Series of Poker in Las Vegas. **Photos by David Lee Waite**

45 **Nevada Showguide** Where the stars and shows are playing.

54 **Show People** Gregory Popovich's "Housecats" at Circus Circus. **By Carolyn Graham**

56 **Casino Notes** News from hotel-casinoland. **By Ann Henderson**

68 **Review** "New York, New York" delivers surprises at Harrah's Reno. **By Kim Pryor**

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Charles Hillinger's Nevada



Nevada traveler Charles Hillinger.

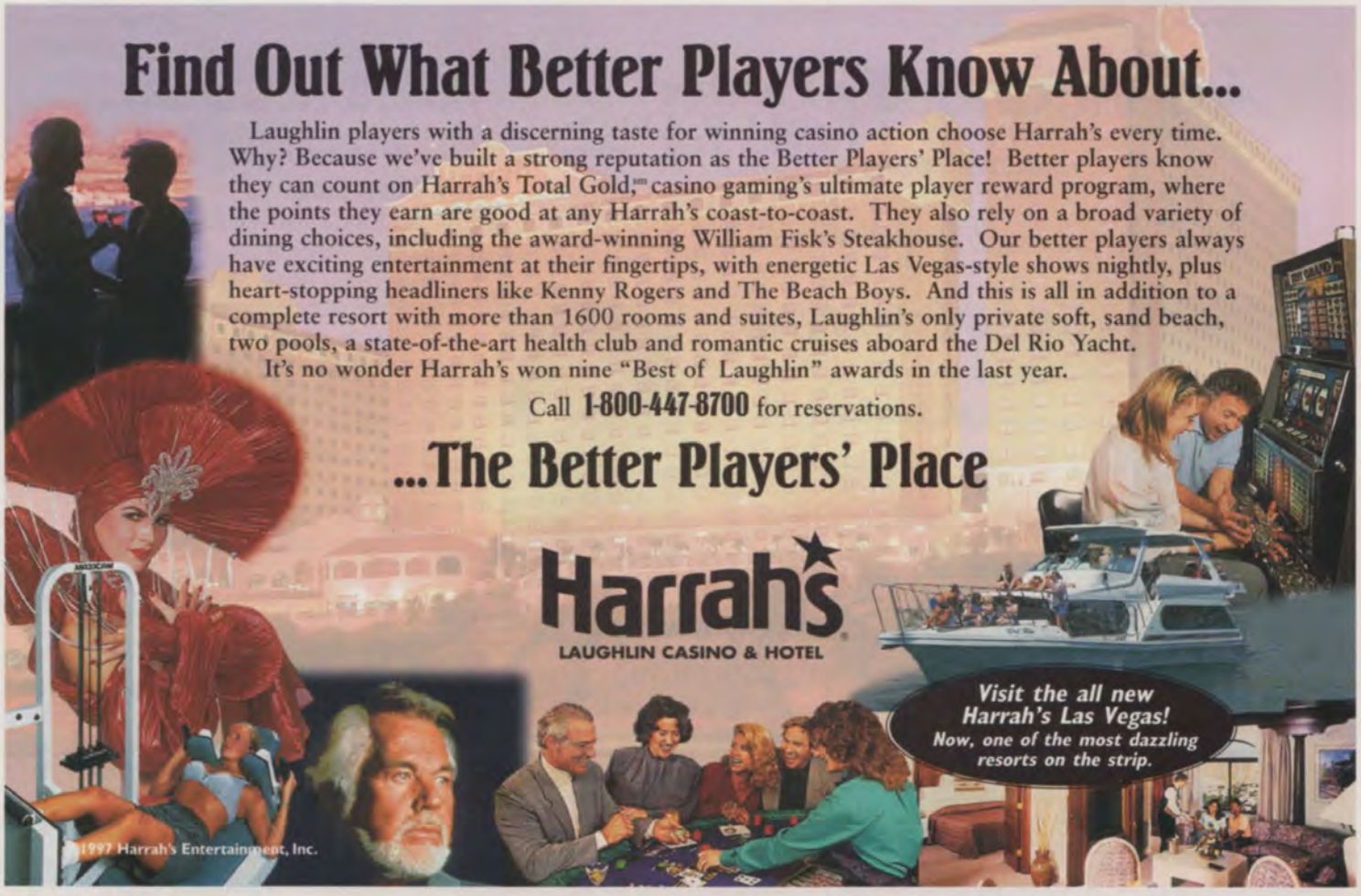
Recently **Charles Hillinger** and his wife Arliene took granddaughters Kristina, seven, and Brittani, six, to Las Vegas. They stayed at the Luxor. "The girls love the crazy elevators that go up the side of the pyramid," he explains. "It was our sixth visit with the girls, and every time we have to go to the horse show at the Excalibur."

Chuck Hillinger has seen more of Nevada than most people. During his 45 years as a feature writer and columnist for the *Los Angeles Times*, he wrote nearly 200 stories about Nevadans—folks like Phil Tobin, the Winnemucca cowboy who introduced the legislation that legalized gambling in 1931, and Kittie Bonner, the Austin constable and barber who was born in a covered wagon.

In this issue Chuck presents "Gypsy Librarian," the story of Elko resident Lorry Moiola, who drove the longest bookmobile route in the country. "Gypsy Librarian" is an excerpt from Chuck's book, *Charles Hillinger's America: People and Places in All 50 States.* The foreword was written by his late friend Charles Kuralt, who suggested the book idea to Chuck. Kuralt wrote, "Charles Hillinger has been a hero of mine since I first starting reading his stories in the *Los Angeles Times* back in the sixties."

Now retired from the *Times*, Chuck lives in Rancho Palos Verdes, California. "I'm going berserk writing books," he says with a laugh. His most recent is *Hillinger's California: Stories From All 58 Counties*, with a foreword by Bob Hope. Chuck adds, "I'm having a ball with the *America* book. *Modern Maturity* did a story about it. I've been interviewed on CNN. Marymount College gave me an honorary degree—all because of the book. Amazing!"

Also in this issue: Be sure to see pages 7 and 8 for your **"Best of Nevada"** poll ballot. Here's your chance to vote for your favorite drive, choicest casino, and preferred park. The results will be announced in the July/August issue.—*David Moore*



Letters

Ice fishing, cigar smoking, and other sports.

Warm Memories

Boy, that story "Ice, Ice, Baby" by Lin Anderson in Jan/Feb brought back some memories of ice fishing with my grandpa in Wisconsin. (He gave it up after he had a few too many brews and got pulled through the ice by a big muskie. Lin Anderson was right about making those holes too big, I'll tell you.) Anyway, I hadn't ice-fished since I started coming to Nevada, but I'm sure going to think about it now. Thanks for the reminder.

Lars Thorsruud
San Francisco, CA



Don Hughley of Elko fishes at Wild Horse.

Stogie Stomper

In an age when responsible people are trying desperately to educate the public about the consequences of smoking, along comes *Nevada Magazine* with "Hand-Rolled Heaven," glorifying the filthy habit of cigar smoking. How are we to convince our children to shun this vice when superstars like George Hamilton glamorize it? I fail to see how grown men—and even women—can find pleasure in huddling together in saloons, spewing noxious clouds at each other, and swilling alcoholic beverages. That's not "heaven" to me.

Madge Corcoran
Kansas City, MO

The Polite Bandit

I enjoyed reading "The Polite Bandit," by Eric Bryan in the Jan/Feb issue. I especially liked it because I am familiar with the areas where Milton Sharp committed the stagecoach robberies in 1880 on the roads between Carson City and Bodie.

Bill Jayne
Prescott Valley, AZ

RVing Charleston

After reading the Jan/Feb article "Schuss, Schuss, Sweet Charleston" (a very apropos title), I wondered is it true that the Kyle Canyon RV site costs $55 per night? Mount Charleston is a wonderful RV spot, and we are inveterate RVers, but we have yet to spend that much per night for hookup-less camping.

Donna Andress
Nelson

Donna, yes, the rate is $55 per night, and reservations are recommended because the public camping area is usually full.—Ed.

A Neon Glow

Katherine McDonnell's "Roadside Attractions" story in Jan/Feb about the Las Vegas Neon Museum reminded me that there are still hundreds of wonderful old signs in the Young Electric Sign Company yard. I hope that the rescue of Andy Anderson, the Hacienda Vaquero, and the Chief Hotel Court signs marks the beginning of an effort that will bathe downtown Las Vegas once more in vintage neon. These venerable old signs will be good for the tourism business.

Kathy Ann Reardon
Las Vegas

Mining History

I always enjoy *Nevada Magazine* and especially the stories about people and the state's history. The articles about Nevada's rich mining history are particularly enjoyable as my life revolves around mining in Nevada and around the world.

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The Best of Nevada

Official Ballot

What's Nevada's friendliest town? Best place to hike? Best hotel buffet? Most scenic road? We'd like to know your thoughts on Nevada's best things. Please fill out this official "Best of Nevada" ballot so we can share your opinions on the best of the Silver State. Results will appear in the July/August '98 issue of ***Nevada Magazine***. Ballots must be received by May 15, 1998. Only original ballots from this March/April issue of ***Nevada Magazine*** will be counted (no photocopies, please). Mail ballots to: Best of Nevada, Nevada Magazine, 1800 Highway 50 East, Suite 200, Carson City, NV 89701.

HOTEL-CASINOS



1. Best Entertainer:

South _____

North _____

Rural _____

2. Best Lounge Act:

South _____

North _____

Rural _____

3. Best Revue or Long-Running Show:

South _____

North _____

Rural _____

4. Best Hotel/Resort:

Las Vegas _____

Laughlin _____

Mesquite _____

Reno/Sparks _____

Lake Tahoe _____

Rural _____

5. Best Casino to Gamble:

Las Vegas _____

Laughlin _____

Mesquite _____

Reno/Sparks _____

Lake Tahoe _____

Rural _____

RECREATION/OUTDOORS



6. Best Golf Course:

Las Vegas _____

Laughlin _____

Mesquite _____

Reno/Sparks _____

Lake Tahoe _____

Rural _____

7. Best Thrill Ride: _____

8. Best Photo Spot:

South _____

North _____

Rural _____

9. Best Scenic Road:

_____

10. Best Place for an Adventure Vacation:

_____

11. Best Park (National, State or County):

South _____

North _____

Rural _____

12. Best Place to Ski: _____

13. Best Hiking Place: _____

14. Best Lake:

South _____

North _____

Rural _____

15. Best Beach:

South _____

North _____

Rural _____

VACATION HIGHLIGHTS



16. Friendliest Town:

_____

17. Best Place to Camp:

_____

18. Best Ghost Town:

_____

19. Best Place to Enjoy Mother Nature:

_____

20. Best Place to Take Kids:

South _____

North _____

Rural _____

21. Best Special Event/Festival:

South _____

North _____

Rural _____

22. Best Place to Shop:

South _____

North _____

Rural _____

23. Best Museum:

South _____

North _____

Rural _____

24. Best Place for a Romantic Evening:

South _____

North _____

Rural _____

DINING



25. Best Buffet:

South _____

North _____

Rural _____

26. Best "Sky's-the-Limit" Restaurant: _____

South _____

North _____

Rural _____

27. Best Burger:

South _____

North _____

Rural _____

28. Best Themed Restaurant:

South _____

North _____

29. Best Hotel Reservation Service:

South _____

North _____

30. Best Sightseeing/Tour Company:

South _____

North _____

31. Other categories you'd like to include in this survey:

_____

_____

Tear out and mail your ballots to:

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Roadside Attractions

Riding the roller-coaster rails and putting wind in your sails.

Twist and Shout

LAS VEGAS—Although Coney Island's famous Cyclone, the East Coast's premier wooden roller coaster, is 3,000 miles away, thrill-ride fans can get a taste of negative G forces and fast turns aboard the **Manhattan Express** at the New York-New York Hotel.



The Manhattan Express roller coaster dips, ducks, twists, and twirls its riders in and around New York-New York on the Las Vegas Strip.

The mezzanine arcade, where you climb aboard the steel roller coaster, resembles the nostalgic midway at Coney Island, New York City's oceanside playground. As on a subway trip to the Island, riders on the Manhattan Express buy a token, slip it into the turnstile slot, and queue up for the next train.

Sixteen passengers climb into their seats. As the train chugs to the top of the first crest, 203 feet above the desert floor, you're practically lying on your back, comforted by the fact that the Las Vegas skyline, with its lions, castles, and pyramids, will soon come back into view.

The first drop sends you 75 feet back to earth as your stomach jumps into your throat. At speeds approaching 70 mph, the direction changes and rhythm make the nearly four-minute ride seem faster than it is. The roller coaster loops around the hotel and through the center of the casino on a 144-foot drop that passes within a few feet of the hotel's valet entrance. The cars rumble along on a 540-degree spiral, in a full 360-degree loop, and take a vicious corkscrew, the world's first "heartline" twist-and-dive maneuver on a roller coaster.

"Sit in the back," suggests Clint Fries, who has ridden the Manhattan Express numerous times. "Because of the motion in back, it's a better ride. In front you can see where you're going, but in back all of a sudden you're into the loop before you see it coming."

The Manhattan Express costs $5 per ride; its five trains can seat about 1,000 riders every hour. Call 702-740-6969 for information.—*Katherine McDonnell*

Park and Read

STATEWIDE—Visitors can explore Nevada's state parks with the help of a **new brochure** released by the Nevada Commission on Tourism and Nevada State Parks.

The attractive, four-color brochure lists all of Nevada's 24 state parks, recreation areas, and historic parks. You'll find photographs and an informational paragraph about each park's history and attractions as well as a chart noting facilities and amenities, such as whether the park has camping, trails, fishing, or a boat launch. The brochure also has a state map showing the location of the parks.

For a copy of the free brochure contact Nevada State Parks Division Headquarters, 300 South Curry Street, Carson City, NV 89701 (phone 702-687-4384) or call the Nevada Commission on Tourism, 800-NEVADA-8. The brochure is available at parks and regional offices.—*Carolyn Graham*



A free brochure with information on Nevada's state parks is now available.

Big Bucks

LAS VEGAS—If you're hoping to find a million bucks in a casino, look no further than Binion's Horseshoe. The downtown club flashes some serious cash at its **Million Dollar Display**, a horseshoe-shaped container filled with 100 $10,000 bills.

You can't take it with you, but you can have your picture taken with all those dollars—and the privilege is free. The Million Dollar Display, a popular attraction since it was created in 1954, was recently moved to the center of the casino. About 150,000 people per year pose with the dough.

The free photos are available daily from 4 p.m. to midnight (posers must be 21 or older). Call Binion's Horseshoe, 702-382-1600, for information.—*Carolyn Graham*

Rough Riders

LAS VEGAS—Adventure seekers will get a taste of rough-and-tumble 4x4 action with **ATV Action Tours,** which takes visitors in

a customized Land Rover Defender 90 to travel Southern Nevada's backcountry.

Action Tours began last summer with two tours, to Valley of Fire and Lake Mead, and currently offers 10 different trips to out-of-the-way destinations such as Red Rock Canyon, Death Valley, and the Delamar ghost town. Customized tours can be tailored to such places as Zion National Park in Utah or include such activities as hiking or mountain climbing.

Tours range from three hours for the Red Rock Canyon adventure to more than 10 hours for a trip to Death Valley.

The trip to Delamar—once famous for its lung-choking "Delamar Dust"—takes visitors into the Delamar Mountain range, where in 1890 the mining district was formed. The nine-hour trip also includes visits to Caliente and Alamo.

The company uses Jeep Wranglers and Cherokees for some trips, but the Land Rovers are the popular choice for tour takers. Originally designed for the British military, the V-8 powered monsters seat six people and have the clearance to take on the desert's toughest challenges. "Only about a thousand are imported into the United States, and they handle really well," says Ron Kachel, president of ATV Action Tours.



ATV Action Tours takes visitors across Southern Nevada's dramatic desert terrain in four-wheel drives.

Tours are conducted daily, and reservations are required. Hotel pickup is available. Prices range from $39 per person for a short trip to Hoover Dam to $189 to Death Valley. Kachel suggests wearing comfortable shoes and outdoor clothing. You also should bring sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat. Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. For more information call ATV Action Tours at 702-435-6600 or 800-ATV-5200. Fax is 702-435-6700, and e-mail is atvtours@aol.com.—*Katherine McDonnell*

Artful Shopping

CARSON CITY—Shoppers will find artistic merchandise at the Brewery Arts Center's new **Artisans' Store**. The store is stocked with works created by local artists. Items include hand-tinted photographs, jewelry, concho belts, and dolls. You'll also find hand-painted saws, decorative boxes,



Artist Robert Rose poses with his cyberart as well other artists' works at the Artisans' Store at the Brewery Arts Center in Carson City.

clothing made from hand-dyed cotton, and art generated on computer. The shop was transformed from the reception area adjacent to the theater. The merchandise is attractively arranged, and an antique piano is the centerpiece.

The Brewery Arts Center Artisans' Store is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday and before and after perfor-



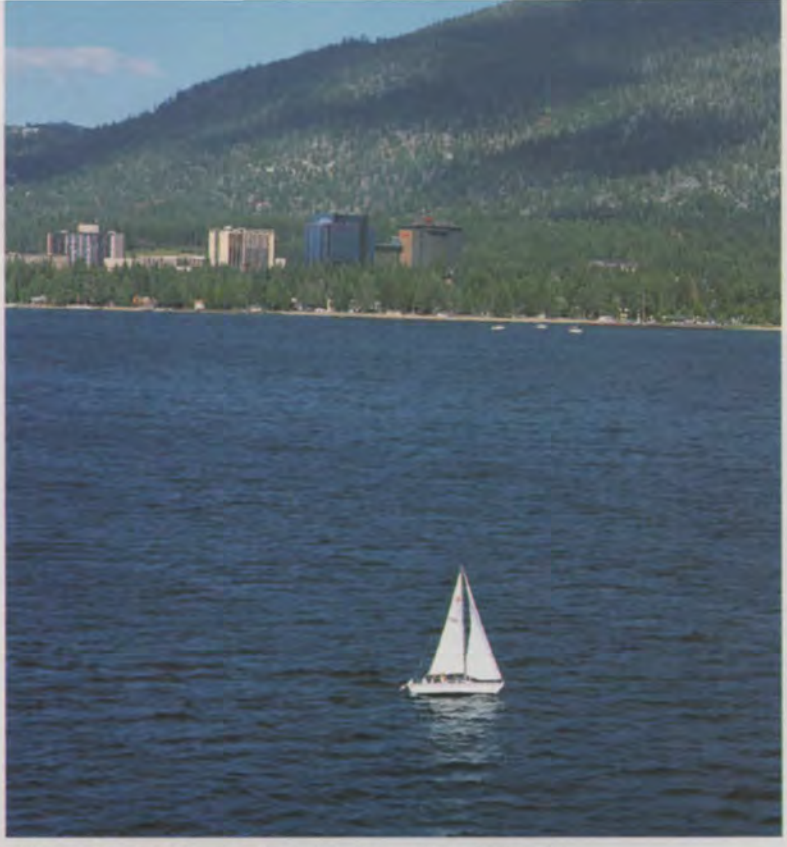
Photo: Jay Aldrich (bottom)

mances in the theater. Call 702-1976 for more information.—*Carolyn Graham*

Sailing Through School

LAKE TAHOE—Learning to sail isn't always a breeze, especially on Lake Tahoe, where the winds often are fickle and the hazards unexpected. But **Sailing Ventures**, a sailing school based at the Tahoe Keys Marina at South Shore, can help turn land lubbers into certified sailors.

Beginners get their feet wet with the two-hour Introduction to Sailing class. Advanced courses include the Basic Keelboat Class, Basic Coastal Cruising, Bareboat Chartering, and Coastal Navigation. The advanced classes usually take 12 to 16 hours over three or four days.



Skippers can learn how to put wind in their sails on Lake Tahoe.

Michael Tolda, owner of Sailing Ventures, says the classes are hands-on—students learn on his fleet of six sailboats, which range from 20 to 30 feet. Tolda, who lives in Carson City and has been a captain aboard the *Woodwind* trimaran and the Harrah's Tahoe yacht, says Tahoe is an excellent lake for learning.

"First, there's the spectacular scenery," he says. "And the sailing conditions are challenging. At Tahoe it's wide open, but the wind conditions can change—and often do."

The beginning class costs $75 per person; the more advanced courses are $295 (half of the fee for the beginning class is refundable if you opt to take an advanced course). Sailing Ventures is an American Sailing Association Certified Training Facility.

Sailors who don't own a boat can join Sailing Ventures' sailing club, which, for a fee, provides access to a boat for a certain number of days per month. For information on the club and classes, contact Sailing Ventures by phone, 530-542-1691, or on the World Wide Web, www.sailtahoe.com.—*Carolyn Graham*



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Photo: Larry Prosor

PIRATES OF



Pirates prepare for a spectacular battle with the British Navy in Buccaneer Bay at Treasure Island. The high-seas show sets sail on the Strip six times daily.

Photo: Steve Spatafore

Pizazz

Volcanoes, statues, and buccaneers come to life as Nevada hotels make a spectacle of themselves.

By Deke Castleman

As you stroll through the new wing at the Forum Shops at Caesars, you will encounter a number of extraordinary sights—a five-story Trojan horse at F.A.O. Schwartz, an IMAX motion simulator with a 3-D screen, and a caviarteria, a bar that specializes in caviar. Standing in the Great Hall, you admire the Roman statues and make faces at the fish swimming in an enormous saltwater aquarium.

Suddenly the lights dim, and thunder rumbles through the rotunda. The real show is ready to begin.

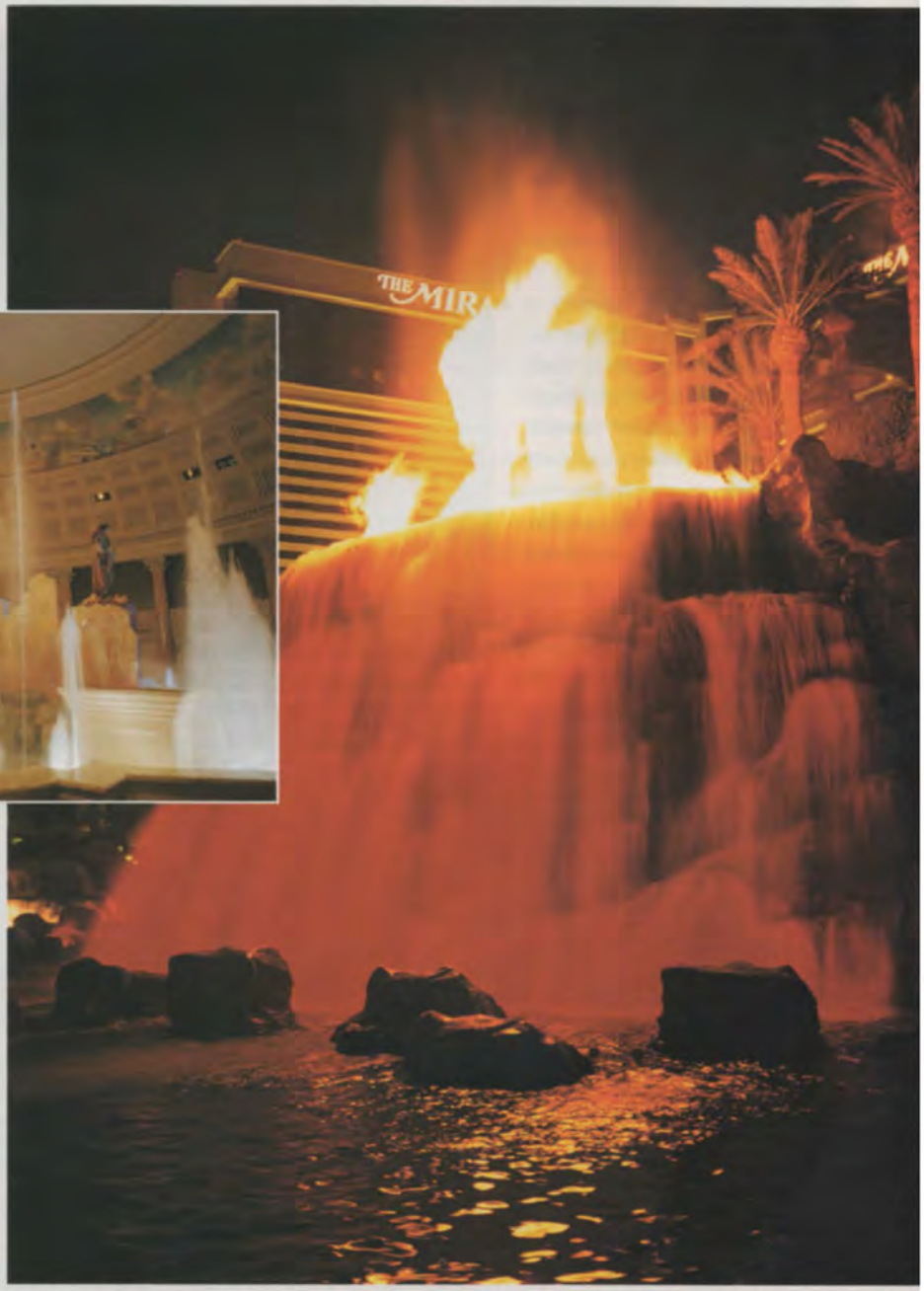
Statues descend through the floor and disappear. Up through the fountains—amidst fire, smoke, and steam—rise three animatronic characters: Atlas, king of Atlantis; Alia, his daughter the princess; and Gadrius, his son the prince. For the next eight minutes the royal family struggles for control of their mythical kingdom. As they threaten, taunt, and laugh at each other, the polyurethane figures seem so realistic that you start thinking they're human.



The lost continent of Atlantis magically springs to life inside the rotunda of the Forum Shops at Caesars in Las Vegas.

The eight-foot-tall, 500-pound Gadrius, for example, has 45 moving parts. His head nods and turns. His mouth opens and closes. His cheeks expand and contract. Even his brow wrinkles and smooths. At the same time his shoulders shrug, his torso twists, and his fingers move—all controlled by hydraulic cylinders, pneumatic actuators, and rotary manifolds and synchronized by software at 33-millisecond intervals.

At the show's climax, a fiery battle ensues, and



The Mirage volcano assumed the role of hotel marquee and began a veritable eruption of free spectacles at Las Vegas resorts. The lava flows every half hour at night.

Photos: William Carr/Stock Ex (left inset), Gail Bandini (right)





Singers, dancers, and even customers ride floats in the Masquerade Village at the Rio (above). At left, the 120-foot-tall mining machine puts on a show at the Silver Legacy in downtown Reno.

Atlas' throne unfolds into a hideous beast that drives the kingdom to its watery doom. Afterward, the audience disperses, presumably to eat some caviar, buy a toy, or, ultimately, feed some quarters into a slot machine.

"Atlantis" is the latest in a long line of loss-leader spectacles that Las Vegas and, to a lesser extent, Reno have rolled out to bring the people in. Some of the most elaborate shows take place outdoors, while others are designed for indoor astonishment. Many follow their hotels' respective themes—pirate battles, animatronic animals, light shows, and lava flows—and they are free.



An animatronic wolf is the star of "Sunset Stampede" in the Sam's Town atrium.

This style of extravagant attraction can be traced all the way back to the feverish imagination of Jay Sarno, a mad genius who, it has been said, "threw off a shower of sparks wherever he went." After dreaming up the toga-clad and statue-strewn Roman theme for Caesars Palace in the mid-1960s, Sarno went on to open a bizarre casino that featured circus acts performed over the blackjack tables and slot machines. It was a spectacle, all right, but it wasn't yet free. In the beginning Sarno charged admission to the carnival area. The entry fee lasted mere months, and for the past 30 years Circus Circus has presented its clowns, trapeze artists, jugglers, and unicyclists free of charge between 11 a.m. and midnight daily.

The free extravaganza as a gambler lure didn't catch on in a big way for another 21 years, until 1989, when the feverish imagination of another promoter, Steve Wynn, produced the first automated free show—an erupting volcano. Each night after dark a 54-foot manmade mountain fronting the Mirage, with just a sidewalk separating it from the Strip, roars to life, spewing steam with a serpentine hiss, shooting gas-fed tongues of flame to lick the night sky, and roiling the reflecting-pool waters with red-light lava. Pedestrian traffic grinds to a halt, and at the end of the four-minute spectacle some people even walk inside the casino.

Wynn has referred to the volcano as the Mirage's "marquee," a combination of neon sign, showroom spectacle, and, with all due respect, free bag o' popcorn. It's the "signature" of the hotel-casino, providing instant recognition and regularly scheduled fun for anyone who happens by. The volcano set the stage, and the standard, for the many such shows that have followed, the variety and extent of which are unequaled anywhere else on Earth.

Indeed, when Wynn opened Treasure Island next door four years later, he knew he had to outdo himself. So he built Buccaneer Bay, and every night a British Navy frigate sails around the corner from Spring Mountain Road into the bay, there to engage a privateer's schooner in eight minutes of swashbuckling, cannon-firing "pirate-technics." Twenty stuntmen wind up in the drink. A great place to catch the action is from a seat on the patio of the Buccaneer Bar.

Outside the Excalibur castle, a fire-breathing dragon and Merlin the Magician greet guests.

Then there's the Fremont Street Experience, that colossal graphic-display system that delivers state-of-the-art animation and acoustic effects on the curved underside of a 90-foot-high, four-block-long canopy covering downtown Las Vegas. More than 2.1 million polychromatic lightbulbs and 208 concert-quality speakers combine for six-minute, high-fidelity kaleidoscopic light shows

Photos: Julius Fava (top left), Chris Leedham (top right), Kate Butler (middle)

with country, spacey, and Vegasy themes. Like the volcano and pirate battle, the shows themselves are one-of-a-kind, but perhaps the greatest moment in the Experience is when someone somewhere flicks a switch and Glitter Gulch's whole flamboyant neon facade is simply shut off. For a moment, from Fitzgeralds to the Las Vegas Club, it's dark on Fremont Street, and that's something to see.

A year ago the Rio unveiled its new Masquerade Village casino, restaurant, and retail wing with its signature Show in the Sky. During the show singers, dancers, stiltwalkers, and bungee swingers, all in outrageous Mardi Gras-style costumes, perform on the main stage. Meanwhile, parade floats—a riverboat, teacup, hot-air balloon swan—circle the casino, suspended from a track on the ceiling. The Show in the Sky is the only spectacle in which visitors can participate; sign up in the casino to dress in costume and ride one of the floats.



The Fremont Street Experience has transformed Glitter Gulch into a light-and-sound show.

Las Vegas' newest free public show can be seen in the outdoor Carnaval Court at the remodeled Harrah's on the Strip. Fireworks open and close "Carnaval Fantastique," which features 15 dancers, gymnasts, acrobats, showgirls, and stiltwalkers. At 20 minutes, "Carnaval Fantastique" is not only the longest show of its kind in Las Vegas; it's also one of the few you can enjoy sitting down (at tables outside the Ghirardelli ice-cream parlor).

The Forum Shops has another animatronic show besides the new "Atlantis." In 1992, Caesars Palace introduced the Festival Fountain to entertain the estimated 20,000 people who walk through the Forum Shops each day. Laser lightning and stereo thunder awaken Bacchus, Roman god of free spectacles and animatronic emcee for the show. His costars are Plutus, Venus, and Apollo. The Festival Fountain is decidedly less high-resolution than "Atlantis" in the Forum Shops' other wing, which goes to show how far the technology has advanced in six years. This show is suitably enhanced by a margarita or two from La Salsa Mexican restaurant, nearby in the rotunda.

Bally's has a striking nighttime light show. In Bally's plaza, a light, water, and sound show splashes waves of color across the palm trees fronting the Strip. At the Excalibur, the thrill is more old-fashioned as a fire-breathing dragon and Merlin the Magician greet guests.

Dancing waters are an old attraction in Las Vegas; the Desert Inn featured choreographed jets of water 'way back in the 1950s. Today, you can catch a 10-minute dancing-waters show, "Sunset Stampede," in the 18-story atrium at Sam's Town. High atop a waterfall-carved cliff, a larger-than-life animatronic wolf opens and closes (and steals) the show. The dancing waters leap from the pool below to neck-craning heights amidst synchronized laser images and a booming Western soundtrack.

