NEVADA

MAGAZINE

February 1999

INSIDE: Complete Guide to Events & Shows



The New, New Wave

Lavish megaresorts make a splash on the Strip

Tahoe in the Ruff

Skiers put on the dog in the back country

Operation Haylift

The winter Nevada's ranchers faced their own cold war

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NEVADA

MAGAZINE • VOL. 59 • NO. 1 • JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1999

"I came into Verdi and looking out the window saw the trees there coming down the mountains, the way the light was. I knew I was going to stay."

—Virginia City artist Richard Guy Walton



On the Cover:
Bellagio and its fountains on the Las Vegas Strip. Photo by Gail Bandini

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Weather Man

Snow, rain, wind—**Mark McLaughlin** loves it all. "Low pressure gets me high," says Mark, a weather historian and author who lives in Carnelian Bay, California, on the north shore of Lake Tahoe. "I was thinking of having a bumper sticker made."



Mark McLaughlin ponders winter on Mount Rose.

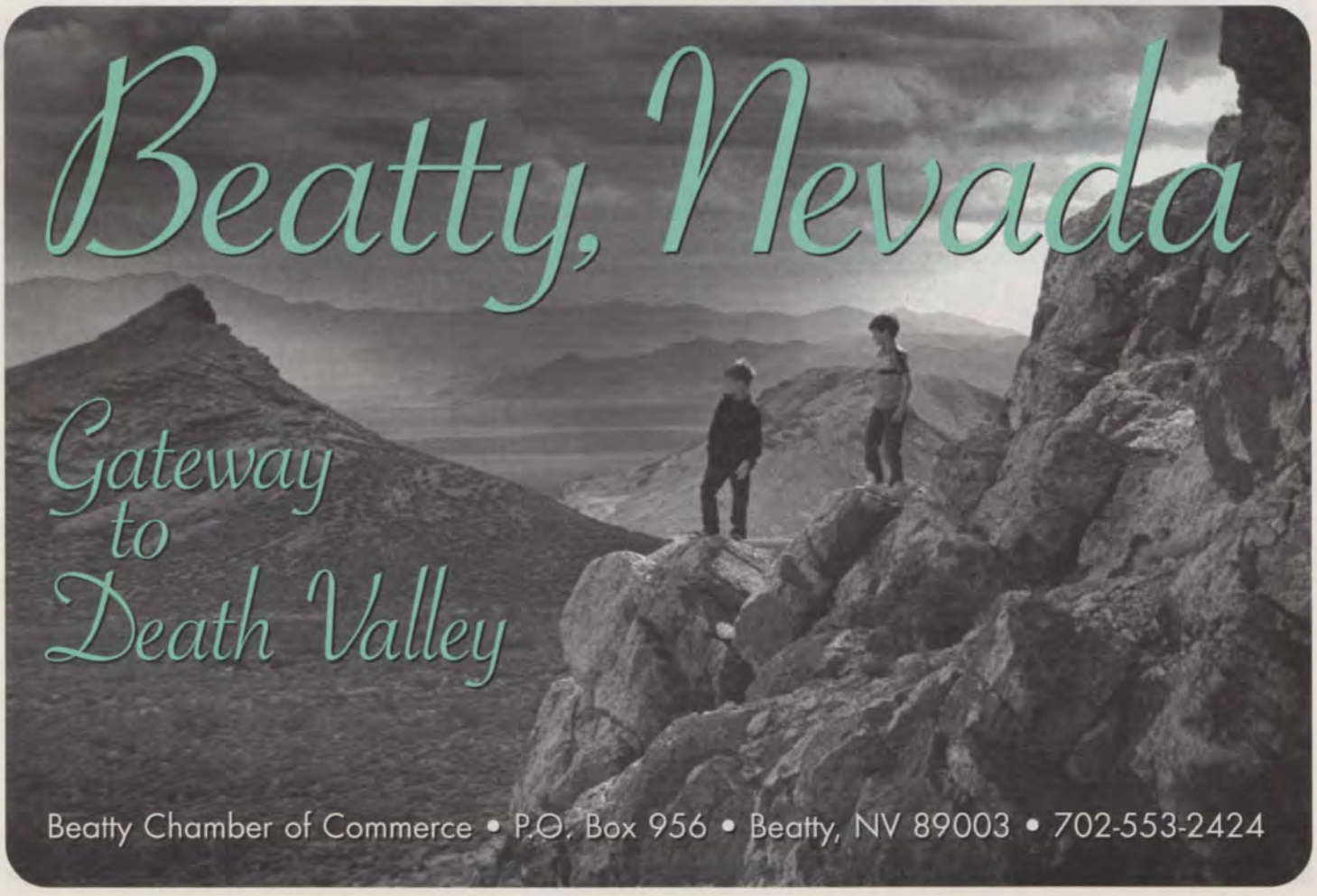
Mark is a self-confessed "weather freak" and a voracious student of history. He combines the two pursuits by poring over dusty old newspapers, magazines, and journals to learn about major weather events in Nevada and California. Mark discovered how rural Nevadans pulled together during the severe winter of 1948-49 and devised an ingenious plan to save the state's cattle and sheep. "It's just an amazing story," says Mark, who describes that dramatic effort in his story, "Operation Haylift," in this issue.

Weather has always had a major impact on society, which is one of the reasons Mark moved west from Philadelphia. "I left Philly 20 years ago to come out West because that's where the snow falls," he says. "Weather disrupts society. It's not good or bad—it's just nature and how we deal with it."

Mark isn't a meteorologist but continues to expand his knowledge of climatology, geology, and history at the University of Nevada, Reno. "I still remember my first day at UNR when I met John James, the professor and state climatologist," Mark says. "I went up to him and said, 'I want to write a weather history of the Sierra Nevada. He said, 'It's about time someone decided to do that.'"

Mark has expanded his research beyond the weather to write two books called *Sierra Stories: True Tales of Tahoe.* He lectures about weather and history at UNR, and his column on Sierra weather history runs in newspapers at Lake Tahoe. His current book project is *Sierra Train Stories.*

A storm of new hotel openings in Las Vegas led *Nevada* contributor **Deke Castleman** to explore the phenomenon in "The New, New Wave." As new hotels help shape the state's future, Salt Lake City writer **Richard Menzies** offers his take on Nevada and the millennium in "Millennium Mania."—*Carolyn Graham*



Letters

Buffets, hiking wear, and a Genoa-Dayton race.

Wendover Gourmets

"Gourmet Buffets" by Deke Castleman in the last issue was most enjoyable. Buffets are truly a unique part of any visit to the Silver State. However, my favorite of all the ones I have enjoyed over the years was missing, much to my dismay. It is the White Swan at the Silver Smith Hotel in Wendover.



The White Swan is relatively small, and it serves dinner only. But what a meal! Not only is the food consistently good, but the atmosphere is very different from other buffets. With its subdued lighting, linen tablecloths, and napkins, it seems more like an upscale dining room. A waiter is always close by to bring a cocktail or condiment with a smile—all in all, a most pleasurable experience and one your readers should be aware of.

Howard Payne
Pacheco, CA

Issue Rated

That Nov/Dec edition of *Nevada Magazine* looks great—the photo colors and well-written stories by Deke Castleman ("Gourmet Buffets") and Connie Emerson ("Made in Nevada").

Seth Moseley
Norfolk, CT

The Oldest Town

I read with great interest Martin Griffith's story, "What's Nevada's Oldest Town?" in the Sept/Oct '98 issue of *Nevada Magazine* on the controversy about which is the state's oldest town, Genoa or Dayton?

I have done substantial research on the subject and have concluded that Genoa gets the nod because it gained town status as early as 1850-52 by nature of the fact that it had ongoing businesses, a place where mailed was regularly delivered (the post office opened in 1852), and a permanent population of at least 25 people. With no permanent resident population until 1859, and no post office until 1862, Dayton, while a charming and historic community, is clearly left in the dust. Sorry.

Stanley Paher
Reno, NV

Genoa Church Eras

The picture captioned as the Douglas Seminary in "What's Nevada's Oldest Town" in Sept/Oct '98 is probably the Genoa Seminary, which was located in the orchard of the Kinsey house, or of the current church built in 1910. Little from the 1880s of that type exists—just residences and the Genoa Town Hall. The original church burned in the fire of 1910 and was located beside the Genoa Courthouse, now a museum.

Nancy Miluck
Genoa

Genoa or Dayton: The Race

After reading the great article about Genoa and Dayton, "What's Nevada's Oldest Town," by Martin Griffith in Sept/Oct '98, it seems clear that this dilemma may never be solved.

Fear not. I have a plan that may work so well for both towns that we may not care whether or not the question is ever answered. Never mind all this digging through dusty archives. What's needed is action. We need a contest—a competition between Dayton and Genoa. At first I considered arm wrestling, starring the cover subjects, Billie Rightmire of Genoa and Ray Walmsley of Dayton. Then it hit me. Something more Western, more Nevada. A horse race.

Not just a horse race—a covered-wagon race between Dayton and Genoa. After all, both towns are on the Emigrant Trail, and

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Photo: Chris Leedham

both are virtually drenched in Nevada history. The race would be run annually, and there would be a trophy for the winner, whose town would hold the title of "oldest town" for the year. Wagon crews must be bona-fide residents of the two communities. I can see it now—nationwide coverage, tourists pouring in, fame and fortune for both of the state's oldest towns. I've gotta move back to Nevada.

Paul Bovard
(former Dayton resident)
Holualoa, HI

Give Me Liberty ...

I was amused by the reaction to the photo of a man hiking in thongs in the Sept/Oct issue story "Trail to Liberty" by Richard A. Lovett. I have seen people hiking into the Grand Canyon in thongs, high heels, and platform shoes. I do not know how far they got. I met a man on the ridge between Summit Lake and Virginia Lakes in the Sierra. He had a large backpack, a young boy sitting on top of the pack, an umbrella fastened over the kid to keep the sun off him—and he was barefoot. I will never know how he managed to walk on those jagged rocks barefooted.

Clara Babb
La Junta, CO

... Or Give Me Favre

The caption on the photograph on page 75 of the Sept/Oct issue relating to the "Trail to Liberty" seems to identify the lake as Liberty Lake. This lake is actually Favre, and the smaller lake above Favre is Castle. For a view of Liberty Lake, see "Range Writers" in July/Aug '98. Castle Lake is also slightly visible in this photo. Compare the two photos, and you can tell that the ridge lines of the background mountains are identical. It is only a short hike downhill to get to Favre from Liberty.

George Sheaks
Ventura, CA

George, thanks for pointing out the caption error. Cheri Howell, a public affairs specialist for the U.S. Forest Service in Elko, confirmed your correction.—Ed.

Basque Road Trips

Thanks for the great article, "Basque Road Trip," by Steve Bass and Larry Errea in the July/Aug issue. My mother-in-law, Mary Bernard-Webb, who resides in Brewster, Washington, went to Elko High School in 1935. In 1987 we were on a trip and stopped in Elko on the Fourth of July. The Basque festival was on, so we stayed for a couple of days. She took me and my wife, Donna, to eat at the Nevada Dinner House in Elko, and we were hooked. Since that first meal, we have enjoyed delicious Basque food in restaurants in Nevada, Idaho, California, and Oregon. We occasionally make a trip to Nevada for the sole purpose of going to a Basque restaurant.

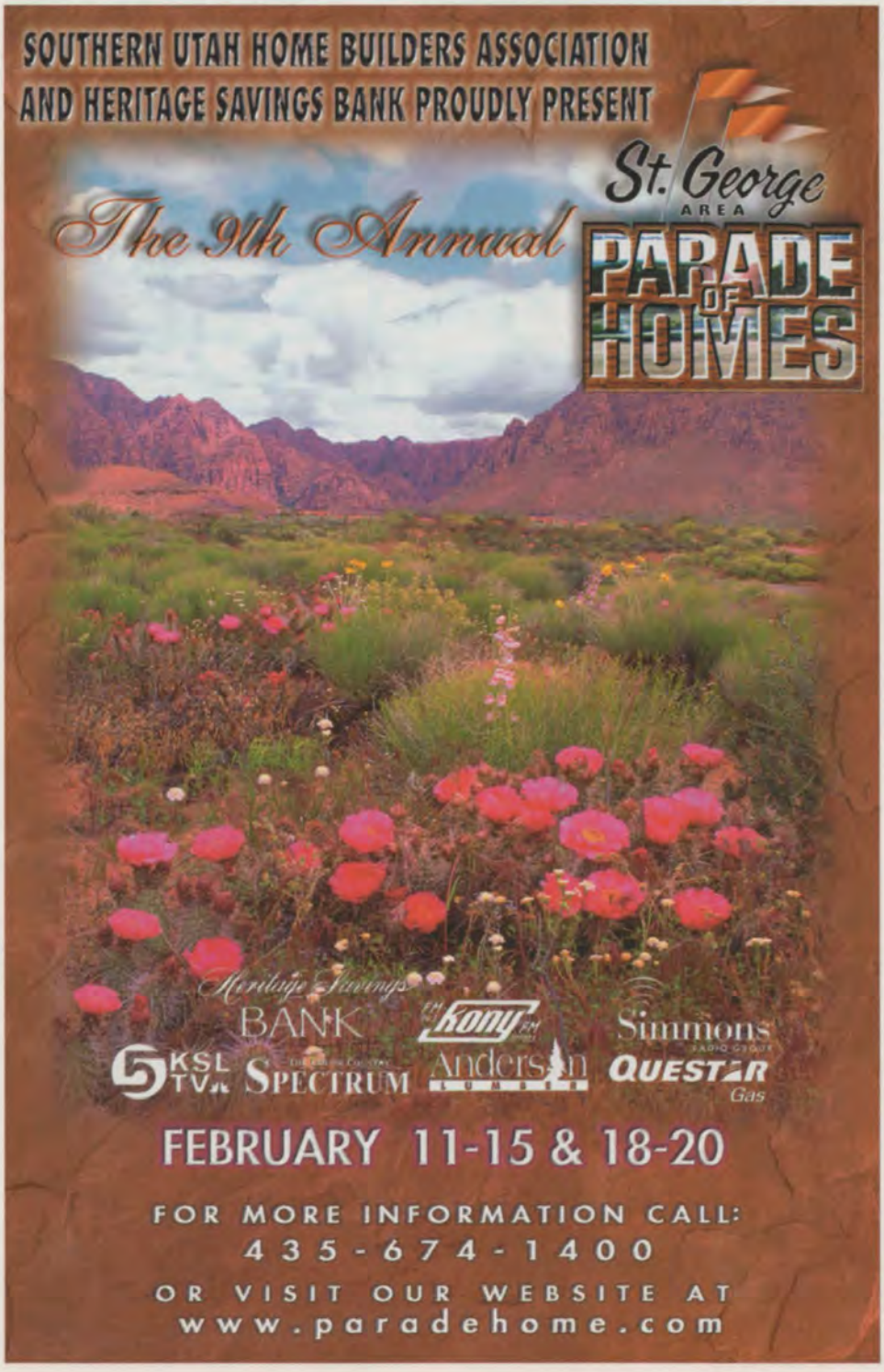
Royce McBryde
Gig Harbor, WA

Artistic Eastern Tour

Last month, having a visitor from Saginaw, Michigan, who wanted to see more of Nevada than Las Vegas and Hoover Dam, I found myself on the way to Great Basin National Park. Using information sent to me after I used a number found in *Nevada Magazine*, I made reservations at the Silver Jack Motel in Baker. We missed the town and found ourselves on the road between Baker and the park.