In Reno, a similar show takes place outdoors in the pool area at the Peppermill in Reno. During spring and summer a number of creatures—a grizzly bear, wolf, two bighorn sheep, and a mountain lion—come to life as they emerge from the manmade

(Continued on page 86)

New Trek

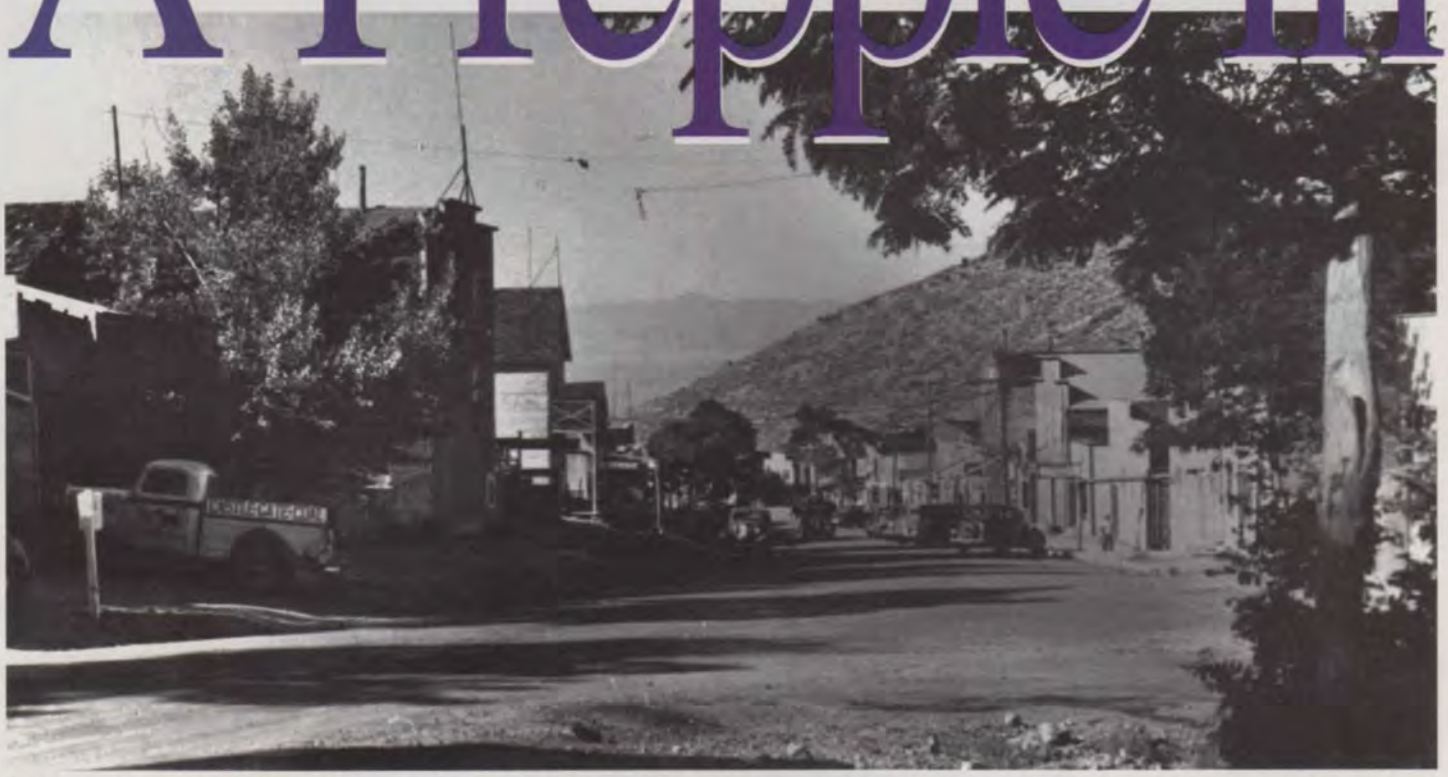

Earthlings gather at the entrance to the Star Trek ride.

Another spectacle, although it's not a show, can be seen at the Las Vegas Hilton's Space Quest casino. This "24th-century" casino, which fronts the new Star Trek: The Experience, is the most visually extravagant gambling room in town. The futuristic design is straight out of the *Star Trek* movies. The slot machines have a space-age feature: you pass your finger through a light beam to spin the reels. All the employees wear Star Trek uniforms. Even the restrooms are a trip. Monitors over the urinals offer tips like: "High concentration of hydrogen oxide detected—your recognition of winning combinations may be temporarily heightened."

The main Star Trek attraction is a spectacle as well, although it's not free. You pay your $9.95 and are ushered into a sort of Star Trek museum, which displays models of starships, clips from *Star Trek* movies and television series, and a timeline of future history. Then you're beamed onto the *Enterprise* for a four-minute motion-simulated ride and a space battle. Your reentry into the 20th century—breaking through the space rift, chased by Klingons—is a thrill and a half. Finally, you're deposited in the Star Trek logo shop. Altogether, it's a 25-minute Experience if you don't have to wait in line. Hours are 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily.—*Deke Castleman*

Photos: Sal Maimone (top), Steve Spatafore (bottom)

A Preppie in



Pioche first boomed in the 1870s. The town was busy in the 1940s, too, when miners caroused the saloons on payday after working long hours underground.

After hitchhiking cross-country from my family's home in New Rochelle, New York, I landed in Salt Lake City looking for a job any job a husky kid could get. The "men wanted" newspaper ads called for muckers in a Nevada mine. I walked to the hiring office of Combined Metals near my hotel. It was the first of May 1946. I was still a teenager, not long out of Kiski Prep near Pittsburgh.

"May I ask what qualifications are required?" I asked the man behind the desk in the office.

"You meet them all," he answered, leaning back in his desk chair while fishing a smoke out of his khaki shirt pocket.

"But I just walked in," I said.

"That's the second part of the requirement," he said with a smile. "You have to walk in."

"What's the first?" I asked, more than a little curious.

"Opening the door," he said. He went on to explain that muckers made $7.20 per shift, with time-and-a-half on Saturdays. "We'll give you a Nevada Lines bus ticket from here to Pioche and take it out of your first paycheck. It's a five-hour trip."

"I'm ready to go," I said, "but I prefer to hitchhike to Pioche."

I took a bus to the western edge of Salt Lake City and stood with a ready thumb beside the silent highway in white shirt, tie, and sport jacket. I still had $30 in my pocket, enough to live on for two weeks.

The first vehicle going west was the silver-colored bus to Ely. The driver was lonely and picked me up. Later we stopped for a guy standing beside a motorcycle and waving his arms. The three of us hoisted the bike up the bus steps and parked it in the aisle. The road forked at Ely, so I got off there and resumed hitchhiking. An hour later a Ford sedan stopped. The driver and passenger were scruffy looking men in their 30s.

A rear tire blew out. "We ain't got no spare, kid. You can sit over the good tire."

"Hop in, kid. Where ya goin'?" the passenger asked. "Pioche," I answered. "Got a job in a mine there, working for Combined Metals."

"That's where we work. My name's Charlie. This other drunk's Sam. Ever work in a mine? You look kinda young."

"Never worked in a mine," I answered. "Were you shopping in Ely?"

They both laughed. "No," Sam said. "We just got outta the Ely jail. Went on a short drunk. What in hell you wanna work in a mine for?"

"To earn money for travel," I said.

"Kid, the mine don't pay money to travel on. Jus' money to spend. Nobody saves money," Charlie explained. "What good's money in the mattress if ya get wiped out in a rock fall?"

A rear tire blew out on the barren stretch north of Pioche. We stopped to inspect the damage. "We ain't got no spare, kid. You can sit over the good tire," Charlie said. No one could have been more casual about the disaster. We continued driving on the rim at about 50 miles per hour, leaving a gouge in the blacktop and flattening the steel wheel into a small, ugly disk.

The car slowed as we approached the

Photo: Nevada Historical Society

Pioche

In 1946 a kid from New York gets an education as a mucker and a pitcher in one of the West's toughest mining towns.

By Ralph E. Pray





The author (at left) posed at prep school the year before his Western journey. He wrote home that he was rooming with a friend who had joined him at the Caselton Mine (shown above).

first wooden shacks and modest homes in Pioche at sundown. We passed a man standing limp beside the road. His head was covered with dried blood.

"What happened to him?" I asked, shocked by the sight, my stomach in a knot.

"Don't know," Sam said, "but it looks like he got a floater out o' town."

"What's a floater?" I asked.

"If ya get noisy drunk in Pioche, the sheriff arrests ya. If ya can't cough up the fine and got no friends, they clobber ya real good and tell ya not to come back. Ya walk out o' town and just float there till somebody takes pity on ya. The law boys hate noisy drunks that's broke."

Charlie and Sam dropped me off at a hotel in the business section. As I registered, I noticed five or six friendly ladies, all kind of rough looking, visiting back and forth between the rooms. They were wearing a lot of makeup and tight, revealing attire. The hotel was obviously not just a place to sleep. I minded my own business and found my room.

I cleaned up and went out to see the town. The business section had a long street of saloons, gambling clubs, cafes, and gaudily-painted but untitled doors with curtained windows. The buildings were all wood, some with false fronts, many in need of paint.

The Pioche Club looked like the liveliest place. Inside, I saw a thick blue-smoke haze. As I stepped inside, the smell of whiskey hit me. The place was full of smoke and fumes. I found space at the crap table to place dollar bets. By midnight I had doubled my arrival stake of $30, all in silver cartwheels.

The next morning I boarded the company bus for the 10-mile trip to the Caselton Mine. The mine buildings consisted of a noisy mill, busy shops, a long, V-shaped bunkhouse, and a dining hall, all painted beige. The bus stopped at the bunkhouse. The novelty of arriving at a mine in the Nevada desert as an employee was not lost on me. I was excited.

My work started at midnight, on the graveyard shift, so I had time to snoop around. The bunkhouse reading room had a few shelves of books and several comfortable chairs. A young-looking but bald man was leafing through a magazine when I offered him a smoke.

"Don't mind if I do," he responded.

"Can I ask you a couple of questions?"

"Sure," he said hesitantly.

"How long does a paycheck last?" I asked.

"One day usually, one night. There's enough left over for smokes, maybe a pair of socks, and that's it."

"Suppose a miner just doesn't spend the money. What happens then?"

"He loans it out the next day. We got a few guys like that. But it's dangerous. You gotta know how to collect on loans. There's too many ex-cons around here for ya to fool with much cash."

"How long have you worked here?" I asked.

"Six months. Just about the limit. I'll be movin' on. Noticed ya lookin' at my hair, where it used ta be. I worked in a mercury mine and got poisoned. Lost my hair and my teeth. Got new teeth from the company but no hair."

Photos: Ralph E. Pray Collection

"Thanks for the education," I said. Back at my room I retrieved my 60 cartwheels. I walked a mile into the raw desert and buried them near a small tree. If someone asked me for money, I could then honestly say I didn't have any.

That evening, I joined the men going on the graveyard shift. In the change room we removed our street clothes and donned our diggers, which we lowered by chain in a basket from high in the rafters. All the men wore long johns beneath their diggers.

The men on graveyard were older than the general run of the camp, and I was glad for that. They showed me each step along the way: how to adjust the hardhat fit, how to load carbide granules in my new brass lamp, where the mine shaft was, and when to step onto the man cage to descend into the dark depths.

Deep in the mine the shift boss, Jiggs, handed me a shovel, "This is your muck stick, kid. Get married to it." He showed me where to dig. I began to muck. I was a mucker, the job described in the Salt Lake City paper.

At the end of the shift I placed my damp diggers in my basket and pulled the chain to raise the muddy mess into the warm upper reaches.

Pop was my roommate. He was a gray-haired, grizzled man of about 60, short-tempered, slow-walking, and sickly looking. He had silicosis, and his lungs rattled when he coughed. He was a tool nipper, too far gone to do anything but pick up dull drill bits and deliver them to the blacksmith shop for sharpening.

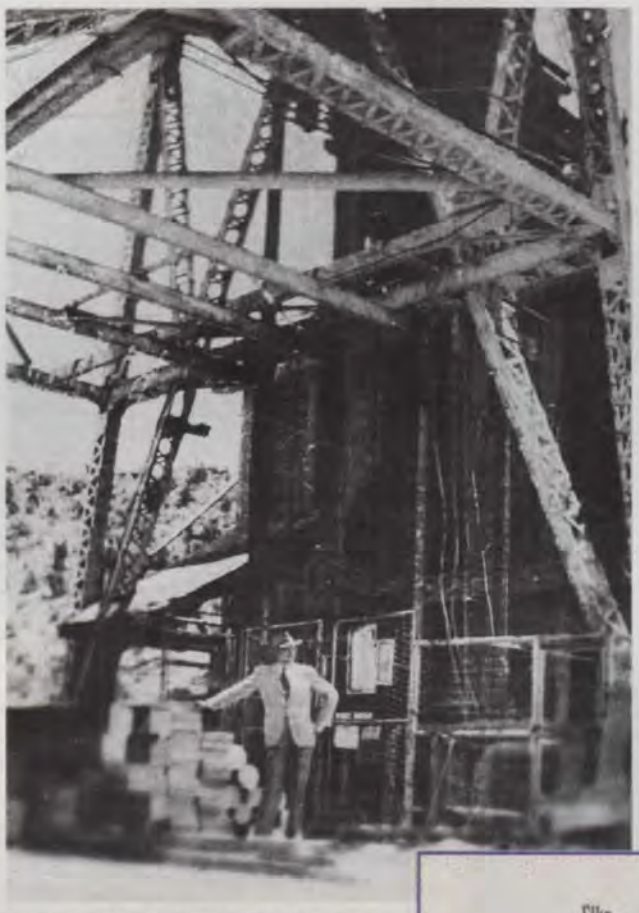
At the end of my second shift I was assigned the job of trammer on the 660-foot level. I pulled overhead chutes of newly mined ore to fill a mine car, pushed the car several hundred feet to a floor grate, and tipped the car to empty it. The rock went down a chute and eventually was transported to the mill, where it was treated to remove sought minerals. The top of each chute was in a stope, where the miners drilled and blasted.

I often climbed a 30-foot ladder into Pete's stope. He was a miner with a drilling machine and one helper. Every day I'd watch them work and listen to their stories. There was a shiny metal in the ore vein. Pete said, "That there's silver, kid."

"Can I have a few pieces, Pete?"

"Sure, go ahead," he said.

I took a little each day, carrying the high-grade ore out of the mine in my pockets and craftily transferring it to my street clothes in the change room and then under my bed in the bunkhouse. I was gloating over my 20 pounds of treasure one day when Pop shuffled into our room. "Kid, what's that in the box?" he rasped.



The author stands at the mine shaft on the day he left Pioche in 1946.

"It's silver from Pete's stope on the 660," I said. "The company won't miss a few pounds of it, will they?"

"Kid, this is a lead mine. You work in a lead mine. That's lead ore there, maybe a nickel's worth. Don't listen to those guys," he scolded.

Pop didn't have any wind to waste. He seldom spoke. I believed him.

I learned lessons every day, in the mine and above it. There was no place to wear my prep-school blazer, and it remained buried in the bottom of my suitcase. I was not there to be seen. The men I worked with underground included dedicated family men as well as thieves, ex-cons, hermits, old coughing miners, runaway husbands and fathers, down-and-out prizefighters, and full-time drunks. Each day unfolded before me like a fascinating book.

My first payday did not find me at the payroll office. The paycheck remained in the company office. It seemed a good idea to leave all my checks uncashed until the day I quit. I went to my tree on payday and took $5 out of my pillowcase bank. I boarded the bus with the rowdy crew that Saturday night and went to Pioche as an observer of payday at the mines. One other mine had paid on that day, and the town was jumping.

Before midnight the bars and gambling joints had most of the miners' wages. Short-tempered losers fought in the street in front of the wood buildings. When my five cartwheels were nearly gone on whiskey and dice, I went out to lean against the front of the Pioche Club and watch the bizarre scene.

While I stood in the middle of one of the roughest, hardest-drinking towns in the West, I thought of my family sitting in our spacious house in Rochelle Park. There was a tinge of guilt inside me for the luck I had to be here, a visitor to a different world.

Back inside I nursed a beer as I waited for the midnight bus that would take us back to camp. I was one of the few patrons still sober enough to walk. Gus, the club's owner, sidled up to me and asked, "Can you pitch softball?"

"Sure, but I'm no speedball artist."

"That's OK," Gus said. "You're our pitcher. The game's tomorrow at two."

"You mean the game between Pioche and Caliente?" I asked, recalling the posters up and down the street.

"That very one," Gus replied with a wink.

After Sunday lunch the bus filled quickly with miners and left for the Pioche ball park. There were 30 or so players and several hundred spectators at the dirt field near the Lincoln County Courthouse.

My catcher was Arky, a smiling, bulky miner from Arkansas on the 600 level. He was missing part of a hand from his time as a Marine on Guadalcanal. He had a few words of advice. "Kid, these things get rough. Don't take nothin' serious."

"Golly, Arky. How can I pitch without

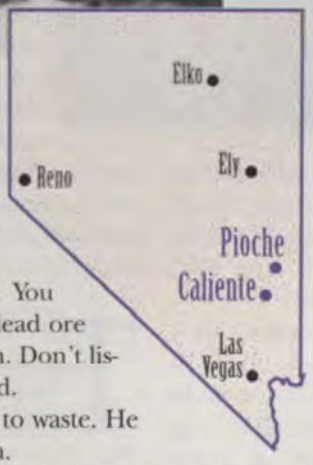


Photo: Ralph E. Pray Collection

bein' serious?" The notion was beyond me.

"Jus' remember I tol' ya."

"I see the gloves. What about the bats?" I asked.

"Ain't but one bat. Lot o' cracked heads at some o' these games."

The wind was blowing fiercely across the ball diamond, carrying gusts of red dust. While I took the mound to warm up, the Pioche people on my right set a beer keg on the players' bench. The Caliente people on my left were clustered around a keg on the back of a truck. Everyone drank beer out of white paper cups. Several painted ladies from the local cribs were holding beer cups on the Pioche side.

I felt as if I'd stepped into a movie scene, one where everybody had lines to speak, things to do, except me. Some spectators pointed at me, the youngest person at the mine. Many of the men had sons my age far from Pioche.

"Play ball!" the umpire yelled.

"Throw it, kid," Arky called.

When I began to pitch, people from both sides cheered. Without my knowing it, we had just progressed beyond the regular scenario. Fights usually started before the game did, and during some Sunday games not a single ball was pitched.

A big gust of wind brought in enough dust to obscure the field. When the red cloud settled I was surprised to see a Caliente player standing on first base. This was a guy who had not yet been up to bat. The plate ump saw the pretender but made no comment. Complaints from the sidelines were mild. Most of the noise was cheering.

Soon I realized this was more of a drinking contest than a ball game. The single bat used by both teams was monitored by a Lincoln County deputy sheriff, a tall, skinny fellow in Levi's who appeared to be sober. His Stetson was pulled down tight over his forehead to fight off the wind.

The game fizzled out when the beer did. I shook the hand of every player who could stand up.

"You sure got a funny-looking pitch, kid," the deputy said. "Where'd you learn that?"

"Back East," I answered, not wishing to say words like "New York" in front of so many people. Being from New York was not an asset in this part of Nevada.

The game fizzled out when the beer did. I shook the hand of every player who could stand up. Everyone headed for the parking lot or up to the saloons on the main street.

During the ride back to camp I thought about all the events I'd witnessed on my travels across the country. After escaping an eastern college I had been an iceman in Raleigh, a Walgreen's soda jerk in Sioux City, a lumberjack out of Portland, a house painter in Santa Fe, a miner in Pioche, and a fascinated observer at all points between. Then I realized how the escape route would lead back to the place where I could quickly learn to manage all these things better—college.

Back at the mine after the ballgame, in the bunkhouse and underground, I was no longer addressed as "Kid." Everyone called me "Pitch."

Ralph E. Pray, engineer and author currently writing his memoirs, began college at New Mexico Tech before his appointment as Alaska Territorial Assayer. He graduated from the University of Alaska and attended the Colorado School of Mines, where he was awarded a doctorate of science. He lives in Monrovia, California, where he established the Mineral Research Laboratory.

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WHITE PINE COUNTY

Annual Events

JANUARY
Ice Fishing at Cave Lake

MARCH
Annual Greek Party
Fine Arts Festival
"March Madness" Basketball
Rocky Mtn. Elk Foundation Dinner

APRIL
Ice Breaker Slo-Pitch Tournament

MAY
Season Start "Ghost Train of Old Ely"
Nevada Open Road Challenge
"Ely After Dark" Train Ride

JUNE
Annual Pony Express Reride
Bristlecone Bowman Championship
American Baskir Horse Show
Men's 1-Pitch Tourney
Connie Etchegaray Memorial Tourney
"Ely After Dark" Train Ride

JULY
4-Wheel Drive Rally
Fireworks Trainride
Lund Pioneer Days
NSA Softball Tourney-Men's Slo-Pitch/Jr Jazz Benefit
"Ely After Dark" Train Ride

AUGUST
Amateur Golf Tournament
Eastern Nevada Paint Horse Show
Bristlecone Arts in the Park
Basque Festival
White Pine County Fair
Cattlewomen's Deep Pit BBQ
White Pine County Horse Races
Fantasy Classic & Antique Car Show
Budge Stanton Memorial Co-Ed Tourney
"Ely After Dark" Train Ride

SEPTEMBER
Nevada Northern Railway "Battle of the Rails"
End of summer run "Ghost Train of Old Ely"
Annual Ultralight Fly-In
Two-Man Best Ball Golf Tournament
Silver State Classic Open Road Challenge

OCTOBER
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NOVEMBER
Rotary Club Art Auction
Toys for Tots Co-Ed 1-Pitch





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Hot Spots

BY GEORGE WILLIAMS III



Four great Nevada hot springs where you can soak to your heart's content.

I am a hot springer. I confess that I am pathetically addicted to hot springing. There is something delicious about soaking in a hot pool of water, under a bright, blue sky, with the troubles of daily living miles away. A half hour in a hot spring in the middle of the desert can erase what five years of therapy cannot.

Nevada, one of the most geothermally active regions in America, is packed with hot springs. Some are too hot—and dangerously so. Others sit in mucky alkaline flats. But many are perfect for soaking, lounging, and camping.

A good hot spring must meet several criteria. First, the water must be sufficiently hot. For most people that means 90 to 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Bathwater warm is about 90 to 95 degrees. Most Jacuzzis are kept at 104 degrees. Hotter water is uncomfortable for most folks. When I go hot springing, I carry a thermometer with me, both for my guidebook research and for an immediate temperature test.

Second, there should be a place to soak—a tub, pool, or ditch. Third, there must be a good flow to insure that the tub continually refills with fresh, clean water. And fourth, the site should be fairly accessible, although some hot springers will hike miles to reach that next, elusive warm pool.

> Be aware of hot-spring etiquette when you encounter other soakers at a pool.

One of the blessings hot springers have in Nevada is that many of recreational hot springs are located on public land. This means you can camp and soak for free. The situation is quite different, say, in California, where many springs are on private land. At many Nevada hot springs you can park the RV or throw up a tent without hassle.

Be aware of hot-spring etiquette. When hot springers reach an unused pool, they at first covet their privacy. Thus for several hours the hot springers will consider the spring their private Jacuzzi and generally want to be left alone. If you show up at such a time, it is polite to let people be. Once they have had their soak, they will climb out. That's your cue to approach and stand next in line to use the tub.

If a family is bathing with children, it is very uncool to strip naked and hop in the pool.

It is uncool to bathe with soap in the tub and leave the mess behind. If you want to take a bath, do it outside the tub.

Being loud and obnoxious also is uncalled for. There are miles and miles of empty desert. If you want to be loud, take it somewhere else.

Camping right next to the hot spring is a no-no. This amounts to hoarding and shows you don't understand that hot springs are to be shared. Be sure to pack out what you pack in. Don't leave behind bottles and beer cans.

Photo: Carolyn Fox



Hot springers kick back at Spencer's, a rustic retreat in Big Smoky Valley.

At many springs you will notice that someone has done something to make your stay more comfortable. It might be a friendly gesture such as a piece of carpet next to the pool, a little wooden bench, or a campfire pit. Sometimes folks leave behind a jug of water for the radiator.

A word of caution: Always assume that a hot spring may be too hot for human flesh. Always test the water before jumping in. Some people have been scalded to death by diving in before testing the waters, particularly in the Gerlach region. Geothermal water emerges from deep inside the earth, and Nature can change the water temperature without notice.

In my new book, *Hot Springs of Nevada*, I list more than 45 hot springs. For this article I've selected four hot springs to give you a taste of what's available in Nevada. We'll begin in the southern part of the state and work our way north.

Bailey's Hot Spring

Bailey's Hot Spring, an oasis on the long drive from Vegas to Reno, is located five miles north of Beatty on U.S. 95. Beatty, 118 miles north of Las Vegas, is a sleepy burg with several small casinos. Nearby are Death Valley National Park and the ghost town of Rhyolite.

Bailey's is a lovely place on a warm spring evening. Hot water from wells is directed into three pools enclosed in small, private cabins. Each has a pool about waist deep with a gravel floor. Temperature is about 102 degrees (much hotter is uncomfortable). I enjoy shooting the breeze with Mr. Bailey, who charges $2 for a soak when he hands you a key to the cabin.

Bailey's has an RV park with full hookups, shade trees—a real blessing in summer—and peacocks that cackle as they strut the grounds. Bailey's phone is 702-553-2395. You'll find groceries, lodging, gas, and restaurants in Beatty, which also has a historical museum.

Ash Springs

Ash Springs is located seven miles north of Alamo on U.S. 93. For the 100-mile drive from Las Vegas, take I-15 northeast 22 miles and then U.S. 93 north 88 miles.

Ash Springs is located in the Pahranagat Valley, one of the greenest spots in Nevada. Underground springs create a sort of garden of Eden in the desert.

Located next to the highway, Ash Springs is on Bureau of Land Management land, and BLM has built a concrete, waist-deep pool for soaking. The water temperature is about 85 degrees. The hot water from Ash Springs flows onto an enjoining piece of private property that was once a resort. Lodging, gas, groceries, and

restaurants are available in the little town of Alamo. Ash Springs is a public place and highly visited, so clothing is required. Although it's on BLM land, the BLM does not allow camping there.

Walley's Hot Springs Resort

Walley's Hot Springs Resort, 1.5 miles south of Genoa on State Route 206, is a top-of-the-line hot-spring resort with a restaurant, saloon, and cozy cabins as well as tennis courts, a weight room, sauna, steam bath, and massage table.

The hot tubs are located in a landscaped, fenced-in patio. You can take a swim in the pool or soak in one of the several tubs. Day rates are $12 per person. Monthly rates are $40 single, $50 families. Cabin rates range from $91.80 to $129.60 per night. Reservations are suggested (phone 702-782-8155). During ski season the place is often packed, and Walley's also is popular in summer.

Walley's was developed as a resort in the early 1860s. It has a lush setting in Carson Valley, overlooking ranch meadows that are beautifully green in summer. Nice for a romantic getaway, it's close to Lake Tahoe. For those who want more comfort than they'll find camping in the outback, Walley's is the place.

Walley's was first developed as a resort in the 1860s.





Soakers will find warm water and a rope swing at Ash Springs (top). Guests can relax in pools and cottages at Walley's, which dates from 1862 (left). Bailey's serves travelers looking for a geothermal respite near Beatty (below).

Spencer's Hot Springs

Spencer's Hot Springs stands on a low, sandy-colored knoll near the north end of Big Smoky Valley. There's trout fishing at Birch Creek and Grove Lake, and ghost-town enthusiasts can visit the old silver-mining town of Austin. This is good country for mountain biking, too.

Spencer's is about 20 miles southeast of Austin and 190 miles east of Carson City. From Austin drive 12 miles east on U.S. 50, then .4 of a mile south on State Route 376. Here you'll find a dirt road on your left (east) known as Forest Service Road 001, heading straight as an arrow across Big Smoky Valley. Turn left and follow the dirt road southeast 5.5 miles, just past the power line over the road, to a dirt road that goes left (north). Turn left and follow the road 1.5 miles to the first hot spring.

Spencer's has four hot pools. The most

(Continued on page 88)



Photos: Justine Hill (top), Larry Prosor (left), Richard Stephens (right)

Nevada Events & Shows
March/April 1998
A Section of NEVADA MAGAZINE

Spring Mountain Rendezvous

Broadway, jazz, history, and hikes come together at picturesque Spring Mountain Ranch State Park.



Story by Sky McClain Photos by Chris Leedham

More than 150 years ago the lush meadows and remote setting of Spring Mountain Ranch provided an ideal hideaway for horse thieves. In more recent years the ranch 18 miles west of downtown Las Vegas was owned by celebrities such as Vera Krupp and Chet Lauck. Reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes owned the place at one time.

Today Spring Mountain Ranch is a state park with abundant activities such as desert hikes and living-history presentations that recreate the days of early pioneers. During the summer, audiences

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The famous Krupp diamond was stolen from the finger of ranch owner Vera Krupp during a robbery there in 1959.

can relax under the clear evening sky to enjoy Broadway musicals and jazz concerts.

History Lives: The park's living-history program presents stories about pioneers such as Bill Williams, a mountain man who used the ranch to hide horses that were stolen from Spanish rancheros. On Saturdays at noon and 2 p.m. in the spring and fall, visitors sit on logs around a campsite near a sandstone cabin to hear characters dressed in period costumes describe daily life on the ranch.

Some stories date back to the earliest pioneer days. Trading parties from New Mexico began cutting through this part of Red Rock Canyon in 1830, and the ranch became an official campsite on one of the routes of the Old Spanish Trail between 1830 and 1848. Beginning in 1847 exhausted emigrants, many of them Mormons, rested and fixed their wagons there before moving on to California. A blacksmith shop and cabin on the ranch are second only to the Old Mormon Fort as the oldest set of buildings in the Las Vegas area.

An early owner was Jim Wilson Sr., who homesteaded the area in 1876 and raised a family. Cattle still graze the ranch's pastures, recreating the era when the park was a working ranch with beef, fruit, and vegetables that were harvested and sold at market.

A country lane outlined by two white wooden fences leads to the New England-styled farmhouse built in 1948 by radio performer Chet Lauck. Better known as Lum of the *Lum 'n Abner* radio show, he leased the ranch in 1944 and purchased it four years later.

A hidden bedroom and bath, which visitors learn about during tours, were built by German actress and heiress Vera Krupp, who bought the ranch in 1955. The famous Krupp diamond was stolen from her finger during a robbery at the ranch in 1959, but was soon recovered. (When Krupp died in 1967, the diamond was purchased at auction by Richard Burton and given as an engagement gift to his bride-to-be, Elizabeth Taylor.) In 1967 Howard Hughes took over the property. Those were his reclusive days, and there is no proof he ever visited the ranch. Krupp and Lauck are featured more than Hughes in the park's living-history programs.

Other living-history topics are gold panning, saddle making, spinning and weaving, black-powder shooting, and needlework. Demonstrations of



Darrel "Grouchy" Barcomb shows visitors the finer points of Dutch-oven cooking at the park. The living-history programs reenact the lives of past residents such as Bill Williams, mountain man and horse thief.



A family enjoys a picnic on the meadow at Spring Mountain Ranch, also a pastoral setting for jazz concerts, Broadway musicals, and historic hikes in the Red Rock Canyon area west of Las Vegas.



Volunteer Susan Canzona leads a tour in the ranch house's dining room.

Lake Harriet, a three-acre reservoir with its own island, is one of the historic stops on guided walking tours.

outdoor cooking skills used by the Wilsons and other settlers produce the old-time aromas of apple pie, baked biscuits, and moist cornbread.

Summer Musicals and Concerts: Because the park is about 10 degrees cooler than the city, it makes a perfect spot for outdoor evening events in summer, when the park hosts Super Summer Theatre and Jazz Under the Stars. Three musicals are scheduled: "Damn Yankees" in June, "Crazy For You" (which is set in the mythical town of Deadrock, Nevada, and features Gershwin hits like "Someone to Watch Over Me") in July, and "Little Shop of Horrors" in August. Theatergoers can bring chairs, blankets, and picnic baskets or rent a chair for $1 and buy snacks in the park. Call 702-594-PLAY for ticket information. The jazz headliners are usually announced 45 days before the concert. There is a hot line for stars and dates at 702-228-3780.

In the ranch house, changing art exhibits are on display for day visitors and in the evenings for showgoers.

Exploring the Park: Lake Harriet, a three-acre reservoir with its own island, is one of the historic stops on guided walking tours. A small cemetery holds the graves of three generations



Hikers can explore Red Rock Canyon year-round. During the mild-weather months of spring and fall, rangers at Spring Mountain Ranch lead guided hikes.



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of the Wilson family. Visitors will see mesquite, banana yucca, cottonwood, piñon pine, and prickly pear cactus. There may even be a bighorn sheep, jackrabbits, or a wild burro. Tours are offered at 1 and 2 p.m. on Mondays and Fridays and hourly from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

On April 18 and October 11 rangers will lead a moderate-to-strenuous hike through the canyon behind the ranch, a trek that is available only by guided tour. Wildflowers are the subject of a tour on May 2, and rangers will lead an easy walk to Ash Grove, a little known area of the park on May 3.

North of the ranch house, a two-acre meadow doubles as a picnic and play area with rustic tables and benches and barbecues. It's the kind of place where fresh air and cooler temperatures help wandering minds unwind—and where we can feel grateful to the colorful characters who created a pastoral hideaway in the desert.

Sky McClain is a Las Vegas freelance writer who conducts environmental education programs for children at the Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

An Event-Full Season

Spring Mountain Ranch State Park has a full schedule of nature walks, living-history programs, Broadway musicals, and art exhibits from April through early November. For information on Super Summer Theatre call 702-594-PLAY. The park also hosts Jazz Under the Stars in summer; past performers include Spyro Gyra and the Yellow Jackets (call 702-228-3780 for concert dates).

There is no charge for programs except the park entrance fee of $5 per car. There is an admission charge for plays and concerts, but on those evenings the park fee is waived.



For more information on Spring Mountain Ranch State Park and its nature hikes and living-history programs, call 702-875-4141. Following is a sampling of 1998 events at the ranch:

Plants of the Spring Mountain Foothills • April 11 • Slide program.

Sandstone Canyon Hike • April 18 • Moderate to strenuous hike.

Spinning and Weaving • April 19 • Living history: How pioneers made clothes from scratch.

A Soldier's Life • April 25-26 • Living history: Life during the Civil War; the Southern perspective.

First Creek Wildflowers • May 2 • Moderate to strenuous hike to look at spring wildflowers.

Ash Grove Hike • May 3 • Easy walk to spring used as watering hole.

Woodsy Owl Day • May 9 • Free admission and family entertainment.

Vera Krupp • May 16 • Living history: Actress and owner of the Krupp diamond who named the area Spring Mountain Ranch.

Chet Lauck • May 17 • Living history: Radio personality who owned the ranch.

Art and Photography Exhibits • June 10-Aug. 29 • Open Saturdays and evenings during summer.

"Damn Yankees" • June 10-June 28 • Baseball-inspired Broadway musical.

"Crazy For You" • July 15-Aug. 1 • Gershwin revue about show business in Deadrock, Nevada.

"Little Shop of Horrors" • Aug. 12-29 • Plants with personalities and appetites.

Mountain Man • Sept. 12 • Living history: Life in the early 1800s.

Olive Lake • Sept. 13 • Living history: Pioneer school teacher.

Gold Panning • Sept. 20 • Try your luck.

A Soldier's Life • Sept. 26-27 • Living history: Northern perspective of Civil War.

Pioneer Living • Oct. 10 • Living history: Includes cooking, horseshoeing, and saddle making.

Sandstone Canyon Hike • Oct. 11 • Hike through the canyon behind the ranch.

Helen Stewart • Oct. 17 • Living history: The "First Lady of Las Vegas."

Pioneer Women • Oct. 24 • Living history: The rigors of settling the West.

Chuckwagon Trail Cooking • Oct. 31 • Living history.

Old Bill Williams, Mountain Man • Nov. 7 • Living history: Ranch owner in the early 1840s.

Jim Wilson • Nov. 8 • Living history: Las Vegas pioneer.

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News

VOLUME 1 LAS VEGAS, NV NUMBER EIGHT

SAM'S TOWN ATTRACTS MORE PLAYERS THAN ANY LAS VEGAS CASINO!

The reason Sam's Town is the undisputed leader in attracting casino players both locals and visitors is simple. Official Nevada Gaming Control Board statistics confirm what locals already know: that on average, Sam's Town slot and video poker machines pay out more than machines in casinos on The Strip, Downtown, even Laughlin and Reno. More pay outs mean more chances to win, and more playing time.

Table game players get the best deal at Sam's Town. Nevada-style single-deck blackjack and 100 times odds on craps are always available. Locals know they can play longer and win more, and so will you.



WHERE LOCALS BRING THEIR FRIENDS

Located fifteen minutes east of the Las Vegas Strip, locals and discriminating repeat visitors head to Sam's Town for great values in gaming and dining. In fact, more than 88% of the casino's local customers say they always bring their out-of-town guests to Sam's Town.

For more than 17 years, Sam's Town has been providing what Las Vegas locals demand: looser than average slots, liberal table rules and delicious food served in generous portions for very reasonable prices.

Sam's Town features ten incredible restaurants that serve specialties from around the world including Mexican, Italian, and a buffet so wonderful it's called The Great Buffet.

Sam's Town is home to more than great gaming and dining values. Facilities include a state-of-the-art championship bowling center, an enormous Race and Sports Book, the Western Dance Hall (which offers free dance lessons), and a huge western retail store.

Sam's Town offers 650-beautiful rooms and suites decorated with a distinctive western flair. The rooms overlook the 25,000-square foot Mystic Falls Park. The breathtaking indoor park provides a relaxing environment to all the action. In addition, Sam's Town offers a beautifully landscaped pool area with a sand volleyball court.





Sunset Stampede

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Performances are at 2, 6, 8 and 10 p.m. daily in the Mystic Falls Park. Admission is free so arrive early for the best view.

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Nevada Events

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

Nevada travelers will find a full schedule of spring events throughout the state. Visitors to Reno can view the much-anticipated Auguste Rodin sculpture exhibit at the Nevada Museum of Art. Crowds will gather at the Fremont Street Experience for the Mardi Gras celebration, while fairgoers at the Clark County Fair in Logandale find down-home charm. *Nevada Magazine* presents the following events listing for March and April, divided into areas of interest. Be sure to call ahead to confirm dates and times. Nevada's area code is 702.

Las Vegas Territory

FESTIVALS & CELEBRATIONS

Brews Festival • March 8 • Beer tasting, food, music, and auction to benefit KNPR public radio. Palace Station, Las Vegas, 456-6695.

St. Patrick's Day Party • March 17 • Fremont Street Experience, Downtown Las Vegas, 678-5777.

Beatlemania • March 20-21 • Music of the Beatles era, live entertainment, and food. Fremont Street Experience, Downtown Las Vegas, 678-5777.

Summerlin Street Fair • March 25-29 • Food festival, arts and crafts, entertainment, pig racing, and carnival. Summerlin Library and Performing Arts Center, Las Vegas, 499-3271.

Clark County Fair • April 2-5 • Pro rodeo, carnival, livestock events, contests, and music. Logandale, 398-FAIR.

NEVADA MAGAZINE

presents

Nevada Events & Shows

Nevada Events and Shows is a special section of ***Nevada Magazine,*** the official guide to travel, recreation, people, history, and events in the Silver State. To list an event, please send information at least three months in advance to Events Editor Ann Henderson, 555 E. Washington Ave., Suite 5600, Las Vegas, NV 89101; 702-486-2433; fax 702-486-2789; e-mail nevevents@aol.com. Subscription rates for ***Nevada Magazine*** are $16.95 for one year, U.S.; $22.95 foreign. To subscribe to ***Nevada Magazine***, which includes Nevada Events and Shows, call toll-free:

1-800-495-3281



Links Victory in Vegas

Hale Irwin got the Las Vegas treatment when he won the 1997 Las Vegas Senior Classic (above). Irwin will return for the Senior PGA Tour event April 23-26 at the Tournament Players Club courses at Summerlin and the Canyon, where he hopes to defend his title.

Laughlin River Stampede • April 2-5 • PRCA rodeo, entertainment, music, and vendor booths. Special Events Arena and various hotels. Laughlin, 298-2214.

Country Fair • April 3-4 • Western entertainment and food. Fremont Street Experience, Downtown Las Vegas, 678-5777.

Invitational Native American Arts Festival • April 3-5 • Ninth annual celebration of the history and artistry of Native Americans features artist demonstrations, dance and music, lectures, ethnic foods, and arts and crafts. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955.

Mardi Gras Celebration • April 17-18 • Costumed participants are invited to join the parades. Fremont Street Experience, Downtown Las Vegas, 678-5777.

Henderson Heritage Days • April 17-25 • Street dance, softball tournament, beauty pageant, antique car show, carnival, talent show, parade, barbecue, and chili cook-off. Henderson Convention Center, Henderson, 565-8951.

Laughlin River Run • April 23-26 • The West's largest ride-in rally draws more than 20,000 motorcycles—most of them Harley-Davidsons. Features entertainment, drill team events, competitions, and vendor booths. Various hotels, Laughlin, 298-2214.

PERFORMANCES

BBC Symphony Orchestra • March 2 • Soprano Felicity Lott of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, appears with the British orchestra. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

Spring One Act Play Festival • March 4-7 • Paul Harris Theatre, UNLV, 895-3801.

Sheer Pandemonium • March 5 • The music of Scotland, Ireland, and Britain. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 455-7340.

Dance Company • March 7 • Showcase of contemporary dance from Brigham Young University. Virgin Valley High School Auditorium, Mesquite, 346-2787.

Nevada Jazz Artists Concert • March 8 • Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 455-7340.

American Ballet Theatre • March 11 • Renowned company whose artistic directors have included Mikhail Baryshnikov. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

Barney's Big Surprise • March 12-15 • The big purple guy entertains. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 895-3900.

"Playtime" for Charity

Singer-songwriters Teresa Trull and Barbara Higbie stop in Las Vegas March 18 to perform at the Charleston Heights Arts Center. Trull and Higbie, whose music ranges from gospel to rock, are on a national tour for their album "Playtime." The event is a benefit concert for Safe Nest, an organization helping victims of domestic violence.

"As You Like It" • March 12-22 • The Bard's tale of duplicity and disguise. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 895-3801.

Album Tour • March 18 • Concert stop featuring singer-songwriters Teresa Trull and Barbara Higbie to benefit the Safe Nest domestic crisis organization. Charleston Heights Art Center, Las Vegas, 368-1533.

"Lies in the Looking Glass" • March 19-April 5 • New play by Davey Marlin-Jones presented by the Asylum Theater

Company. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 455-7340.

Gala Concert • March 26-27 • Includes ballet, modern dance, and jazz dance. Judy Bayley Theater, UNLV, 895-3827.

Phantom Lady • March 31 • 1944 film noir classic starring Ella Raines and Franchot Tone. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 455-7340.

Georgian State Dance Company • March 31-April 1 • Russian folk dances range from ritual and ceremonial to comical. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

"Romeo and Juliet" • April 2-5 • Nevada Dance Theatre's performance of the classic love story. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 732-3838.

The Dark Corner • April 7 • 1946 film noir starring Lucille Ball and Clifton Webb in dramatic roles; part of movie series. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 455-7340.

"Romeo and Juliet"

The Nevada Dance Theatre's production of "Romeo and Juliet," Shakespeare's tragedy about a couple's ill-fated attempts to cope with dysfunctional families, will be staged April 2-5 at Judy Bayley Theatre at UNLV. The classical ballet will have new choreography by director Bruce Steivel.

"Noodle Doodle Box" • April 10-12 and 16-19 • Explores the events of a day in the life of two clownish wags. Rainbow Company Children's Theatre, Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 229-6553.

Mexico Vivo Dance Company • April 11 • Folk dances performed by 30-member troupe. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 455-7340.

Gilda • April 14 • Rita Hayworth sings "Put the Blame on Mame" in this 1946 film noir. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 455-7340.

Jazz Combo • April 15 • Black Box Theatre, UNLV, 895-3801.

"Toy Story" • April 16-19 • Walt Disney World on Ice production. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 895-3900.

"Jack and the Beanstalk" • April 20-25 at Black Mountain Recreation Center, and April 27-May 2 at Silver Springs Recreation Center. Missoula Children's Theater presentation of the fairy tale classic. Henderson, 565-2367.

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg • April 21 • Violinist appears in concert. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

"The Adventures of Peter Rabbit" • April 22 • Musical based upon on the Beatrix Potter classic about the pitfalls in Farmer McGregor's garden. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 800-497-5007.

City of Lights Jazz Festival • April 25 • Annual 10-hour jazz festival featuring six groups. Hills Park Amphitheatre. Summerlin, Las Vegas, 228-3780.

Henderson Civic Symphony • April 26 • Valley View Recreation Center, Henderson, 565-2367.

In a Lonely Place • April 28 • Humphrey Bogart and Gloria Grahame star in a 1950 film noir in which the suspicion of murder destroys lives. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 455-7340.

Ballet West • April 29 • Repertory performance. Virgin Valley High School Auditorium, Mesquite, 346-2787.

"Drood!" • April 30-May 10 • Mystery-comedy based upon Charles Dickens' unfinished novel. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 895-3801.

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.

Black History Month Student Art Exhibits • Various Clark County libraries: Thru March 1 main branch, thru March 3 Summerlin, thru March 10 West Charleston, thru March 15 Spring Valley, thru March 17 Sunrise, thru April 7 Rainbow. Las Vegas, 228-4274.

Silent Pride: Portraits of the Million Man March • Thru March 4 • Photographs by Lisa Margerum of the

The Nevada Territories



To assist you in your travels through Nevada, the state has been divided into the following six territories:

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Reno, Lake Tahoe, Carson City, Virginia City, Minden, and other locales

Cowboy Country

Lovelock, Winnemucca, Elko, Wells, and other towns along Interstate 80

Pony Express Territory

Fallon, Austin, Eureka, and Ely along U.S. Highway 50, known as "The Loneliest Road in America"

Pioneer Territory

From Yerington to Pahrump, Tonopah to Beatty, and Pioche to the Extraterrestrial Highway

Las Vegas Territory

From the Strip to Boulder City and Lake Mead to Laughlin, Primm, Jean, and Mesquite

Indian Territory

Encompasses all of Nevada

October 16, 1995, event. Sahara West Library, Las Vegas, 228-4274.

Harold Bradford Exhibit • Thru March 8 • Subjects by African-American painter range from sports images to landscapes. Green Valley Library, Henderson, 228-4274.

There's Always Room for Jell-O • Thru March 13 • The history and social impact of the all-purpose food. Lied Discovery Children's Museum, Las Vegas, 382-3445.

Women's History Month Exhibit • Thru March 27 • Richard Tam Alumni Center, UNLV, 895-3535.

Willow Transformed: Baskets of the Paiute, Shoshone, and Washoe • Thru March 29 • Baskets made from 1900 to 1930. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 486-5205.

Sy Collier Exhibit • Thru March 29 • Oils by artist-educator in celebration of Black History Month. West Las Vegas Library, 228-4274.

Zuni: A Village of Silversmiths • Thru May 3 • 70 pieces representing the artisans from the pueblo of Zuni in New Mexico. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955.

Mystery of the Dinosaur • Thru Dec. 31 • Exhibit of dinosaur eggs linked to scientific controversy concerning how and when dinosaurs became extinct. Proponents say these could be some of the last remains of dinosaurs on earth. Las Vegas Natural History Museum, 384-DINO.

Nevada Women: Living the Legacy, Leading for Change • March 9-April 9 • Exhibit devoted to women's issues and women's rights. Artists' reception March 20. Marjorie Barrick Museum, UNLV, 873-8185.

Slavery: My Dress Is on Backwards • April 1-May 8 • Mixed-media paintings and dresses by Judith Stafford that explore the emotions and feelings about dress. Winchester Center Gallery, Las Vegas, 455-7340.

Material World • April 1-July 15 • Exhibition presents the works of 16 photographers who traveled to 30 countries in order to document people and their belongings. Lied Discovery Children's Museum, Las Vegas, 382-3445.

SPORTS

NASCAR Busch Series • Feb. 28 • Grand National Division race. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 644-4443.

Las Vegas 400 • March 1 • First-ever NASCAR Winston Cup race for Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 644-4443.

WAC Women's and Men's Basketball Championships • March 2-7 • Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 895-3900.

World Archery Festival and Vegas Shoot • March 6-8 • Trade show, novelty shoots, and tournaments. Sands Expo Center, Las Vegas, 801-944-8362 for details.

Las Vegas Thunder • The International Hockey League team plays March 10 v. San Antonio Dragons, March 20-21 v. Long Beach Ice Dogs, March 24 v. Michigan K-Wings, March 27-28 v. Detroit Vipers, March 31 v. Orlando Solar Bears, April 7 v. Long Beach Ice Dogs, April 10 v. Utah Grizzlies, April 11 v. San Antonio Dragons. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 798-PUCK.

Buffalo Bill's Rodeo and Bull Poker Championships • March 14-15 • Buffalo Bill's Resort, Primm, 800-FUN-STOP.

Parade of Homes Hot-Air Balloon Races • March 21-22 • Citywide. Mesquite, 346-2974.

USA Motor Spectacular • April 4 • Monster Truck compe-



Soapbox to Summit

Grace Hayes lugged around a soapbox during her campaign for Las Vegas constable in the 1950 election. Her efforts and those of other political pioneers will be spotlighted March 20-21 during the Women's Summit '98: Nevada Women United, a two-day conference at UNLV honoring the 150th anniversary of the women's rights movement, 1848-1998. (Hayes, the mother of entertainer Peter Lind Hayes, lost the election by a slim margin.)

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Nevada Events & Shows
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NEVADA MAGAZINE

Photo: Grace Hayes Collection, Special Collections, UNLV Library

tition and pro arena truck racing. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 895-3900.

Mesquite Heat • April 4 • 10K foot race. City Police Dept., Mesquite, 346-2974.

Las Vegas Senior Classic • April 23-26 • Senior PGA Tour with 78 players. Tournament Players Club at Summerlin and the Canyon, Las Vegas, 242-3000.

Tour of Las Vegas • April 25 • Fully supported 10-, 30-, 50- or 100-mile bicycle tour around Las Vegas. Start/finish to be announced. 800-565-2704.

GENERAL INTEREST

Hoover Dam Weekend Dances • March 6-7 • 25th annual square dance weekend. Evening performances March 6-7 at Elton Garrett Jr. High School, and from 9-10am March 7 at the Hoover Dam Visitor Center. Boulder City, 293-4918.

Craft Festival • March 6-8 • Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 805-481-7100.

Kite Karnival • March 7 • Freedom Park, Las Vegas, 229-6729.

Wild West Gun Show • March 7-8 • Henderson Convention Center, Henderson, 800-333-GUNS.

Las Vegas Glitter Gulch Bridge Sectional • March 9-15 • Tournament open to all skill levels. Jackie Gaughan's Plaza Hotel, Las Vegas, 878-1144.

Ritzy Rummage Sale • March 14 • Las Vegas Junior League event. Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 732-3257.

Women's Summit '98 • March 20-21 • Honors the 150th anniversary of women's rights movement under the theme of "Nevada Women: Living the Legacy, Leading for Change." UNLV, 385-3677.

Antique and Collectible Show • March 20-22 • Jackie Gaughan's Plaza Hotel, Las Vegas, 382-7043.

Oscar Night America • March 23 • Silent auction, entertainment, and the Oscars on large-screen television. Arthritis Foundation benefit, Las Vegas Hilton, Las Vegas, 367-1626.

Boys Club Dinner and Auction • March 28 • Henderson Convention Center, Henderson, 565-6568.



We're Jammin'

Pond skimming leads the list of outrageous events that Lake Tahoe skiers and snowboarders will try April 4-12 during Jammin' V, Kirkwood's spring break party. Participants must ski down a slope and cross a pond while attempting to stay dry (usually unsuccessfully). And they must accomplish the stunt with style. Other events involve jump contests, music, and food.

Pine Creek Wildflower Walk • March 28 and April 18 • Moderate three-mile walk to view wildflowers and learn about their ecological importance and uses by Native Americans. Bring water. Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 18 miles west of Las Vegas. For required reservations call 363-1922.

Fun in the Sun Classic Car Show • April 10-12 • Studebaker car show. Sunrise Suite Hotel, Las Vegas, 800-362-4040, ext. 3800.

Plants of the Spring Mountain Foothills • April 11 • Slide program and talk on park plants. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, Las Vegas, 875-4141.

Cat Show • April 11-12 • Felines from the Las Vegas Cat Club. Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 368-6266.

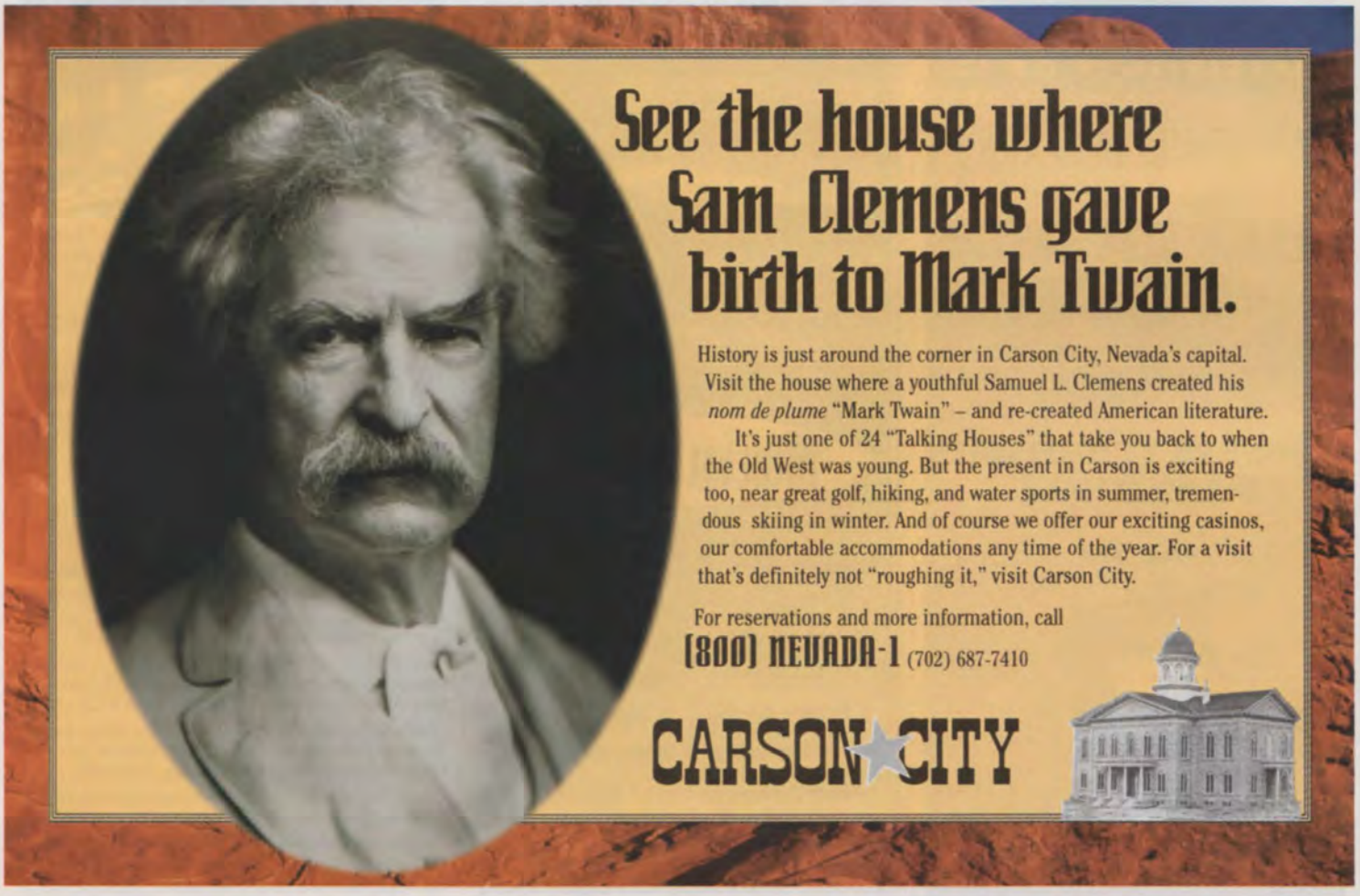


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Wheeler Springs Ecology Walk • April 15 • One-mile (short, but rocky) walk into a desert spring area. Bring binoculars. Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 18 miles west of Las Vegas. For required reservations call 363-1922.

Bird Expo • April 17-18 • Exotic bird show. Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 760-789-7316.

Las Vegas Gem Club Show • April 17-19 • Henderson Convention Center, Henderson, 597-5104.

Sandstone Canyon Hike • April 18 • Moderate-to-strenuous hike open only to guided tours. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, Las Vegas, 875-4141.

Living History Program: Spinning and Weaving • April 19 • Demonstration on the pioneer art of making clothing. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, Las Vegas, 875-4141.

Pantera Owners Convention • April 23-26 • Pantera cars shown in concours d' elegance on Fremont Street, April 25. Jackie Gaughan's Plaza Hotel, Las Vegas, 562-903-2812.

Trail Hike • April 25 • Moderate three-mile hike with discussion on the area's geology, plants, and wildlife. Bring a camera, binoculars, a snack, and water. Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 18 miles west of Las Vegas. For required reservations call 363-1922.

Living History Program: A Soldier's Life • April 25-26 • Demonstrations on life during the Civil War from the Southern perspective. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, Las Vegas, 875-4141.



Painting the Town Green

Marchers in Virginia City's St. Patrick's Day parade March 15 walk the straight and narrow thanks to a green center line painted on the main street. The community honors the Comstock's Irish heritage with the parade and saloon parties.

COMING EVENTS

Cinco de Mayo • May 2-3 • Mesquite, 346-5295.

Spring Jamboree • May 2-3 • Boulder City, 293-2034.

International Music Conference • May 14-16 • Las Vegas, 837-3636.

Bluegrass Festival • May 16 • Henderson, 565-2367.

Mesquite Days • May 22-25 • Mesquite, 346-5295.

Chautauqua • Sept. 11-12, Boulder City, 294-6224.

Handcar Races • Sept. 26-27 • Boulder City, 293-4857.

Bluegrass Festival • Oct. 8-11 • Logandale, 564-5455.

Basque Festival • Oct. 11-23 • Las Vegas, 361-6834.

Las Vegas PGA Invitational • Oct. 14-18 • 800-556-5400.

Photo: Gary Elam



Attention, Photography Buffs

Author and anthropologist Margaret M. Wheat (1908-1988) will be honored posthumously as Nevada Photographer of the Year during the photographic symposium Shooting the West X on March 6-8 in Winnemucca. Wheat, a resident of Fallon and Carson City, is known for her landmark book, *Survival Arts of the Primitive Paiutes* (University of Nevada Press, 1967). Much of Wheat's work documenting the life of the Northern Paiutes will be on display at the conference, including a portrait of Wuzzie George (above). Shooting the West is open to novices and professionals, who will share experiences with experts such as Sam Abell, the *National Geographic* photographer.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

FESTIVALS & CELEBRATIONS

Snowfest • Feb. 27-March 8 • Winter carnival at various Lake Tahoe locations. Events include a Wild Things parade and costume party, ice-carving contest, snowshoe races, snowshoe golf tournament, snowshovel drill team, Monster Dawg pull, roving performers, live music, magic show, barbecue, and kids' parade. North Lake Tahoe and Truckee, 800-824-6348.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration • March 12 • Party with performance by Clan Nae Gael, Gold Hill Hotel, Gold Hill, 847-9ART.

Lake Tahoe Winter Music Festival • March 13-15 • Annual jazz festival. Hyatt Regency, Incline Village, 800-322-3434.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration • March 13-15 • Irish music, food, and crafts. Fitzgeralds, Downtown Reno, 800-649-5032, ext. 3672.

Tahoe International Film Festival • March 13-16 • Second annual event features dramatic and documentary independent films from local and international filmmakers. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-3087.

Mountain Oyster Fry • March 14 • Creative cooking and festive booths and clothing. C Street, Virginia City, 847-0311.

Cowboy Jubilee and Poetry • March 14 • Poetry and music featuring Sourdough Slim and the Saddle Pals, Paul Zarzyski, Wallace McRae, Randy Pollard, and John McLain and Gary McMahon. Community Center, Carson City, 883-1532.

St. Patrick's Day Parade • March 15 • Virginia City, 847-0311.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration • March 17 • Performance by the Celtic band Gaelforce. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

Irish Feast • March 17 • Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711.

Mother Earth Awakening Powwow • March 20-22 • Native American dancers, drummers, singers, artisans, and crafts. Stewart Indian Cultural Center, Carson City, 882-2808.

20-30 Club Easter Egg Hunt • April 12 • Lampe Park, Gardnerville, 782-1280.

Eagle Valley Muzzleloaders Spring Rendezvous • April 24-26 • Traders, black powder shooting, encampment. Carson City. For directions to camp site call 887-1221.

Celebrate Culture, Celebrate Life • April 25 • Multicultural festival with music, exhibits, costumes, decorations, and ethnic food. Western Nevada Community College, Carson City, 887-3060.

RSVP Spring Fun Fair • April 29-May 1 • Carnival, food vendors, crafts. Mills Park, Carson City, 687-4680.

Fiesta Nevada Celebration • April 30-May 3 • Outdoor Hispanic and Latin party featuring music, mariachis, dance performances, food, and arts and crafts. Victorian Square, Downtown Sparks, 353-2291.

PERFORMANCES

Harvey Reid Concert • March 4 • Songwriter and acoustic guitarist. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

"The Who's 'Tommy'" • March 4-8 • Nevada Repertory Company. Redfield Theatre, U of N, Reno, 784-6847.

"Un Ballo in Maschera" • March 5 and 7 • Nevada Opera presentation of Guiseppe Verdi's story of murder at a costume ball. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 786-4046.

Mazer and Smith Concert • March 6 • Classically trained electro-acoustic music duo. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 784-4046.

"Betrayal" • March 6-7, 12-14, and 19-21 • Harold Pinter

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drama about marital relationships. Bruka Theatre, Reno, 323-3321.

"Alice in Wonderland" • March 7 • Missoula Children's Theatre production. Incline High School, Incline Village, 530-546-4602.

June Tabor Concert • March 10 • English folk singer performs. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

Sousa at the Symphony • March 14 • Concert featuring the music of the March King. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 323-6393.

Capital City Community Band • March 16 • Concert program ranges from marches to movie themes. Community Center, Carson City, 883-2219.

"A Chorus Line" • March 20-22 • Tony Award- and Pulitzer Prize-winning Broadway musical. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 686-6600.

"The Women" • March 25-28 • Drama. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

Clan na Gael • April 3 • Celtic music concert. CVIC Hall, Minden, 265-6564.

Murder Mystery Dinner • April 3 • Interactive dinner theater in which guests become sleuths in solving a murder that takes place between courses. Peppermill, Reno, 826-2121.

"Five Women Wearing the Same Dress" • April 3-5 and 10-12 • Comedy about five bridesmaids who hide out during a wedding reception. Reno Little Theater, 329-0661.

Winter Carnival

Snowfest, Lake Tahoe's largest winter carnival, runs February 27-March 8 at ski resorts and communities around the lake. The event begins with a torchlight parade at Squaw Valley and continues with activities such as parades, ice-carving contests, snowshoe races, a snowshovel drill team, and a costume party.

Dream Workshop • April 3-5 • Led by Debra Quayle, a licensed marriage and family therapist and teacher who specializes in dream work. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

"Sunshine, Flowers, and Bugs" • April 9-11 and 16-18 • Children's play. Bruka Theatre, Reno, 323-3221.

Barbara Geury Concert • April 11 • Pianist performs music from Civil War era. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

Reno Philharmonic • April 14 • Concert. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 323-6393.

Wild Mango • April 18 • Dance concert. Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 847-9ART.

Reno Jazz Festival • April 23-25 • Charlie Haden and Quartet West perform April 23 in Nightingale Hall, festival held at various campus locations April 24-25. U of N, Reno, 784-4046.

"Harvey" • April 23-26 • Western Nevada Community College presents that invisible rabbit. Box Theatre, Carson City, 887-3115.

"Coppelia" • April 25-26 • Nevada Festival Ballet performs comedy ballet. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 785-7915.

Carson City Chamber Orchestra • April 26 • Concert featuring trombonist Mark Lenz. Community Center, Carson City, 8834154.

Black Umfolsi • April 26 • Traditional Zulu war dances and a cappella music from Zimbabwe, Africa. Celebrity Showroom, Cal-Neva Resort, Crystal Bay, 530-546-4602.

EXHIBITS

Winter Exhibit • Thru March 10 • Works by Gene Speck, oils; Mary Aiwohi-Cisco, watercolors; Roxanne Ekstrom, pastels; Mike Phillips, turned wood; Mary Lee Fulkerson, basketry; Molly Gardner, Spirit Vessels; and Hannah Lea Willis, John Dondero, and David Woodin, pottery. Silver State Gallery, Reno, 324-2323.

Art and the Environment • Thru March 12 • Sculpture that reflects nature, culture, and the environment. Sheppard Gallery, U of N, Reno, 784-6658.

Horseless Carriages • Thru March 30 • Cars from local

collectors. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.

Sssnakes Alive • Thru April 26 • Snake keeper Danny Dell presents 100 deadly snakes. Wilbur D. May Center, Rancho San Rafael Park, Reno, 785-5961.

Tucker: An American's Dream • Thru April 27 • History of the Tucker automobile. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.

Animals As Architects • Thru May 12 • Hands-on exhibit showing animals and their amazing homes. Children's Museum of Northern Nevada, Carson City, 884-2226.