However, we did not miss seeing the Baker Art Museum. We saw a teddy bear tied to a post. It was followed by a helmet, a unicycle, and many other objects. Later, we went to the Outlaw restaurant, where we were told we had seen "Baker Art." So, it wasn't the Bellagio and Van Gogh never slept there, but it was a lot more fun.

Allyn Rothbard
Las Vegas





Roadside Attractions

Czars, a coffee klatch, and a careening clown.



Christian Malone serves cappuccinos and other coffee concoctions at Walden's Coffee Co. in Virginia City.

A Sporting Place

LAS VEGAS—For sports fans admiring the exploits of Mark McGuire, Mario Andretti, Larry Bird, or Tiger Woods, the new **All-American SportPark** is a good place to live out your sports fantasies.

The All-American SportPark is a 65-acre complex just south of the Strip where sports fans can play the games rather than just watch. At Slugger Stadium, you can take your place in a batting cage overlooking a major-league-sized stadium. The pitching machines have images of big-league pitchers as well as ball speeds from 40 to 80 mph.

Have a lead foot? You can race over to the NASCAR SpeedPark, which features family, sprint, and high-performance tracks. The cars are 5/8th-scale replicas of NASCAR stock cars. Indoors, you can tee up at the 18-hole Championship Putting Course, where you're surrounded by a huge photograph of spectators. At the Rockreation Sport Climbing Wall, the challenge is a series of obstacles and toeholds.

Celtics and Bruins fans will grow misty-eyed at the Boston Garden Experience, a 10,000-square-foot restaurant with basketball-court floors and Boston basketball and hockey memorabilia. The menu includes clam chowder, Boston baked beans, and Boston cream pie.

The massive SportPark also offers a huge arcade, pool tables, sports arena, in-line skating arena, and a photo studio where you place your picture into an extreme-sports photo.

Prices vary. At Slugger Stadium, $2 buys 16 pitches, or you can rent a batting cage for $15 per half hour. At the NASCAR SpeedPark, track prices are $4 and $5. Putting costs $5 for 18 holes. Packages also are available for $15 and $25. The park is open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, till 1 a.m. on Friday, and 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday. Call 702-798-7777 for more information.—*Carolyn Graham*

Comstock Coffee Klatch

VIRGINIA CITY—For coffee lovers who like to sip in style, **Walden's Coffee Co.** on C Street serves several gourmet coffees with more than 20 variations in a modish atmosphere mixed with rustic charm.

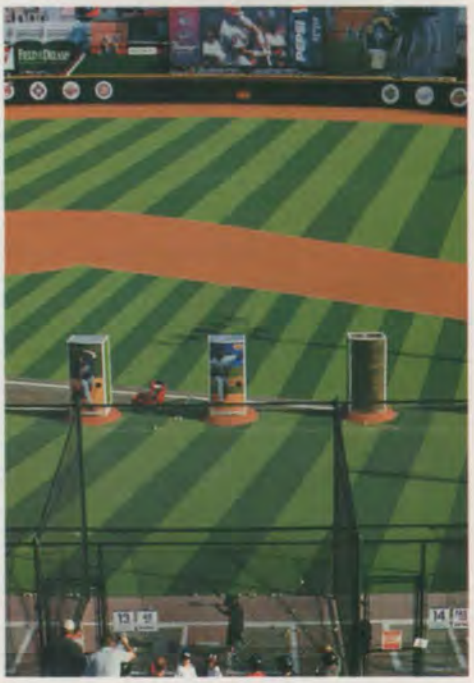
The coffee house and cafe, located just north of the Mark Twain Saloon, added a new dimension to Virginia City when it opened a year ago. Proprietors Jim Walden and Christian Malone refurbished a former bar, Calamity Jane's, with paint, new windows, and textured wood floors. A rock wall, built in 1875, now displays local artists' work. Malone says Walden's strives to offer "a clean, friendly, non-bar, and nonsmoking environment."

The coffee house serves cafe au lait and mocha moo coffees, Italian sodas and fresh squeezed lemonade, turkey chili and homemade soups, Reuben and veggie sandwiches, bagels and waffles, and éclairs and mocha-rum cheesecake. The music ranges from REM to Miles Davis, and poetry readings are scheduled from time to time. Walden's is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Phone 775-847-7277.—*Candice Towell*

Circus Fun House

LAS VEGAS—Circus Circus is taking clowns, roller coasters, and carnival fun houses to a new level with its **Fun House Express**, an IMAX Ridefilm shown in the hotel's pink Adventuredome.

Riders climb into the motion-simulated



Batters aim for the outfield at Slugger Stadium at the new All-American SportPark in Las Vegas.

Photo: Candice Towell (top), Chris Leedham (bottom)

world of Jimmy, a retired clown who operates the run-down fun house. When the ride breaks down, Jimmy's evil boss fires him, and Jimmy decides to take you and your screaming cohorts on his own ride, Clown's Chaos. Jimmy and the other characters were created in stop-motion claymation, which gives the scenes a surreal, three-dimensional look. (Some of the filmmakers who created Fun House Express also worked on special effects for Tim Burton's *Nightmare Before Christmas.*)

In Clown's Chaos riders drop through a trap door into Jimmy's underground world, where the tracks end suddenly and the fun-house car feels as though it has become airborne. When you land, the car bounces off giant shoes, enters a tunnel through a clown's mouth, and bumps and jumps on bright, spinning whirligigs. Riders are immersed in the action, which is projected onto the IMAX's 180-degree wrap-around screen.

The Fun House Express is located inside the Adventuredome, which also has the Canyon Blaster roller coaster, laser tag, a rock-climbing wall, and other rides for kids of all ages. Tickets for the Fun House Express cost $5. A wristband for all-day admittance on the Adventuredome rides costs $15.95 for riders 48 inches and taller, $11.95 for kids 33 to 47 inches tall, and free for kids under 33 inches. Call the Adventuredome hot line, 702-794-3939, for information.—*Carolyn Graham*

Czar Out

LAS VEGAS—The largest collection of royal art and historical pieces ever to leave Russia visits the Rio Suite Hotel in Las Vegas. The **"Treasures of Russia"**—1,150 objects from the last czars and czarinas—is on exhibition at the Rio through April 15. Huge oil portraits, gold-leaf busts, items from the royal wardrobe, and re-creations of rooms from the Peterhof Palaces show how Russian royalty lived. The guilded thrones of Peter the Great, Empress Maria Alexandrovna, and Nicolas II appear to be made of solid gold and painfully uncomfortable to sit upon.

The toy collection includes a diamond-studded rooster crowing atop a Fabrege's Chanticleer Egg. An ornate card table of Catherine the Great's stands as if just used, covered with elaborate playing cards and chips of ivory, tortoise shell, and gold. A small silver sailing ship near the entrance indicates that even czars and czarinas were once little boys and girls.

The "Treasures of Russia" is open daily from 10 a.m. to midnight. Tickets are avail-

Traveler's Advisories

Clocking the Countdown In Nevada, the new millennium will be celebrated with the biggest New Year's bash in the last 1,000 years. Beginning on Nevada Day, October 31, visitors will find an event, show, or celebration every day of the year through Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 15, 2001. Starting next issue, the Nevada Events and Shows section will carry a special "Millennium Countdown Calendar." Visitors also can follow the events schedule by logging onto the Nevada Commission on Tourism's special millennium Web site at www.2000nevada.com. The site lists upcoming events and also has a clock that reveals exactly how much time is left before the end of the millennium.

Perched for Perch Anglers hoping to fill their freezers with fish this winter should grab their ice-fishing gear and head to Wild Horse Reservoir, 65 miles north of Elko. The Nevada Division of Wildlife has lifted the limit on yellow perch at the reservoir. The prolific perch, which were illegally introduced into Wild Horse, compete with trout for food and habitat. The perch feed year-round and are easy to catch—they will strike at nearly any bait or small lures. According to NDOW officials, trout fishing at Wild Horse so far has not been affected by the perch presence, but anglers may have a tough time avoiding schools of perch while fishing for trout. Yellow perch are good eating but rarely reach more than a foot in length, so large quantities are required to make a meal. Call NDOW, 775-688-1500, for a copy of Nevada fishing regulations. NDOW also has recipes for preparing perch, including perch in beer batter and parmesan perch.

Calling Las Vegas Visitors can call several Las Vegas resorts and attractions by dialing one toll-free number, 800-INFO-USA. The phone line is sponsored by the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority and is available to callers in the U.S. The number connects callers to the toll-free numbers for various Las Vegas hotels, golf courses, restaurants, shopping malls, and wedding chapels.

Ski Web One of the quickest ways to check ski conditions at Lake Tahoe is to log onto the Incline Village/Crystal Bay Visitors Bureau's Web site, www.gotahoe.com. The site has links to the ski resorts that surround the lake, including Kirkwood and Mount Rose. Skiers also can learn about ski packages and North Lake Tahoe attractions such as the Ponderosa Ranch in Incline Village. Web surfers can download a free screen saver with six photographs of Tahoe as well as e-mail postcards of the lake. The site has information about accommodations, weddings, and winter and summer attractions. Call the visitor bureau, 800-GO-TAHOE, for more information.



Elephants at Caesars Visitors won't soon forget the new film *Africa's Elephant Kingdom*, now showing at the Omnimax Theatre at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. The elephants appear even larger than life on the Omnimax's wrap-around screen, as moviegoers get a glimpse into the behavior and family life of African elephants. The Omnimax, which opened at Caesars Palace in 1979 in the days before 3-D motion simulators, has stood the test of time. Tickets for *Africa's Elephant Kingdom* cost $7 for adults and $5 for children ages two to 12, adults over 55, and Caesars hotel guests. Call the Caesars Palace box office, 702-731-7900, for show times.



The elephants appear larger than life on the giant Omnimax Theatre screen at Caesars Palace.

Photo: Discovery Channel



Royal artifacts from Russia have been revealed at the Rio.



Hog fans will find Harley attire at the Harrah's Lake Tahoe store.

able through the Rio box office, 702-252-7776 or 800-PLAYRIO, and through Ticket Master, 702-474-4000 or www.ticketmaster.com. For more information contact the Peterhof sales office at the Rio, 702-889-2441.—*Lynn Goya*

Born to be Wild

LAKE TAHOE—One way to stay warm this winter is to wrap yourself in a leather motorcycle jacket. The **Harley-Davidson clothing and accessory store** at Harrah's Lake Tahoe can outfit visitors in boots and hats and everything in between, all emblazoned, of course, with a Harley-Davidson logo.

The shop opened last spring inside Harrah's Galleria next to the lobby. Other stores in the Galleria include a Warner Bros. Store, Gallery of Legends sports memorabilia, and Addi Fine Art Galleries.

Biker dudes and chicks will find T-shirts, bandannas, and other clothing as well as key chains, cups, mouse pads, stuffed "hogs" wearing little leather jackets, hats, and patches. Young bikers will find a section of kids' clothing and a piggy bank, the "Hog Bank," in the shape of a Harley gas tank. Harley Owner's Group members (HOGs) can purchase special HOG merchandise available only to them. Visitors not into leather can gawk at the Harley 883 Sportster parked in the display window.

If you happen to need parts or repairs for your Harley, you can arrange to have your bike picked up at the store and serviced while you ski, gamble, or relax at the lake. The Harley-Davidson store at Harrah's Lake Tahoe is open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. (till 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday). Call 702-588-2363 for more information.—*Carolyn Graham*

Rail City Museum

SPARKS—The population of Sparks numbered zero in 1903. One year later it jumped to 1,500 when the Southern Pacific Railroad bypassed its old division point of Wadsworth in favor of a new

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Photo: Candice Towell (right)

site located three miles east of Reno.

Today, Sparks has 56,000 residents, a redeveloped downtown, and a museum that recalls its railroad history. The **Sparks Heritage Foundation and Museum** stands three blocks east of John Ascuaga's Nugget. Once the Rail City's former library, the museum's two-story brick building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"Sparks historically has been a very conservative community," says museum board member Tom Swart, 85. "I know. I was born just where the Silver Club's west end entrance is now. Back in 1985, concerned citizens began worrying about everything being torn down. So we incorporated and gradually began collecting artifacts." In 1986, the city of Sparks leased the space to the museum board, which agreed to maintain the 1907 Southern Pacific narrow-gauge steam locomotive, a train crew's caboose, a 1911 Pullman Company superintendent's car, and the one-room Glendale School, which dates from 1864, on the museum grounds.

"We have one of the best lantern collections in the entire country," boasts Lois Graves, office manager and treasurer since 1986. Visitors also are encouraged to touch a number of the exhibits. "Adults love the hands-on opportunities as much as kids, though nowadays—even as they plug the cables into the jack holes—it's hard to explain to youngsters how old phone switchboards worked," Graves says.

Graves, her husband, Orvis, and other museum volunteers offer local lore while visitors learn about Sparks' old railway days. The Sparks Heritage Museum, at 820 Victorian Avenue, is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Call 702-355-1144 for more information.—*Geets Vincent*



Lois Graves poses beside an old buggy at the Sparks Heritage Museum near Victorian Square.

Photo: Geets Vincent

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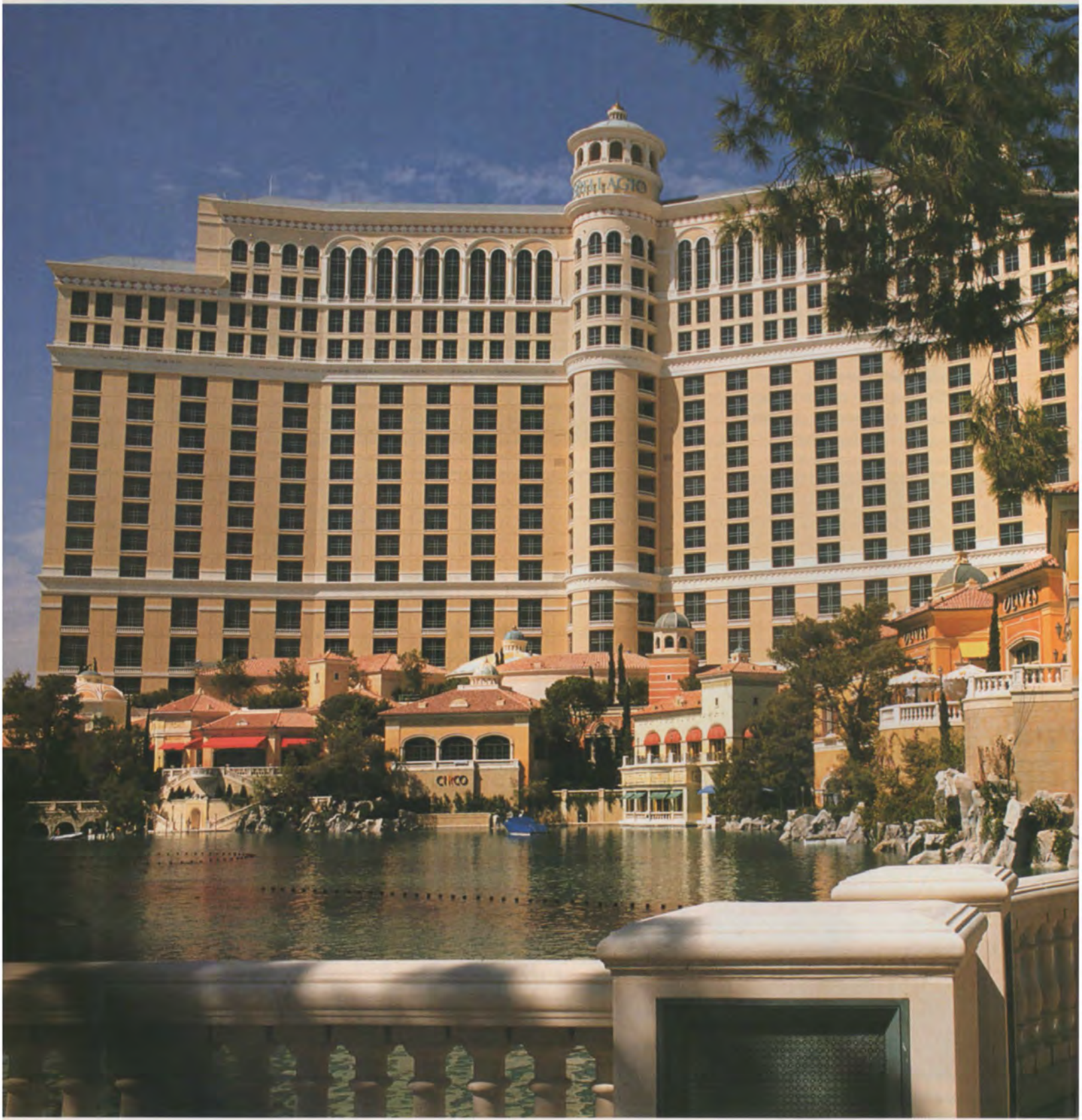
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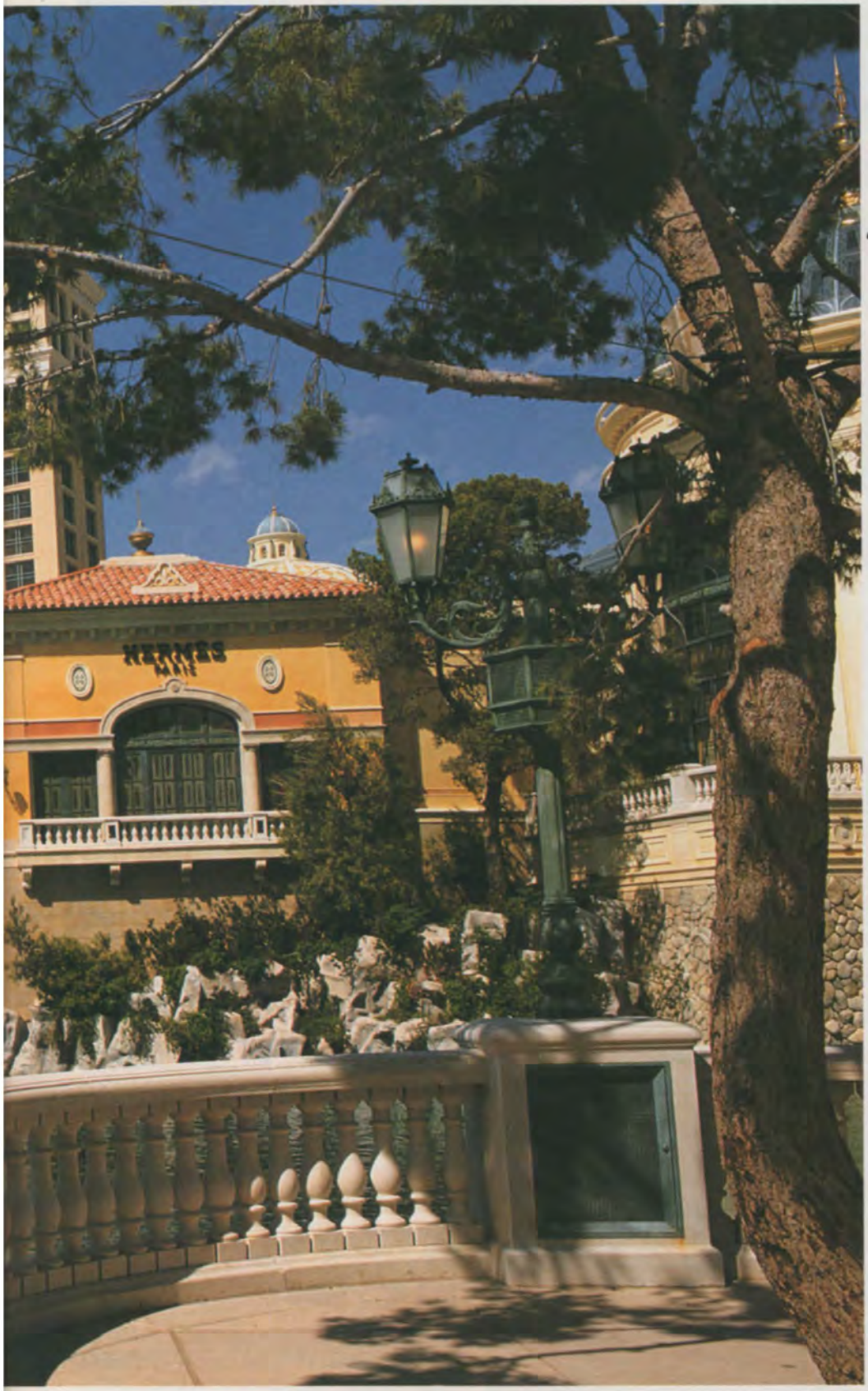
"Reno's most unique dining experience"

The New, New



Wave

Lavish new megaresorts are creating an upscale-theme tsunami on the Las Vegas Strip.



By Deke Castleman

It's open, it's big, and it's a sign of things to come. *Bienvenido*, Bellagio. The most expensive hotel ever built, the 3,000-room Bellagio is the first surge of a tsunami about to sweep down the Las Vegas Strip. In the next 12 months, Las Vegas will sustain the most dramatic change in its landscape since Bugsy Siegel was in knickers. Five new megaresorts—Bellagio, Mandalay Bay, the Venetian, Paris, the rebuilt Aladdin—will join the Strip skyline, while three miniresorts—the two Regents at Summerlin and Monte Lago at Lake Las Vegas—will open in the suburbs. All told, the eight resorts account for 13,000 rooms—more hotel rooms than in all of some states—and at least $4 billion in capital investment.

What does this latest hotel wave, the fourth since 1989, augur for the new, new Las Vegas? Better mousetraps—what else? This is Vegas, after all, where new can't just be new. It has to be bigger, bolder, brighter. It has to have more theme, more panache, more spectacle. It has to sport trendier restaurants, higher-class shops, unique attractions. The restaurants have to be owned or sponsored by celebrity chefs or movie stars, and the rooms themselves have to be as much of an attraction as the food. The shopping has to be infused with entertainment value. The entertainment has to be infused with brand value (while being sophisticated, seamless, and sexy at the same time). And, of course, everything has to one-up the joint next door, or the one that opened a few months ago.

These added dimensions to the meaning of "new" aren't at all new; they've been the norm here for nearly 50 years. Once a trend is introduced in Las Vegas, it tends

Restaurants, fashionable shops, and Steve Wynn's 3,000-room hotel overlook Lago di Bellagio.

Photo: Gail Bandini



Mandalay Bay, standing south of Excalibur and the Luxor pyramid, is part of Circus Circus' Masterplan Mile. The upper floors will be a Four Seasons Hotel.

to intensify. Take themes, for example. The Wild West orientation in the '30s and '40s, the oasis theme in the '50s, Rome and circuses in the '60s—this trend continually transcends time and space. Bellagio and the Venetian have elevated ideas introduced by Caesars Palace, Bellagio being set in modern alpine Italy, the Venetian in historic urban Italy. Mandalay Bay is further refining the South Seas motif introduced way back when by the Castaways and Polynesian and updated by the Tropicana and Mirage. Paris and the Venetian are direct descendants of New York-New York. The more things change, the more they stay the same.



Bellagio's art gallery shows works by Renoir, van Gogh, and Matisse ("Pineapple and Anemones," above).

Four of the five new megaresorts on the Strip owe their sites to a popular urban-renewal technique—the implosion. Bellagio, Mandalay Bay, Venetian, and Aladdin are rising phoenix-like from the ashes of rubblified rejects.

In addition, the new resorts are targeting an upscale clientele. Several are vying for five-star and five-diamond designations (Las Vegas has never owned a single such rating). Yet all five Strip properties are also building monster hotels with thousands of rooms that are traditionally filled with bargain hunters. If you're planning to stay at any of the new joints, be prepared to shell out three to four dollar signs (where one dollar sign equals what you're used to paying for a Las Vegas hotel room).

Yet, for all their similarities, each place is emerging as an individual work of art. So far, Bellagio tops the work-of-art chart. Six years in the making, at a cost of $1.6 billion, it should.

Bellagio started humbly enough. In 1992, Steve Wynn shrewdly bought the aging Dunes Hotel and its 175-acre parcel for a mere $75 million, less than half a million an acre for prime Strip property; since

Photos: Richard Cummins (top), Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art (bottom)

All of the horticultural ornamentation at Bellagio is alive, supplied by a two-acre greenhouse and 115-employee department.

then Strip frontage has sold for more than $5 million an acre. Wynn imploded the Dunes in 1993 to coincide with the opening of Treasure Island. He and his design team at Mirage Resorts then set about to create a hotel that would "exemplify absolute quality while emphasizing romance and elegance," Wynn has said. "I mean romance in the literary sense—a place of ideal beauty and comfort, the world we all hope for, as it might be if everything were just right."

To enter Wynn's new resort, you stroll along 11-acre Lago di Bellagio amidst scores of full-grown evergreen and deciduous trees lining the "shore." The lobby is decorated in marble, mosaic tile, and floral displays. A $10-million glass-flower chandelier is said to be the largest glass sculpture in the world. Next to the lobby is a 12,500-square-foot botanical garden with real flowers, shrubs, and trees under a 50-foot ceiling of glass and oxidized copper. All the hotel's horticultural ornamentation is alive, supplied by Bellagio's two-acre greenhouse and managed by the 115-employee garden department. The hotel's floral decor and aromas, and thus its personality, will change with the seasons.

Garden walkways lead to the Gallery of Fine Art and its collection of classic paintings and sculpture: Cezanne, Degas, Gauguin, de Kooning, Giacometti, Leger, Manet, Matisse, Picasso, Van Gogh, Renoir, Pollock, and Warhol, to name a few. The gallery is a testament to Steve Wynn's powers of both purpose and persuasion. He immersed himself in the haute world of the finest art and amassed in a few years (with the help of $300 million) a collection that will never be surpassed by most museums, let alone mere hotels.

The exclusive shops at Bellagio are the place to fantasize about what you could buy if you hit the Megabucks jackpot. The lobby jewelry store is almost a gallery in its own right, selling stunning Judith Lieber beaded bags, starting at $2,500, and Oggetti blown-glass bowls and vases, starting at around $700. Tiffany, with its china, jewelry, and fame, is only the second Tiffany store, after the one that serves breakfast in New York, on the planet.

Bellagio's restaurants continue the opulent theme. Osteria del Circo is the place for food from Tuscany (home of the real Bellagio, which means "beautiful lake") and a list of 500 wines. Several original Picasso paintings and ceramics adorn Picasso, the Franco-Spanish restaurant. The sushi counter at Shintaro is backed by three large fish tanks, the middle one with jellyfish. Amazing creatures. Le Cirque is a cousin to the famed Manhattan eatery. There's even a buffet with the fanciest prices in town: $8.95 for breakfast, $12 for lunch, and $19.50 for dinner.

Finally, one can admire Bellagio's free outdoor spectacle, a $30-million water ballet. More than 1,000 fountain nozzles, stretching a quarter-mile across the lake in circular and linear arrays, spew synchronized streams of waving, curling, and climbing water, all choreographed to classical, Broadway, and pop music.

No one under the age of 18 is allowed in Bellagio unless a guest of the hotel. You notice the absence of children after a while, especially in the small arcade and the pool area.

Bellagio is the current must-see in town—the first in a year since Star Trek opened—with a reign running at least two more months. Starting on March 1, when Mandalay Bay opens, it'll have some competition.

Mandalay Bay has a hybrid theme. Mandalay, a large temple city in Myanmar (Burma), is situated on the Irrawaddy River—that's right, no bay in sight. Also, Mandalay is in Southeast Asia, not Polynesia. But aside from its unique nomenclature and theme, Mandalay Bay has its own distinctions.

Four hundred of the 3,700 rooms, occupying the 35th through 39th floors, will be managed by the exclusive Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts. The five-floor area will have its own entrance, check-in, Four Seasons restaurant, pool, and health spa—the first hotel-within-a-hotel in Las Vegas.

Of the Bay's 15 restaurants, the lead eatery will be Aureole, an offshoot of the New York eatery owned by celebrity chef Charlie Palmer. One unique feature will be a four-story wine tower: Stewards will strap on harnesses and be hoisted up to grab the bottles. Rumjungle will be a showy Brazilian *rodizio*-style steakhouse—imagine dining next to a dancing fire wall, in front of a giant open firepit, with congas dueling nearby.