Virginia City and the Comstock: Boom, Bust, and Albumen • Thru May 15 • Photographs tracing the rise and decline of the famous mining town. Includes rare albumen prints. Nevada Historical Society Museum, Reno, 688-1191.

The Buckaroo • Thru June 30 • Photos, artifacts, paintings, and saddles trace the history of the Nevada buckaroo. Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 782-2555.

Women in History • March 1-31 • Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 782-2555.

A Common Thread • March 5-April 12 • 30 artists are represented in the exhibit with the theme: Great Basin landscape. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 329-3333.

Rodin: Sculpture From the Cantor Collection • March 5-May 31 • More than 60 large- and small-scale bronzes document the career of Auguste Rodin, who is considered to be one of the most important sculptors since Michelangelo. His works include "The Thinker," The Gates of Hell," and "The Walking Man." Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 329-3333.

Roads, Rails, and Runways: Transportation in the Truckee Meadows • March 9-July 13 • Modes of transportation in Nevada from 1915 to 1930 are the subject of the exhibit. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.

New Works in Painting • March 20-April 9 • Eve Page depicts the experiences of women. Sheppard Gallery, U of N, Reno, 784-6658.

Color, Light, and Flow • April 1-30 • Paper sculptures more than six feet tall by Carol Foldvary-Anderson. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

Great Nevada Picture Hunt Winners Show • April 1-May 22 • Exhibit of *Nevada Magazine*'s 20th annual photo contest winners. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

Made From Nevada • April 25-May 16 • Artwork created by Kelly Kuhlman and Jean Summerfield from objects found in the Nevada desert. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

Paintings by Christine Pinney Karkow • April 27-May 22 • Western Nevada Community College Art Gallery, Carson City, 887-3006.

Porsche 50th Anniversary Exhibit • April 30-Aug. 9 • National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.



Thinking About Rodin

An exhibition of more than 60 large- and small-scale works by Auguste Rodin (1840-1917) will appear March 8-May 31 at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno. The pieces in the show represent key developments in the French sculptor's career and his great works such as "The Thinker," "Monument to Balzac," and "The Gates of Hell." Above is "The Thinker" (small version, 1880).

SNOW & SKI EVENTS

Wild, Wild Hot Dog Tour • Feb. 28-March 1 • Mogul competition and barbecue. Sierra-at-Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, 530-659-7453.

The Great Ski Race • March 1 • 30K cross-country race from Tahoe City to Truckee. Lake Tahoe, 530-583-9353.

International Firefighters' Winter Games • March 3-4 • Slalom events. Heavenly, Lake Tahoe, 586-7000.

U.S. Collegiate Ski Championships • March 4-8 • Diamond Peak Ski Resort, 800-GO-TAHOE.

Lake Tahoe Winter Games • March 5-8 • Diamond Peak, Lake Tahoe, 832-1177.

Celebrity Winterfest '98 • March 7 • Celebrities and corporate athletes team up for ski and snowboard events benefiting Special Olympics. Kirkwood, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-6000.

Guided Snowshoe Tour • March 7 • Royal Gorge Cross-Country Ski Area, Lake Tahoe, 530-426-3871.

Dannon Winterfest • March 8 • Family day with contests and carnival booths. Heavenly, Lake Tahoe, 586-7000.

All Mountain Extreme Competition • March 9-14 • Free-skiers and snowboarders from North America compete. Squaw Valley, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Jimmie Heuga Marathon • March 14-15 • Team ski races to benefit the Jimmie Heuga Center for Multiple Sclerosis Research. Squaw Valley, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Kids' Snowboard Jam • March 15 • Ride with the pros. Northstar-at-Tahoe, 530-562-3555.

St. Patrick's Day Race • March 17 • Dress in green for races and live music. Northstar-at-Tahoe, 530-562-3555.

Sprint Bumps and Jumps Challenge Finals • March 20-21 • Pro mogul and aerial competitions. Heavenly, Lake Tahoe, 586-7000.

Gold Nuggets Kids' Race • March 21 • Obstacle course of bridges, tunnels, humps, and bumps with a hot chocolate social. Royal Gorge Cross-Country Ski Area, Lake Tahoe, 530-426-3871.

Echo to Kirkwood Tour/Race • March 21 • 14-mile course over the Sierra crest. Kirkwood Cross-Country, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-7248.

Gourmet XC Ski Tour • March 22 • 10K cross-country ski tour followed by a gourmet lunch in the forest. Northstar-at-Tahoe, 530-562-2475.

Snowshoe Thompson Winter Adventure Race • March 28 • Mixed teams traverse race course using skills in orienteering, igloo building, and sledding. Royal Gorge Cross-Country Ski Area, Lake Tahoe, 530-426-3871.



Poker Faces

From an exclusive gathering of gamblers, the World Series of Poker has grown into a mighty $12-million contest that draws some of the most flamboyant characters in gaming to Binion's Horseshoe in downtown Las Vegas. From April 17 to May 14 about 4,000 amateur and professional players descend on Las Vegas for nearly a month of high- and low-stakes action. (So far the largest pot in the event's 27-year history is $2 million.) The tournament's four-day World Championship No-Limit Hold 'Em contest takes place on the Fremont Street Experience plaza outside the Horseshoe. In that game more than 270 entrants will buy in for $10,000 and compete for $1 million.

The idea for the World Series of Poker dates back to the summer of 1949, when Nick "the Greek" Dandolos asked Horseshoe owner Benny Binion to set up a grudge match with fellow poker ace Johnny Moss. Moss won the challenge, which was called the "biggest game in town." Binion resurrected the idea in 1970 when he began the World Series of Poker.

The costumes worn by players are part of the psychology of professional poker, notes Jim Albrecht, the Horseshoe's poker director. "Players are concerned with their table image," he says. "It can be a matter of superstition or luck, but more likely they are concerned with table image—how they are going to be perceived by the other players. Their dress can also work as kind of a bluff. Being aggressive is important—none of them want to appear passive."

To the colorfully dressed professionals competing in seven-card stud, razz, Omaha, and other games, the World Series of Poker is a serious challenge. To the spectators, it's all fun.

—Ann Henderson







Photos by David Lee Waite





Mother and daughter, tableside at Binion's Horseshoe: Gwenn Ross (left) of Bradenton, Florida, and Joyce Ross of Las Vegas know how to enjoy the game.

Crafty Players Dress for Success at the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas.

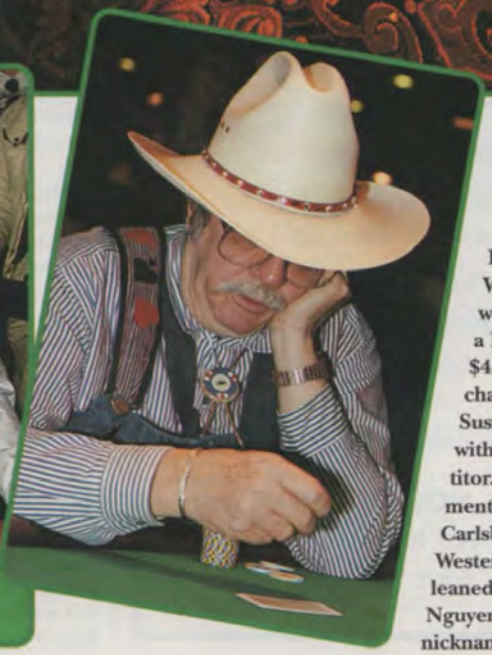


Players concentrate during the final round of the World Series of Poker at the Horseshoe amid spectators and photographers.









Poker players put on their game faces, from far left: Walter Threadgill, a nonsmoker from Gainesville, Texas, wears a bandanna while pondering his cards. Joe Aurelio, a Las Vegas player known as "the guy with the hats," has won $43,000 at the World Series of Poker. Another Las Vegan, world champion "Puggy" Pearson, plays as Nero and other characters. Susie Isaacs, back-to-back women's champion from Las Vegas with total tournament earnings of $100,000, is a focused competitor. Joe Macchiaverna of Las Vegas makes an anti-smoking statement with his gas mask. "Cowboy" Wolford, a poker ace from Carlsbad, California, who has won $100,000 over the years, wears Western, while Grateful Dead manager Hal Kant of Reno has leaned to tie-dyes while winning $225,000 in the World Series. Men Nguyen of Bell Gardens, California, has won $1.1 million and is nicknamed the Master, with 25 wins in the preliminary rounds.



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Days of Spring • March 28-29 • Fun races, pond skimming, live music. Northstar-at-Tahoe, 530-562-3555.

Sierra Sunsplash • April 4 • Pond skimming, microbrew tasting, live music. Sierra-at-Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, 530-659-7453.

Extremely Board • April 4 • Big Air contest, skateboarders and BMX riders, on-snow mountain bike race, live music. Sugar Bowl, Donner Summit, 530-426-9000.

Family Fun Challenge • April 5 • Families compete as a team for prizes. Heavenly, Lake Tahoe, 586-7000.

Wayne Wong World Hot Dog Skiing Festival and Championship • April 10-11 • Includes bump skiing contest and music. Alpine Meadows, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-4232.

Ski-Sail National Championships • April 10-12 • Team event includes sailboat races on Lake Tahoe and ski races at Squaw Valley. 530-583-6985.

Easter Festivities • April 12 • Egg hunt, egg toss, kids' fun race, and the Easter Bunny. Northstar-at-Tahoe, 530-562-3555.

Boarding for Breast Cancer • April 18 • Pro snowboarding demonstrations, live music. Sierra-at-Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, 530-659-7453.

Far West Masters Giant Slalom • April 18-19 • Open to 25 years or older. Sugar Bowl, Donner Summit, 530-426-9000.

Spring Bash and Snow Golf Tourney • April 26 • Annual nine-hole golf tournament played on snow course. Alpine Meadows, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-4232.



Singing Wine Glasses

Unusual instruments such as the glass harmonica, which is comprised of 42 wine glasses, are the trademark of Sheer Pandemonium, which plays classical music as well as the traditional music of Scotland, Ireland, and England. The group's compositions include the music for the A&E network's *The Titanic: Death of a Dream.* Sheer Pandemonium appears March 3 in Lovelock, March 5 in Las Vegas, and March 6 in Eureka.

SPORTS

Reno Rage Pro Hockey • The Rage plays March 1 v. Tucson Gila Monsters, March 7 v. San Diego Gulls, March 11 v. Phoenix Mustangs, March 13 v. Saber Cats, March 17 v. Anchorage Aces, March 22 v. Idaho Steelheads, March 25 v. Anchorage Aces. Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 828-3400.

University of Nevada Men's Basketball • March 1 • Wolf Pack v. New Mexico State. Lawlor Events Center, U of N, Reno, 348-PACK.

Big West Women's Basketball Tourney • March 4-7 • Lawlor Events Center, U of N, Reno, 348-PACK.
Big West Men's Basketball Tourney • March 6-8 • Contest for the Big West championship and a chance at the NCAA tournament. Lawlor Events Center, U of N, Reno, 348-PACK.
Fly Fishing Festival • April 19 • Third annual event featuring demonstrations, fly tying, rod building, casting, guide services. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-6576.
Spring Stag Golf Outing • April 23-26 • Play is on the Genoa Lakes and Dayton Valley golf courses. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 800-321-6983, ext. 625.

GENERAL INTEREST

Woodstock Revisited • March 7 • Dinner, dance, auction. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-8692.
Fantasy Wedding Faire • March 8 • Fashion shows and products. Reno Hilton, 322-7064.
Nevada Canvention and Breweriana Show • March 14 • Annual gathering of beer can collectors to swap antique beer cans, advertising, and related collectibles. Sands Hotel, Reno, 828-0338.
The Washoe People • March 19 • Lecture and discussion about the Washoe people and their relationship to Lake Tahoe conducted by A. Brian Wallace, chairman of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 688-1191.
East Fork Gallery Spring Reception • March 29 • Jewelry, hand-painted Easter eggs, artwork. Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 782-7629.
Rodin On Ice • April 4 • Ice carvers attempt to create reproductions of Rodin's masterpieces such as "The Thinker," also dancing to the music of the Red Elvises. Reno Air Hangar, Reno-Sparks, 329-3333.
Nevada Air National Guard 50th Anniversary Open House • April 4 • Static displays, flyovers, entertainment, food. Nevada Air Guard Base, Reno, 788-4669.
Savor the Flavor Wine and Beer Tasting • April 4 • Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 782-7883.
Antique Show and Sale • April 11-12 • Walley's Hot Springs, Genoa, 782-4951.
Topaz Lake Chili Cook-Off • April 18 • Craft fair, live music, entertainment. Topaz Lodge, 266-3468.
Earth Day • April 26 • Environmental expo. Wingfield Park, Reno, 323-3433.

COMING EVENTS

Grand Prix Motorcycle Race • May 9-10 • Virginia City, 847-0311.
Celebrate the River • June 5-7 • Reno, 334-2417.
Reno Rodeo • June 20-28 • Reno, 329-3877.
Father's Day Powwow • June 21 • Carson City, 882-2808.
Music at Sand Harbor • July 10-11 • Incline Village, 530-583-7625.
Isuzu Celebrity Golf Championship • July 10-11 • Stateline, 530-544-5050.
Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival • Aug. 1-31 • Incline Village, 800-74-SHOWS.
Hot August Nights • Aug. 5-9 • Reno, 356-1956.
Reno Basque Festival • Aug. 26-30, 688-5767.
Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off • Sept. 4-7 • Sparks, 353-2284.
Great Reno Balloon Race • Sept. 11-13 • 826-2281.
National Championship Air Races • Sept. 17-20 • Reno, 972-6663.

Cowboy Country

FESTIVALS & CELEBRATIONS

Easter Ham Bingo • March 11 • Play bingo for your Easter dinner. Community Center, Lovelock, 273-7144.
Easter Egg Hunt • April 12 • McDougal Sports Complex, Lovelock, 273-2195.

PERFORMANCES & EXHIBITS

Henry: Portrait of the African-American Cowboy • Thru March 15 • Photographs by Tony Gleaton. Includes the exhibit, Gear Show: Exploring Cowboy Cultures. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418.
Sheer Pandemonium: Celtic Folk Music • March 3 • The group plays the traditional music of the Great Britain and Ireland, plus modern numbers. One musician plays a harmonica made of wine glasses. Community Center, Lovelock, 273-2082.

GENERAL INTEREST

Shooting the West X • March 6-8 • *National Geographic* photographer Sam Abell leads off the annual photography workshop for professionals and amateurs. Winnemucca Convention Center, 623-5071.
Wendover Raceway • March 15 • Hot rod drag racing. Wendover Airport, 801-665-2563.
Corned Beef Dinner • March 17 • Community Center, Lovelock, 273-7819.
Lincoln Dinner • March 28 • Community Center, Lovelock, 273-2631.
Silver Sage Quilt Guild Show • April 4-5 • Convention Center, Elko, 738-4091.
Spring Home Show • April 8-19 • Trade show. Convention Center, Elko, 738-7135.
Travel and Vacation Festival • May 9-10 • Special events and vacation opportunities in Elko. Convention Center, Elko, 738-4091.
Memorial Weekend Barbecue • May 24 • Rib barbecue, live music. Outdoor Inn, Jarbidge, 488-2311.

COMING EVENTS

Bordertown Bike Challenge • June 6 • Wendover, 208-342-3910.
National Basque Festival • July 2-5 • Elko, 738-3418.
Art in the Park • July 18-19 • Elko, 738-1553.
Land Speed Opener • July 22-25 • Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 801-785-5364.
Native American Festival • July 24-26 • Elko, 753-3794.
Speed Week • Aug. 15-21 • Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 800-526-1805.
Elko County Fair and Race Meet • Aug. 29-Sept. 7 • Elko, 738-3616.



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World of Speed • Sept. 23-26 • Vehicles race the clock on the Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 800-526-1805.

Pony Express Territory

PERFORMANCES

Sheer Pandemonium • March 6 • Traditional music of Scotland, Ireland, and the British Isles. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 237-6006.

An Evening With the Arts • March 7 • Dinner and auction. Community Center, Fallon, 423-1440.

"Daughter of the Regiment" • March 20 • Nevada Opera Studio's mini presentation. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 237-6006.

Structures on Silence • April 3 • Short stories told in mime. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 237-6006.

William Eaton Ensemble • April 24 • The group's last performance in Eureka inspired an album titled, "Naked in Eureka," and several songs on the CD. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 237-6006.

"Outer Mission, Middle Class" • May 22 • Solo performance by Dan Scopazzi, who mixes the humor, commentary, anecdotes, and dramatic sketches of growing up in an Italian-American family. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 237-6006.

GENERAL INTEREST

Hidden Cave Tours • March 14 and 21, April 11 and 25, and May 9 and 23 • Free guided tour of Hidden Cave archaeological site. Departs from Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677.

Steam Train Excursions • May 2, 16, 23, and 24 • Excursion through ghost towns, tunnels. Nevada Northern Railway Museum, East Ely, 289-2085.

Diesel Train Excursions • May 2, 16, and 23 • Overviews of scenic Steptoe Valley. Nevada Northern Railway Museum, East Ely, 289-2085.

COMING EVENTS

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.

Eureka County Fair • Aug. 8-9 • Eureka, 754-2344.

White Pine County Fair • Aug. 15-16 • Ely, 289-8877.

Hearts of Gold Cantaloupe Festival • Sept. 4-7 • Fallon, 423-2544.



Bird Watchers at Walker

In the spring, when common loons stop at Walker Lake near Hawthorne during their migration north, fans of the diving, fish-eating birds gather to cruise the lake and watch the shy bird. This year's Loon Festival has been scheduled for April 17-18.

Photo: Bob Goodman



Acoustic and "Naked" in Eureka

The William Eaton Ensemble presents its New Age music of the Southwest April 24 at the Eureka Opera House. The group's last appearance in the Central Nevada mining town inspired the album "Naked in Eureka," which one reviewer described as the "Uncola of guitar music." Musically, the album details a journey that stretches across the Nevada desert to a reservation trading post and on to Arizona for a collaboration with Tibetan monks.

Louis Gibellini Single Jack Mining Contest • Sept. 5 • Eureka, 237-5484.

Pioneer Territory

SPORTS

Rocky Mountain Elks Banquet and Outdoor Sports Show • March 6-7 • Outfitters, guides, and the latest equipment. El Capitan, Hawthorne, 945-5854.

Rocky Mountain Elks Auction and Dinner • March 28 • Art auction, dinner. Tonopah Convention Center, Tonopah, 482-3872.

Tonopah 300 • April 17-19 • Off-road race for trucks, cars, buggies, and motorcycles. Tonopah, 482-3859.

The "X" Rides • May 2-3 • Fully supported bike tours on the Extraterrestrial Highway (SR 375) with overnight camping, star gazing, and other alien activities. Rachel; for information call 588-9658

Rally the Valley • May 2-3 • Motorcycle poker run, rodeo, games, music, food. Beatty Park and Arena, Beatty, 553-2424.

GENERAL INTEREST

American Crown Circus • March 7-8 • Petrack Park, Pahrump, 727-5800.

Rodin on Ice

Ice carvers will attempt to create reproductions of Rodin masterpieces such as "The Thinker" while Siberia's only rock 'n' roll band, the Red Elvises, plays for dancing. The April 4 event at the Reno Air hanger is part of the Auguste Rodin exhibit at the Nevada Museum of Art (329-3333) in Reno.

Rotary Cowboy Poetry • April 10-11 • Amateur and professional recitals, dancing. Convention Center, Tonopah, 482-8822.

Loon Festival • April 17-18 • Boat tours to watch migrating loons. Sportsmen's Beach, Walker Lake, Hawthorne, 945-5896.

COMING EVENTS

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

UFO Friendship Campout • May 23-25 • 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.

Lyon County Fair and Rodeo • Aug. 15-16 • Yerington, 463-2090.

Pioche Labor Day Weekend • Sept. 5-7 • Pioche, 962-5544.

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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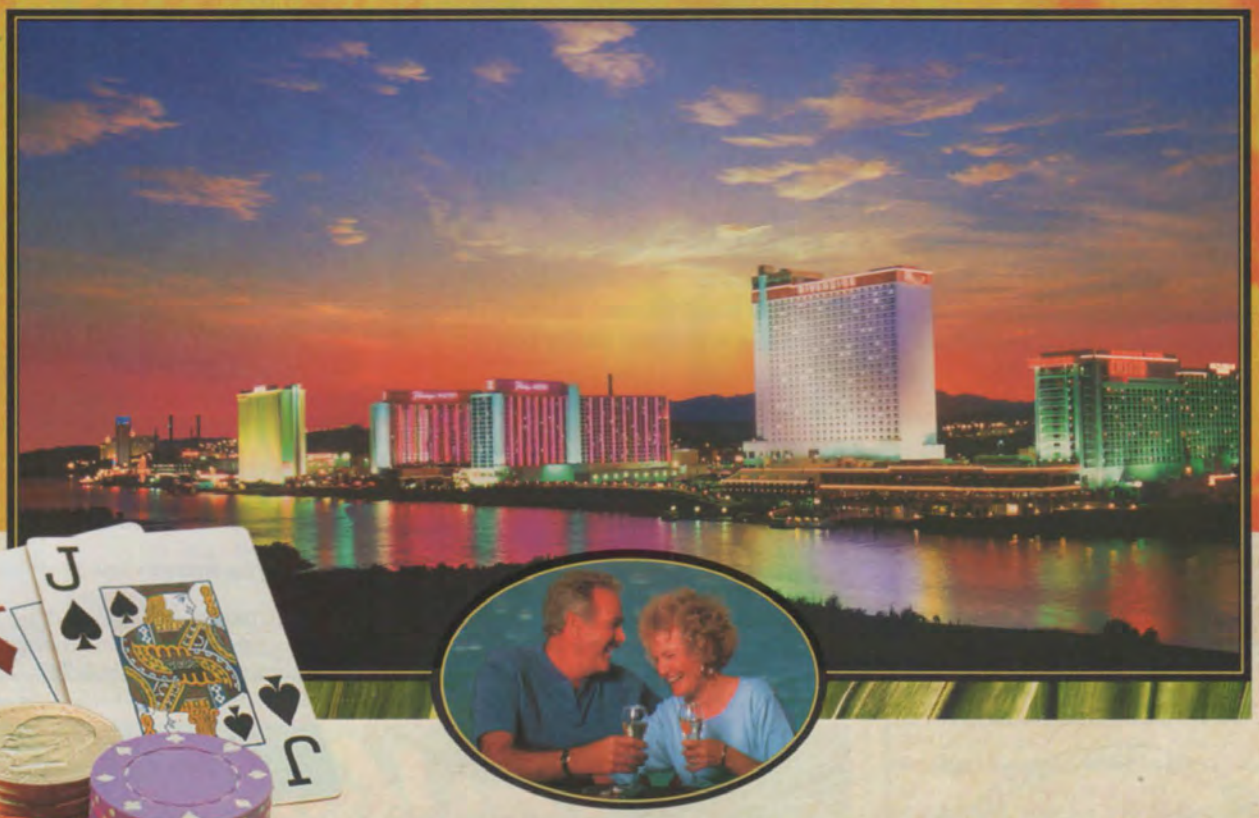


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Nevada Showguide

Where the stars and shows are playing in March and April.



Anything That Glitters

The cast of "Solid Gold" will dance into Harrah's Laughlin on May 1 after "The Golden Girls USA: Stand Up and Salute" completes its run in the Fiesta Showroom. "Solid Gold" is a salute to five decades of music, from the '50s to the '90s, and will be followed each night with the adults-only revue "Heartbeat." All three shows are Greg Thompson productions.

Nevada clubs and hotels offer big-name entertainment and production shows. During March and April, Ray Charles headlines at the Orleans in Las Vegas, Tom Jones plays John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, and the Moody Blues appear at Caesars Tahoe. Here, *Nevada Magazine* presents a guide to featured performers. Showrooms often fill fast, so call 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.

HENDERSON

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

Sunset Station • 547-7777: Club Madrid: War, March 21; The Fab, March 6-7, 13-14, 21, and 27-28; Sunday Swing with Sass and Brass, 2-6 pm, March 1-31; Disco Inferno, late-night weekend dance club, through March.

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: Bands like Main Event, Public Image, and Rock Around the Clock appear.

LAS VEGAS

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: George Carlin, thru March 4; Louie Anderson, March 5-18; Liza Minnelli, March 19-22; Anne Murray, March 26-April 1; George Carlin, April 16-May 6.

The Beach • 731-9298: Concerts TBA.

Boulder Station • 432-7777 or 800-683-7777: Railhead Saloon: Sergio Alberti, Feb. 24-March 8; Don Ho, March 7; The Checkmakes, March 10-22; Bobby Wade's Emperors, March 24-29; Soul'd Out, March 31; Free concerts Monday night; bands play weekends.

Caesars Palace • 731-7333 or 800-445-4544: Circus Maximus: Chicago, Feb. 27-March 1 and March 6-8; Wynonna, March 11-15; Crosby, Stills, and Nash, March 20-22; The Moody Blues, March 26-29; The Legends of Motown starring the Temptations, April 23-26; Huey Lewis and the News, April 30-May 3; bands play in the La Piazza Lounge, Forum Lounge, and Cleopatra's Barge; magicians like Mark Kalin and Jinger and Earl Nelson perform in the Secret Pagoda at Caesars Magic Empire Theatre.

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

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

Continental • 737-5555: Entertainment TBA.

Debbie Reynolds Hollywood Hotel • 7-DEBBIE or 800-633-1777: Star Theatre: "The Debbie Reynolds Show" (dark Sat.-Sun. and March 17-22); "Kenny Kerr Show," the long-running Las Vegas female impersonator revue (dark Sun.-Mon.)

Desert Inn • 733-4566 or 800-634-6909: Crystal Showroom: Tony Danza/John Pinette, March 27-29; Don Rickles, April 24-26; Starlight Lounge: Bands play Tues.-Sun.

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.

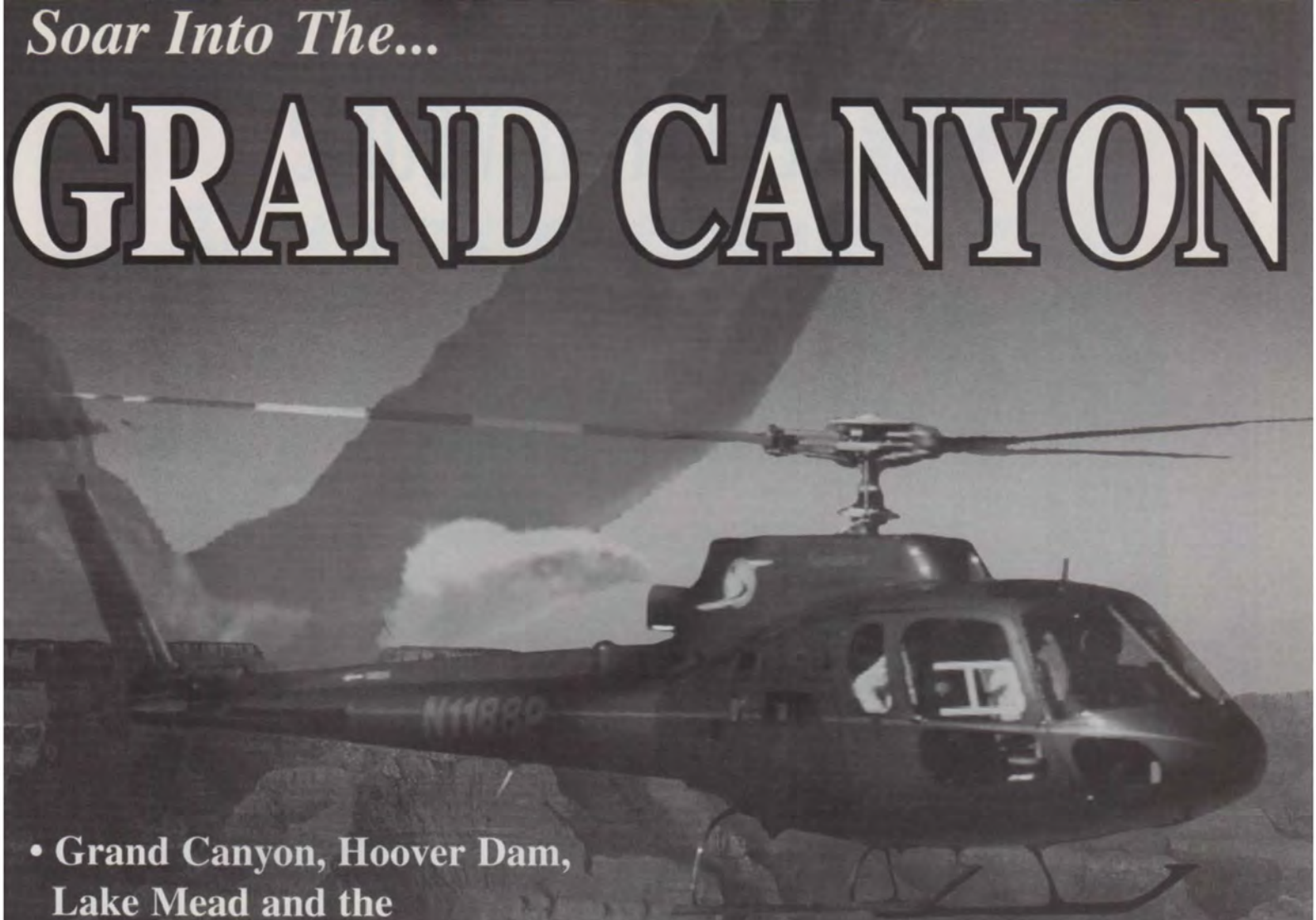
Fitzgeralds Holiday Inn • 388-2400 or 800-274-LUCK (U.S. outside Nevada): Casino Stage: Entertainment TBA.

Flamingo Hilton • 733-3333 or 800-221-7299: Flamingo

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Showroom: "The Great Radio City Spectacular" starring 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: Kinda Dixie Jazz Band, noon to 6pm Mon.-Fri., bands play nightly; karaoke nightly in the West Lounge; Gold Coast Showroom: TBA; Disk jockey Larry Taylor plays Big Band and pop, Tues. and Sun.

Golden Nugget • 386-8100: The Theatre Ballroom: "Eclipse," contemporary musical revue; entertainment nightly in the lounge.

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

Harrah's Las Vegas • 369-5222 or toll-free 800-392-9002: Commanders Theatre: "Spellbound"; "The Improv at Harrah's" (dark Mon.); entertainment nightly in the Court of Two Gators Lounge; Carnaval Court: "Carnaval Fantastique," free outdoor gymnastic-dance show at 6:15, 7:45, 9:15, and 10:45 pm, with an early show at 4:45 pm, Sat.-Sun. (dark Mon.).

Holiday Inn Boardwalk • 730-3194: Lighthouse Showroom: "The Dream King" with Trent Carlini (dark Mon.).

Imperial Palace • 794-3261: Imperial Theatre: "Legends in Concert" (dark Sun.).

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

Key Largo • 733-7777: Sand Bar Lounge: Bands provide live entertainment.

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" (dark Mon.).

Las Vegas Hilton • 732-5755 or 800-222-5361: Hilton Theater: Entertainment TBA; The NightClub: Kristine W/Louie Louie.

Luxor • 262-4000 or 800-288-1000: Showroom: "Imagine: A Theatrical Odyssey," production show; Nefertiti's Lounge: Live entertainment; Ra Nightclub: DJ nightly; concerts TBA.

Maxim • 731-4300 or 800-634-6987: "Comedy Max," comedy nightclub; "Comedy Magic," 1 and 3pm (dark Sun.); "Heatwave," late-night production show 10:30pm Tues.-Sat., second show at midnight Tues., Fri., Sat.; entertainment in Muldoon's Room.

MGM Grand • 891-7777 or 800-929-1111: Grand Theatre: "EFX" starring David Cassidy (dark Thurs.); Hollywood Theatre: Tom Jones, thru March 4; Gladys Knight, March 5-18; Carrot Top, March 19-31; Center Stage Cabaret: "Catch a Rising Star," comedy-variety club; "Comedy FiXX," late-night adult revue, Fri.-Sat. at 12:30am.; 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 Brown Derby, and Gatsby's; Studio 54: dancing and live entertainment nightly; Grand Garden: Events TBA.

The Mirage • 792-7777: Siegfried and Roy Theater: "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.); dance music nightly in the Monte Carlo Pub and Brewery to bands like Stolen Faces, Ko Ko Mo Beach, and Vargus.

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-ORLEANS: Orleans Showroom: Willie Nelson, Feb. 27-March 1; The Righteous Brothers, March 2-9; Roger Whittaker, March 10-15; Lou Rawls, March 24-29; Crystal Gayle, March 31-April 4; Ray Charles, April 17-19; Neil Sedaka, April 21-16; Smothers Brothers, April 28-May 3; bands play in the Bourbon

May I Have This Dance?