A 12,000-seat arena complex will host major sporting contests, superstar concerts, and special events. And House of

(Continued on page 76)

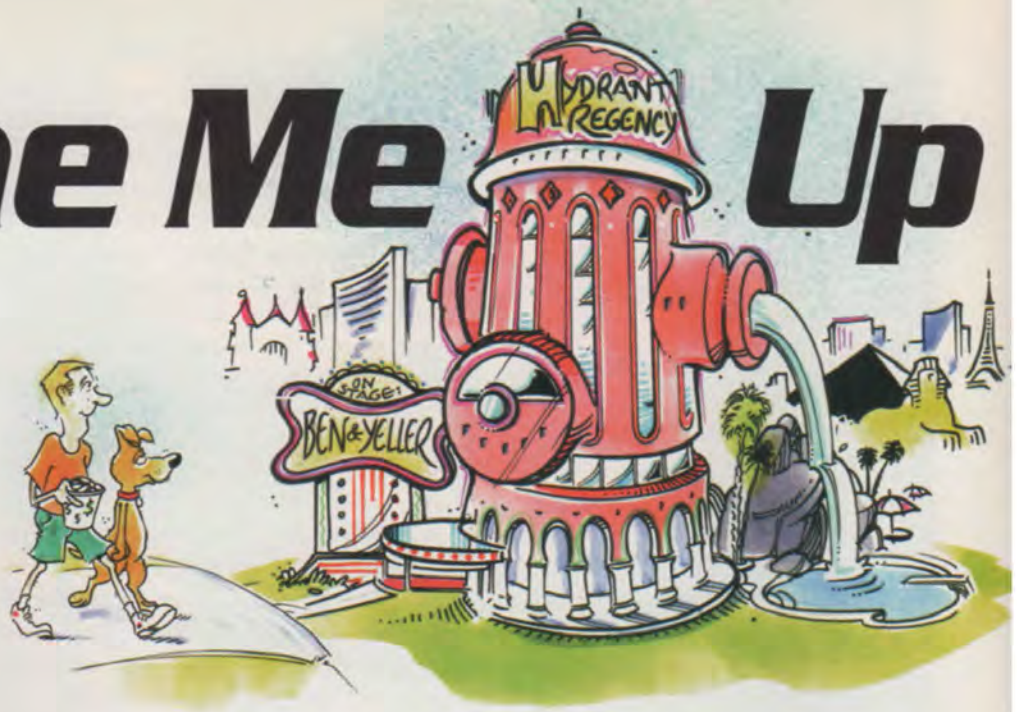


A Harrah's Las Vegas jester watches the Venetian rise on the site of the old Sands. Gondolas will ply Venetian canals.



Photo: Carolyn Fox (bottom)

Theme Me Up



Pyramids? Paris? Here are some other hotel themes we'd like to see.

By K.J. Evans

A castle, a pyramid, an entire city—a good theme is essential for a new hotel in Las Vegas. Of course, anyone with a few billion bucks can try a new theme. But which one? What fantasy will draw an increasingly fickle public? Following are a few fresh theme ideas. Some are fanciful, others marginally practical. None are patented. So, if you have a few billion burning a hole in your vault, help yourself.

Far Out—The Resort

As baby boomers' senility increases, so will the popularity of this 1960s flower power-themed resort. No hotel rooms here, just a 780,000-square-foot crash pad festooned with posters of Che Guevara, nostalgic slogans like "Marcel Proust is a Yenta," and a gallery of those zany anti-Nixon posters.

Over at the Woodstock Theatre, the maitre 'd will ask for "spare change." Don't be fooled! The amount you pay will determine where you sit. The choicest seats are front and center, in the mud bog. The cheap seats are at the rear, in the mud bog. Style-conscious guests can get a makeover at one of the hotel's salons, or "Free Fashion Clinics," specializing in hair transplants and flashback counseling.

Junior's Place

Picture a 1960 Dodge station wagon with wheels removed, perched on four cinder blocks. Now magnify it 9,000 times, and cousin, you've got Junior's, the first megaresort for folks who scratch wherever it itches.

The stunning facade is complemented by free-form landscaping that emphasizes the contrast between weeds and derelict washing machines and is surrounded by a moat filled with alligators. A streetside spectacle occurs every hour when famed reptile antagonist Jimmy Joe Ray Bob lurches out of the hotel, falls into the moat, and wrestles his way back out through a gauntlet of gators. (It's all play actin' unless he doesn't make it.)

Sergeant Sado's Boot Camp Experience



Sarge's offers something long available in Britain's "Holiday Camps": an opportunity to enjoy nonstop regimentation, physical exhaustion, and verbal abuse.

Veterans come for the nostalgia. Draft dodgers come to see what they dodged. The Boot Buffet evokes the festive experience of chow hall as the friendly splat of mashed potatoes hits your steel tray. Need a bellman to help you with your luggage? Just step up to the bell desk, and a friendly drill instructor will be happy to pile your bags on your back and double-time you up 16 flights of stairs, screaming obscenities in your ear. Other amenities include a PX gift shop, an NCO Club (burgers and beer), and an Officer's Club (pheasant and Dom Perignon).

Instead of money, the casino pays wins with medals and promotions in rank. By the end of a typical weekend, a buck private can rise to lieutenant colonel and be eligible to inflict abuse on newer guests.

The Kennel

A doggy-themed casino already exists in Las Vegas. What we propose is a hotel *for* dogs and their people.

The hotel tower is an example of the Sniff-n-Squirt school of architecture: a 25-story replica of an urban fire hydrant. Canine guests check in with a hoist of the leg. High-contrast black-and-white polka-dotted carpeting conceals those little accidents, and prevents, er, missteps. Just don't step on the dots!

On the cuisine scene, dining at The Kennel is a special treat for Fluffy and Fang. The unique seating arrangements places dogs at the table and masters underneath, begging for scraps.

Sexist Sally's

For many years women have demanded an end to sexism when what they really want is a chance to behave as swinishly toward the opposite sex as men have since the beginning of time. Sexist Sally's takes the battle of the sexes to a new level, and it's not very high.

The focal point of Sally's is an enormous balcony overlooking the Strip where ladies don hard hats and ogle passing men, shouting, "Hey, hunkie!" and "Is that a half-roll of Lifesavers in your pocket, or are you just glad to see me?"

Inside, buffed-out cocktail waiters in skimpy costumes and uncomfortable shoes smile demurely when female patrons

Illustrations: April Pedersen

pinch their bottoms. Naturally, a Chippendale's-type revue plays in the showroom. At stores like Gloria's Excess, couples shop, but the woman always pays. On the up side, the men's restrooms have one urinal, one stall. The women's have 40 stalls. And in the guest rooms, the toilet seats cannot be lifted.



Moscow-in-the-Mojave

The faux city or region as casino resort is currently all the rage. So far, we have New York, Monte Carlo, Texas, several versions of Polynesia, North Africa, East Africa, and the Land of Oz.

Why not the magic that is Moscow?

Dull? Nyet! That's a tired and inaccurate stereotype. You can work up a Russian bear of an appetite doing the Siberian Two-Steppe at the Red Square Dance Hall. Then line up for a proletariat-pleasing meal at Chez Gorby, the hotel's 24-hour restaurant. (That's not the business hours; it's the wait in line.) Afterward, absorb a bit of history viewing the corpse of the taxidermied tyrant, Nikolai Lenin, and have a peek at the treasures of the czars not previously acquired by Liberace. In all, a counterrevolutionary experience.

Happy Trails Hotel

Enough reality already! Happy Trails recreates the West that never was in the first place—except in Hollywood. Giant projection screens show the silent films of Tom Mix, William S. Hart, Rex Bell, Gene Autry, and Roy Rogers. These films are computer digitized and programmed to be interactive, so guests with laser "six-guns" can blast the bad guy before he gets the drop on Gene or Roy.

Naturally, all service people are trained to yodel as they work, and every bartender, on request, will produce a gee-tar and croon a ballad extolling the romance of frostbite, heat stroke, random violence, and rattlesnakes. An occasional holographic cattle stampede through the casino keeps things hopping.

Pleasantville

Inspired by the recent film of the same name, Pleasantville takes us back, screaming and kicking, to those halcyon days of sweet gals and swell fellows—the 1950s.

After passing the giant statue of Pat Boone at the resort's entrance, guests check in, sign a loyalty oath, and go upstairs for a nap in a Lucy and Ricky Suite (twin beds) or an Ozzie and Harriet Suite (no beds).

Hungry? Try the tuna casserole with mayonnaise at Mrs. Cleaver's Cafe—all you can eat for $1, and the green Jello mold is complimentary. Be sure to conduct a investigation of Joseph McCarthy's Saloon, located in the hotel's extreme right wing. Gambling? Well, OK, but not for keepsies.

Psychic Friends Hotel-Casino

This may be the most convenient hotel in the world since it is staffed by all the telephone psychics thrown out of work by the demise of the Psychic Friends Network.

No reservations needed. They know when you're coming. Menus are not needed in the hotel restaurants; they know what you really want, even if you don't. The permanent headliner in the Crystal Ballroom is Dionne Warwick, and over at the Seance Lounge you can catch Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, Enrico Caruso, and Janis Joplin.

Sigmund's Spa

Finally, a resort for those who want to get in touch with their inner adult in a totally nonjudgmental environment. Want to draw to an inside straight? Your dealer—we call them recreational therapists—will be totally supportive of your decision. Your bartender, or libation counselor, will help you explore the true reasons why you suddenly chose to order a kumquat daiquiri instead of your usual vodka and sauerkraut juice.

You'll find that the coin therapists in the change booth at Sigmund's Spa are truly caring and concerned and willing to work through your situation—but you really have to want the change.

K.J. Evans is a special projects writer for the Las Vegas Review-Journal. *He recently was first national runner-up in the Alfred Hitchcock look-alike contest.*

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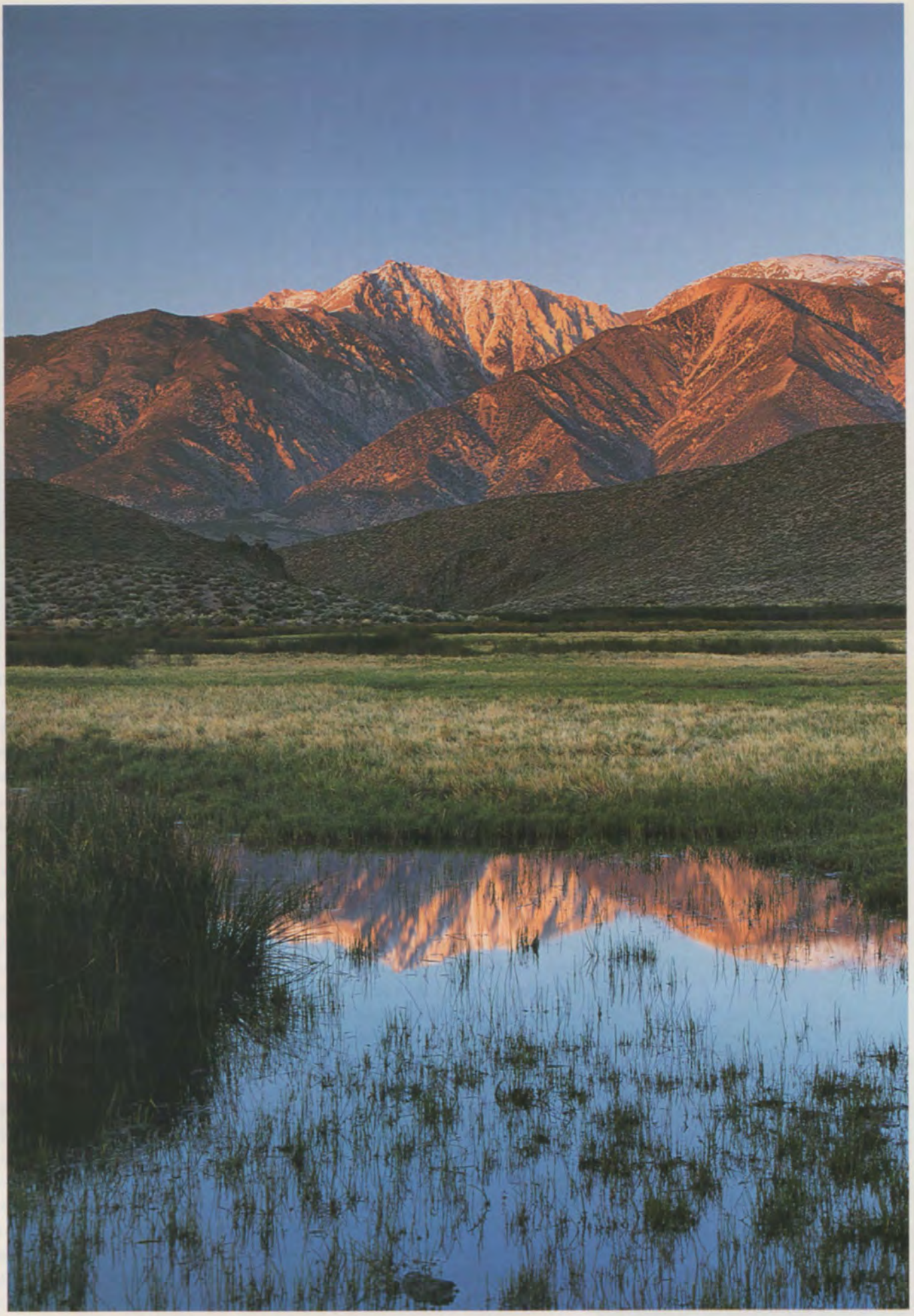
Mountain Reflections

Two photographers capture peak views.

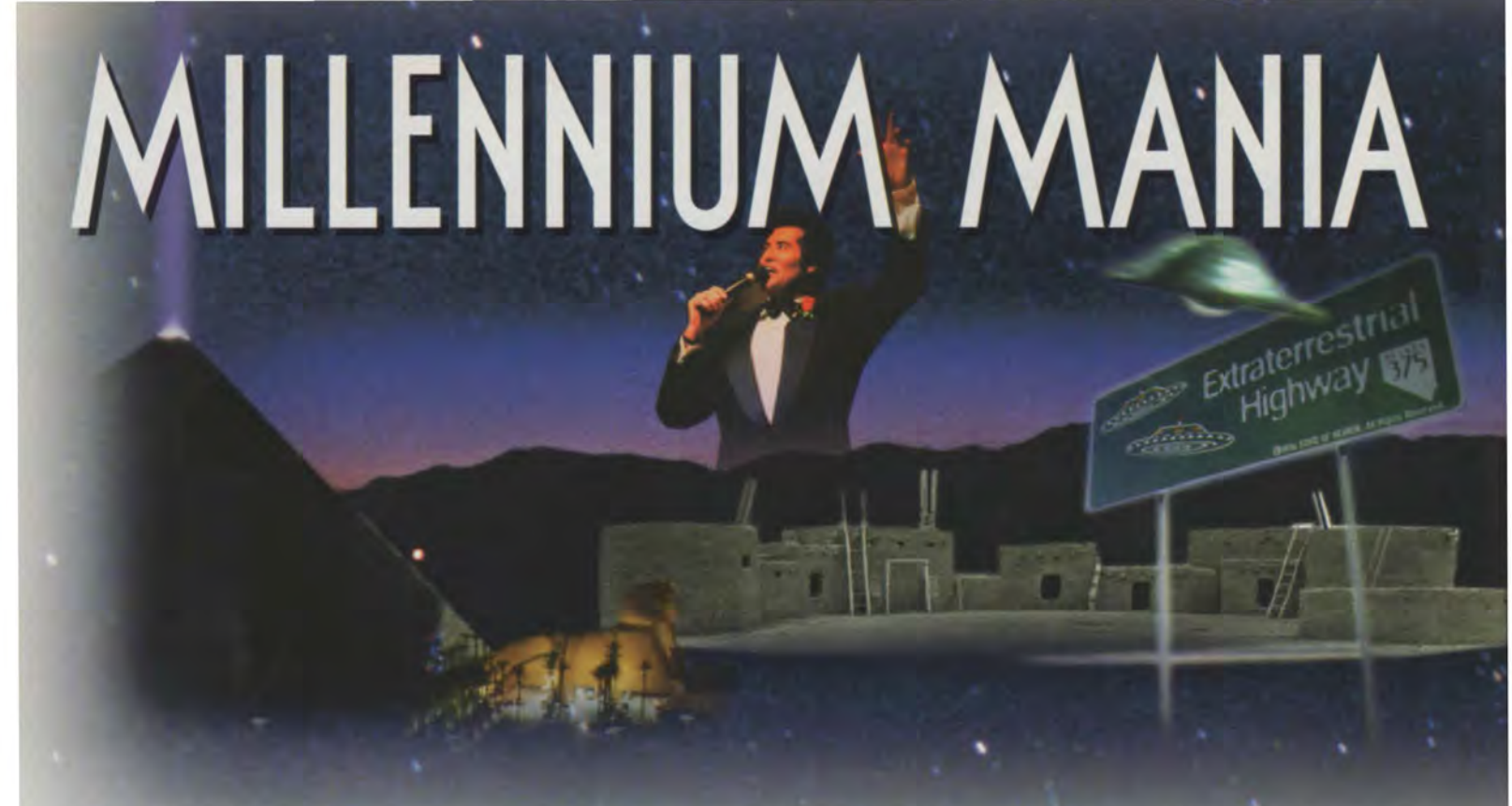
Winter snow and rainfall create reflective settings for photographers. **Peggy Hamlen** of Las Vegas took the photo above of Rainbow Mountain while exploring Red Rock Canyon. "It was so beautiful with the snow," she says. "At Red Rock you get away from all the commotion in town. The solitude is wonderful." Hamlen caught the metalically colorized peak reflected in normally dry Red Rock Wash.