Showgoers can learn about dances from different cultures in "DazzleDance," playing through April 20 at Harrah's Lake Tahoe. The show presents Irish step, flamenco, and Russian folk dancing and Japanese Taiko drummers along with American favorites such as swing and tap. "DazzleDance" is produced by Nevada showmen Breck Wall and Patrick Maes, producers of "Aireus," which headlines at the Reno Hilton.



Getting in the Mood

The Moody Blues, whose spacey sounds have thrived in Nevada showrooms, headline March 20-21 at Caesars Tahoe and March 26-29 at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. The group, which formed in England in the 1960s, has produced such hit songs as "Nights in White Satin," "The Voice," "Tuesday Afternoon," and "I'm Just a Singer (In a Rock 'n' Roll Band)."

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Afternoons Are Magical

"The Illusionary Magic of Rick Thomas" plays at 2 and 4 p.m. Saturday through Thursday at the Tropicana in Las Vegas. Thomas' show combines magic, exotic birds, and white Bengal tigers.

Street Cabaret; strolling Orleans Parade Band (dark Sat.-Sun.).

Palace Station • 367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Loading Dock Lounge: Cornell Gunter's Coasters, Feb. 25-March 1; Sonny Turner, March 3-8; Sergio Alberti, March 10-15; New East Band, March 17-22; Forward Motion, March 24-29; Cornell Gunter's Coasters, March 31; Kroakies Karaoke, Mondays thru March.

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: Grand Ballroom: Creedance Clearwater Revisted, March 20-21; Splash Theatre: "Splash," nightly; Mardi Gras Showroom (third floor): "An Evening at La Cage," celebrity female impersonators revue (dark Tues.); second floor theater: "Crazy Girls: Sensuality and Passion," adult revue (dark Mon.); "Riviera Comedy Club" nightly; Le Bistro Lounge: Jazz on the Strip, Mon.; Lon Bronson's All-Star Band, Mon. and Sat., indf.; bands play Tues.-Sun.; Top of the Riv: Tommy Davidson, March 6-7.

Sahara • 737-2515: Congo Showroom: Gallagher, March 2-15; Jackie Mason, March 16-29.

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 Lounge and nightly in the Atrium; Grand Ballroom: Entertainment TBA.

Showboat • 383-9232 or 800-826-2800: Mardi Gras Lounge: Live entertainment and dancing nightly.

Silverton (formerly Boomtown) • 263-7777 or 800-588-7711: Opera House: Poco in concert March 6, dinner music nightly except Tues.-Wed.; Rattlesnake Rickey's Saloon: Bands like Metro, American Made, and Gigolo appear.

Stardust • 732-6111 or 800-824-6033: Stardust Theatre:

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"Enter the Night," production show (dark Fri.); Stardust Ballroom: Entertainment TBA; 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 April 15-16); entertainment nightly in Captain Morgan's piano bar, the Hideaway Lounge.

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; free Wildlife Walk, interactive exhibit that includes live birds and monkeys.

Vacation Village • 897-1700 or 800-658-5000: Koo Koo's Lounge: Bands play nightly.

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

World Trade Center • 369-5750 • Mediterrean Room: "The Michael La Rocca Show," musical revue; "Michael and Company," revue, Fri.-Sat.



Debbie on Stage

Debbie Reynolds may play mother figures in movies such as "Mother," but the glamour returns when she stars in her own showroom at the Debbie Reynolds Hollywood Hotel in Las Vegas. The performer also appears March 17-22 at the Riverside Resort in Laughlin.

LAUGHLIN

Avi • 535-5555: Bands play nightly.

Colorado Belle • 298-4000: "D" Deck: Riverboat Ramblers, strolling musicians; Boiler Room Brew Pub: Live entertainment (dark Mon.).

Edgewater • 298-2453: Live music nightly.

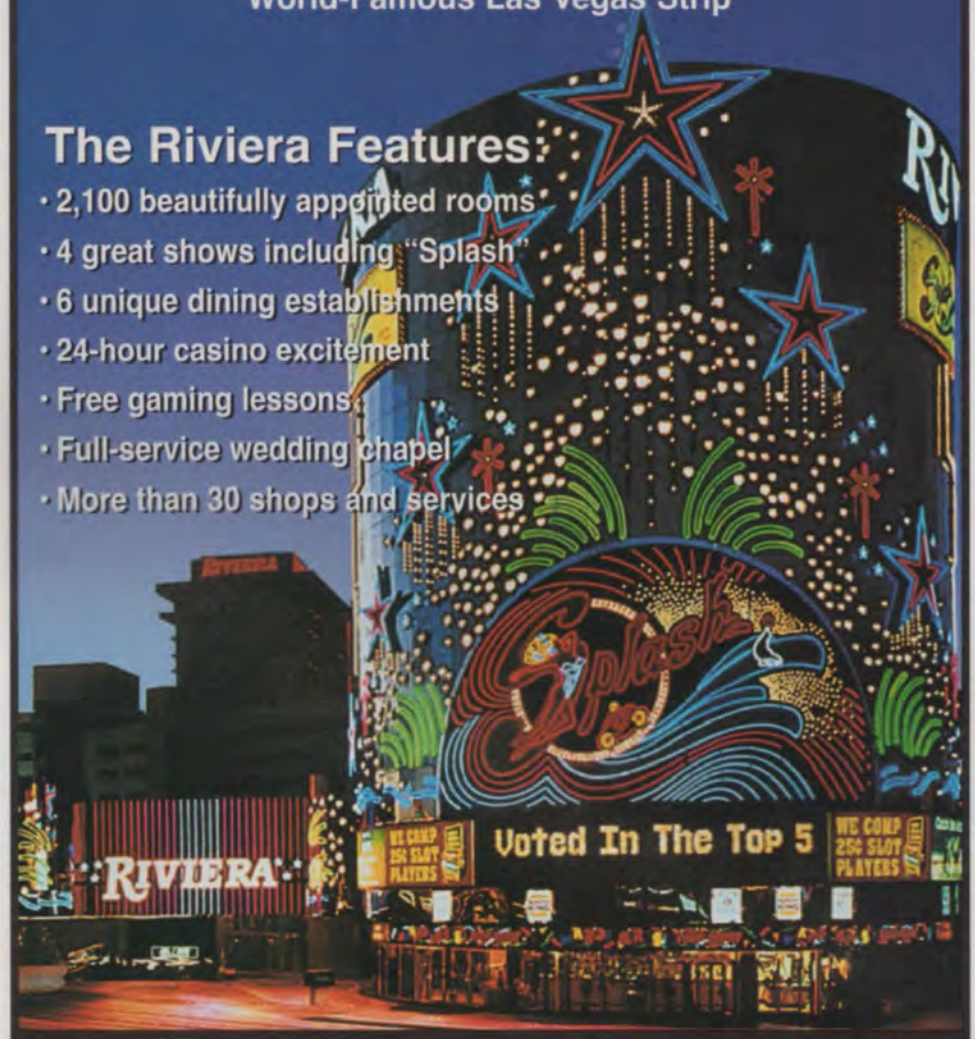
Flamingo Hilton Laughlin • 298-5028 or 800-435-8469: Club Flamingo: "Dancing to the Hitz," musical revue; Outdoor Amphitheater: Tanya Tucker, April 4; Neil Sedaka, April 18; Steve Miller Band, April 24-25.

Gold River • 298-2242 or 800-835-7904: Fantasy Theatre: "Miracles: An Odyssey of Illusions"; Cody's Saloon: TBA; Sandy Hackett's Comedy Club, Wed. thru Sun.

Golden Nugget Laughlin • 298-7111 or 800-237-1739: Tarzan's Lounge: Bands like Ruffnecks, Thunderstruck, and Unity perform.

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Harrah's Laughlin • 298-4600 or 800-447-8700: Fiesta Showroom: "Golden Girls U.S.A.: Stand Up and Salute," nostalgic revue, thru April 19; "Solid Gold" and "Heartbeat" production shows start May 1; Rio Vista Outdoor Amphitheater: Four Star Blowout Country Concert with Clay Walker, May 9; Club La Bamba: Bands play.
Ramada Express • 298-4200 or 800-243-6846: Caboose Lounge: Bands play nightly.
Riverside Resort • 298-2535 or 800-227-3849 ext. 616: Don's Celebrity Theatre: Roy Clark, Feb. 25-March 1; Roger Whittaker, March 3-8; Don Ho, March 10-15; Debbie Reynolds, March 17-22; Crystal Gayle, March 26-29; Chris Ledoux, April 2-4; Eddie Money, April 9-11; Don Williams, April 16-18; Eddie Money, April 24.

MESQUITE

CasaBlanca • 346-7529 or 800-459-7529: Bands play nightly except Monday in the Cascades Lounge; piano bar afternoons.
Rancho Mesquite • 346-4646: Live entertainment in the Wild Cactus and Scorpion lounges.
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: Country music bands play in the casino lounge nightly except Monday.

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: Dancing to Sunday Swing with Jerry Tiffe, 4-8pm; country music, Mon.; Kroakies Karaoke, Wed.; Loveshack plays Thurs.-Sat.

PRIMM

Buffalo Bill's Resort • 382-1111 or 800-FUN-STOP: Star of the Desert Arena: Tim McGraw, March 13; The Crown Royal Country Music Tour "Untamed and True Tour" with Mark Chesnutt, David Lee Murphy, and Gary Allan, March 28; Stage Bar: bands like Sneak Preview and Jukebox Saturday Night play Thurs.-Sun.; Carolee's Comedy Club: Michael Rapport hosts guest comedians, Fri.-Sun.
Primm Valley • 382-1212 or 800-826-4471.
Whiskey Pete's • 382-1212 or 800-367-7383.



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Ballet at Valley of Fire

Mikhil "Misha" Matorin performs an aerial ballet during Cirque du Soleil's "Mystère," which observes its 2,000th performance March 14 at the Treasure Island on the Las Vegas Strip. The stylized and elegant circus-themed production opened in December 1993. When the picture above was taken, Matorin no doubt surprised visitors to Valley of Fire State Park, 60 miles northeast of Las Vegas.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

RENO/SPARKS

Atlantis • 825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Bands play nightly.
Circus Circus • 329-0711: Free circus acts, 11am-midnight.
Club Cal-Neva • 323-1046: Entertainment TBA.
Comstock • 329-1880.
Eldorado • 786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside Nevada) or 800-648-3024 (Canada): Eldorado 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: Casino Lounge: Entertainment TBA.
Fitzgeralds • 785-3300 or 800-648-5022 (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands play nightly.
Flamingo Hilton Reno • 785-7080: Flamingo Showroom: "American Superstars," impersonator revue; bands play in the Showspot Cabaret; Terry Thompson plays at Top of the Hilton restaurant (dark Tues.).
Harrah's Reno • 788-3773 or 800-HARRAHS: Sammy's Showroom: "New York, New York" (see show review on page 68); "Lipstick," revue (dark Thurs.); The Kingston

Photo: Al Seib

Trio, March 12-15; Red Buttons, April 9-12.
John Ascuaga's Nugget • Sparks, 356-3304 or 800-648-1177 (U.S. and Nevada): Rose Ballroom: Hal Roach, Men of Worth, March 24; Tom Jones, April 24-25; Celebrity Showroom: Rich Little/Loretta Holloway, thru March 4; Roy Clark/Johnny Yune, March 5-18; Glen Campbell/Fielding West, March 19-April 1; bands play nightly in the Casino Cabaret and Trader Dick's restaurant.
Peppermill • 826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Performers like Zella Lehr, Raised on Radio, Powerhouse, and Brothers Owens appear in the Cabaret Lounge.
Rail City Casino • Sparks, 359-9440: Side Track Lounge: Bands play weekends.
Reno Hilton • 789-2285 or 800-648-3568 (U.S. outside Nevada): Hilton Theatre: "Aireus," production show; 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 Exposition Hall: Entertainment TBA.
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: Bands play nightly.
Carson Station • Carson City, 883-0900: Bands play.
Carson Valley Inn • Minden, 782-9711 or 800-321-6983: Bands play in the Cabaret Lounge; Shannon Ballroom: Comedy Night, March 13.
Ormsby House • Carson City, 882-1890: Mark Twain Lounge: Bands provide live entertainment nightly.
Piñon Plaza • Carson City, 885-9000: Sports Book Lounge: Bands play Thurs.-Sat.
Sharkey's Nugget • Gardnerville, 782-3133: Live music and dancing Fri. and Sat.
Topaz Lodge • Topaz Lake, 266-3339.



He's the Man

When Ray Charles appears April 17-19 at the Orleans in Las Vegas, showgoers will be movin' to "Hit the Road, Jack" and groovin' to "One More Time." At a different tempo, no one has a sweeter touch with "Georgia."

Photo: Timothy White

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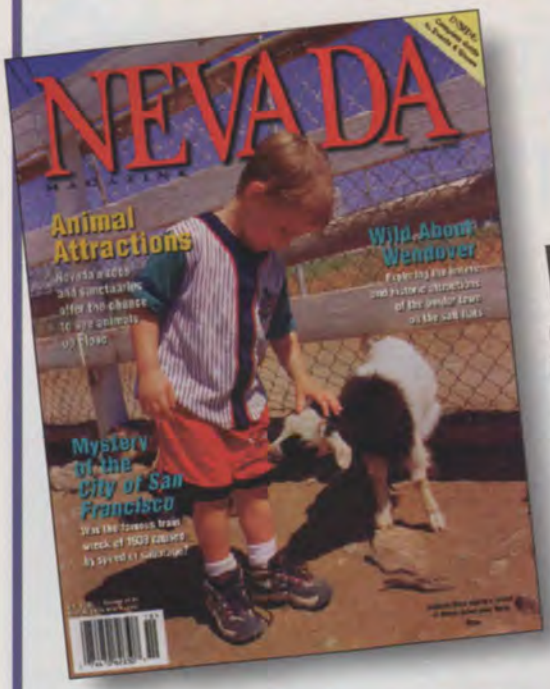
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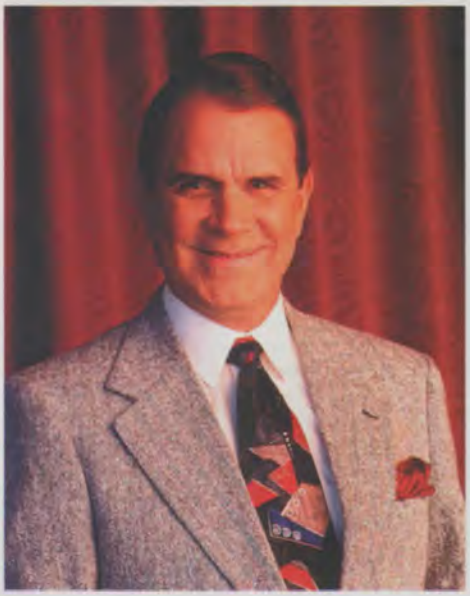
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Little by Little

Comedian Rich Little, who has made a career impersonating more than 200 celebrities, politicians, and fictional characters, appears through March 4 with Loretta Holloway at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks. Little not only nails the voices of his targets, but he also has mastered their mannerisms.

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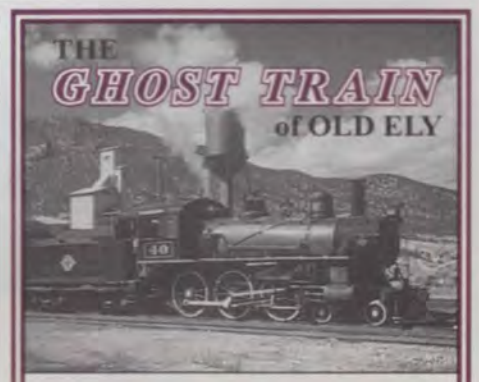
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The Hitz Keep Coming

"Dancin' to the Hitz," the dance and musical revue appearing at the Flamingo Hilton Laughlin, opened in a specially designed showroom in January. Fans of the TV soap *Days of Our Lives* will recognize Billy Hufsey, who stars in the Laughlin "Hitz" show.

STATELINE, LAKE TAHOE

Bill's Lake Tahoe • 588-2455.

Caesars Tahoe • 588-3515 or 800-648-3353: Circus Maximus: Wynonna, March 6-7; Crosby, Stills, and Nash, March 13-14; Moody Blues, March 20-21; George Clinton and the P-Funk All Stars, March 27-28; Nero's 2000 nightclub has live music; Cleo's Bar and Entertainment Lounge: Pianist Arthur Hervey appears indf.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe • 588-6606 or 800-HARRAHS: South Shore Room: "Dazzle Dance: Celebrating Rhythms of the World," thru April 20; Casino Center Stage: Nightly bands like Greg Piccolo and The Next Movement.

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, thru April (dark Wed.); Llewellyn's: Ron Rose Sound.

Lake Tahoe Horizon • 588-6211 or 800-322-7723: Golden Cabaret: "Phantasy," magic and comedy revue (dark Mon.); Grande Lake Theater: Entertainment TBA.

Lakeside Inn • 588-7777.

NORTH LAKE TAHOE

Cal-Neva Resort • Crystal Bay, 832-4000 or 800-225-6382.

Crystal Bay Club • Crystal Bay, 831-0512: Crystal Bar: Bands play nightly.

Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe • Incline Village, 832-1234: Ciao Mein Trattoria Lounge: Mike Fender, March 1-31 (dark Fri.-Sat.); Stage Bar: Bands like Madison Avenue, Tommy Bell, and Whitewing appear.

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

Tahoe Biltmore • Crystal Bay, 831-0660: Bands play in the Aspen Lounge.

Cowboy Country

BATTLE MOUNTAIN

Owl Club • 635-5155.

ELKO

Commercial Hotel • 738-3181: Comedy on Wed.
Holiday Inn • 738-8425: Piano bar, Tues.-Sat.; dance club, Thurs.-Sat.
Red Lion • 738-2111 or 800-545-0044 (Western U.S. outside Nevada): Club Max Showroom: 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 between Lovelock and Winnemucca.

WENDOVER

Peppermill • 664-2255 or 800-648-9660 (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands play nightly.
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: Jim's Bar: Live entertainment nightly.
State Line • 664-2221, 800-354-3671: Entertainment TBA.

WINNEMUCCA

Winners Hotel • 623-2511: Bands play nightly.

Pony Express Territory

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Hotel Nevada • 289-6665.

FALLON

Bonanza Inn • 423-3111 ext. 47.
Fallon Nugget • 423-3111.

Pioneer Territory

AMARGOSA VALLEY

Longstreet Inn • 372-1777: Weekend entertainment.

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.

TONOPAH

Mizpah Hotel • 482-6202.
Station House • 482-9777: Bands play nightly in the casino lounge.

YERINGTON

Casino West • 463-2481 or 800-227-4661 (U.S. and Nevada): Weekend entertainment in the Wild West Lounge.
Dini's Lucky Club • 463-2868.

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Purr-formers on the Strip

Gregory Popovich's "Housecats" brings the whole kit and kaboodle to Circus Circus in Las Vegas.

By Carolyn Graham

As Gregory Popovich proudly parades his performers onto the midway stage at Circus Circus in Las Vegas, the audience quickly discovers that this act is in a "cat"egory by itself. Ten amazing mousers—and one remarkably calm terrier—are the stars of "Housecats," a show that Popovich, a Russian emigrant and former Moscow Circus performer, conceived and choreographed.

Popovich has special power over cats. Not only do his cats sit patiently and perform on cue, but they also seem genuinely happy to do so. While most cat lovers can only expect their feline friends to sleep, eat, and shred the drapes, Popovich's cats are scratching their way to the top of the show business ladder.

Granted, the tricks are relatively simple. But Popovich has harnessed the cats' natural feline talents for climbing, jumping, and balance for his comedy routines.



Gregory Popovich and his clownish kitties are the stars of "Housecats." They appear under the Circus Circus big top on the Las Vegas Strip.

"I don't train them," Popovich says. "They train me. You can't push them to do something they don't want to do."

Then why would one choose to work with cats, the most stubborn and independent domesticated creature in the animal kingdom?

"I've been a cat lover for many years," he says. "And American show business is very competitive, very tough. You have to be different."

Popovich begins the show with a short juggling act while the cats, each wearing a cute little clown collar, lick their paws, take cat naps, and stare at the audience. Popovich is an impressive juggler—his father was a juggler in the Moscow Circus, and Popovich learned the art at age six.

Then the cats perform. A fluffy gray Persian named Tolstoy skillfully goes over and under a series of hurdles. Then, much to the surprise of the crowd, a perky wire-haired fox terrier named Phillip appears.

Popovich rescued his performing felines from the animal shelter.

His entrance takes place during an on-stage picnic. When Popovich puts down a hot dog for a moment, Phillip hops out of an ice chest and steals the wiener.

Not to be outdone by a *dog*, a cat named Chekov skips on stage to push the terrier around in a baby stroller. Next, a black cat named Ugol ("coal" in Russian) takes the spotlight. While the Circus Circus orchestra plays the *Pink Panther* theme, the cat balances on a basketball as she rolls it across a set of parallel bars. The other cats—such as a frisky calico and an outgoing orange tabby—perform various tricks of climbing, jumping through hoops, and swinging on a platform high above the stage. For the finale, a gray cat named Smoky takes a swipe at the last shred of Phillip's dignity—she makes her exit by riding piggyback on the dog.

The truth about the cats and dog, Popovich says, is that there's never a hiss or harsh bark between them. "I have made friends out of enemies. They get along," he says.

Popovich's mother had a dog act in the Russian circus, so he knew it would take patience, hard work, and creativity to develop an act that no one in their right mind would even attempt. He rescued the felines from the animal shelter and spent two years working with them. The key to cats, he concluded, was watching them play.

"I try to find out what they like to do. Some cats like jumping, others like climbing. Siamese cats are usually scratchers," he says.

Popovich lives in Las Vegas with 15 cats, 10 of which he uses in the act. They have their own section of the house, and Popovich carries them around on his shoulder, just as he does on stage. Since cats are naturally nervous, he has trained them not to flee from the applause, loud music, and spotlights (after all, there's no bed to run under when you're on stage).

Photos: Chris Leedham

The younger cats take cues from the veterans. "They learn not to be scared," he adds.

Still, some of the cats are very independent, and each responds differently to training. Some will work for food, some respond to musical cues or finger snaps, and others must be asked nicely.

"You cannot speak loudly to cats," Popovich says. "You must be very gentle. You cannot push them to do something against their will."

Popovich, a fourth-generation circus performer originally from Kiev, had worked with the Moscow Circus for 15 years and came to the United States to join the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus. In his signature act, he balanced on a two-legged ladder while juggling rings and pins. Popovich had to leave the circus when he fell, injuring his knee.

Five years ago he decided to try his talents at Circus Circus on the Strip, where he still performs a part of his ladder act. "It is a dream for a circus performer to work in Vegas because it is the capital of show business," Popovich says in his heavy Russian accent. "It has the best of the world's entertainers."

It was Circus Circus entertainment director Mike Hartzell, who now works at the Excalibur and Luxor, who agreed to take a chance on Popovich's troupe of tabbies. Today the audience seems to think the act is the cat's meow.

"People like my show because it is something they're familiar with," Popovich says. "And then they say, 'I've never seen *my* cat do that.'"

Show Notes

Gregory Popovich and his "Housecats" usually appear twice daily at Circus Circus in Las Vegas. Popovich also performs his "Ladder" show daily. Call 702-734-0410 or 800-444-CIRCUS for a schedule.

Carolyn Graham, Nevada Magazine's *associate editor, has three cats who believe that all the house is a stage.*



The cats jump through hoops to please the crowds.

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Casino Notes

News from hotel-casinoland. By Ann Henderson

Las Vegas Territory

First Rate: The Desert Inn bears no resemblance to the Las Vegas hotel Wilbur Clark opened on April 24, 1950. A $200-million expansion and renovation has dramatically changed the Strip resort. The new Mediterranean architectural style is designed to evoke the Palm Beach era of the 1930s. A seven-story vaulted lobby has hand-painted murals and a granite fountain. Improvements also have been made to the D.I.'s spa and championship golf course.

How the Garden Grows: Right next to the tennis courts, surrounded by the bustle of the Las Vegas Strip, a chef at the Flamingo Hilton cultivates his own herb garden. Terje Torgersen grows about 15 herbs such as basil, chives, dill, and sage. He estimates the arrangement saves the hotel $30,000 a year and improves his cooking because the herbs are fresh. He worries, though, about the occasional tennis ball that lands in his garden.

New Shows: The Golden Nugget in Las Vegas has dropped its "Country Fever" look-alike revue in favor of a more contemporary show, "Eclipse." In Laughlin, casinos are gearing up for the town's spring season of special events and outdoor concerts with new showroom offerings. At the Flamingo Hilton Laughlin, *Days of Our Lives* star Billy Hufsey appears in "Dancin' to the Hitz," with music from the '40s to the '90s. Harrah's Laughlin is importing two Greg Thompson productions, "Solid Gold" and "Heart Beat," both of which had successful runs at Harrah's Reno. (One cast will perform back-to-back in both shows.) The Gold River is adding a little magic with "Miracles: An Odyssey of Illusions."

Setting Trends: Studio 54, a nightclub aiming to capture the same fame and chic clientele as its namesake, a New York City hot spot in the '70s, opened in December at the MGM Grand. The three-story dance club has four dance floors and bars. Each floor has its own lighting, sound system, and decor featuring artwork from the New York club. Waiters and bartenders are part of the evening's entertainment. Guests are encouraged to "dress spectacular," and men must wear collared shirts. Dress shoes are required, and T-shirts, tank tops, jeans, flannel shirts, or hats are not allowed. Studio 54, open from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m., is next to the Rainforest Cafe, a jungle-themed restaurant with lightning storms and animatronic animals.

New Hotel Opens: The Reserve, an African safari-themed hotel, recently opened in Henderson. The 224-room property, which is off U.S. 93/95 south at Lake Mead Boulevard, has more than 37,000 square feet of gaming, three lounges, and four restaurants—Congo Jack's Cafe, Wildfire Steak and Seafood, Pasta Mombasa Italian Eatery, and the Grand Safari Buffet. Henry Conversano, who designed the Mirage in Las Vegas and Sun City Resort in South Africa, decorated the Reserve with murals and statues of exotic animals.

Lucky 13: "An Evening at La Cage," the female impersonator show at the Riviera in Las Vegas, has entered its 13th year. The fifth-longest-running show in Las Vegas, "La Cage" stars Frank Marino, who has made a career impersonating Joan Rivers and showing off a wardrobe valued at more than $500,000.

Change Is Good: The Laredo Cantina and Cafe at the Texas Station in North Las Vegas has a new name, decor, and menu. The name, Laredo Del Mar, and the decor reflect the coastal blues and greens of Baja and Cancun. The menu has traditional Mexican fare but also more emphasis on seafood entrees such wolf fish baked in parchment paper and topped with a poblano chile, diced octopus, scallops, shrimp, and clams.



Studio 54, the new nightclub at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, has four dance floors and a Rainforest Cafe.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Big Top: After a $70-million renovation, the 1,572-room Circus Circus in Reno has a new look and expanded accommodations. The hotel's bright pink exterior has been replaced by off-white trimmed in gold,

green, and maroon. The inside decor has a turn-of-the-century look. Two new restaurants, Art Gecko's Southwest Grill and the Main Street Deli and Ice Cream Shoppe, were added, and the Big Top Buffet was remodeled.

Pulling Away: The Eldorado gives away a Mercedes Benz and other pricey prizes like boats and vacations during its Bucks and Benz slot giveaway. To be eligible for the drawings, gamblers must earn 1,000 points on a quarter slot machine, which is roughly $1,000 of play.

View From the Top: Although the Top of the Hilton restaurant in the Flamingo Hilton Reno has changed its menu and atmosphere, the hotel still retains bragging rights to breathtaking views of the Sierra Nevada and Reno's lights. A blue-and-white color scheme has given the restaurant a brighter look, and new items such as free-range roasted venison and a crusted sea bass served on asparagus, shrimp, and shitake risotto have been added to the menu.



World's Biggest Showgirls: When the weather turns warm—at least 65 degrees—showroom performers Bertha and Angel will resume skinny-dipping in public. Bertha, who tips the scales at 8,000 pounds, and Angel, a svelte 5,000 pounds, open for headliners in the Celebrity Showroom at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks. There is no charge to watch the Asian elephants being groomed in their home next to the hotel.

Kudos: Harrah's Lake Tahoe received the Gold Key Award for Excellence in Hospitality Design at a recent competition. More than half of the hotel's 530 rooms have been extensively remodeled, a project that should be completed in early 1999. Standard guest rooms have two complete bathrooms, angled windows with a view of the lake and mountains, and customized interiors with colors and fixtures that reflect Tahoe's alpine setting. The award was given in November by *Lodging* and *Hospitality Design* magazines at the International Hotel/Motel and Restaurant Show in New York City.

Whodunit? When a guest keels over at the Murder Mystery Dinner Theater April 3 at the Peppermill in Reno, everyone helps to bring the culprits to justice. The show begins with a cocktail party at which actors are expected to tell the truth and nonactors can lie about everything and anything to make the evening more complex. Cost of the mystery dinner is $35 per person.



The Top of the Hilton restaurant at the Flamingo Hilton Reno presents fine views with every course.

It's a Jungle Out There: High rollers at the Peppermill in Reno can stay in the hotel's new 4,200-square-foot safari-themed suite. At a cost of $1.5 million, the palatial digs span two floors and have a life-size rhinoceros, six steam baths (one can hold 12 people), a nine-foot tusked elephant head, three bedrooms and five baths, African art, a Jacuzzi in the living room, and silk mosquito netting above the bed in the master bedroom.

Good Deals

Video Weekends: At Lake Tahoe, Bill's Casino in Stateline offers a free video poker tournament every Saturday and Sunday that has a $100 first prize.

Boulder Blues: The Boulder Station in Las Vegas presents free concerts Monday nights in the Railhead Saloon. Performers like Bob Margolin and Roger Clinton have appeared so far in the series, with Tab Benoit scheduled on March 9, the Dirty Dozen on March 16, Greg Piccolo and Heavy Juice on March 23, and A.J. Croce on March 30.

Happy B-Day: On April 1 the Club Cal-Neva in Reno will celebrate its 36th birthday by giving away $36,000 in cash and prizes and by rolling restaurant prices back to 1962.

Tournament Deal: The CasaBlanca Resort in Mesquite has a meal deal for gamblers. The $10 admission to the weekly Sunday slot tournament includes a lunch buffet, and the same price enters players in the Thursday blackjack tournament, which includes a dinner buffet.

Dinner for 75 Cents: Showgoers at the Flamingo Hilton Reno can see the hotel's impersonator revue, "American Superstars," and have dinner for another 75 cents. The price of the show alone is $14.25, so for $15 visitors can dine either in the buffet or in the Flamingo Room Grill, where they can order marinated chicken breast, prime rib, or salmon.

Ski and Stay: Harrah's Lake Tahoe offers a midweek All You Can Ski package that includes a two-night stay, tickets to the "DazzleDance" revue, lift tickets at a choice of five resorts, ski valet service, and restaurant or gift shop discounts for $149 per person based on double occupancy. If the skiers choose Heavenly, there is a $10 surcharge. Packages are available also for three- and four-night stays. The deals are good through April 30.

There Is a Free Lunch: After a lunchtime customer buys 10 meals at the Costa del Sol oyster bar at the Sunset Station in Henderson, the 11th meal is free. The luncheon menu includes seafood, soups, salads, sandwiches, and scampi and pasta.



Attractions, Tours & Museums

Places to go and things to do around the Silver State.

Visitors can explore Nevada's diverse attractions—from the from the high-tech, 3-D IMAX ride, "Race to Atlantis" at Caesars Forum Shops in Las Vegas to Virginia City's dozen museums dedicated to the Comstock's history—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. 1305 Arizona, 293-2034.
Boulder City/Hoover Dam Museum • 444 Hotel Plaza, 294-1988.
Boulder Dam Hotel • 1305 Arizona, 293-7731.
Hoover Dam and Visitor Center • Tours, theaters, exhibit hall. U.S. 93, 294-3515, 293-8367, 293-8000.
Lake Mead Cruises/Desert Princess • 293-6180.
Lake Mead National Recreation Area • 601 Nevada Hwy., 293-8906.
St. Jude's Ranch for Children • Artifacts, tours, minature car museum. 100 St. Jude's St., 294-7100.

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.
Favorite Brands Marshmallow Factory • Tours. 8203 Gibson Rd., 564-3878 or 800-234-2383.
Mountasia Family Fun Center • 2050 Olympic, 898-7777.
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.
Crystal Palace In-Line Skating and Hockey Complex • 9295 W. Flamingo, 253-9832.
Debbie Reynolds Hollywood Movie Museum • 733-2243.
Excalibur • Dragon battle in front moat and motion simulators, 597-7777.
Flamingo Hilton • Wildlife sanctuary. 733-3111.
Floyd Lamb State Park • Picnicking and fishing. 9200 Tule Springs Rd., 486-5413.
Forum Shops at Caesars • Animatronic attractions, "Race for Atlantis" IMAX 3D motion simulator. 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.

Nevada Events & Shows
is a section of
NEVADA
MAGAZINE



Saving Atlantis

While rescuing the mythical kingdom of Atlantis from the forces of evil, visitors are taken on a high-speed chariot race through the streets of the fabled island in the IMAX 3D motion-simulator ride at the Forum Shops at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. The "Race to Atlantis" begins at the attraction's entrance with a 30-foot statue of Neptune battling a sea dragon and continues over suspended walkways surrounded by swirling mists.

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.
Harley-Davidson Cafe • Motorcycle memorabilia. The Strip, 740-4555.
Harrah's • Free outdoor show. 369-5000.
Holy Cow! Casino • Brewery tours, 732-2697.
Horseshoe • $1 million on display, 382-1600.
Imperial Palace Auto Collection • Classic and antique vehicles, 794-3174.
Las Vegas Art Museum • 9600 W. Sahara Ave., 647-4300.
Las Vegas Club • Sports memorabilia. Downtown, 385-1664.
Las Vegas Hilton • Star Trek: The Experience, 732-5111.
Las Vegas Museum of Natural History • From dinosaurs to desert creatures. 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, IMAX Theatre, and King Tut's Tomb and Museum, 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.
Motown Cafe • Memorabilia and entertainment, New York-New York, 740-6440.
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. North at Washington Avenue, 486-3511.
Omnimax Theatre • Caesars Palace, 731-7900.
Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area • 363-1921.
Rio • Free carnival-themed sky parade, 252-7777.
Sahara Hotel • Virtual reality Indy car racing, 737-2777.
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.
Ultrazone • Laser-tag arena, 734-1585.
Wet 'n Wild • Water theme park, 734-0088.
World of Coca-Cola • Museum, Showcase Mall, 270-5985.

LAUGHLIN

Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area • Nature and water sports, four miles south of Laughlin, 298-1859.
Boiler Room Microbrewery • Colorado Belle, 298-4000.
Colorado River Museum • Arizona Hwy. 95, 520-754-3399.

Del Rio Beach Club • Colorado River sightseeing boat tour, 298-6828.
Davis Dam • Self-guided tours, 298-2214.
Grapevine Canyon • Seven miles west of Laughlin. Inquire about road conditions, 298-2214.
Lake Mohave Resort • 602-754-3245.
Laughlin River Tours • Colorado River sightseeing, 298-1047.
Riverside Resort • Classic cars and 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.

Jurassic Chinasaurs

Nine dinosaur fossil skeletons—eight of them from the early Jurassic period of more than 150 million years ago—are on display at Las Vegas' Chinatown Plaza shopping center. The exhibit, titled Jurassic Chinasaurs Expo, is on loan from the Chong-qing Natural Museum of China and will be displayed in Las Vegas until January 1999.

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

Heavenly Aerial Tram • Seasonal, 586-7000.
Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park • 2005 Hwy. 28, Incline

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Guaranteed TOURS

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 • Beach, cruises, boat rentals. 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 • Stargazing programs, 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, seasonal hours, 329-6008.

Raymond I. Smith Truckee River Walk and Wingfield Park Amphitheater • 334-2077.

Reno Hilton • Water golf, 789-2000.

Reno Tahoe Gaming Academy • Tours. 300 E. First St., Suite 103, 329-5665.

Sierra Arts Center Gallery • 200 Flint St., 329-1324.

Sierra Safari Zoo • 10 mi. north of Reno at Red Rock Rd., 677-1101.

Silver Legacy • Laser shows every hour, 325-7396.

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

John Ascuaga's Nugget • Elephant mascots train in their arena, 356-3300.

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.



The Spinning Pool

Wet 'n Wild's latest attraction, the Royal Flush, opens April 30. The Las Vegas ride will spin parkgoers around a bowl at 45 mph.



Children at Play

The Children's Museum of Northern Nevada in Carson City offers exhibits and games that appeal to kids' natural curiosity.

Chollar Mine • Tours, seasonal, 847-0155.
Fourth Ward School Museum • 847-0975.
Julia C. Bulette Red Light Museum • 847-9394.
Liberty Engine Co. No. 1 Comstock Firemen's Museum • Seasonal, 847-0717.
Mackay Mansion Museum • 847-0173.
Mark Twain Museum of Memories • 847-0454.
Nevada Gambling Museum • Old gaming tables, devices, and other memorabilia, 847-9022.
Piper's Opera House • Seasonal, 847-0433.
Ponderosa Mine • Tours, 847-0757.
Territorial Enterprise Mark Twain Museum • 847-0525.
Virginia and Truckee Railroad • seasonal, 847-0380.
Virginia City Radio Museum • 847-9047.
Virginia City Tours • 786-0866.
Way It Was Museum • 847-0766.
Wild West Museum • Seasonal, 847-0400.

VERDI

Boomtown Family Fun Center • 345-8668.

WASHOE VALLEY

Bowers Mansion Park • Historic mansion of Comstock millionaires, seasonal, 849-1825.
Davis Creek Park • 849-0684.
Washoe Lake State Park • East Lake Blvd., 687-4319.



Cowboy Country

ELKO

Jarbidge Wilderness Area • North of Elko, 208-543-4129.
Northeastern Nevada Museum • 1515 Idaho St., 738-3418.
Western Folklife Center • 501 Railroad St., 738-7508.
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 • 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 • Exhibits on history of Ely area. 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 • Unusual giant sand dune. 20 miles east of Fallon, 885-6000.

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.

GABBS

Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park • 23 miles east of Gabbs, 964-2440.

HAWTHORNE

Mineral County Historical Museum • 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 • South of Pioche, 728-4460.
Kershaw-Ryan State Park • 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.

A Reminder: To confirm hours of operation, please use the phone number listed with each attraction. Nevada's area code is 702.

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Carson Station Hotel Casino

1-800-501-2929

Best Western Carson Station
900 S. Carson Street,
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Photo: Gary Elam



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—some of them free. Here, *Nevada Magazine* presents a list of gambling events during March and April. It is a good idea to confirm dates and times. Nevada's area code is 702.

Las Vegas Territory

Slots • March 1 • Flamingo Hilton, 800-225-4882.
Leprechaun's Loot Slots • March 1-4 • MGM, 800-929-9410.
Disco Slot Fever • March 1-4 • Caesars Palace, 731-7706.
Spring Fiesta Slots • March 2-6 • Harrah's Laughlin, 298-4600.
Queens Poker Classic VIII • March 8-April 4 • Winners from summer 1997 tournament compete for $3 million. Four Queens, 800-634-6045.
Luck of the Irish Slots • March 14-15 • Flamingo Hilton Laughlin, 800-662-6004.
Big Easy Slots • March 19-21 • Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5410.
Slots • March 22 • Flamingo Hilton, 800-225-4882.
Spring Fiesta Slots • March 23-27 • Slot tourney takes place Mon. through Fri., Harrah's Laughlin, 298-4600.
Tea for Two • April 6-9 • MGM, 800-929-9410.
Easter Slots • April 11-12 • Flamingo Hilton Laughlin, 800-662-6004.
Grand Slam Slots • April 14-16 • Edgewater, Laughlin, 800-289-8777.
World Series of Poker • April 17-May 14 • Binion's Horseshoe, 382-1600.
Slots • April 19 • Flamingo Hilton, 800-225-4882.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Show Me the Money Blackjack • March 6-7 • Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-6992.
Winners' Weekend Slots • March 6-8 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-648-1147.
Spring Poker • March 6-12 • Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-6992.
$5 Slot Marathon • March 8-10 • Eldorado, Reno, 786-5700.
$23,000 Rainbow to Riches Slots • March 15-16 • Silver Legacy, Reno, 329-4777.
Slots • March 15-17 • Reno Hilton, 800-443-3105.
$4,000 Slots • March 20 • Lakeside Inn, Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 800-523-1291.
Winner Take All Blackjack • March 20-22 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-648-1147.
Spring $15,000 Tri-Game-A-Thon • March 27-28 • Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 800-321-6983, ext. 711.
Keno Classic • March 27-29 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-648-1147.
Blackjack • March 31 • Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 800-321-6983, ext. 711.
Craps • April 3-5 • Reno Hilton, 800-443-3105.
$1 Slot Marathon • April 5-7 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-648-1147.
$23,000 Showers of Dollars Slots • April 12-13 • Silver Legacy, Reno, 329-4777.
Biggest Little City Slots • April 17-18 • Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-6992.
Winners' Weekend Slots • April 17-19 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-648-1147.
Golden Dollar Slots • April 19-21 • Eldorado, Reno, 786-5700.
Slots • April 19-21 • Reno Hilton, 800-443-3105.

Rural Nevada

Slots • Monthly • Casino West, Yerington, 800-227-4661.
Mini 21 • Fridays • State Line and Silver Smith casinos, Wendover, 800-354-3672.
St. Patrick's Day Slots • March 18-20 • State Line Casino, Wendover, 800-354-3665.

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017 Fernley Chamber of Commerce
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
047 Tonopah Chamber of Commerce
048 Virginia City Convention & Tourism Authority
050 Wendover Convention & Visitors Authority
052 Winnemucca Convention Bureau
053 Pershing County Convention & Visitors Authority/Lovelock
062 Truckee Donner Chamber of Commerce

HOTELS/CASINOS
111 Carson Station Hotel/Casino
113 Caesars Tahoe
116 Carson Nugget/Carson City
117 Carson Valley Inn/Minden
131 Center Strip Inn/Crest/Downtowner
135 Eldorado Hotel/Reno
138 Fitzgeralds Hotel/Reno
153 Harrah's Nevada/Laughlin
163 Imperial Palace/Las Vegas
179 Ormsby House Hotel Casino/Carson City
198 Riviera Hotel & Casino/Las Vegas
200 Sahara Hotel/Las Vegas
201 Sam's Town/Las Vegas
206 Showboat/Las Vegas
207 Sturgeon's/Lovelock
212 The Station House/Tonopah
236 Silver Legacy Hotel/Reno
238 Winners Hotel & Casino/Winnemucca
240 Model T Casino/Hotel/RV Park/Winnemucca
242 Holiday Inn/Rancho Mesquite
243 Monte Carlo Resort Hotel/Las Vegas

HOUSEBOAT RENTALS
396 Forever Resorts

ATTRACTIONS, GALLERIES & MUSEUMS
400 Cranberry World West/Henderson
405 Liberace Museum Foundation/Las Vegas
406 Nevada Northern Railroad Museum/Ely
416 Children's Museum of Northern Nevada/Carson City

EVENTS
420 Pioneer Territory
421 White Pine Trails/Ely
428 Pioneer Territory Passport/Goldfield
429 Nevada's Cowboy Country/Winnemucca

WEDDING CHAPELS
451 Little Chapel of the Flowers/Las Vegas

WEDDING CHAPELS (CONT.)
452 Candlelight Wedding Chapel/Las Vegas
453 Little Church of the West/Las Vegas
457 Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel

RECREATION
488 Black Canyon Raft Tours
489 Lake Mead Cruises

EDUCATION
552 KUNR-FM/Public Radio/University of Nevada/Reno

TOURS
562 Interstate Tours/Las Vegas
564 Flag Tours
565 Sundance Helicopters/Las Vegas
567 Guaranteed Tours

TOUR INFORMATION
576 Las Vegas Freebies

TRANSPORTATION
609 Resort Rent-A-Car

RESTAURANTS
653 Louis' Basque Corner/Reno

REAL ESTATE
725 Americana Group Realtors/Mullin/Las Vegas
731 Properties Plus/Las Vegas
729 Mesquite Vistas

SENIOR RECREATION
751 Senior Silver Strike Club/Carson City Convention & Visitors Bureau

EXECUTIVE LODGING
760 Lake Village Vacation Rentals
761 Corporate Residences of America

RV/MOBILE HOME
776 Allstate Mobile Home Brokers/Las Vegas

RETAIL SHOPPING
803 Napa-Sonoma Grocery Co./Reno
815 Golden Triangle Bullion Co./Las Vegas

RESERVATIONS
875 Hotel Reservations Network/Las Vegas/Reno
881 Epic Enterprises/PGI
882 National Reservation Bureau/Las Vegas

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DOWNTOWN RENO

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 of commerce (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 South, Exit 12, 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; 346-2702.
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; 530-544-5050, 800-AT-TAHOE in U.S.
North Lake Tahoe C of C: Chamber is located at 245 N. Lake Blvd., Tahoe City, CA 96145; 530-581-6900.
Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority: 4590 S. Virginia St., Reno, NV 89502; 827-RENO or 800-FOR-RENO in U.S.
Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Tribal Council: 98 Colony Rd., Reno, NV 89502; 329-2936.
South Lake Tahoe C of C: 3066 Lake Tahoe Blvd., S. Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; 530-541-5255.
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; 530-583-3494 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.
Jarbidge Community Assn.: c/o Trading Post, Box 260072, Jarbidge, 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.



Spring at the Oasis

Mother Nature puts her mark on the 18-hole championship golf course at the Oasis in Mesquite. Conditions must be perfect—the right amount of rain at just the right time—before wildflowers can push through the tough desert soil. The Lake Mead and Valley of Fire areas also are popular with spring-wildflower watchers.

Photo: William Carr/ Stock Ex

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 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 Brougher 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.

Monte Carlo/Buffet—730-7777. Exhibition-style kitchen. 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.

Sam's Town Hotel/Mary's Diner—454-8073. All-American cuisine and blue plate specials in a 1950s-style diner. B. L, D. $, major.

Sam's Town Hotel/Smokey Joe's Cafe and Market—456-7777. 24-hour coffee shop in a market-style atmosphere featuring prime rib and two-pound dungeness crab dinner. B, L, D. $$, major.

Sam's Town Hotel/The Great Buffet—456-7777. B, L, D. $, major.

Showboat Hotel/Captain's Buffet—385-9154. Seafood extravaganza, prime rib nights and steak and scampi buffet. L, D. $, major.

Tropicana Hotel/Island Buffet—739-2222. Sunday brunch, D. $, major.

Tropicana Hotel/Player's Deli—739-2222. Sandwiches, salads, fruit plates, and teriyaki bowl. B, L, D. $, major.

INTERNATIONAL

Monte Carlo/Cafe—730-7777. Traditional fare and specialties. B, L, D. $, major.

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

Tropicana Hotel/Pietro's Gourmet Dining—739-2222. Classic continental cuisine with tableside service. 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.

Monte Carlo/Market City Caffe—730-7777. Huge antipasto bar, homemade pastas, pizzas, and grilled entrees. L, D. $$, major.



Tivoli Gardens at the Eldorado Hotel in Reno.

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.

Sam's Town Hotel/Papamios Italian Kitchen—454-8041. Choose your pasta and sauce with bottomless salad and a glass of wine. D. $, major.

Showboat Hotel/Captain's Buffet—385-9154. Veal piccata, shrimp scampi, chicken marsala, lobster fra diablo. D. $, major.

ASIAN

Imperial Palace/Ming Terrace—794-3261. Mandarin and Cantonese cuisine, abalone, kung pao shrimp, roast duck. D. $$, major.

Monte Carlo/Dragon Noodle Company—730-7777. Authentic Asian noodle dishes, tea emporium, roasted meats, chicken, and fresh seafood. L, D. $$, major.

Riviera Hotel/Rik' Shaw—794-9537. Entrees include pineapple duck, orange roughy with black pepper sauce. D. $-$$, major.

Tropicana Hotel/Calypsos—739-2222. Coffee shop and Chinese food. B, L, D. $, major.

Tropicana Hotel/Golden Dynasty—739-2222. Chinese cuisine. 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.

Sam's Town Hotel/Willy and Jose's Mexican Cantina—454-8044. Combination platters, fajitas, American specialties, margaritas. 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.

Monte Carlo/Blackstone's Steak-house—730-7777. Mesquite-grilled steaks and seafood. D, $$, major.

Riviera Hotel/Kristofer's—794-9233. Steak, seafood, and chicken. D. $$, major.

Sahara Hotel/Sahara Steak House—737-2407. Steak and prime rib, open all evenings. D. $$, major.

Sam's Town Hotel/Billy Bob's Steak House—454-8031. Entrees include 28-ounce ribeye steak, rotisserie chicken, fresh catch of the day, prime rib. D. $$, major.

Sam's Town Hotel/Diamond Lil's—454-8009. Mesquite broiled steaks, shrimp scampi, veal loin, king crab legs, smoked salmon. D. $$, major.

Showboat Hotel/Plantation Room—385-9154. Alaskan King crab legs, chicken pontchartrain, steak and lobster, and blackened catfish. D, $, major.

Tropicana Hotel/Savannah—739-2222. Buffalo, antelope, steaks, specials, Sunday brunch. D. $$$, major.

Tropicana Hotel/Mizuno's Japanese Steak House—739-2713. Japanese cuisine prepared tableside. D. $$$, major.

Laughlin

AMERICAN

Harrah's Laughlin/Colorado Cafe—298-4600. Beef broccoli, pizza, salmon, California burger. B, L, D. $, major.

MEXICAN

Harrah's Laughlin/Colorado Cafe—298-4600. Sizzling fajitas, De Hacienda Burrito, fish tacos, and filet mignon on new La Parrilla side menu. D. $, major.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

Harrah's Laughlin/William Fisk's Steakhouse—298-4600. Entrees include coconut prawns, filet mignon, broiled salmon. D. $, major.

Reno-Carson Area

AMERICAN

Carson Nugget/Buffet—882-1626. Sunday champagne brunch, Saturday breakfast buffet, Friday seafood buffet. B, L, D. $, major.

Carson Nugget/Coffee Shop—882-1626. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. $, major.

Carson Valley Inn/Fiona's—Minden, 783-6650. Steaks, seafood, and nightly specials. D, $$, 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'Lucky'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.
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. Buffet with prime rib, shrimp and crab cioppino, homemade ravioli, chicken cacciatore. B, L, D. $, major.

ITALIAN

Eldorado Hotel/La Strada—786-5700. Northern Italian cuisine with veal, chicken, and seafood entrees. Award-winning wine list. D. $$, major.

INTERNATIONAL

Eldorado Hotel/Choices—786-5700. Express cafe with hofbrau, deli, bakery, ice cream. B, L, D. $, major.
Eldorado Hotel/Chefs' Pavilion Buffet—786-5700. Rotisserie chicken, mushroom ravioli, salad bar, prime rib. B, L, D. $, major.
Eldorado Hotel/Bistro Roxy—786-5700. Gourmet dishes include Chilean sea bass with Yukon gold potatoes, creamed spinach, and roasted pepper relish. D. $$, major.
Eldorado Hotel/Tivoli Gardens—786-5700. Multi-ethnic, 24-hour restaurant. 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 scaloppini, scampi in dill sauce, escargot. D. $$, major.
Eldorado Hotel/Grill and Rotisserie—786-5700. Mahogany-fueled rotisserie and grill, fresh fish, fowl, lamb. D. $$, major.
Fitzgeralds Reno/Limerick's Pub and Grille—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. $$, major.
Silver Legacy/Fairchild's Oyster Bar—Reno, 329-4777. Crab cakes, oyster pan roast. L, D. $$, major.
Silver Legacy/Sterling's Seafood and Steakhouse—Reno, 329-4777. Medallions of filet mignon, spicy roast chicken, seafood fettucine. D. $$, major.

BREW PUBS

Eldorado Hotel/The Brew Brothers—786-5700. Gourmet pizzas, ribs, barbecued shrimp, sausage sampler. L, 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.

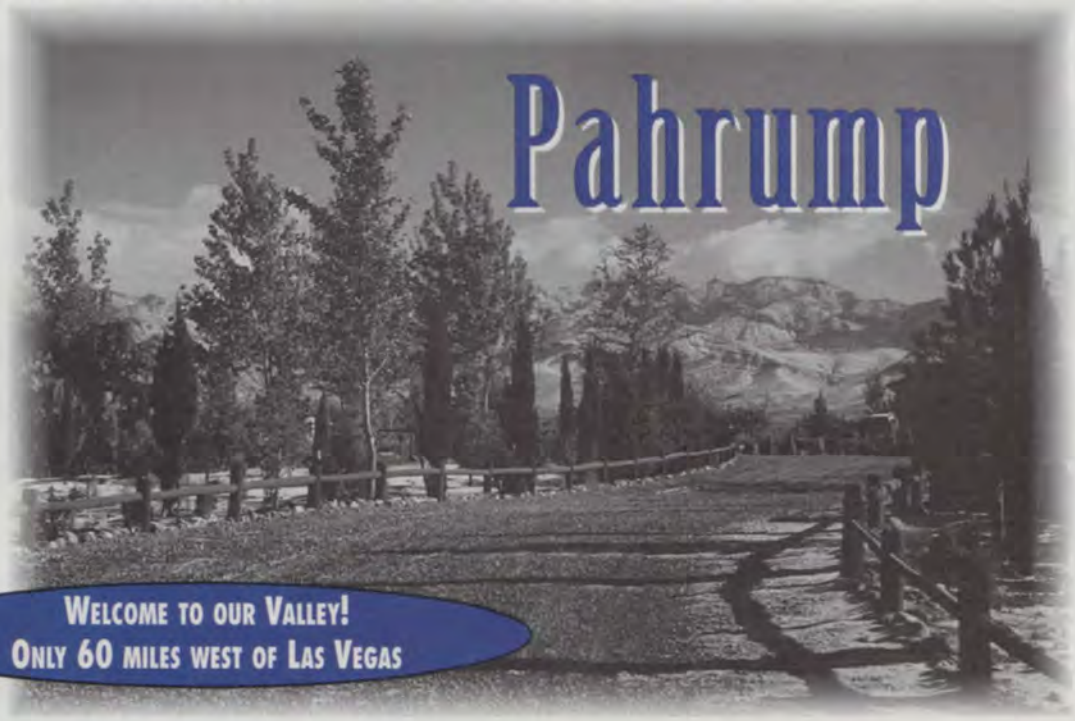
STEAK & SEAFOOD

Caesars Tahoe/Broiler Room—Stateline, 588-3515. Prime rib, seafood, Cajun specialties. D. $$, major.

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.
TONOPAH: Station House/Mary's Kitchen—482-9777. Hamburgers, steaks, seafood. B, L, D. $, AE, MC, V.
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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A Show That Sails

"New York, New York" delivers surprises at Harrah's Reno.

By Kim Pryor



Sailors dance, sing, and meet their match in "New York, New York."

"New York, New York," the revue in Sammy's Showroom at Harrah's Reno, is the story of a group of sailors on shore leave in World War II-era New York City. During their time away from the ship, these lonely gentlemen have one goal: to find a date.

Soon the sailors discover they have taken a bigger bite out of the Big Apple than they can chew. As one swabbie tells the audience, "New York City's nothing like my home town of Winnemucca."

Likewise, "New York, New York" offers surprises for showgoers. The production is more than a packaged cabaret show in which dance numbers are followed by a specialty act and then more dance numbers. Producer Greg Thompson, who cranks out hit casino shows, elevates "New York, New York" to something special by effectively weaving comedian Tony D'Andrea into the sailors' misadventures.

D'Andrea has appeared in numerous Nevada revues, and his celebrity impersonations are always on the mark. In one scene D'Andrea is Rip Taylor dressed in a gaudy sequined jacket. In another D'Andrea is Jack Nicholson waving a meat hatchet in Crazy Jack's Cafe. When a female dancer pushes a sailor aside and tells him, "Get a haircut," D'Andrea becomes Humphrey Bogart and owner of Bogie's Hair Shop. "I could lower your ears for $10," he confides. "I call it the Mike Tyson Special."

Joining D'Andrea is a talented cast of singers: Dave Russell, Darryl Ross, and Christine Shelton. A Liza Minnelli lookalike, Shelton shines on stage as she sings a passionate version of "If They Could See Me Now." Later, as a waitress in a Greenwich Village coffee shop, Shelton is perfectly flirtatious when she teases a showgoer. Using her dish towel to dab his face, she sings, "I Can Cook."

One swabbie tells the audience, "New York City's nothing like my home town of Winnemucca."

"New York, New York," is open to children, so most of the show is cute rather than sexy, with the exception of some adult dialogue and a playfully erotic scene near the end. In that scene the dancers, elegantly dressed in blonde wigs and red evening gowns, seductively sing to the sailors, "If You Don't See What You Want Up Here." Then, with their backs to the audience, the dancers strip off their bustiers and wait for red feathered boas to be lowered from the ceiling.

It appears that the sailors have finally found their dates—but wait. Here comes D'Andrea as a Columbo with a bad hair day. "When a guy talks dirty to a girl," he explains, "it's sexual harassment. But when a girl talks dirty to a guy, it's $3.95 a minute." The show ends with a red-white-and-blue patriotic finale—a cliché in some Nevada revues these days. But the deadpan D'Andrea perks up the scene as the ship's captain.

Overall, "New York, New York" is an entertaining show. The cast has fun on stage, and it shows. A lot of the jokes are pure corn, but the humor works. Thus, the sailors, while trying to find their dream dates, give us an hour's worth of creative comedy and fabulous show tunes.

Show Notes

"New York, New York," a show for general audiences, appears nightly except Thursday in Sammy's Showroom at Harrah's Reno. Show time is 7 o'clock nightly except Thursday. Tickets are $21.95; dinner-and-show packages are available. Call 800-HARRAHS or 702-788-2900 for reservations.

Kim Pryor, a Lake Tahoe freelance writer, had her own adventures in New York City during her first visit to the Big Apple last year.



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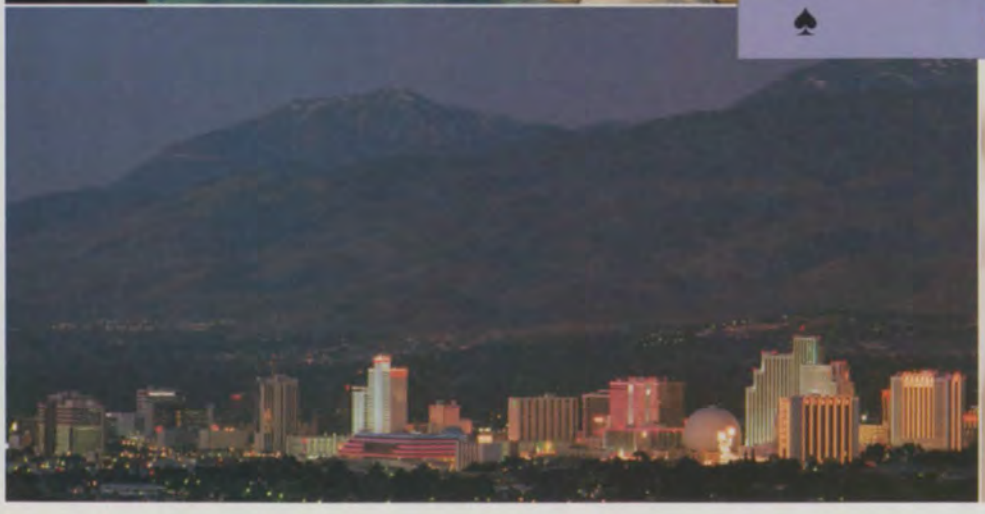
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Home-Grown Hospitality

The inn-side scoop on Nevada's bed-and-breakfast scene.

By Sharon Carter and Carolyn Graham

Sometimes it's nice to go home for vacation. Not the home where the bed is unmade and the phone never stops ringing. Rather, it's the home where you can kick back, put your feet up, and let someone make you breakfast.

You'll find such havens among Nevada's bed-and-breakfast inns. From millionaires' mansions to cozy farmhouses, the choices offer a variety of homes away from home. And this year, B&B fans will find a few new hideaways.

In Fallon you can't miss the big pink Victorian known as the 1906 House on the town's main drag, West Williams Avenue. Two years ago, Jerry and Suzanne Noonkester bought the ornate home and restored it to its original splendor. The house had been built by banker, car enthusiast, and Nevada State Senator Robert L. Douglass for his wife Eleanor. It later was purchased by Dr. F.E. Nichols, who turned it into the town's only hospital. (Suzanne Noonkester reports that a woman who was born in the house-hospital in 1920 returned for a tour last summer.) Despite a subsequently long list of owners, the house has fared well over the years. "Everyone who has had the house has loved it—you can just feel it," Suzanne says.





Now the 1906 House B&B, the historic Douglass house in Fallon is owned by Suzanne and Jerry Noonkester (left).

Each of the two bedrooms has a queen-size bed and antique furniture. His and her bathrobes hang on the doors. Aficionados of country cooking will be impressed with breakfast—Jerry is an expert biscuit baker.

In Virginia City, the newly opened Spargo House is the restored home of a Cornish miner on South B Street. The small, two-level house was built in 1876. The lower floor was living space for a dentist, and the upper level served as his office.

Three years ago Deborah Thomas and her geologist husband Trevor bought the building from 97-year-old Alberta Spargo of Reno, who grew up in the home. As the Thomases restored the house and added central heating, additional bathrooms, and a laundry room, they tried to keep it true to its simple origins. Historic photos of the Spargo family grace the walls along with Mrs. Spargo's needlework. The kitchen has a combination wood-electric stove and an early General Electric refrigerator, both of which came with the house.

"It's easy to get the hang of it," Deborah Thomas says of cooking with the antique equipment. "If you're using wood, you check the heat of the oven by holding your hand in it and counting the seconds before it gets too hot. That gives you a close estimate on the temperature."

For those less inclined to poke their hands into hot ovens, Virginia City restaurants are within walking distance. Thomas also provides a continental breakfast of homemade scones with coffee, orange juice, and champagne. "You can sit on the deck with your coffee and see just about

Photos: Churchill County Museum & Archive (top), Lahontan Valley News (bottom)





Sleeping quarters in the Spargo House recall old times in Virginia City (left). Butler Joon Shim serves owner Tracy Hurst at the Almost Heaven B&B on Mount Charleston (above).

forever," she says. "I'd be the first to say this isn't for everyone. But if you're going to stay in Virginia City and experience the flavor, this is how it should be done."

Following is a roundup of Nevada's bed-and-breakfast inns. Most B&Bs require reservations. Credit cards are accepted at most inns. The area code is 702 throughout Nevada.

Las Vegas Area

MOUNT CHARLESTON

Almost Heaven, 872-0711; 123 Rainbow Canyon Boulevard, Mount Charleston, NV 89134. Luxurious rooms with a house butler. $199 to $499. Four rooms with private baths. Full breakfast, afternoon hors d'oeuvres.

Reno-Tahoe Area

CARSON CITY

Bliss Mansion, 887-8988; 710 West Robinson, Carson City, NV 89703. $195 to $215. Opulent mansion built by lumber baron D.L. Bliss in 1879 and restored in 1994 by owner Theresa Sandrini. Four rooms with private baths. Coffee and tea are served in room prior to four-course breakfast, afternoon refreshments in the Key Room.

GENOA

Antonucci's Wild Rose Inn, 782-5697; 2332 Main Street, Box 256, Genoa, NV 89411. $100 to $140. Modern home is a replica Queen Anne Victorian, so guests find historic touches with modern amenities. Five rooms with private baths. Full breakfast buffet and afternoon wine.

Genoa House Inn, 782-7075; 180 Nixon Street, Box 141, Genoa, NV 89411. $105 to $130. Cozy, well-decorated rooms with historic amenities: One has a bathroom with an authentic pull-chain toilet and clawfoot bathtub. Three rooms with private baths. Coffee tray at door followed by full breakfast. Recent expansion includes the **Snowshoe Thompson Lodge**, a no-host B&B. The Lodge includes the Aspen Suite, which has a loft and balcony for $150, and the standing-balcony Lilac Room, which rents for $125. All rates include use of Walley's Hot Springs.

Walley's Hot Springs, 782-8155 or 800-628-7831; 2001 Foothill Road, Box 26, Genoa, NV 89411, 1-1/2 miles south of Genoa. $85 to $120, includes full spa privileges. Comstock-era spa has five small cottages. Continental breakfast is $3. A cafe serves breakfast and lunch.

INCLINE VILLAGE

Haus Village Bavaria, 831-6122 or 800-731-6222; 593 North Dyer Circle, Box 3308, Incline Village, NV 89450. $110 to $145 per night. Bavarian-style home with views of Lake Tahoe. Five rooms with private baths. Full breakfast. Access to private beach, minutes to the slopes at Diamond Peak Ski Area.

RENO

Bed and Breakfast-South Reno, 849-0772; 136 Andrew Lane, Reno, NV 89511. $75 to $85. This B&B offers a rare feature among Nevada's inns: a heated swimming pool. Owner Caroline Walters is continuously adding improvements; new this year is an expanded patio. Two rooms with private baths. Ranch-style breakfast.