At right: **Bob Rosenquist** photographed Boundary Peak, which stands near the California border and, at 13,140 feet, is Nevada's highest point. The Sparks photographer was driving west of Tonopah when he saw the photo opportunity in late afternoon. He recalls, "I pulled over, had a can of chili, and waited for the sun to set." After a couple of hours' wait, Rosenquist got his shot, which lets us see Boundary in a new light.





MILLENNIUM MANIA



Last time a new millennium rolled around, there likely wasn't much in the way of a celebration in Times Square, let alone in the vast uncharted wilderness that nine centuries later would become the state of Nevada.

Things were different then. The Colorado River still flowed unfettered through Black Canyon. The Comstock Lode was yet to be discovered. Luxor was a city on the Nile, not a pyramid on Las Vegas Boulevard. Wayne Newton was but knee-high to a bristlecone, with a vocal range as high as Wheeler Peak.

Nevada's largest city in the year 999 was the complex of pueblo villages we know today as the Lost City. Of course, since those early inhabitants of Moapa Valley had neither clocks nor calendars, they couldn't possibly have known what time it was. In other words, the Lost City was very much like a modern casino—only not as brightly lit.

New Year's Eve, 999, was a bit livelier in medieval Europe, where large numbers of oppressed peasants lifted their eyes heavenward in hopeful anticipation of the Second Coming. The excitement soon died down, however, as New Year's Day, 1000, turned out to be just a typical Dark Ages day. There was no turkey dinner, no Tournament of Roses Parade, no major sporting events save the usual skirmishes against the Raiders and the Vikings.

Fast forward a thousand years to 1999, and once again the air is abuzz with anticipation as the world turns toward still another millennial dawn. When the Gregorian odometer turns over, will it be the beginning of a bright new age, or will it, as many theologians and computer programmers are predicting, signal the collapse of civilization as we know it? Some doomsayers cite predictions that human history won't go much past the year 2000 A.D.—according to early Christian scholars, the 6,000th anniversary of Adam's birth in 4000 B.C. Those same scholars likened the six millennia to the six days it took God to create the earth. When the seventh millennium arrives, they said, the wicked of the earth will get their fiery comeuppance and the righteous their eternal reward.

Such an event is sure to cause some fluctuations in the stock market, not to mention an upturn in repentance rates the likes of which hasn't been seen since Ken Starr marched on Washington. In Nevada, a major worry is that we may run out of ice.

Indeed, Nevada's millennium bash will go on for a full 15 months, beginning on Nevada Day (October 31), 1999, and continuing until Martin Luther King Jr. Day (January 15), 2001. Each day an event will transpire somewhere in the Silver State, whether it be Goldfield, Eureka, Pioche, Manhattan, or Tonopah—a community that will be celebrating its centennial during the period, by the way.

Resort hotels in Las Vegas and Reno are anticipating zero vacancy rates, and no doubt it will be standing room only on Fremont and Virginia streets as the hands of the clock inch toward midnight. In the town of Rachel, Pat and Joe Travis, owners of the Little A 'Le' Inn on the Extraterrestrial Highway at the edge of Area 51, are expecting a crowd as well.

"We're planning a pretty impressive New Year's Eve party," Pat reports. "I already have all of my rooms reserved." For the most part, Pat expects the guests will be "people just like you and me," but adds that should any alien life forms show up, they'll be more than welcome.

At the turn of the last millennium, warriors temporarily laid down their swords, while peace pilgrims lit candles and prayed for an end to war. This time around we can expect more of the same, especially in Southern Nevada.

"Las Vegas is rated second only to New York as the place to be to ring in the new year," declares Cindy Pile, education director of the Nevada Desert Experience, an anti-war movement that plans to stage a five-day peace rally in Las Vegas begin-

Photo Illustration: Denise Barr

As the Gregorian odometer turns over, a survival guide. **By Richard Menzies**



ning December 29. Highlight of the event will be a midnight vigil at the Nevada Test Site—what Ms. Pile describes as "an alternative way of celebrating the millennium, by going out to the Test Site, and instead of anesthetizing ourselves and going to orgies, facing the threat of nuclear war and violence head-on."

No doubt many other city dwellers will be fleeing into the back country, if for no other reason than to get away from the mounting tsunami of media hype and *fin de siecle* social commentary radiating outward from New York and Washington as the big silver ball descends from the sky.

How else to position oneself for the big event? Well, if you're a gambler, you might want to reserve a stool in front of your favorite slot machine for New Year's Eve. Like computers, slot machines are governed by microchips and thus just might be vulnerable to the Y2K bug. Only drawback: If the mixed-up machine figures the year is 1900 instead of 2000, don't expect much in the way of a jackpot.

If you should hear on the evening news that actors Robert Duvall and Bruce Willis have been invited to tag along on the next space-shuttle mission, don't buy any more green bananas.

If all the employees at the Stratosphere suddenly start speaking different languages, or if Elvis should return to the Strip in a blaze of glory to cast out his many impersonators—and if, when he does, all the fat ladies in the building should suddenly break into song—then you should definitely make sure your affairs are in order. Ditto if the religious charity you contribute to in 1999 fails to send you a complimentary calendar for the year 2000.

But before you do anything drastic, bear in mind there are many reasons to suspect the much-ballyhooed date may turn out to be a wrong number. In his book, *Questioning the Millennium: A Rationalist's Guide to a Precisely Arbitrary Countdown*, the science writer Steven Jay Gould makes the mathematical argument that the 20th century won't actually come to an end until January 1, 2001. And let's not forget that in the course of revising the calendar in 1582, the Council of Trent set the clock ahead 11 days.

Or consider this: In recent times geologists have determined our planet has been around much longer than 6,000 years—more like four-and-a-half *billion* years.

Compress all that time into a week, and the Great Basin wasn't formed until 10:45 on Saturday night. The first human beings didn't appear on the scene until later that evening at 11:50. It's doubtful any prehistoric Nevadans were partying hearty that weekend, however, because with less than 30 seconds to go before midnight on Sunday, Las Vegas was still under water—the only creature stirring along Fremont Street at that late hour, the wily ichthyosaur.

Richard Menzies is a roving freelance writer whose odometer rolled over for the second time last summer. His aged Volkswagen didn't seem to notice; it just keeps going and going...

Celebrating the Millennium

As we anticipate the arrival of the next millennium, Nevada visitors and residents will find a galaxy of events to help usher in the new age. The state's official Millennium Countdown will last from Nevada Day (October 31), 1999, to Martin Luther King Jr. Day (January 15), 2001. During those 15 months officials expect that at least one event, show, or other diversion will take place each day somewhere in the state. *Nevada Magazine* will carry the Millennium Countdown Calendar, compiled by Events Editor Ann Henderson, in each issue. *Nevada* readers also will find millennium stories related to Nevada's past and future throughout the Countdown. Internet users can rustle up further information at www.2000nevada.com, the Nevada Commission on Tourism's special millennium Web site.

Photos: Las Vegas News Bureau, Richard Stephens, Chris Leedham, Nevada Historical Society, Nevada Commission on Tourism, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences



People Page

Young scholars, rural toymakers, and a chess champ.



Davidson (left) and Young made the grade in Reno.

Perfect Marks

Two Reno High School students, **Jeffrey Davidson** and **Steve Young**, flexed their brains last school year and earned perfect SAT scores of 1600, an achievement that has not occurred in 12 years at Reno High.

"The perfect score opens many college doors," says Jane Houston, a coordinator for the school's college and career center. "These are two very deserving boys."

The 17-year-old friends are honor students with 4.0 grade-point averages. Both are editors of *The Mirror*, a campus literary magazine, and members of the science-bowl team. Jeffrey and Steve plan to graduate from Reno High this June, and the University of Nevada, Reno has offered them full-ride scholarships.

Jeffrey, a violinist in the school orchestra, says he prepared for the test by taking the practice SAT—and by having a good breakfast. "I'm a good test taker, but I'm nervous at everything else," he says. "I think a lot and crack a lot of terrible jokes." Jeffrey has applied to seven colleges and is most enthusiastic about Stanford and Princeton.

Young says he plans to pursue a biotechnology career at UCSD, Stanford, or Berkeley. "I'm the guy who sits in class and makes snide remarks," says Young, a member of the varsity rifle team. "I'm halfway between being the class clown and the overachiever." He has aspirations of "curing some disease and becoming really rich by selling it."—*Candice Towell*

Toy Story

Inside an ordinary house on Yerington's Main Street, **Justus "Slim" Bauschinger** and **Steve Singer** toil away with their toys. The two men are the brains behind the Lilliput Motor Company, which sells tin toys, cars, and airplanes that were popular in the 1930s, '40s, and '50s.

Bauschinger and Singer have turned their fascination with toys into a multi-million-dollar mail-order company right smack-dab in the heart of rural Nevada. Six years ago, on the advice of friends, they moved from Market Street in San Francisco to Main Street in Yerington. They both agree it was the best move they ever made, but adjusting to the new lifestyle took time.

"I spent six months twitching, getting used to the quiet," Singer says, adding that an entrepreneur can escape from the city and still be successful. "You can run a mail-order business from anywhere."

Bauschinger says, "I remember the quiet the first night here. The pace of life allows your thinking to slow down. In the city, there were so many distractions, competitions, and interests to take your attention. Here, it is easier to focus."

They revel in the small-town atmosphere. At noon Bauschinger likes to wander down to Dini's Lucky Club for a bite to eat, while Singer prefers his wife's home cooking. After work, Singer often heads to the Little League park to play ball with his sons, Sam and Howie. Last year, Singer coached the Senior League All-Star team to a second-place finish.



Yerington tin men Steve Singer (left) and Justus Bauschinger are in the toy business.

At first, Bauschinger and Singer were just collectors of Micro-Racers, tiny tin models of cars that were popular because they sped both forward and backward. Then the two decided to try selling the European-made toys. Singer says, "We started in a garage on Panavista Street in Yerington with the thought of selling European toys. We advertised a Micro-Racer, popular in the 1950s, in the *New York Times*. Our phone began ringing off the hook."

Besides selling tiny toy vehicles, the Lilliput catalog offers vintage items like music boxes, teddy bears, airplanes, and ships. They sell a model of the British racing car that broke the sound barrier on the Black Rock Desert last year. The four-and-a-half-inch shiny red Sunbeam is one of a collection of hand-made Land Speed Record cars built in Nuremberg, Germany.

Shoppers can see (and buy) some of the toys at Bill's Garage in Yerington. Call 800-TIN-TOYS for a copy of the Lilliput Motor Company catalog. —*Laura Tennant*



Nicole Niemi is a chess whiz from Las Vegas.

Chess Mate

Las Vegan **Nicole Niemi**, 12, is no pawn when it comes to playing chess. The sixth-grade student at Molasky Junior High School is the nation's top chess player in her age group, 12 and under, and was selected to compete last fall at the World Youth Chess Championships in Castellon, Spain.

She traveled to Spain with 12 other American students and her father, Greg. More than 150 champions competed at the 11-day event, and the top three contestants received awards. Although Nicole did not place in the top three, she says she enjoys competition—and the game. "It's cool because I can go to far-away places and win trophies."

Nicole took up chess at the age of nine after her father took her to local chess competitions. "I just kept up with it, and my dad kept teaching me new tricks," she says.

"She went from not knowing anything to what she is today," says Nicole's mother, Anne Palamidas. "I don't even attempt to play chess with her—she kills me at checkers."—*Candice Towell*

Photos: Candice Towell (top left), Laura Tennant (bottom)

Nevada Events & Shows
January/February 1999
A Section of NEVADA MAGAZINE

Off-Road Lovers Leap

Drivers and spectators find lots of action during Laughlin's Desert Challenge.

By Jill McCoomber

The Laughlin Desert Challenge, with its moguls, jumps, and leaps, is an off-road race held within sight of the neon hum of the Colorado River town of Laughlin, 90 miles south of Las Vegas.

Set for January 21-24, the Challenge is the first event of the Short Course Off-Road Enterprises (SCORE) International series, which includes the Baja 1000. Unlike most point-to-point off-road races, the Laughlin event takes place on a relatively short 13-mile course. Also, spectators can find nearly continuous action in the viewing area—a stadium located at Laughlin's Special Events Arena.

Activities begin on Thursday, January 21, with the crowd-pleasing Laughlin Leap—a



Off-road drivers jam the accelerator and jump their cars for distance, bragging rights, and $15,000 in prize money during the Laughlin Leap.

Photo: Centerline Photo

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contest in which drivers launch their 3,000-pound vehicles in a long jump. The Leap and the Pit Crew Competition are part of four days of technical inspections, testing, and racing that allow race fans to hobnob with drivers and crews.

Bekki Freeman, one of only two women drivers on the SCORE circuit, will be among the drivers throttling up to the starting line in Laughlin. She says off-road jockeys consider this race to be less grueling but more challenging than the typical long-course desert race. Only a few seconds can make the difference between first and last place.