Snug Inn at H Bar B Farms, 475-0100; 2100 Right Hand Canyon Road, Palomino Valley, Reno, NV 89510, about 25 miles northeast of Reno-Sparks off State Route 445. $65 per night, extra for dinner. Guests can snuggle into the one-bedroom cottage above the country store known for its jams made from the fruits of H Bar B Farms. One room and bath. Continental



The Genoa House Inn and Snowshoe Thompson Lodge (above) offer rustic Genoa getaways.

Photos: Sharon Carter (top left), Kate Butler (top right), Jon S. Paul (bottom)

breakfast. Evening refreshments are served.

VIRGINIA CITY AREA

Chollar Mansion, 847-9777; 565 South D Street, Virginia City, NV 89440. $75 to $125. Mansion has three rooms, two with private baths. Also can rent adjacent one-bedroom cottage for $125. Continental breakfast.

Gold Hill Hotel, 847-0111; 1540 South Main Street in Gold Hill, Box 710, Virginia City, NV 89440, one mile south of Virginia City. $40 to $120 per night (rates can go up to $135 during holidays or special events). The "1859 section" has four rooms with two private baths. The 1986 addition has eight rooms with private baths. There are four fireplace units and two off-site suites. Continental breakfast.

Hardwicke House, 847-0215; 99 Main Street, Box 96, Silver City, NV 89428. $35 to $55 per night. Historic stone house offers three rooms, one with private half bath; all rooms share shower and sitting room. Full breakfast.

Spargo House, 847-7455; 395 South B Street, Box 451, Virginia City, NV 89440. $75 to $125 per room or $250 for the entire house. Originally built in 1876, the Spargo House has been restored and contains many of its original furnishings. Upper floor has two bedrooms, two baths, and a parlor. Lower floor has one bedroom with bath and parlor. Both floors have kitchens. May be rented by the week. Breakfast scones, coffee, and mimosas. Walking distance to restaurants.



The Smith Valley B&B stands among the ranches and pastures of Lyon County.

WASHOE VALLEY

Deer Run Ranch, 882-3643; 5440 Eastlake Boulevard, Carson City, NV 89704. $80 to $95. Home is situated on the east side of Washoe Lake. Owners Muffy and David Vhay have added a pond with a pier and boat for peaceful paddling. Two rooms with private baths. Full breakfast with changing entrees.

Rural Nevada

AUSTIN

Pony Express House, 964-2306; 115 Northwest Main Street, Austin, NV 89310. $35 per bedroom per night. Historic house furnished with period antiques. Guests prepare their own breakfasts.

ELKO/LAMOILLE

Once Upon a Time Bed and Breakfast, 738-1200; 537 14th Street, Elko, NV 89801. $65 to $95 per night. Casablanca bedroom has a private bath; Stagecoach and Treasure of Sierra Madre bedrooms share a bath; all queen-sized beds. Complete breakfast. There is a dog on the premises.

Ruby Mountain Magic, 753-9111; Box 281153, Lamoille, NV 89828, Lamoille Highway. $85 to $125 depending on

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Photo: Jay Aldrich



The 1906 HOUSE
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This Ely B&B is a block from the Nevada Northern train museum.

the season. Two rooms with private baths. Full breakfast is served in morning.

ELY

Steptoe Valley Inn, 289-8687 or 435-1196; 220 East 11th Street, Box 151110, East Ely, NV 89315-1110. $74 to $80. The inn, which was transformed from an old grocery store, is a good spot for train buffs who want to see and hear the Nevada Northern locomotives as they chug out of the depot near the inn. Open June through September. Five rooms, all with private baths. Breakfast entrees include egg dishes, waffles, quiche, and baked apple pancakes with maple syrup, sausage, and fruit.

EUREKA

Parsonage House, 237-5756; 10223 Spring Street, Box 99, Eureka, NV 89316. $54. Guests rent an entire cottage, which has a huge bathtub and attractive woodwork carved by Frank Bleuss, who owns the house with his wife Carol. Continental or "make your own" breakfast.

FALLON

1906 House Bed and Breakfast, 428-1906; 10 South Carson Street, Fallon, NV 89406. $65. Romantic Victorian with period furnishings. Two rooms, shared bath. Country breakfast and afternoon tea.

GERLACH

Soldier Meadows Ranch and Guest Lodge, call 916-233-4881 to book a room or a working-ranch vacation April through October; Box 67, Likely, CA 96116. The cattle ranch is 72 miles north of Gerlach (55 miles on gravel road). $140 for B&B; dinner is $10. A ranch vacation—meals, lodging, and a horse—is $120 per person per day, $70 without the horse. Ten-room bunkhouse, shared bathrooms. Full breakfast is served.

JARBIDGE

Tsawhawbitts Ranch, 488-2338; Box 260090, Jarbidge, NV 89826, about 100 miles north of Elko. Adventurers are drawn to this 1970s ranch house for its proximity to excellent hiking and fishing opportunities. $65 per room in main house, which has five rooms and two baths. Also three-bedroom, two-bath cabin for $100 to $230 and one-room, one-bath cabin for $150. Full breakfast.

PARADISE VALLEY

Stonehouse Country Inn, 578-3530; State Route 290, Box 77, Paradise Valley, NV 89426, 40 miles north of Winnemucca. $50 to $85 per night. Sprawling country home with its own landing strip. Six rooms, four with private baths. Breakfast is continental, but a full breakfast (as well as lunch and dinner) is available upon request.

SMITH AND MASON VALLEYS

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

Hoye Mansion, 465-2959; 2827 State Route 208, Box 85, Wellington, NV 89444. $70 to $85. Rooms in this stately old home have Hollywood and historic themes, including Mark Twain and *Gone With the Wind*. Five rooms share two baths. Guests have option of a Hey Day Inn breakfast, which is included in the room rate.

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

UNIONVILLE

Old Pioneer Garden, 538-7585; 2805 Unionville Road, Unionville, NV 89418, 49 miles southwest of Winnemucca. $75. Hadley House has six rooms, one with private bath, or rent entire Ross House, which has three rooms. Can also rent the Tack Room in the barn next to the garden. Full breakfast.

WELLS

McCormick's Starr Valley Bed and Breakfast, 752-3898; Box 721, Wells, NV 89835, 10 miles west of Wells on I-80. $45 to $75 per night. Three rooms with shared baths, full country breakfast, accommodates special dietary needs.

Sharon Carter is a Jacks Valley writer. Carolyn Graham is Nevada Magazine's *associate editor.*

Photo: Carolyn Fox



Mizpah Night: This view shows Tonopah from the Mizpah Mine in the mining park. After opening the shutter I ran down the hill, lit the building with strobe flashes, and ran back up to the camera. The exposure was eight minutes.

MACHINE-AGE RELICS

Recalling old machines and Central Nevada's industrial past.

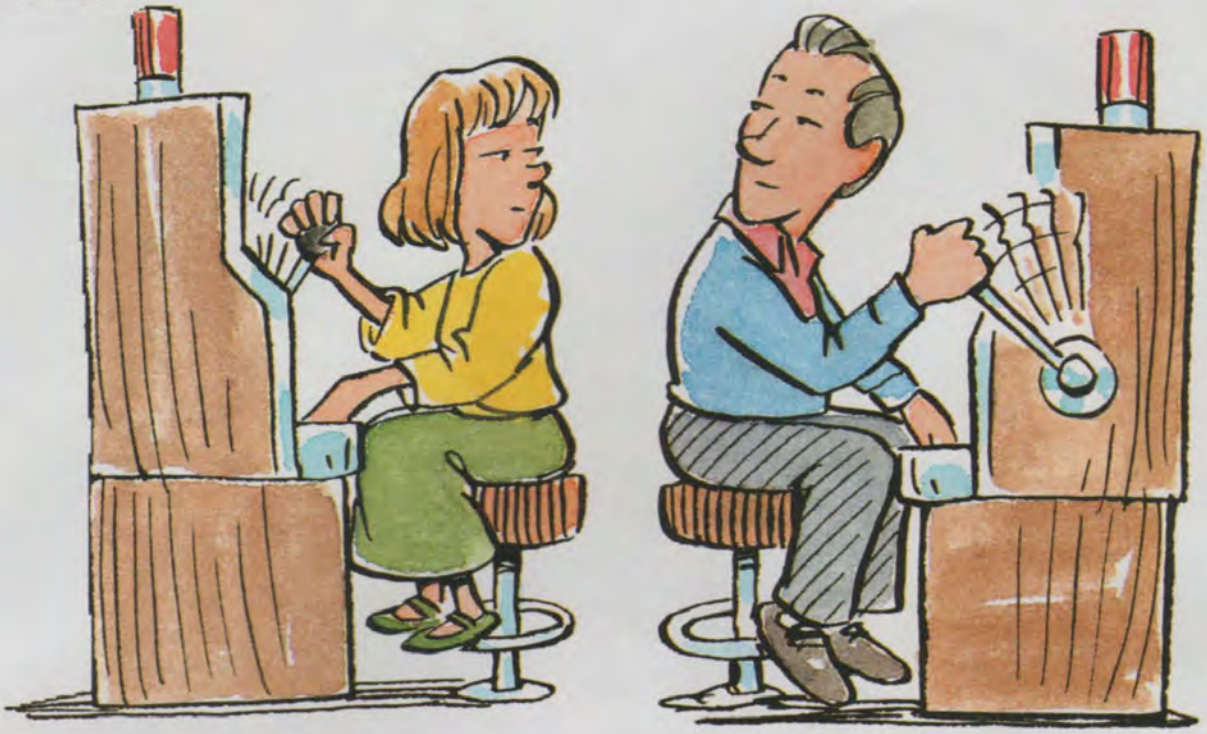
Photos and Words by Jim Galli

I am sentimental about old machines and the buildings that housed them. Too remote for World War II scrap drives, many such relics survive at the mining park in Tonopah, the Nevada Northern train museum in Ely, and elsewhere in the Silver State. The old machines speak volumes about the generations that built and used them. They are simple and honest. They have a certain beauty and a dignity of purpose. They also give us an important link to Central Nevada's industrial past.

Jim Galli is a Tonopah photographer. His photo exhibition "Machines That Made Our History" appears at the Nevada State Library and Archives in Carson City through March.



Machine Shop Shaft: The light at sunset caught my eye on these forms at the Campbell and Kelly Foundry in Tonopah. Two minutes later the light was gone.



SHE PLAYED, HE PLAYED

By Diane Sims

While I tried the slots, my husband stayed in the game.

I was sitting in the sports bar of the Reno Hilton with my husband on the last evening of our vacation watching a basketball game I knew nothing about. Our home team, the Portland Trail Blazers, was battling the Los Angeles Lakers, and I could have cared less. My fantasies of instant wealth had failed to materialize, and watching a bunch of guys dribble a ball up and down a court was about as exciting to me as oatbran. In contrast, my husband was happy as a clam at high tide and totally engrossed in the action.

"Loan me 20?" I yelled in his ear over the roar of the TV and sports-bar crowds. Startled, he glanced in my direction. "I don't want to break my big bills," I added quickly. "Big bills" consisted of $3 and loose change, but who was counting? "Can it wait until halftime?" he asked, eyes riveted to the giant screen. Having little recourse, I nodded, sat there, and grew older.

As the game dragged on, we negotiated a deal. He agreed to 20, provided I played it in a quarter machine he had won on earlier. Winnings would be split 50-50. On a scrap of paper he scribbled a map showing the location of his lucky machine, and I was out of there. "I can do this," I said as I disappeared into the crowd.

Confident I could find his machine, I sauntered around the enormous casino eyeballing slots with enticing names like Haywire, Slam Dunk, Fastest Cash, and Lucky 7, any of which could alter the course of our lives with the touch of a button. Life was good.

An hour later: reality check. I was looking for a needle in a haystack the size of Connecticut. The map, a major piece of fiction, resembled the tracks of a deranged chicken. Bottom line: My husband possessed the cartographic skills of a grapenut, or I had become the victim of a perverse joke. "Change?" came a voice from behind. I answered by reflex. "Yes, 20 in quarters, please." The stage was set. I would simply have to guess which machine to play.

Tossing the map from hell into the nearest trash can, I sidled up to a Lucky 7 machine, followed closely by my conscience. What if my husband suddenly showed up? Would he feel betrayed? After all, we'd been married for 34 years, and he trusted me. We were a team. What kind of a person was I? The morality of the situation concerned me for about 30 seconds. That's when I hit 120 quarters. Casting a guilty glance around, I pulled up a stool and played for serious cash. Lucky 7, one of those high-tech wonders that registers credits on a meter, was paying out frequently, and soon I was basking in the sunlight of prosperity. Clearly, it

Illustrations: Brian Crane

would have taken a blowtorch to eject me from my perch.

My euphoria was shattered by a tap on the shoulder. "Hey, hon." It was him! "That's not my machine," he said. "Thought it was," I lied. "No," he replied, giving me a skeptical look. "But you're close." Then he opened a new roll of quarters and began to play a Double Diamond slot directly behind me. "Don't know how you missed it," he said. "I gave you a map."

Meanwhile, my high-tech Lucky 7 instantly downshifted into an anemic low gear. The result was a reversal of fortune, also known as massive coin consumption. In five minutes I was flat broke. It was time to reshuffle.

Swinging around to my husband's machine, I took control of the spin button while he fed in the coins. The three payout lines of 800, 1,600, and 2,400 coins were impressive, but noting the five credits and vanishing roll of quarters I figured he had a better chance of being hit on the head by the Goodyear Blimp.

"This isn't a good machine," I said. "Paid before," he replied. "Why mess with success?" "You like basketball," I continued, "so how about a Slam Dunk machine?" "Got a winner right here," he shot back, feeding in the last of the quarters. "Give me a break," I laughed as I whacked him on the back. "It's a major loser."

That's when three Double Diamond symbols lined up across the second payline. A 1,600-quarter winner! I was dumbstruck. My husband, sporting a smile the size of a Buick, reached out and patted the machine like an old friend. Bells rang, lights flashed, and the credit meter whirled away. "We won! We won!" I shouted excitedly, jumping up and down. When he realized I was referring to my half of the win, he developed that deer-in-the-headlights look. There followed an awkward moment of silence.

HE BEGAN PLAYING THE SLOT. "DON'T KNOW HOW YOU MISSED IT. I GAVE YOU A MAP."



Sensing an opportunity, I grabbed a plastic tub, hit the cash-out button, and began scooping coins from the tray while my husband and a couple of total strangers proceeded to calculate the exact dollar amount of the jackpot. Shortly a smiling casino attendant arrived and settled the matter. "You've won $400," he said. The magic was definitely back.

Gathering up our good fortune, we headed for the nearest cashier's cage. We looked cool standing in line with our tubs full of quarters. After the payoff, my husband flashed four $100 bills under my nose and reached for his wallet, without offering me a cut. I had to act fast yet discreetly. "Thanks, dear," I said, snatching two C notes out of his hand. "Are we a great team or what?"

We celebrated with a romantic late-night dinner at one of the Hilton's restaurants. Under a canopy of crystal chandeliers and soft music, we relaxed quietly in our cozy booth. Chasing some baby peas around my plate with a fork, I suddenly remembered the basketball game. "Hey, hon," I asked, "who won the game?" Staring thoughtfully at me over a glass of chardonnay, he replied, "You did."

Diane Sims of Albany, Oregon, is a freelance writer who frequently battles the slots during Reno vacations.

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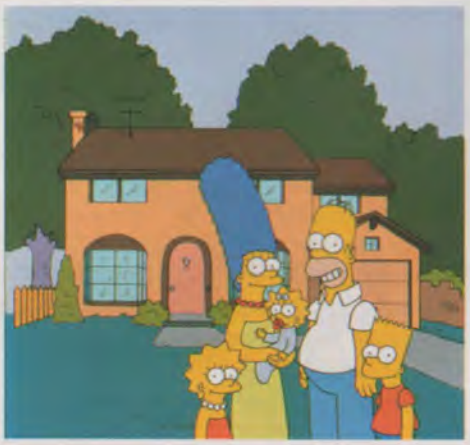
People Page

A Stardust star, a ghost-town explorer, and the Simpsons.

A Home for Homer

D'oh! There goes the neighborhood. Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa, and Maggie Simpson, those animated residents of Springfield, have a new house in Henderson.

Last summer the Fox network, along with Pepsi and the Kaufman and Broad home builders, sponsored a contest to give away a cartoonish home based on the Simpsons' TV domicile. In December Barbara Howard, a *Simpsons* fan, retired factory worker, and grandmother of 13 from Richmond, Kentucky, woo-hooed when she heard she had won the house. But Howard decided she wasn't ready to move to Southern Nevada and opted for a cash award instead. For now, the house will serve as a second home for the Simpsons, should they decide to vacation in Vegas.





Henderson is home to a replica of the Simpsons' technicolored, super-animated family digs.

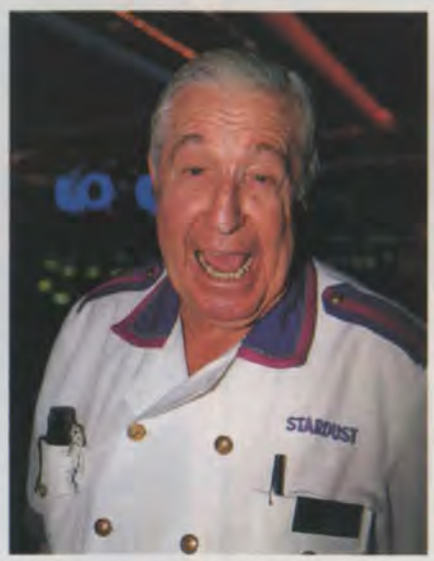
So far the neighbors have taken a Ned Flanders attitude and welcomed the famous family's home to their street. And that's asking a lot: Twenty-five super-bright colors were used, including Pink Flamingo and Generator Green. Marge's corn-patterned curtains and the Simpson's furniture complete the animated decor.

Curious fans were allowed to tour the four-bedroom house at 712 Red Bark Lane in Kaufman and Broad's "Springfield Community South Valley Ranch" for a brief period while it was under construction. Fox has not announced further plans for the house, but if Homer has anything to do with it, you should stay tuned.—*Carolyn Graham*

Bellman for the Ages

At age 82, Carl Heavin has been compared to the Energizer bunny. His ability to keep on going, delivering luggage and greeting guests at the Stardust Hotel, has earned him the distinction of being Las Vegas' oldest bellman and one of its most popular greeters. CNN and the *Sacramento Bee* have come calling, but he shrugs off the celebrity status.

"Age is just a number," says the robust Heavin. "I don't go to work because I have to," he says. "It's the people. I've gotten to know so many people over the years that they keep asking for me. We've grown old together." He admits he began thinking about retirement in 1980, when his wife Ruth retired. "I said I'd think about it, but each year I think, hey, I'll go a little while longer."



Carl Heavin loves his work at the Stardust.

Heavin's career at the Stardust began in 1959. For the 20 previous years he had been working the mines in Pioche, a tiny community 170 miles north of Las Vegas. He was a hoist engineer, responsible for running the cages that carried men and materials down into the shafts. Then the mines closed.

"Here it was December, and me with no job," he recalls. But Heavin's luck changed when he talked to Las Vegas gaming executive Duane Lubach, a friend and fellow Mason who was in Pioche visiting family. Lubach suggested Heavin apply for a job as a security guard at the Stardust.

Heavin was awed by the glittering lights and the size of Las Vegas, whose population at that time was pushing 60,000. He also was impressed with the 1,500-room Stardust. "I'd never been out of Pioche in all those years except for one trip to San Francisco," he says.

"I was hired, but I sure didn't know anything about being a security guard," Heavin recalls. "I even had to borrow a gun from Ike Orr, the sheriff in Pioche." Ruth Heavin reminds her husband that the old holster's leather was stiff and brittle. She points out, "You couldn't even get the gun out of the holster."

Heavin had little use for the weapon during the years he stood outside the "Lido de Paris." He was more concerned about backstage trespassers and dress codes. "In those days people really dressed up in their furs and jewels when they came to a casino," he says.

Heavin later became the Stardust's doorman and valet. As the hotel's official greeter, he was expected to look sharp in his jacket and tie and make every guest feel important, a lesson he's never forgotten. He remembers meeting Frank Sinatra and Harry Truman. He recalls Elvis Presley and Jimmy Durante for their generosity—Elvis for writing a nice note to a friend of Heavin's who was ill, and Durante for saying thanks with a $25 tip.

Still, it is the not-so-famous people that he remembers most fondly. "When I go to work, I see people who I have known over the years," he says. "It's like a homecoming some days."—*Ann Henderson*

Photos: Fox Film Corporation (left 2), Chris Leedham (right)

Ghost Town Archivist

William "Bill" Davis of Fallon has a mission: to document the region's hidden historic sites before they disappear. A retired millwright who dabbles in mining consulting, Davis has documented 18 historic and prehistoric sites in Churchill County over the past 10 years. For him, the anticipation of finding dilapidated foundations, broken bottles, or rusty cans is as exciting as discovering a gold mine.

Using federal permits, Davis works with the Bureau of Land Management and private-property owners. "The BLM was mandated years ago to locate and preserve these ghost towns, but they don't have the manpower," Davis says. He searches the county's historic records and newspapers and talks to Fallon old-timers.

His explorations have led him to extremely remote camps and town sites. The largest and oldest site documented by Davis was White Plains, settled near the Carson River in 1868. "The Central Pacific served White Plains," he says, adding that it was a "very active" town.

Crystal and Fairfield also were little known. Davis spent three years looking for the old site of Crystal, inhabited from 1905 to 1916. Curiously, Fairfield never had a resident, he says. "A couple of lawyers from Goldfield set up the stakes laying out the town site, but no one lived there. It was plotted on paper only."



Bill Davis searches for the ultimate ghost towns.

Davis often treks hundreds of miles to locate a site. When he drives the mountain ranges near Fallon in his GMC pickup, he carries only water, victuals, a backpack, and a tent. His feet, legs, and sharp eyesight are his tools of the trade. Often he explores the desert alone for two or three days at a time.

"Yeah, I'm always running into rattlesnakes. I've bent down to look into a rocky overhang, and there's been one coiled or one sticking its head out from inside. I don't pay much attention to them. My low-range hearing is bad—I've probably walked across a lot of them. I just go my way and let them go theirs," he says.

But he admits when he sees mountain-lion tracks or hears the cats screaming at night, he keeps a keen vigil. Of the other desert wildlife, Davis says ticks drive him craziest. "One year, I went up into Berniece Canyon. I was covered with ticks. You couldn't walk through the high brush without them jumping on you."

Still, he takes pleasure from seeing wild horses or hearing coyotes howl at night. "It's pretty wild but a great way to live, looking for the historic record," he says.

Davis's book, *Historic Site Studies in Churchill County, Nevada*, will be published soon by the American Literary Press. Davis' report, *Historic Transportation Routes of Churchill County*, is available at the Bureau of Land Management office in Carson City.—*Laura Tennant*

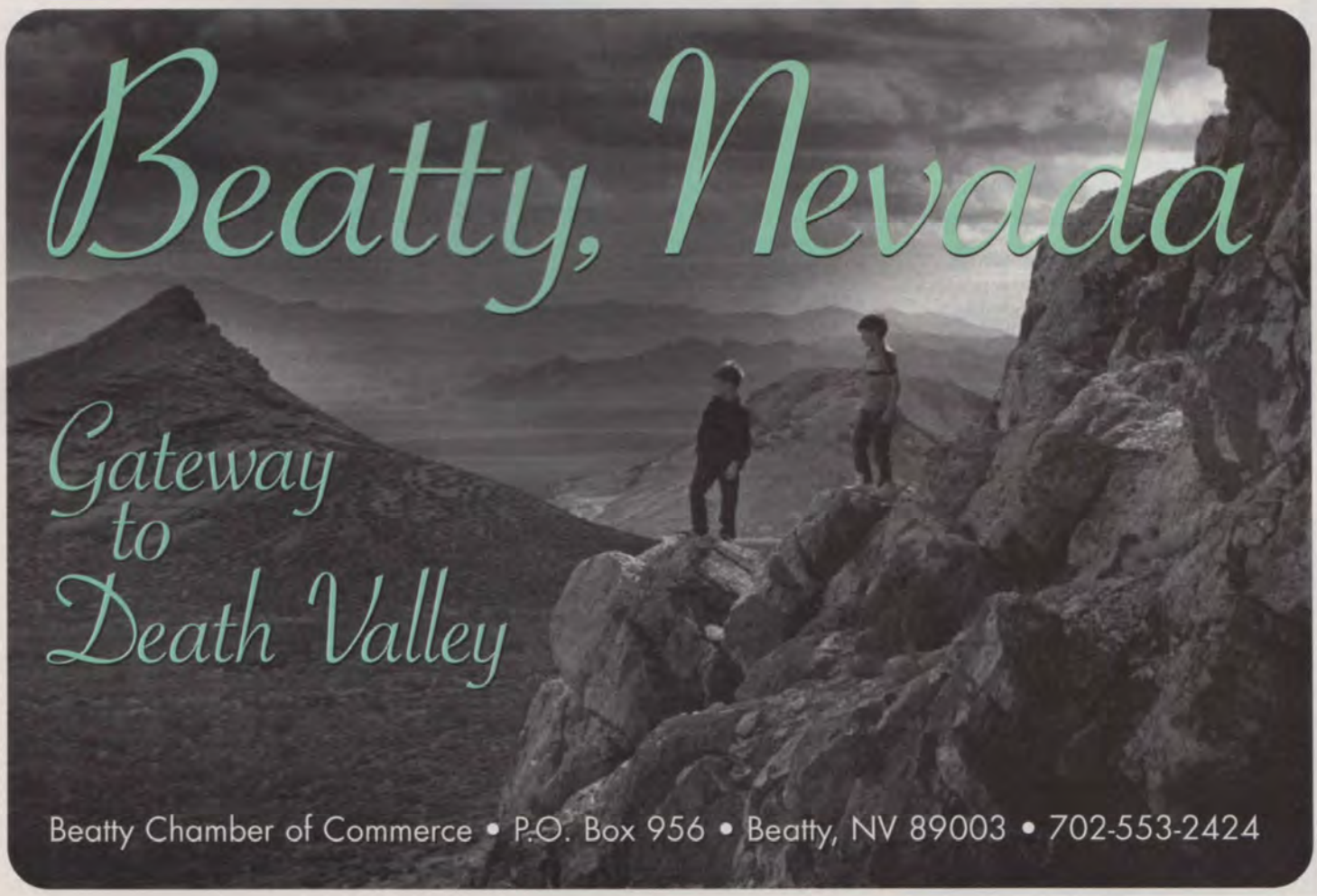


Photo: Laura Tennant

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Shopping Guide

Nevada malls and shopping meccas. **By Carolyn Graham**

The News

Shoppers can satisfy their sweet tooth at **M&M World**, M&M's first retail store, which opened last year at the Showcase Mall on the Las Vegas Strip next to the MGM Grand. Candy lovers will find bins filled with unusual colors of M&Ms, such as gray, white, and purple, as well as an array of M&M-themed merchandise. The 26,000-square-foot store has T-shirts galore, M&M dinnerware, and assorted candy-coated knickknacks. To sweeten an evening out, the shop even has rhinestone-studded cocktail dresses with matching handbags that are in the shape of an M&M (plain, not peanut).

Spring is in bloom at Reno's **Meadowood Mall**, where landscape architects from local nurseries will show off their flower power. Gardeners can peruse the plots on display in the mall's common areas March 5-15. A few new stores, including Brookstone, Games Keepers, Stroud's, and Speedo, have recently opened at the south Reno mall.

The **Boulevard Mall** in Las Vegas turns 30 in March, so shoppers should watch for special contests and events.

Last winter a new restaurant, the Metro Grille, opened at **Park Lane Mall** in Reno. A 16-screen movie theater is scheduled to open in May '98.

Mall Guide

Las Vegas

Belz Factory Outlet World is the largest outlet mall under one roof in the United States. In fact, to explore each of the mall's 140 stores you'd better wear your walking shoes. The four-year-old mall on Las Vegas Boulevard, a couple miles south of the Strip, has undergone two expansions, including the addition of Off Fifth Saks Fifth Avenue outside at the south end of the parking lot. Inside stores include Spiegel, Levi's, Casual Corner, Reebok, Burlington Brands, and others that carry clothing, shoes, home decorating items, housewares, and casino logo merchandise. Belz also has two food courts, one of which has an old-fashioned carousel. Phone 702-896-5599.

The **Boulevard Mall** sprawls across 1.2 million square feet with 144 stores, making it Nevada's largest. The mall, which opened in 1968, is big but not overwhelming—the layout is easy to navigate. Anchor stores include Macy's, Dillard's, JC Penney, and Sears. The mall is located at Maryland Parkway and Desert Inn Road, two miles east of Treasure Island on the Strip. Phone 702-732-8949; www.blvdmall.com.

The **Fashion Show Mall** has always had glamour appeal due to glitzy anchors Saks Fifth Avenue, Nieman Marcus, Robinson May, Dillard's, and Macy's. The mall, next door to Treasure Island, has more than 130 stores and is known for its trendy eateries, including Sfuzzi, Dive!, and Chin's. The Fashion Show also has interesting specialty shops such as the Discovery Channel Store, Walt Disney Gallery, and San Francisco Music Box Company. Phone 702-369-8382.


M&Ms are king at Las Vegas' Showcase Mall.

Your shopping bags—as well as your senses—will be overloaded at the **Forum Shops at Caesars** with its 105 shops and nine restaurants. The attractions—an ever-changing sky, Omnimax theater, animatronic sculpture, and 3-D Cinema Ride—nearly overwhelm the opulent stores and restaurants. Shops include the Museum Company, Gianni Versace, Warner Brothers, and NikeTown. Phone 702-893-4800.

Galleria Mall at Sunset in Henderson, across the street from the Sunset Station Hotel, is the Las Vegas area's newest mall. Neglected shoppers in the rapidly growing city of Henderson anxiously awaited the February 1996 opening of the mall, where they now enjoy Dillard's, Robinson May, JC Penney, Mervyn's California, and 130 specialty stores. Phone 702-434-0202.

Las Vegas Factory Stores is an open-air outlet mall south of Vacation Village at the far southern end of the Strip. Shoppers will find 41 stores, including Mikasa and Vanity Fair as well as other clothing and specialty shops. Phone 702-897-9090.

A focal point of **Meadows Mall** is its replica turn-of-the-century carousel, where shoppers can reward their weary children (and themselves) with a 50-cent whirl. Meadows Mall, at U.S. 95 North at Valley View Boulevard, is anchored by Macy's, JC Penney, and Dillard's. Phone 702-878-4849.

Laughlin

Since it opened more than two years ago, the **Horizon Outlet Center** in Laughlin has given visitors the chance to participate in the one form of recreation that seemed to be missing in the Colorado River town: bargain shopping. The enclosed mall next to the Ramada Express on the southern end of Casino Drive has 55 outlet stores, including Geoffrey Beene, Wild Things, Mikasa (which has a nice view of the river), Bugle Boy, Levi's, and the London Bridge Candle Factory. The mall has a food court and covered parking as well as the Muddy Rudder Pub and Cecil's Market and Deli (both are open 24 hours). Phone 702-298-3003.

Reno

Meadowood Mall is Reno's largest with 130 stores, including anchors Macy's, JC Penney, and Sears. The mall, located at McCarran and South Virginia, recently added Sears and an attractive food court, where offerings range from hot-buttered pretzels to fresh-squeezed juices. If you're shopping for a new sofa or lamp, you'll find Macy's Furniture Store across Virginia Street. Phone 702-827-8450.

Park Lane Mall at South Virginia and Plumb Lane is anchored by Gottschalks and has 77 stores, including Jay Jacobs, Hot Cats, Lin's Imports, and Frederick's of Hollywood. If you like to exercise while getting a leg up on your window shopping, Park Lane opens daily at 7 a.m. for its mall-walking program. Phone 702-825-9452.

Carolyn Graham, Nevada Magazine's *associate editor, ate an entire bag of purple, yellow, pink, and gray M&Ms on her last trip to Las Vegas.*



The Elko bookmobile attracts attention at the Currie school.

Gypsy Librarian

Elko's bookmobile covers the longest library route in America.

Story by Charles Hillinger, Photos by Kate Butler

The 30-foot van pulled by diesel cab rolled through Northeast Nevada, along the seemingly endless dirt road of desolate Ruby Valley. It was the Elko County Library's silver and blue Nevada Rural Bookmobile on its 4,000-mile monthly odyssey over one of the most remote slices of America.

The library-on-wheels covers more than a third of Nevada, an area larger than 13 states.

Bookmobile driver-librarian Lorry Moiola was on the longest bookmobile route in America.

The bookmobile delivers an average of 5,000 books each month. It brings knowledge, romance, science, and adventure to 2,000 men, women, and children scattered throughout the state's towering mountains, rugged terrain, and bone-dry desert.