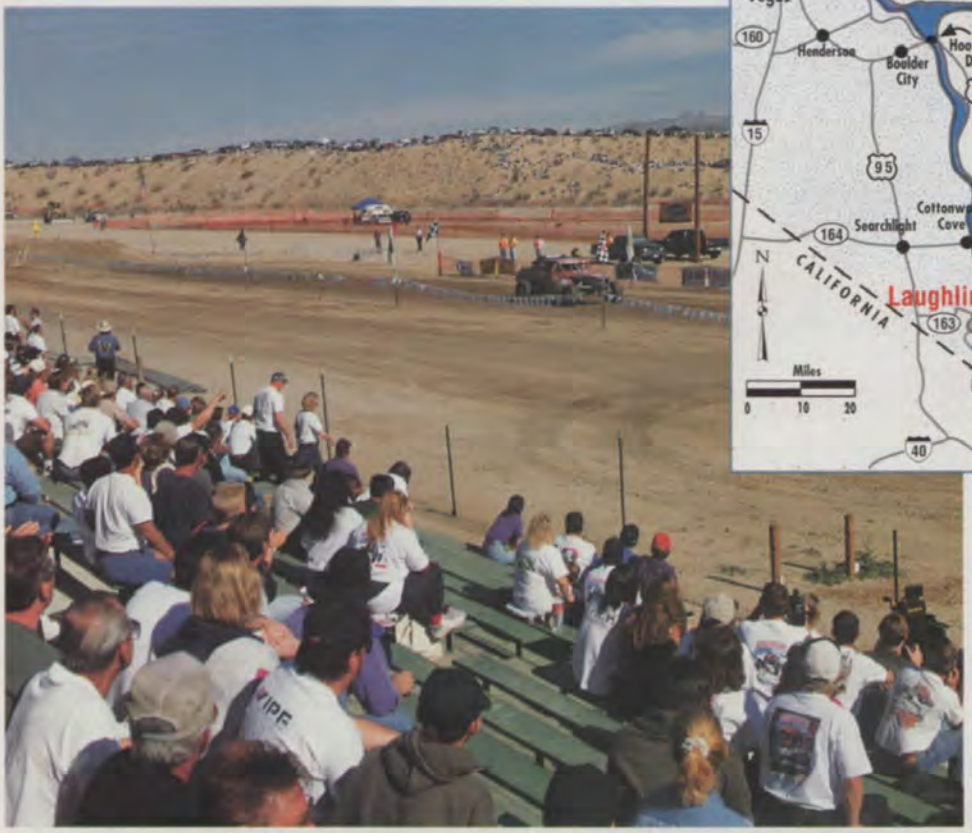
"Laughlin is a very short course [six laps around the 13-mile course], so you have to be 110 percent the entire time," says Freeman. "There's absolutely no room for error. If you blow a turn or you don't shift right, you blow the whole race." Unlike in other SCORE events, Laughlin competitors race for two consecutive days, earning points for their combined times. There will be 17 pro and two sportsman classes, so spectators will see a variety of race vehicles ranging from Baja Bugs and mini-trucks to stock full-size trucks.

"It's a very tight, close course," explains Freeman, 27, who is beginning her second full year on the SCORE circuit. "I was off by 11 seconds in Laughlin, then I rolled. You don't have room for these errors. I lost 30 seconds at least. Compare that to the Barstow race, where I had five flats and still took third place. In Laughlin I wouldn't have taken 10th if I had five flats. You simply don't have time to pit. The intensity level is maxed—you can't blink.



Bekki Freeman, one of two female drivers on the SCORE circuit, finds the Laughlin race a challenge.

"It's really is a different race each day," says Freeman, a Las Vegas native whose family introduced her to road racing as a youngster. "On Saturday you see the condition of the course and adjust to it. Then by Sunday several other classes have raced, and the conditions have changed dramatically. There may be ruts in an area that was smooth the day before because everyone braked around a curve. You may have to slow down in a section where you accelerated the day before. If your reaction time isn't as fast as it should be, you're in for trouble." She adds, "The simple, little things you take for granted in other races can mean the difference between first and last in Laughlin."


Bleachers at the arena in Laughlin offer spectators a view not available in more remote racing areas.

The stadium and its winner's circle provide a center of activity for fans. "After each day's race, the top three in each category come to the winner's circle," says Tom Jenkins, general manager of Harrah's Laughlin and the event's coordinator. "Admission to the grandstands includes entry to the winner's circle, where fans get autographs and pose for pictures with their favorite drivers."

Laughlin Leap and Pit Crew Competition

In the Laughlin Leap, drivers vie for $15,000 in prize money as they shoot off a dirt ramp to see who can remain airborne for the greatest distance. This event is highly popular with photographers. Racers compete in two categories based on horsepower; the 1998 winners leaped 117 and 98 feet.

The Pit Crew Competition gives hard-working crew members a chance to earn a place in the winner's circle as well as up to $10,000 in prize money. Crews compete side by side in a simulated pit stop lasting about a minute. Last year's winning time

Photos: Bekki Freeman (top), Centerline Photo (bottom)



Announcer Charlie Englebart interviews David Ashley of Riverside, California, after Ashley won last year's Featured Trophy-Truck Division. The Laughlin race offers $500,000 in prize money and contingency posting.

was just over 1:02 for the open-wheel car category and 1:09 for the truck division.

Where to Watch the Race

Because of environmental concerns, off-road race organizers must have the approval of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Care is also taken to protect the desert during and after the race. While BLM restrictions preclude spectators from striking out into the desert and setting up tailgate parties along the course, there are a couple of places along the route where crowds gather. Laughlin fans with four-wheel-drive vehicles line up on a steep hill just east of the stadium on Big Bend Drive. There are a few other gathering spots best found by asking around during the event.

"Several spots are OK to watch the race from out in the desert, and they are fairly well occupied," Jenkins explains. "A lot of fans like to be out in the desert, but there's much more going on in the stadium, where you see much more of the race, plus the winner's circle and vendor's village."

Schedule of Events

The Laughlin Leap and Pit Crew Competition take place at the stadium on Thursday, followed by technical inspections and a manufacturer's midway at the start-finish line on Friday. Also on Friday, drivers register and are allowed final testing and pre-running on the official course. The official races take place Saturday and Sunday, with six classes at a time hitting the course for nonstop action. A vendor's village with food and souvenir concessions will be open throughout the event.

Admission to the grandstands—including the winner's circle—is $8 per day. Two- and three-day passes are available, as are race-room packages at Laughlin hotels. Contact the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce, 702-298-2214 or 800-227-5245, for tickets or more information.

Jill McCoomber is a freelance writer and photographer who has been writing about events and attractions in the Laughlin area for more than 15 years.

Finding Off-Road Action in Nevada



Buggies blast by the viewing area during the Laughlin Desert Challenge, to be held January 21-24 in the Colorado River gaming mecca.

Racing fans will find a full schedule of off-road action in Nevada. The events are sponsored by groups such as the Las Vegas-based Best in the Desert and the California-based Short Course Off-Road Enterprises (SCORE). Fans can call ahead for information on pre-race and finish-line celebrations. Following is a sampling of 1999 races in the Silver State:

Laughlin U.S. Hare Scrambles Championships: February 19-21, Laughlin. Best in the Desert's Silver State Series motorcycle points race. 702-457-5775.

Tonopah 300: April 16-18, Tonopah. Trucks, cars, quads, and motorcycles compete for points in a 300-mile Best in the Desert's Silver State Series race. 702-457-5775.

Virginia City Grand Prix: May 8-9, Virginia City. Motorcyclists compete in the Western States Racing Association event that begins and ends in the historic mining town. 775-847-0311.

Silver State 300: June 25-27 Mesquite. Trucks, cars, quads, and motorcycles earn points in a 300-mile Best in the Desert's Silver State Series event. 702-457-5775.

Las Vegas Primm 300: Sept. 10-11, Primm. Fourth annual 300-mile SCORE International race open to 16 classes of cars and trucks. 818-225-8402.

Vegas to Reno: Sept. 30-Oct. 3. The longest off-road race in the U.S. covers 534 miles between Nevada's major cities. Trucks, cars, motorcycles, and quads earn points in a Best of the Desert's Silver State Series. 702-457-5775.

Terrible's Town 250: Dec. 3-5, Pahrump. Competition is called "the Richest Off-Road Race in Nevada" and covers a 250-mile single-loop course. 702-457-5775.

Nevada 2000: July 4, 2000. Watch for this one: At 2,000 miles, this will be the longest off-road race in the U.S. The week-long event will begin and end in Las Vegas. 702-457-5775.

More Information: Call the Nevada Commission on Tourism, 775-687-4322, for further information on motor-sports events.

Photos: Centerline Photo (top), Las Vegas News Bureau (bottom)



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Nevada Events

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

Nevada travelers will find a full schedule of winter events throughout the state. Visitors to Las Vegas and Reno will find concerts, plays, and ballet and opera performances, and Elko hosts the world-renowned Cowboy Poetry Gathering. *Nevada Magazine* presents the following events listing for January and February, divided into areas of interest. Be sure to call ahead to confirm dates and times. Please note that the area code is 702 for Las Vegas Territory and 775 for the rest of the state.

Las Vegas Territory

FESTIVALS & HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

New Year's Eve • Dec. 31 • Bauchman Turner Overdrive and Starship perform to welcome in the new year. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 678-5777.

Jeff Foxworthy in Concert • Dec. 31 • New Year's Eve performance, guest starring Ritch Shydner. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 895-3900.

Super Bowl Super Sunday • Jan. 29-31 • Entertainment on two stages, the game on video walls, NFL players sign autographs. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 678-5777.

Great Mesquite Chili and Art Festival • Feb. 13-14 • City Hall, Mesquite, 346-ARTS.

PERFORMANCES

'N SYNC in Concert • Jan. 1 • Contemporary group performs its latest hit, "Tearin' Up My Heart." Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 474-4000.

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 ann@nevadamagazine.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



Making the Big Stretch

UNLV center Kaspars Kambala makes a slam dunk for the Runnin' Rebels at Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas. After the regular season, UNLV hosts Western Athletic Conference tournaments March 1-6, and the University of Nevada Wolf Pack has the Big West Conference tournament March 3-6 in Reno.

New York Philharmonic • Jan. 6 • Concert at Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

Las Vegas Civic Symphony • Jan. 10 • Program includes "An Outdoor Overture" by Aaron Copland and "Oboe Concerto" by George Handel. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 229-6211.

Photo: Steve Spatafore

Stars on Ice • Jan. 11 • Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 895-3900.

The Fabulous Dorseys • Jan. 13 • Big Band concert featuring the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra and the Dorsey Dixieland Band. Nicholas Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 651-LIVE.

"Animal Crackers" • Jan. 15 • Puppet show with circus animals created from cardboard boxes, shadow puppets, and a barnyard opera with the music of Mozart, Strauss, and Rossini. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 800-497-5007.

Robert Bluestone • Jan. 15 • Classical guitarist in concert. Valley View Recreation Center, Henderson, 565-9784.

World Music Festival: Andes Mauta and Paul Taylor • Jan. 16 • The music of South American Pan Flutes and the Australian Didjeridoo. Virgin Valley High School, Mesquite, 346-2787.

Carl Grove Combo: Music by Request • Jan. 16 • Big Band music from the '40s and '50s. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 229-6383.

Tango Buenos Aires • Jan. 19-20 • Dance company from Argentina. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

Home Front • Jan. 20-24 • Actors portray characters from UNLV's oral history project on WWII. Paul Harris Theatre, UNLV, 895-3801.

"Big River" • Jan. 21-24 and 28-31 • Tony Award-winning musical based on Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 229-6383.

"A Streetcar Named Desire" • Jan. 22-24 and 27-31 • Tennessee Williams' play featuring the tragic character Blanche DuBois. Summerlin Library Theatre, Las Vegas, 647-7469.

Nevada Symphony • Jan. 23 • Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

Happy Birthday, Mozart • Jan. 27 • Birthday cake is served at a chamber music ensemble performance. Winchester Community Center, Las Vegas, 455-7340.

Documentary Film Series • *Taiga II* on Feb. 2 and *Taiga III* on Feb. 9 • Chronicling life among the nomads of Northern Mongolia. Mongolian, Tuwinien, and German with English subtitles. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 229-6383.

"Happily Ever Aftering With Lerner and Lowe" • Feb. 4-14 • Pre-Broadway opening of an original musical based on the life of the two composers. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 895-3801.

Mardi Gras Galore: Balfa Toujours • Feb. 6 • Cajun quartet performs, judging for best Mardi Gras costume. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 229-6383.

"La Boheme" • Feb. 6-7 • Nevada Opera Theatre presentation. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

Brass Roots Quintet • Feb. 7 • Walter Boenig quintet's program includes music from classical to ragtime. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 229-6211.

Fascinating Rhythms of George Gershwin: 100th Anniversary Special • Feb. 7 • Pianist Pierce Emata performs a commemorative concert. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 29-6383.

"The Sleeping Beauty" • Feb. 9-10 • The Russian National Ballet performs the fairy tale classic. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

"Don't Start Me to Talking" • Feb. 12 • Historical journey from the struggles of escaped slaves to contemporary multicultural progress. Black Mountain Recreation Center, Henderson, 565-2367.

"MacBeth" • Feb. 12-13 • Utah Shakespearean Festival's touring show. Nicholas Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 651-LIVE.

"Adventures in Old Nevada" • Feb. 12-14 and 18-21 • Rainbow Company performs stories based on the Silver State's past. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 229-6211.

Big Band Dance • Feb. 13 • Concert and dance. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 229-6383.

Documentary Film Series: *Latcho Drom* • Feb. 16 • Depicts the nomadic culture of the Rom people, or Gypsies. In Romany with English subtitles. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 229-6383.

"Freedom Train" • Feb. 16-17 • The story of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 800-497-5007.

"Winnie the Pooh" • Feb. 18 • Musical. Valley View

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

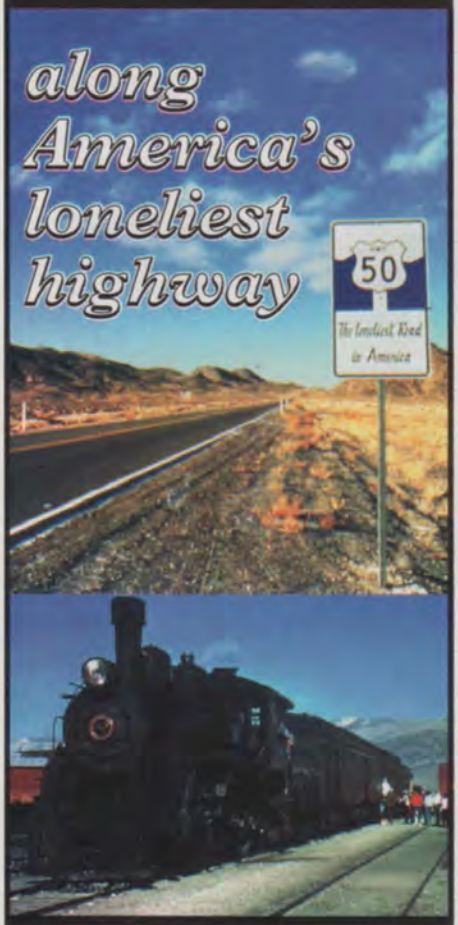
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School's Lonely Out Here

The Clark County Heritage Museum in Henderson hosts the Smithsonian Institution's traveling photo exhibition, "The Prairie Schoolhouse," January 30-March 14. Images include this schoolhouse built by a Montana rancher in 1906 for his daughter. When neighboring homesteaders wanted to be included, the tiny structure became the Daily Public School.

Recreation Center, Henderson, 565-2367.

"Gris Gris" • Feb. 18-21 and 24-28 • Sarett National Playwriting Award-winning play about a New Orleans voodoo queen. Black Box Theatre, UNLV, 895-3801.

Sierra Winds Recital • Feb. 19 • Haydn and Mozart compositions performed. Judy Bayley Theatre, Las Vegas, 895-3801.

St. Louis Symphony Orchestra • Feb. 20 • Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

A Classic Good Time • Feb. 26-28 • Nevada Ballet Theatre presents a program of three different ballets including "Les Sylphides," "In the Glow of the Night," and "Good Times." Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 2-4-DANCE.

UNLV Symphony Concert • Feb. 28 • Artemus Ham Hall, 895-3801.

EXHIBITS

Las Vegas Collects II • Thru Jan. 4 • Las Vegas art collectors display works by Picasso, Masson, Warhol, Oldenburg, and Dali. Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, 360-8000.

Machines That Made Our History • Thru Jan. 5 • Jim Galli's photographs of Central Nevada historic industrial sites and artifacts. Summerlin Library, Las Vegas, 256-5111.

United Nations • Thru Jan. 10 • Photo exhibit depicts United Nations efforts around the world. Clark County Library, Las Vegas, 733-7810.

Man Made • Thru Jan. 20 • Photographer KC Errett's still-life images on hand-coated paper. Sunrise Library, Las Vegas, 453-1104.

On Location in Clark County • Thru Jan. 24 • Photos, memorabilia, and artifacts of the movies filmed in Southern Nevada. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955.

Survival in Post-Soviet Armenia • Thru Jan. 25 • Photographer John Esperian depicts a country in transition. West Charleston Library, Las Vegas, 878-3682.

In a Silver State • Thru Jan. 26 • Kim Hoffman uses metals, ceramics, and glass to create her animal pieces, many of them humorous. Rainbow Library, Las Vegas, 243-7323.

Design Art • Thru Feb. 2 • Objects from fashion, graphics, industrial design, and architecture. Whitney Library, Las Vegas, 454-4575.

Mark Burns' '50s Memorabilia • Thru Feb. 7 • UNLV art professor's collection on exhibit. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 229-6211.

Painting With Fabric • Thru Feb. 17 • Asian-American artist Emmy Hartwick interprets the art of Ukiyo-e. Green Valley Library, Las Vegas, 435-1840.

Annie Lee • Thru Feb. 22 • Paintings depict African-American family life and history. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 229-6383.

Life in the Hot and Dry: Desert Animal Adaptations • Thru Sept. 30 • Exhibit shows how creatures including lizards, rodents, rabbits, and butterflies survive in the desert. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 486-5205.

Fine Art Exhibit • Jan. 1-March 31 • Original works by members of the Boulder City Art Guild. Boulder Dam Hotel, Boulder City, 293-2138.

Kwanza • Jan. 12-March 2 • Artist Joseph House celebrates Kwanza and black history with images of self-reflection and cultural identification through mixed media, photography, and sculpture. Clark County Library Main Gallery, Las Vegas, 733-7810.

Vicki Richardson • Jan. 14-March 15 • Artist's work influenced by the African-American culture. West Las Vegas Library, Las Vegas, 647-2117.

The Prairie Schoolhouse: A Photo Essay Exhibit • Jan. 30-March 14 • Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibit of black-and-white images of one-room schools. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955.

Strength and Diversity • Feb. 11-April 25 • Exhibit tells the story of how Japanese women from four generations have responded to life's circumstances. West Charleston Library, Las Vegas, 878-3682.

Nevada Camera Club • Feb. 18-May 9 • Juried photo show. Green Valley Library, Las Vegas, 435-1840.

SPORTS

UNLV Women's Basketball • The Lady Rebels play Jan. 2 v. New Orleans at Thomas and Mack Center, Jan. 21 v. SMU, Jan. 23 v. TCU, Feb. 3 v. Denver, Feb. 6 v. Air Force, Feb. 11 v. Tulsa, Feb. 13 v. Rice, Feb. 25 v. Colorado State, Feb. 27 v. Wyoming. Thomas and Mack Center and the Lied Gymnasium, Las Vegas, 895-UNLV.

Las Vegas Thunder • The International Hockey League team plays Jan. 5 v. Manitoba Moose, Jan. 8 v. Kansas City Blades, Jan. 15 v. Long Beach Ice Dogs, Jan. 26 v.

Manitoba Moose, Jan. 29 v. Fort Wayne Comets, Feb. 2 v. Houston Aeros, Feb. 9 v. Utah Grizzlies, Feb. 12-13 v. Long Beach Ice Dogs, Feb. 19 v. Indianapolis Ice, Feb. 21 v. Long Beach Ice Dogs, Feb. 26-27 v. Cincinnati Cyclones. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 798-PUCK.

UNLV Men's Basketball • The Runnin' Rebels play Jan. 9 v. Air Force, Jan. 14 v. Rice, Jan. 16 v. Tulsa, Jan. 28 v. Wyoming, Jan. 30 v. Colorado State, Feb. 20 v. SMU, Feb. 22 v. TCU. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 895-UNLV.

Laughlin Desert Challenge • Jan. 21-24 • More than 150 off-road drivers compete in the first race in the Short Course Off-Road Enterprises (SCORE) International series. Includes the Laughlin Leap and pit crew competitions. Special Events Site, Laughlin, 298-2214.

Las Vegas Go For It Classic • Feb. 4-7 • More than 3,000 gymnasts from beginner to elite National Team members compete in six categories. Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 735-LVOC.

Las Vegas International Friendship 5K • Feb. 6 • Charity race along the Strip. Battista's Hole-in-the-Wall Restaurant, Las Vegas, 876-3870.

Las Vegas International Marathon and Half Marathon • Feb. 7 • Point-to-point race with 7,000 runners. MGM Grand and Tropicana hotels, Las Vegas, 876-3870.

GENERAL INTEREST

Winter Fight Workshop • Jan. 3-10 • Sharpen swashbuckling skills on swords and shields. Black Box Theatre, UNLV, 895-3662.

Antique and Collectible Show • Jan. 8-10 • Horizon Mall, Laughlin, 382-7043.

Winter Nature Walk • Jan. 16 • A three-mile moderate hike to explore wildlife habitat in Pinecreek Canyon. Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 12 miles west of Las Vegas, 363-1922.

Odd Couples • Jan. 16-17 • Program about the common characteristics animals share with prehistoric animals. Las Vegas Natural History Museum, Las Vegas, 384-3466.

Black and White Ball • Jan. 22 • Fifth annual fund-raiser for the Nevada Ballet Theatre. Mirage, Las Vegas, 2-4-DANCE.

Winter Survival • Jan. 23 • Techniques, equipment, reducing problems faced during winter travel. Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 12 miles west of Las Vegas, 363-1921.

Willow Springs Nature Walk • Jan. 30 • Two-mile moderate hike to discuss plant, animals, and ecology. Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 12 miles west of Las Vegas, 363-1921.

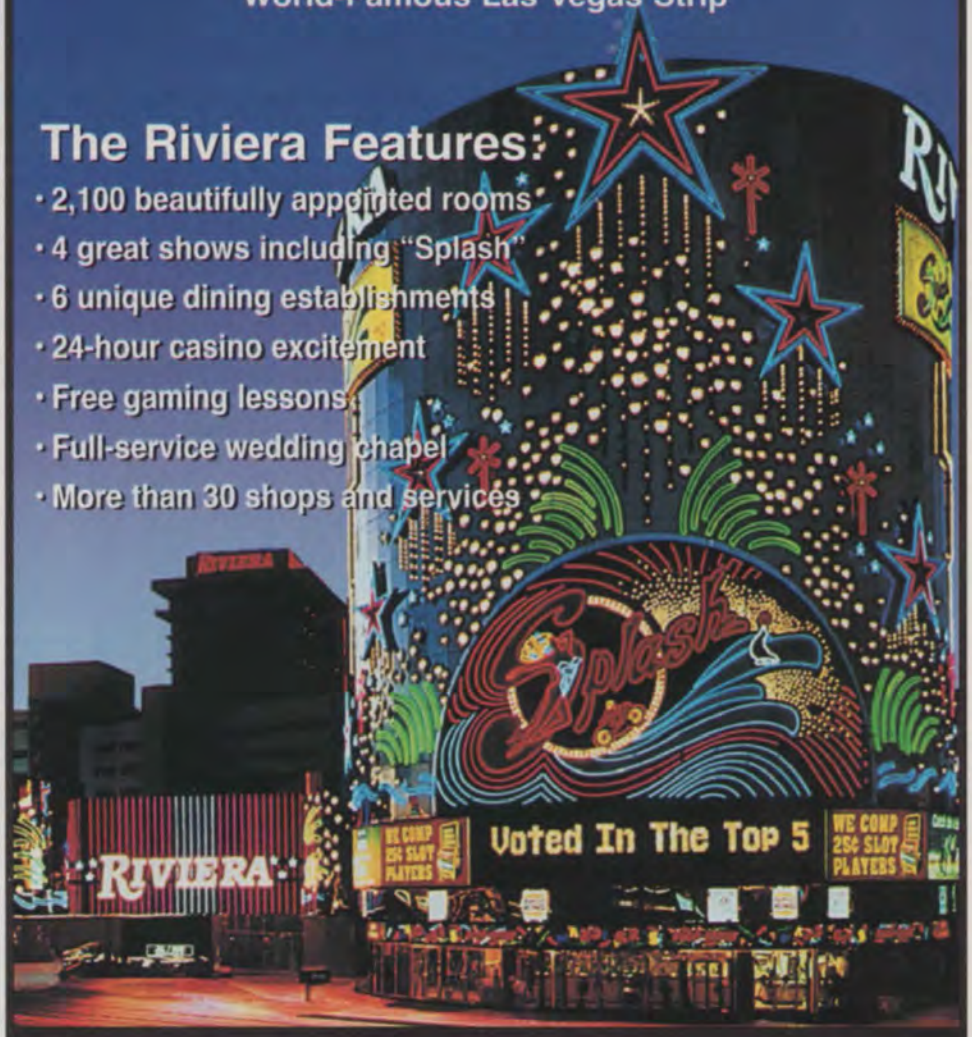
Antique and Collectible Show • Feb. 6-7 • Henderson Convention Center, Henderson, 382-7043.

Hunters of the Sky: Eagles, Hawks, Owls, and Falcons • Feb. 13 • Program about the winged hunters of Red Rock Canyon. Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 12 miles west of Las Vegas, 363-1921.



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Good Deals on the Tahoe Slopes

Lake Tahoe has some of world's best snow, and many casinos in the Reno-Tahoe area have skiing-and-lodging packages designed to meet every budget. Packages usually include lift tickets, transportation to ski resorts, meals, and entertainment. Prices are double occupancy and based on midweek rates. Weekend prices are slightly higher.

In Reno, **Circus Circus** offers one of its newly remodeled rooms, a lift ticket to **Squaw Valley**, a breakfast buffet, and hot chocolate for $67 per person. Call 800-648-5010.

Hungry visitors can try the **Sands Regency's** package. For a three-day, two-night stay guests receive dinner at Tony Roma's Rib House, dinner at the Palm Court, breakfast buffet at Antonia's, and a continental breakfast, plus a health club visit. The cost is $98 per person and includes $10 in gaming chips and one lift ticket and round-trip transportation to **Squaw Valley** or **Mount Rose.** Call 800-648-3553 or 702-348-2264 for details.

Fitzgeralds offers deals with skiing at **Squaw Valley.** The package prices start at $62 per person and include a hotel room and transportation. Call 800-785-3300 or 800-648-5022.

The **Silver Legacy's** ski packages include two nights at the hotel, admission to the health spa, two $10 food credits, and two lift tickets to **Mount Rose** ($91) or an interchangeable ticket to **Squaw Valley, Northstar, Alpine Meadows, Sugar Bowl, Diamond Peak,** or **Homewood** ($99). Call 800-MUST-SEE.



Top freestyle competitors gather at Heavenly ski area at Lake Tahoe on January 22-24 for the Freestyle World Cup. Fireworks and a night competition launch the event, which is being held in Nevada for the first time.

Flamingo Hilton Reno offers a one-night stay and a pass to one of seven resorts for $76. Call 800-648-4882.

At the **Eldorado**, skiers pay $99 per person for two nights, dinner at the Chef's Buffet, and a lift ticket to **Kirkwood, Diamond Peak, Heavenly, Northstar, Squaw Valley,** or **Alpine Meadows**. Call 800-648-5966 or www.eldoradoreno.com.

John Ascuaga's Nugget's $79 deal includes a day of skiing, a Celebrity Room show, and a tower room. Guests get the fourth night free and can opt for **Alpine Meadows, Boreal, Diamond Peak, Mount Rose, Northstar-at-Tahoe, Homewood, Squaw Valley,** or **Sugar Bowl**. Call 800-648-1177.

The **Peppermill** has two-night ($99 per person) and three-night ($170 per person) packages with skiing at either **Squaw Valley** or **Mount Rose.** A free continental breakfast is delivered to your room daily, and you also receive transportation to the ski resort and a health-club passes. Call 800-821-9729.

The **Reno Hilton's** ski packages include two nights and one ski pass to **Mount Rose** ($69 per person), **Alpine Meadows** ($79), or **Squaw Valley** ($85). Call 800-648-5080.

The **Reno Ramada Inn and Speakeasy Casino** offers a **Mount Rose** package with a room and lift tickets for $49 ($59 on Saturday) per person. The **Squaw Valley** package is $10 higher. Call 888-RENO-777 or 775-329-7400.

At **Boomtown** in Verdi, 12 miles west of Reno, skiers pay $89 per person for two nights, a lift ticket to either **Squaw Valley** or **Northstar**, breakfast at the Tumbleweed Cafe, and dinner at the Silver Screen Buffet. Call 800-648-3790.

The **Carson Valley Inn** in Minden offers its "Ski Inn-Vite" with two nights' lodging and a Kirkwood lift ticket for $65 to $75 per person (Sunday through Thursday arrival). The "Ski Vacation" runs $145 to $155 for three nights. Call 800-321-6983 or 775-782-9711.

At Stateline, Lake Tahoe, **Harveys** has several packages, including a three-day, two-night package deal for $175 per person, per night. The deal includes an interchangeable lift ticket to one of six resorts and a $25 dining credit. Call 800-HARVEYS

Photo: Heavenly Ski Resort

or www.harveys-tahoe.com.

Caesars Tahoe offers a ski package with a $20 credit toward a massage. For a two-night stay and $150 per person, per night, skiers will find rooms with Roman or whirlpool tubs, a breakfast buffet each day, and two lift tickets at **Heavenly, Kirkwood, Sierra-At-Tahoe, Northstar,** or **Squaw Valley.** Call 800-648-3353.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe's has packages for two nights and one day of skiing ($153 per person), three nights and two days of skiing ($239), and four nights with three days of skiing ($346). Skiers can choose from **Kirkwood, Sierra-at-Tahoe, Northstar, Squaw Valley, Alpine Meadows,** or **Heavenly** ($10 extra). The packages include tickets to shows and dining discounts. Call 800-HARRAHS.