The library-on-wheels crisscrosses four counties—Elko, White Pine, Eureka, and Lander. It covers more than a third of Nevada, an area larger than 13 states. Isolated ranches, tiny towns no more than wide spots in the road, one-room schools, mining camps, Indian reservations, power-line and highway maintenance crews, prison camps, and numerous other out-of-the-way places and faraway people are found on Moiola's route.

As the first red bands of a new day flashed over distant snow-shrouded mountains in the clear, crisp dawn, Moiola gassed up the big bookmobile at the County Yard in Elko, his home base. He would be on the road delivering his cargo of precious printed words until sundown, when he would check into a motel in Ely.

His first stop was Currie, population 15, located 115 miles

southeast of Elko. The bookmobile pulled up in front of Louise Garcia's six-student, one-room trailer school. Moiola had several volumes ready for the grade-school boys and girls, books they had ordered during his last visit two weeks before.

"Here are Milena's books on Australia and Jennifer's *Animal Doctors*," the librarian said as the students piled into the bookmobile. Milena Parker, a seventh grader, hoped to be an exchange student in Australia. Jennifer Chandler, a fifth grader, wanted to be a veterinarian. The children at the Currie school live on ranches in the area.

Deanna McCall, mother of fourth-grade twins Katie and Terri McCall, noted that Currie had been without a school for six years before the school reopened the previous fall. "To have a school in Nevada," she explained, "you need a minimum of seven students in the beginning and four to keep it going. We didn't have enough kids until this year to get the school reopened."



Students from McGill Elementary School browse the shelves. The bookmobile visits every two weeks.

McCall, her husband David and their twin daughters live without electricity on a 75,000-acre ranch 15 miles by dirt road from Currie. McCall taught the twins their first three grades at home.

"It's good for them to have a regular teacher like Louise Garcia, important for them to have contact with other children," McCall said. She was selecting 10 books for herself—biographies, histories, and bestsellers—and 10 Westerns for her husband.

Many of the books brought along by the librarian were special orders from mothers living on isolated ranches miles from their next nearest neighbors. These mothers teach their children at home; the nearest school may be 75 to 150 miles away by dirt road.

At Currie, as on other stops along Moiola's journey, the children's favorite authors included Judy Blume, Beverly Cleary, Marguerite Henry of *Misty of Chincoteague* fame, and Walter Farley, who wrote the *Black Stallion* series.

At Donna and Tom Korby's Currie store—the "Best and Worst Place in Town"—ranch wife Kathy Lear, a voracious reader like so many others who live in this lonely part of America, said the arrival of the bookmobile was "the biggest social event we have." Lear said she reads "everything so long as it's clean. Unfortunately, so many of the bestsellers aren't clean."



Current and past librarian-drivers Alan Foust (left) and Lorry Moiola discuss their years on the road.

Currie's Best and Worst Place in Town is a grocery store, gas station, cafe, and bar with an old wooden wagon on the roof and jackrabbit milk for sale by the can. The school and the store are Currie. That's it. There are no telephones in Currie.

Moiola has been a resident of Nevada's outback all his life except for two years as a gunner's mate on the destroyer Mansfield during the Korean War. He knows just about every cowboy, Indian, miner, schoolteacher, bartender, store owner, correction-camp prisoner, and hermit in the northeast part of the state.

"Sometimes it's sad," the librarian mused. He was thinking of Elmer Hall, of the old mining town of Mountain City, where all 75 residents expect a gold rush momentarily. Hall and his wife, Margaret, both in their 70s, were regulars on the bookmobile for years.



When Foust arrived in Lund, Becky Perry (left), Jack Hendrix, and Joan Gardner were ready for new books.

"Elmer would draw 10 Westerns every visit," Moiola recalled. "Then two months ago he failed to show up. He died. Margaret is back getting books for herself, but it's not the same."

White Pine County's Preston is on the map, but there is nothing there but 20 mailboxes side by side along the road. When the bookmobile shows up at the assigned time every other week, ranchers are waiting by the mailboxes on horseback, in pickups, on motorcycles and three-wheelers.

At Boise Ranch, the bookmobile pulled up in front of the cookhouse at lunchtime, and the cowhands poured out. In Baker, Moiola greeted bartender Al Genz, the library's best customer. Genz checks out 20 romance books every other week for his wife and a like number of Westerns for himself.

Moiola made another bookmobile stop on the west side of Pequop Summit, at a prison facility called the Wells Conservation Center. "Without Lorry we'd be sitting around in the evenings twiddling our thumbs," volunteered an old con. The inmate said he fought in Germany during World War II as a staff sergeant with the First Division 26th Infantry. He reads everything about World War II he can.

When the bookmobile pulled up in front of the cookhouse, the cowhands poured out.

A 35-year-old convicted robber likes books about old-time criminals. "This man is the greatest," the inmate insisted, putting his arms around the librarian's shoulders. "You want a book? He gets it for you."

Another prisoner ordered every book available on the Cosa Nostra.

The bookmobile remains in Elko every other Thursday. That's the day Moiola washes it, greases it, changes the oil, "and crawls under the son-of-a-gun to see what ails it and what's falling off."

The bookmobile is the only library for residents of tiny towns throughout Nevada's sparsely populated northeastern counties—places with names like Lages, Lund, Lamoille, Jiggs, Jackpot, McGill, Ruby Valley, Huckeley, Tuscarora, Dumphy, Contact, Carlin, and Wildhorse.

"The bookmobile is our library," said Geraldine Jones, secretary at the Duck Valley Indian Reservation's Owyhee School. "It is extremely important not only to the 315 children in kindergarten through 12th grade, but to all the Indian families here as well."

The reservation straddles the border of Idaho and Nevada. Both states have bookmobile card holders at Duck Valley.

Moiola is also librarian for Utah residents. He stops every other Tuesday at Wendover, a town divided by the state line of Utah and Nevada. Children from both sides of the border draw books from the bookmobile. They attend elementary school in Nevada and high school in Utah.

The nomadic bookmobile is also the library for Great Basin National Park. After



Foust helps Currie students select their books.

Bookmobile Update

Since Charles Hillinger wrote about Lorry Moiola's sojourns as Elko's gypsy librarian, Moiola has retired and the Currie store has changed hands, but his old route on the highways and back roads of Northeastern Nevada is still the bookmobile equivalent of *War and Peace.*

Moiola was succeeded by his son Mitch and then four years ago by Alan Foust, the current driver. Foust puts 40,000 miles on the bookmobile each year. The program, which distributes more than 20,000 books and tapes to distant patrons, is supported by the state, federal government, Elko County, and Elko's Friends of the Library.

Foust usually travels solo, but sometimes he is accompanied by bookmobile clerk Julia Doren or extension supervisor Laura Oki. He stays overnight in Ely when he makes the run south to Lund and Baker. Otherwise Foust returns to Elko each evening from Jackpot, Owyhee, and the other far-flung towns on his route.

Meanwhile, Lorry Moiola is a familiar figure at the Elko library, where he regularly drops in to visit. Laura Oki adds, "And he still comes to our Christmas parties."

Great Basin, the bookmobile visited powerline crews at Mariah's Junction and the families of an isolated highway maintenance crew.

At the one-room school in Oasis, teacher Beverly Roesch noted that the bookmobile "is our only readily available source of reading material. The bookmobile is an invaluable aid for our school and for the community. We're all insatiable readers here."

Until the mid-1980s, Oasis was the Nowhere Saloon. Now it's the World Brotherhood Colony, home to 90 men, women and children. Most of the adults are graduates of the University of California at Santa Barbara. Disciples of Paramahansa Yogananda, they bought the tiny town of Oasis and the ranch that surrounds it and live in trailers behind the town's school, store, cafe, and auto garage. They run 2,000 head of cattle and maintain studios where they throw pottery, knit, quilt, and make leather goods. The land is held in common by members of the group.

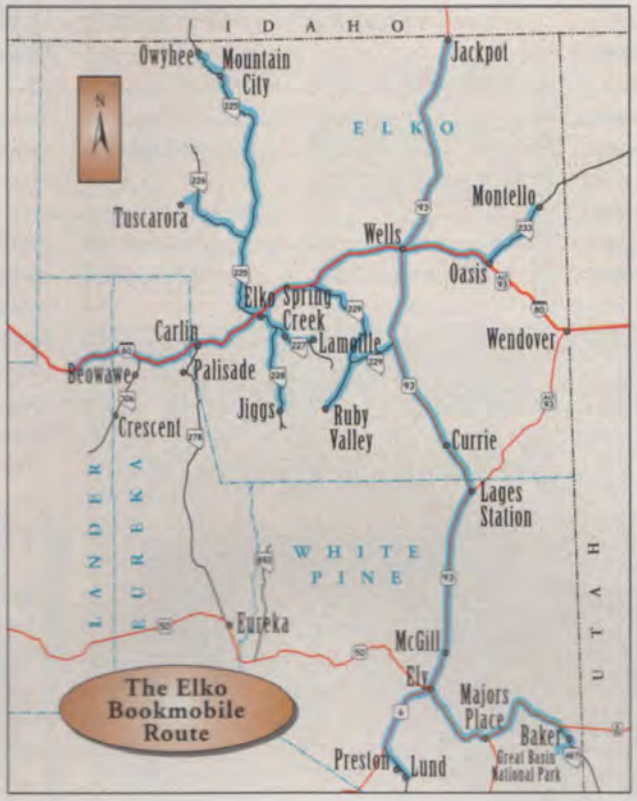
"We came here because of the isolation, the clean air," Roesch said. "We are linked together spiritually. We're not drug users, don't smoke or drink.

"And we love the bookmobile. It's one of our most important links with the outside world." Other stops that day included Jean Stevens, an amateur archaeologist who lives alone near an archeological dig.

"My life revolves around the bookmobile," Stevens said. "When I need documentation for my work, Lorry provides me with scientific texts, journals, or papers."

Lorry Moiola — Nevada's gypsy librarian—said he's delighted to bring the library service to this lonely territory.

"For me this is a free and easy job. I enjoy meeting people. Nevada is the last frontier. It has all the free life that's left," Moiola observed.



Charles Hillinger was a feature writer and columnist for the Los Angeles Times *for 45 years. His stories were syndicated to 600 newspapers. He lives in Rancho Palos Verdes, California, and is writing books. The preceding is an excerpt from* Charles Hillinger's America: People and Places in All 50 States, *with a foreword by Charles Kuralt (Capra Press, Box 2068, Santa Barbara, CA 93120, $16.95).*

Kate Butler of Lamoille is a writer and photographer.



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PIRATES OF PIZAZZ

(Continued from page 15)

Sierra Mountain, bringing a touch of the wild to the splashy scene.

Another Las Vegas-like free show is found at Silver Legacy, inside the huge dome that changed the downtown Reno skyline in 1995. There, you can stare at a gigantic machine, sort of a cross between a mining headframe, an oil derrick, a train trestle, and a railgun—in short, the world's largest erector set. This all-in-one Mr. Magoo contraption mines ore from deep under the Legacy, refines it into silver, and mints one-dollar silver tokens (the first two processes are apocryphal, but it actually performs the last procedure). The machine is a spectacle in itself, but a show does accompany it: 15 minutes of smoke and fireworks and lasers and music go on four times daily.

Circus Circus in Reno, like its Las Vegas counterpart, presents circus acts daily as well as a carnival midway. For a bright idea outdoors, the Comstock Hotel, near the Truckee River, lights up its corner of town with the best display of neon fireworks anywhere. The Atlantis, too, sends waves of color up its hotel towers.

The signature show is still under development, so the details are sketchy, but it's known that Bellagio, Mirage Resorts' $1.7-billion "greatest hotel on Earth," will feature a $30-million choreographed water ballet in conjunction with the nine-acre lake that fronts the Las Vegas property. If Mirage Resorts' recent history with the volcano and pirate battle is any indication, the free-spectacle ante will be raised enormously by whatever emerges from the designers' imaginations.

Deke Castleman is managing editor of the Las Vegas Advisor.





Spectacle Guide

Following is a sampling of free outdoor and indoor spectacles at Nevada hotels. The area code is 702 throughout the state.

•Las Vegas•

Bally's • 739-4111: Light, water, and sound show takes place every 20 minutes at night.

Circus Circus • 734-0410: Circus acts perform between 11 a.m. and midnight daily.

Excalibur • 597-7777. Fire-breathing dragon.

Forum Shops at Caesars • 893-4800: "Atlantis" and the Festival Fountain both play every hour on the hour at the Forum Shops between 10 a.m. and 11 p.m.

Fremont Street Experience • 678-5600: Light-and-sound show plays every hour on the hour between 6 p.m. and midnight.

Harrah's • 369-5000: "Carnaval Fantastique" at 6:15, 7:45, and 9:15 p.m. Tues.-Fri. (on Sat. and Sun. at 4:45 as well). Dark Mon.

Mirage • 791-7111: The volcano erupts every 30 minutes from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. (in winter starting at 6 p.m.).

Rio • 252-7777: Masquerade Village relives Mardi Gras every two hours starting at noon Mon.-Thurs. and 1 p.m. Fri.-Sat.

Sam's Town • 456-7777: "Sunset Stampede" lights up at 2, 6, 8, and 10 p.m.

Treasure Island • 894-7111: Buccaneer Bay shows take place every 90 minutes, at 4, 5:30, 7, 8:30, 10, and 11:30 p.m. (wind conditions cooperating).

•Reno•

Circus Circus • 329-0711: Circus acts perform between 11 a.m. and midnight daily.

Peppermill • 826-2121: Pool show every half hour in the afternoon and evening, late spring to early fall.

Silver Legacy • 329-4777: Mining machine comes to life daily at 4, 6, 8, and 10 p.m.

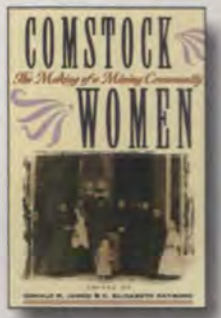


Nevada Bookshelf

Recent Nevada releases.

Comstock Women: The Making of a Mining Community

Edited by Ronald M. James and C. Elizabeth Raymond. University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV 89557-0076. 408 pages, $24.95 softcover. When it comes to Nevada history, men get most of the ink. *Comstock Women*, edited by Ronald M. James, Nevada's state historic preservation officer, and C. Elizabeth Raymond, a political science professor at the University of Nevada, Reno, is a collection of 14 historical studies that helps to rectify that reality. The authors of these essays, who include some of Nevada's most prominent historians, demographers, and archaeologists, explore such topics as women and politics, jobs, and ethnic groups. Chapters are slightly academic in tone but readable, particularly Andria Daley Taylor's "Girls of the Golden West," which describes Comstock myth-making during the 1940s and '50s, such as the creation of the legend of courtesan Julia Bulette.



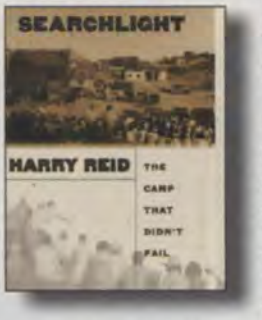
Carson City: The Early Years

Pediment Publishing/Nevada Appeal, 200 Bath Street, Carson City, NV 89703. 134 pages, $39.95 hardcover. More than 250 historic photos of Carson City from the 1860s to 1940s are included in this album produced by the *Nevada Appeal* newspaper, the Nevada State Museum, and Nevada State Railroad Museum. The black-and-white photos were culled from the state museum's archives and include work by photographers such as Daun Bohall and Adrian Atwater; the latter's work appeared in *Nevada Magazine* from the 1940s to the 1960s. Bob Nylen, the state museum's curator of history, provides text about the photos.



Searchlight: The Camp That Didn't Fail

By Harry Reid. University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV 89557-0076. 280 pages, $19.95 hardcover. Harry Reid, Nevada's senior U.S. senator, has written a comprehensive history of his hometown, the mining community of Searchlight, 56 miles south of Las Vegas. Reid, whose father and grandfather worked in Searchlight mines, spent 18 months interviewing old-timers and researching the book, which focuses on the town's founding and development—early in this century Searchlight was larger than Las Vegas. Other chapters discuss its mines and residents such as film stars Rex Bell and Clara Bow, who owned a ranch near town in the 1930s and '40s.

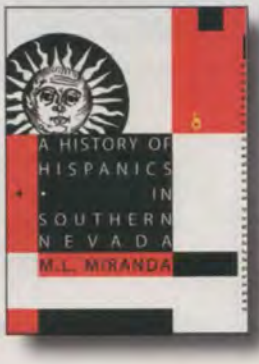


Las Vegas Cooks!

By Linda Linssen. All She Wrote Books, 4754 E. Flamingo Rd., Suite 384, Las Vegas, NV 89121. 130 pages, $10.95 softcover. Recipes from more than 60 top Las Vegas restaurants, including the Bacchanal at Caesars Palace, the Coyote Cafe at the MGM Grand, and the Bootlegger Ristorante, are compiled in this easy-to-follow cookbook by Linda Linssen, a Las Vegas-based freelance writer. Gourmet dishes range from the Garlic Cafe's uniquely named "Thai Me Up, Thai Me Down" chicken breasts to Ferraro's "Lobster Cognac."

A History of Hispanics in Southern Nevada

By M.L. Miranda. University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV 89557-0076. 280 pages, $29.95 hardcover. Hispanics represent Nevada's largest ethnic minority, yet they have not been the subject of much scholarly study. M.L. Miranda, associate professor and chair of the Department of Anthropology and Ethnic Studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, remedies that situation with this book. Miranda writes about the involvement of Hispanics in founding many of Nevada's earliest mining communities as well as contemporary political issues affecting Hispanics.



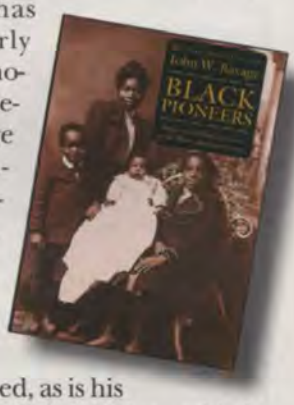
Nevada Readings and Perspectives

Edited by Michael S. Green and Gary E. Elliott. Nevada Historical Society, 1650 N. Virginia St., Reno, NV 89503. 298 pages, $17.95 softcover. Michael S. Green and Gary Elliott, history instructors at the Community College of Southern Nevada, have collected 40 essays and articles that they describe as the "best from Nevada's best historians." Contributors include C. Elizabeth Raymond, who profiles early 20th-century Nevada financier George Wingfield, and Roosevelt Fitzgerald, who studied African Americans working on Boulder Dam.



Black Pioneers: Images of the Black Experience on the North American Frontier

By John W. Ravage. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, UT 84112. 218 pages, $24.95 hardcover. John Ravage, professor of communications at the University of Wyoming, has assembled nearly 200 historical photographs that depict the full range of the African-American experience in the West. Black rancher Ben Palmer, a pioneer Carson Valley resident, is briefly mentioned, as is his sister, Charlotte, who in 1853 gave birth to the first non-Indian child born in the state. Ravage notes that in 1880 Nevada was the first state to ratify the 15th Amendment, giving African-American citizens the right to vote.—*Richard Moreno*



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Hot Spots

(Continued from page 22)



Hot springs are scattered throughout Nevada.

popular is a stock-watering tank at the bottom of the knoll. Three pools are located on the knoll. Two pools are hot, two are warm. This is U.S. Forest Service land, so you can camp at no charge.

I visited Spencer's one February when the weather was unusually spring-like. Arriving in midafternoon, I found two couples camped at separate springs. Another person had settled in near a third pool. I set up camp away from the springs. When I approached later, as usual, I found the hot springers friendly.

The region is extremely isolated. Be sure to tell someone where you are going and carry essential provisions like water and a spare tire. Gas stations are few and far between. Pick up a map at the Forest Service station before leaving Austin. By the way, U.S. 50 in and out of Austin is steep, which may cause RVers to take a deep breath, as I did. RVs are fine on the dirt road to the hot pools of Spencer's.

George Williams III is the author of Hot Springs of Nevada, Hot Springs of the Eastern Sierra, *and the newly published* Hot Springs of Northern California. *Williams is also the author of seven books on Nevada history, including* On the Road With Mark Twain in California and Nevada. *To order autographed books by Williams, write Tree By The River Publishing, Box 20703-NM, Carson City, NV 89721, or call 702-887-1394 for a free brochure of available books.*

Map: NDOT/Nevada Magazine

Spring in Flower

Wildflowers paint the landscape from south to north.



The big pod mariposa is found in mountain areas like Lamoille Canyon southeast of Elko.

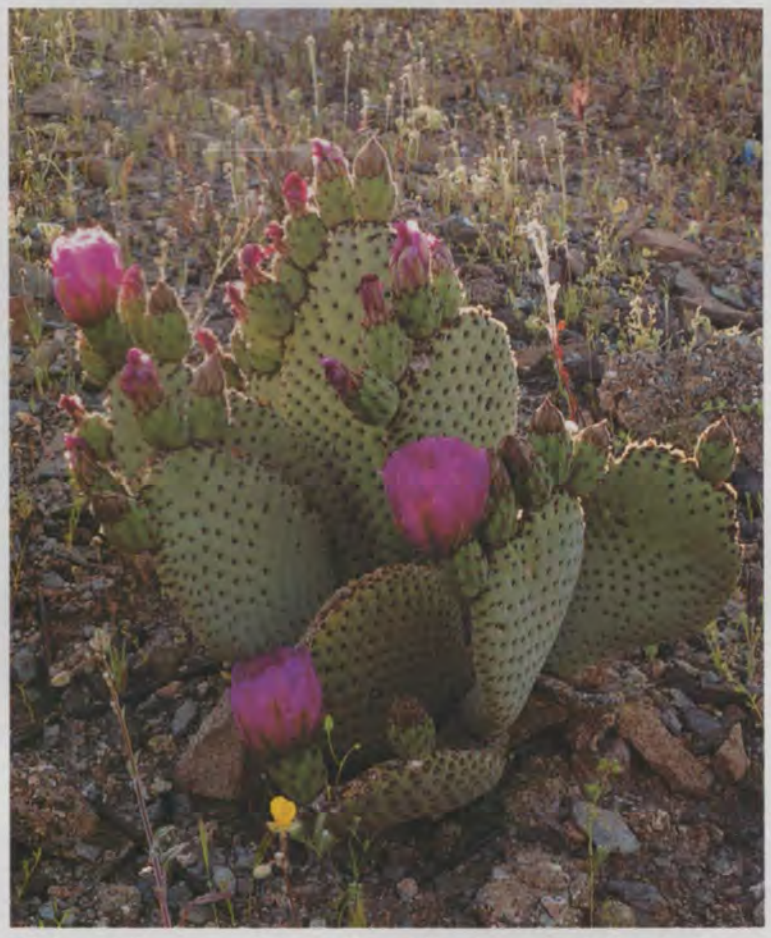
By Sharon Carter

The flowering plants of spring put on one of Nevada's splashiest shows. For wildflower watchers in the Las Vegas area, the extravaganza begins in March and April, when the beavertail cactus opens its rose-colored flowers. In May and June the show moves north and higher in elevation as the bright-red petals of Indian paintbrush appear in sagebrush country. By July red columbine and other plants in the high mountains present themselves.

The flowers' appearance depends on the proper combination of temperature and moisture. Gayle Marrs-Smith, a research botanist with the Bureau of Land Management in Las Vegas, says she hopes this will be a good year for the surveys she conducts of rare plants like the golden Las Vegas poppy.

"We've had a lot of wind, which dries the soil, and it's been cold," she cautions. "But if the El Niño effect kicks in with some late winter or early spring moisture, you can expect to see the [Las Vegas] valley carpeted with marigolds." Lake Mead National Recreation Area is good for wildflower viewing, according to Marrs-Smith. She recommends the hills around Nelson's Landing, 33 miles southeast of Boulder City, where the yellow and pink blossoms of barrel cacti and prickly pear appear April through May. Other spots are Red Rock Canyon west of Las Vegas and U.S. 95 to Searchlight and Laughlin. Visitor centers at Lake Mead and other parks have wildflower guidebooks, too.

Later in spring, flowers appear on a 100-mile-wide ribbon that crosses the state from Pahrump and Beatty to Alamo and Caliente. This transition zone between the Mojave and Great Basin deserts is symbolized by the Joshua tree, notes Ed Kleiner, a Reno-based revegetation specialist and owner of Comstock Seed.



This beavertail cactus near Lake Mead has prickly spines and early blooming flowers.

"Last summer the Joshua forests were spectacular with their big, waxy, lily-like flower clusters," he says. "It takes so much energy for them to bloom, and conditions have to be just right."

Farther north there's more moisture. "The valleys along Highway 95 can be filled with white birdcage penstemon, desert daisy, and primroses," Kleiner says. He says the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge near Denio and Mount Grant near Hawthorne often are prime wildflower areas.

When the high country begins to bloom in late spring, check the south and east faces of the mountains. "That's where the snow melts first," explains Carol Thomas of the Northern Nevada Native Plant Society. "Peavine Mountain north of Reno doesn't look like it, but it's a nice flower area," she says. "The buckwheats, golden bladderpods, and the bright-pink big-headed clover are spectacular." Thomas also recommends the Red Rock area north of Stead off U.S. 395 and Interstate 80 west of Reno. She adds, "And check the dune area around Fallon in late April and early May."

Helped by a little moisture, the lower desert may perform an encore in September and October, thus continuing a long-running exhibition that never fails to lift the spirits.

Sharon Carter is a Jacks Valley writer and wildflower watcher.

Photos: Larry Taylor (top), Chris Leedham (bottom)

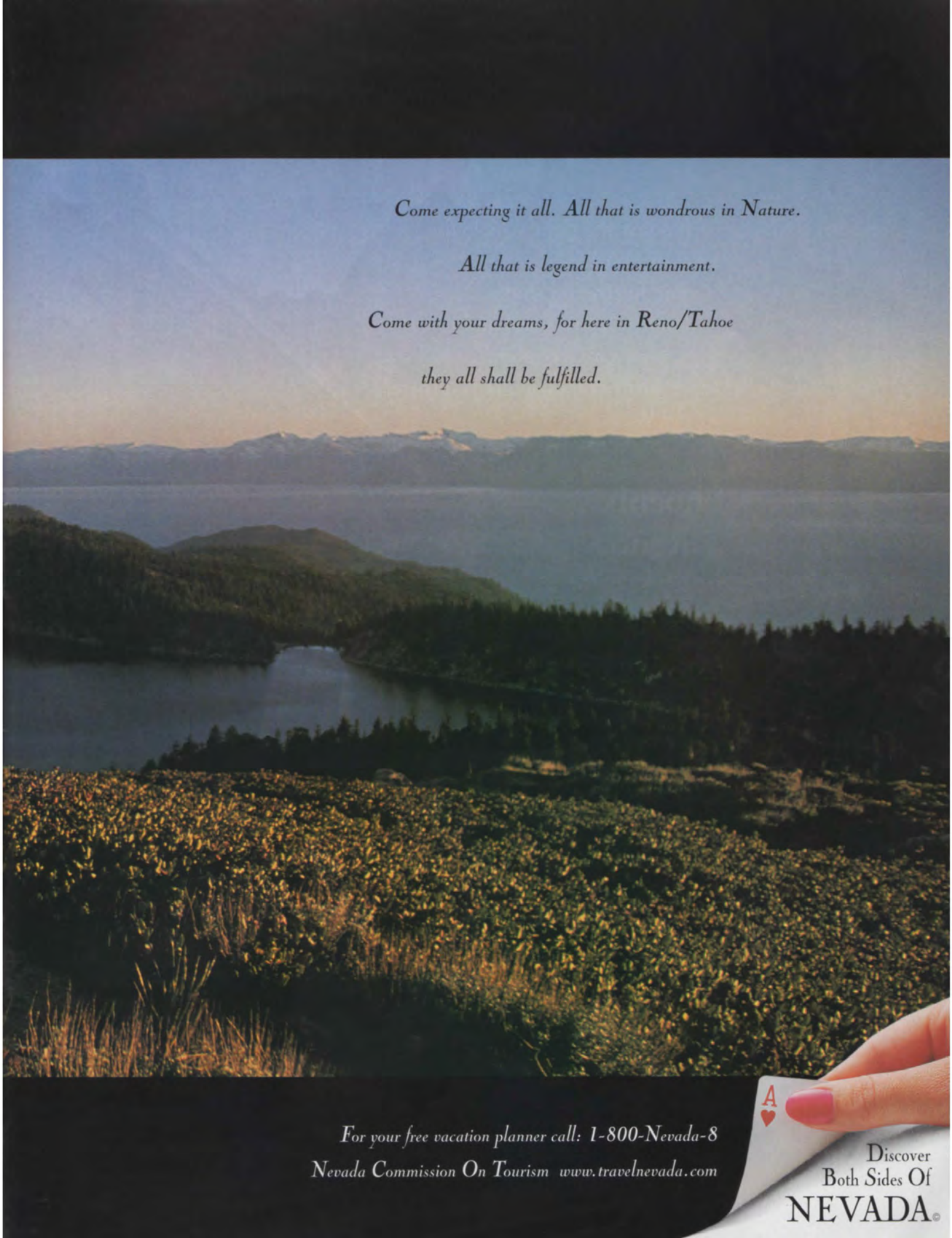
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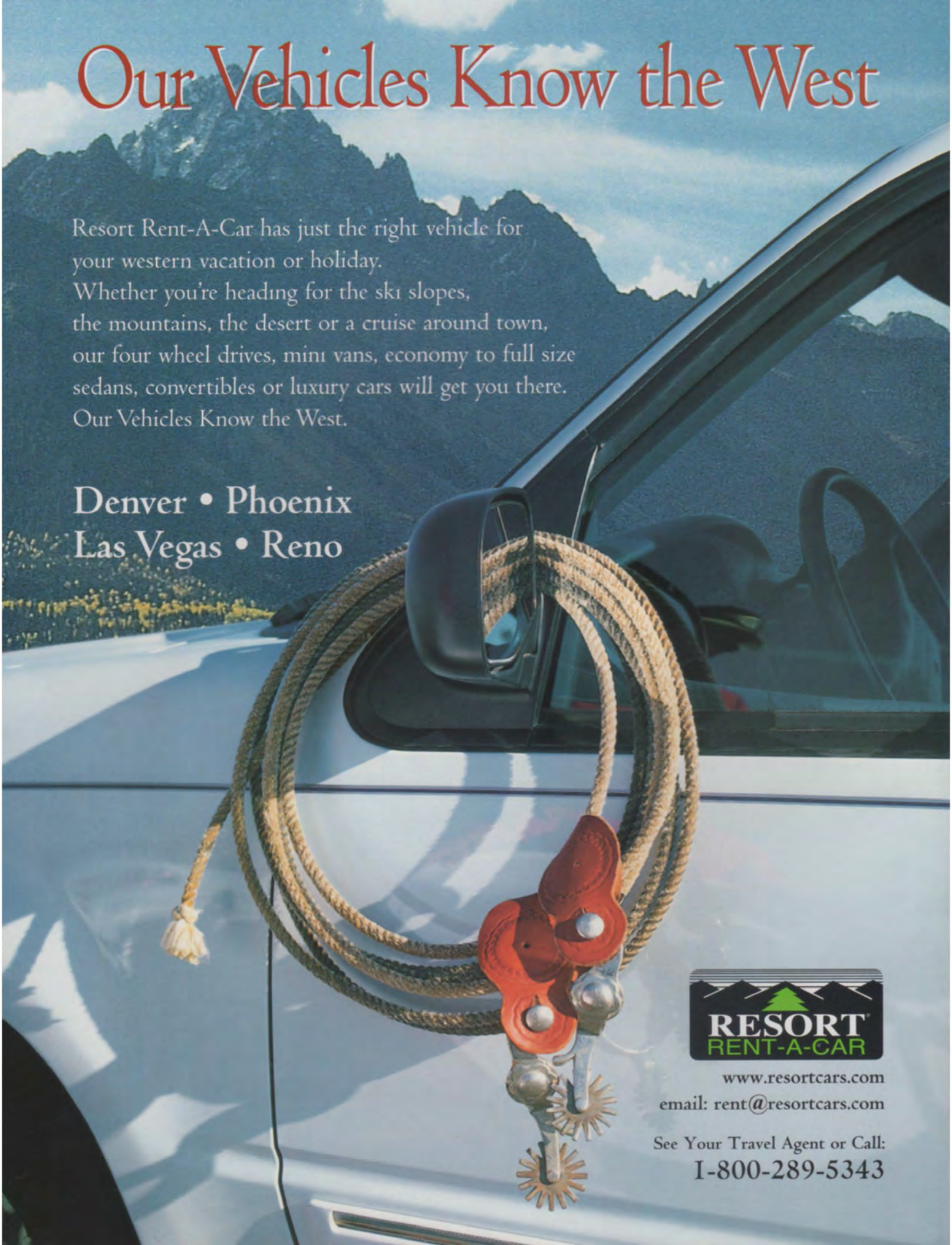
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