In Incline Village, the **Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe** deal comes with a view and a rate of $82 per person to ski at **Alpine Meadows, Diamond Peak,** or **Northstar-at-Tahoe**. Call 800-553-3288.

For quadruple occupancy, the cost is $88 per person at **Vacation Station** in Incline Village. The condo package includes two days of skiing at **Diamond Peak** or **Mount Rose**, sauna, and Jacuzzi. Call 800-841-7443 or 702-831-3664.

The **Inn at Incline and Condominiums** has one of the lowest rates, $53.50 per person, with a ski pass to **Diamond Peak**. Call 800-824-6391 for details.

The **Cal-Neva Resort** in Crystal Bay offers a three-day, two-night escape with two lift tickets per person. Guests can ski at **Alpine Meadows, Northstar-at-Tahoe,** or **Diamond Peak** with free shuttle service. The cost is $139 per person. Call 800-CAL-NEVA or 702-832-4000.

For information on Reno-area package deals call the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority, 800-FOR-RENO or www.playreno.com.—*Candice Towell*



Skiing Around the State

A Guide to Nevada and Tahoe Basin Ski Areas.

1999 Downhill Skier's Guide

Area	Website	Phone	Top Elevation	Vertical Feet	Lifts	Rating Bg-Int-Adv	Lift Price Adult/Child	Rental Adult/Child
TAHOE BASIN								
Alpine Meadows	www.alpineski.com	530-583-4232	8,637	1,800	12	25-40-35	$48/$10	$15
Boreal	www.skiboreal.com	530-426-3666	7,700	500	9	30-55-15	$28/$10	$18/$12
Diamond Peak	www.diamondpeak.com	775-831-3211	8,540	1,840	6	18-46-36	$38/$14	$20/$13
Donner Ski Ranch	www.donnerskiranch.com	530-426-3635	7,751	750	6	25-50-25	$23/$10/$5	$17/$10
Granlibakken		530-583-4242	6,480	280	2	50-50-0	$15/$8	$15/$12
Heavenly	www.skiheavenly.com	775-586-7000	10,040	3,500	26	20-47-33	$52/$38/$24	$22/$12
Ski Homewood	www.skihomewood.com	530-525-2992	7,880	1,650	8	15-50-35	$35/$25/$11	$19/$12
Kirkwood	www.skikirkwood.com	209-258-6000	9,800	2,000	13	15-50-35	$45/$35/$7	$20/$14
Mount Rose	www.mtrose.com	775-849-0704	9,700	1,440	5	30-35-35	$42/$10	$25/$15
Northstar-at-Tahoe	www.skinorthstar.com	530-562-1010	8,600	2,200	12	25-50-25	$47/$38/$10	$26/$15
Sierra at Tahoe	www.sierratahoe.com	530-659-7453	8,852	2,212	11	25-50-25	$45/$35/$7	$22/$15
Soda Springs	www.skisodasprings.com	530-426-1010	7,352	652	3	30-50-20	$15/free	$15
Squaw Valley	www.squaw.com	530-583-6955	9,050	2,850	30	25-45-30	$489/$24/$5	$25/$13
Sugar Bowl	www.sugarbowl.com	530-426-9000	8,383	1,500	12	17-43-40	$45/$10	$23/$16
Tahoe Donner	www.tahoedonner.com	530-587-9444	7,350	600	3	40-60-0	$26/$12	$20/$15
AROUND THE STATE								
LV Ski and Snowboard		702-646-0008	9,510	1,000	3	20-60-20	$28/$21	$16
Elko Snobowl		775-738-6125	7,000	650	2	20-60-20	$6	
Ruby Mountains (Elko)	www.helicopterskiing.com	775-753-6867	Ruby Mt. Heli-Skiing offers back country helicopter skiing; $2,565 per person					

1999 Cross-Country Skier's Guide

Area	Website	Phone	Trail (km)	Trail Fee Adult/Child	Rental Adult/Child	Lessons Adult/Child	Day Lodge
TAHOE BASIN							
Clair Tappaan Lodge	www.sierraclub.org	530-426-3632	14	$7/$3.50	$13/$9	$14	√
Diamond Peak	www.diamondpeak.com	775-831-3211	35	$14/$9	$15/$7	$34*	√
Hope Valley		530-694-2266	80	none	$14/$8	$28/$20	√
Kirkwood	www.skikirkwood.com	209-258-7248	80	$15/$5	$15/$9	$35/$20*	√
Lake Tahoe Basin	www.fs.fed.us./f/Tahoe	530-573-2600	The U.S. Forest Service has brochures on many forest areas.				
Lake View		530-583-9353	65	$15/$6	$15/$9	$35*	
Northstar-at-Tahoe	www.skinorthstar.com	530-562-1010	65	$16/$9	$16/$9	$39/$25*	√
Royal Gorge	www.royalgorge.com	530-426-3871	328	$21/$8.50	$16.50/$9.50	$20/$12	√
Spooner Lake		775-887-8844	101	$15/$9/$3	$15/$9/$4	$34/$25/$18*	√
Resort at Squaw Creek	www.squawcreek.com	530-583-6300	18	$12/$8	$13/$9	$35*	√
Tahoe Donner	www.tahoedonner.com	530-587-9484	94	$16/$14/$9	$15/$9	$35/$29*	√
AROUND THE STATE							
LV Ski and Snowboard		702-252-8077 702-873-8800	The Ski Chalet offers x-country suggestions The U.S. Forest Service has info on camping and avalanche conditions				
Spring Valley (Eureka)		775-237-5280	Ron Carrion at the Owl Club provides directions and transportation				
White Pine (Ely)	(USFS) (BLM)	775-289-3031 775-289-1800	Ward Mt. and Loop Trails info. available from the U.S. Forest Service and BLM				

*Includes trail pass, equipment, and lessons

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

COMING EVENTS

WAC Women's and Men's Basketball Tournament • March 1-6 • Las Vegas, 260-8605.
Winston Cup Las Vegas 400 • March 7 • Las Vegas, 702-644-4443.
Invitational Native American Arts Festival • March 26-28 • Henderson, 702-455-7955.
Laughlin River Stampede • April 7-11 • Laughlin, 298-2214.
Clark County Fair • April 8-11 • Logandale, 702-398-FAIR.
Laughlin River Run • April 22-25 • Laughlin, 298-2214.
Senior PGA Classic • April 28-May 2 • Las Vegas, 800-556-5400.
Spring Jamboree and Craft Fair • May 1-2 • Boulder City, 702-293-2034.
Laughlin River Days • May 29-30 • Laughlin, 298-2214.
Chautauqua • Sept. 10-11, Boulder City, 294-4365.
Mesquite Fall Roundup • Oct. 2-3, 346-3868.
Bluegrass Festival • Oct. 8-10, Logandale, 564-5455.
Magical Forest • Nov. 20-Dec. 27, Las Vegas, 259-2553.
O Tannenbaum Christmas Festival • Nov. 27-28, Mesquite, 346-EVNT.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

FESTIVALS & HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

New Year's Eve Torchlight Parade and Fireworks • Dec. 31 • Kirkwood Ski Resort, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-7339.
Buck 'n Ball '98 • Dec. 31 • Rodeo, live bands, and dancing. Livestock Events Center, Reno, 332-3333.
New Year's Eve Dinner Dance • Dec. 31 • Reno Hilton, 800-648-3568.
Sharkey's Serbian Christmas Dinner • Jan. 7 • Free holiday feast. Sharkey's Nugget, Gardnerville, 782-3133.
Hot Ice '99 • Jan. 9-10 • Ice carving competition. Embassy Suites, South Lake Tahoe, 530-543-2129.
Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration • Jan. 15-18 • Events include a banquet and entertainment at John Ascuaga's Nugget. Sparks, 329-8990.
Valhalla Winter Microbrew Festival • Feb. 6 • Dance and taste brews from 30 breweries. Harrah's Lake Tahoe, Stateline, 530-542-4166.

PERFORMANCES

"Sister Amnesia's Country-Western Nunsense Jamboree" • Jan. 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, 29-30, and Feb. 5-6 • The crazy Nunsense nuns from Hoboken hit the road with a country-western show. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.
Second Sunday Series: Anne deMarcken • Jan. 10 • Former Lake Tahoe film-maker will present an original lifestyle film. Sierra Nevada College, Incline Village, 831-1314, ext. 1611.
Sofia Diaz Dieda • Jan. 10 • Artist performs a 2,000-year-old bharata natyam, a dance form of India. North Tahoe Conference Center, Kings Beach, 530-546-4602.
Chris Proctor • Jan. 13 • Guitarist in concert. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.
"Tartuffe" • Jan. 15-16, 21-23, and 28-30 • Modern adaptation of Moliere's farce. Bruka Theatre of the Sierra, Reno, 323-3221.
"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" • Jan. 15-17 • Comedian Rip Taylor stars in the Tony Award-



Cheek to Cheekette

Temperatures rise when the dancers of Tango Buenos Aires slide and twirl through the sensual dance steps of the tango, January 19-20 in Artemus Ham Hall at UNLV.

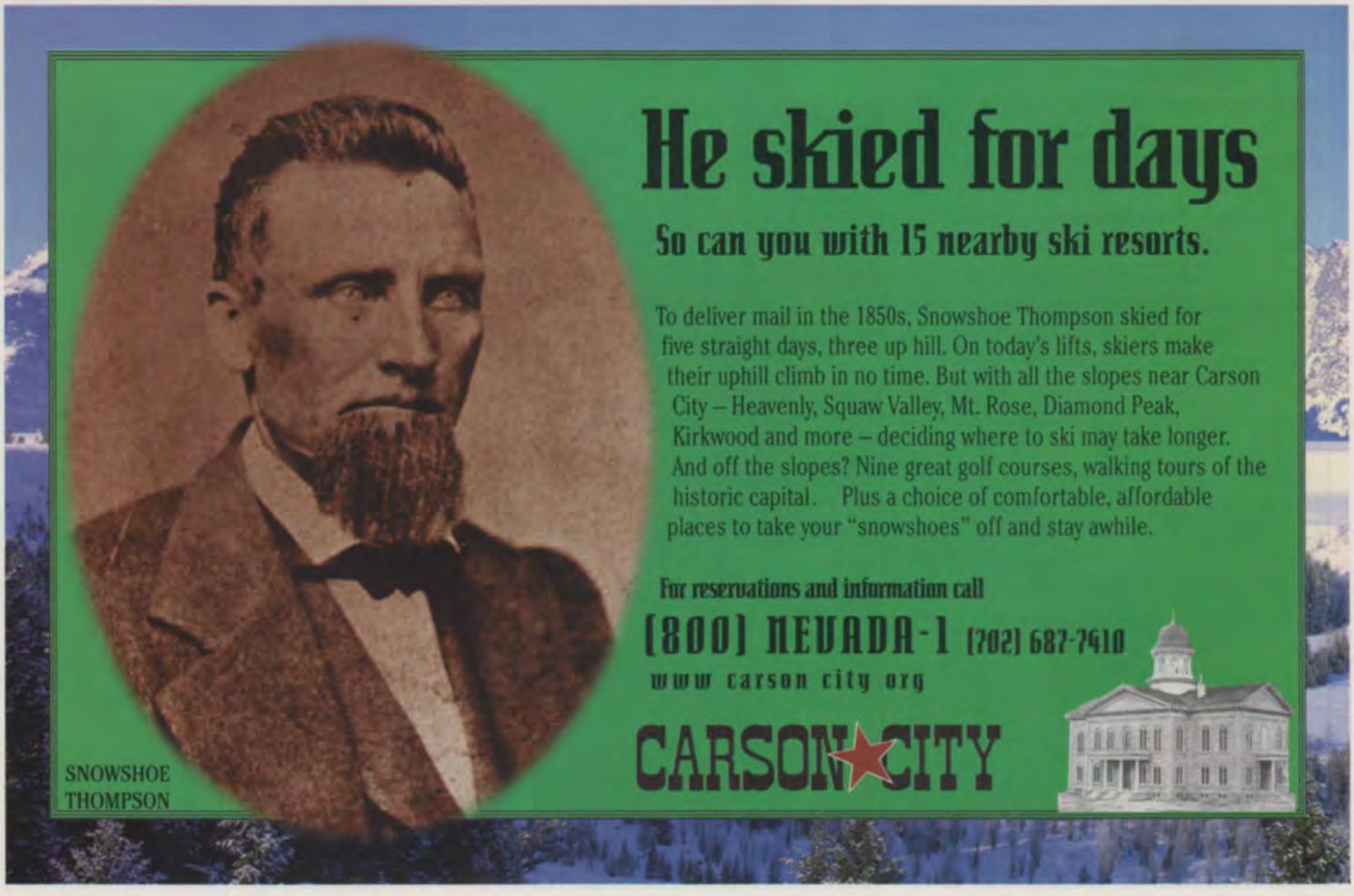


Photo: Daniel Root

winning musical comedy. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 686-6600.

Reno Chamber Orchestra • Jan. 16 • Program includes "Concerto Grosso Op. 3, No. 3" and "Suite in Olden Style." Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 348-9413.

"Same Time, Another Year" • Jan. 22-24 and 29-31 • Bernard Slade's sequel to "Same Time, Next Year." Elks Club, Reno, 331-1877.

Master Classics 4 • Jan. 26 • Jose Feghali on piano with featured works by Brahms and Rachmaninoff. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 323-6393.

Pax Domini and Our Lady of the Snow Choir • Jan. 26 • Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

Paragon Ragtime Orchestra • Jan. 28 • Classics to lost scores of the Victor Talking Machine Company. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 784-4046.

Best of Diablo Ballet • Feb. 4 • Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 785-7915.

Eth-no-Tec • Feb. 6 • Asian-American music, dance, and storytelling. Location TBA at South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-3632.

Vienna Boys Choir • Feb. 7 • Benefit concert for the Nevada Opera. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 786-4046.

Ericka Gocka Trio • Feb. 9 • Jazz concert. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

"Artdog's Magic Journey" • Feb. 11-12, 15, and 18-19 • Play for children featuring the half-human, half-dog character. Bruka Theatre of the Sierra, Reno, 323-3221.

"Good Night Desdemona, Good Morning Juliet" • Feb. 12-13 Lear Theatre in Reno and Feb. 25-27 Brewery Arts Center in Carson City • Contemporary farce that explores Shakespeare's heroines and women in academia. 841-5960.

Singer Chris Bayer in Concert • Feb. 13 • Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

Second Sunday Series: Sandy Freeman Loomis and Rod Loomis • Feb. 14 • Performance by actor-singer duo. Sierra Nevada College, Incline Village, 831-1314, ext. 1611.

"The Winter One-Act Festival" • Feb. 18 • Dessert will be served after original short plays are performed by the Virginia City Theater Muckers. Virginia City High School, 847-9ART.

"L'Italiana in Algeri" • Feb. 18-20 • Rossini's comic opera of a headstrong woman. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 786-4046.

Patrick Ball in Concert • Feb. 26 • Celtic harpist and storyteller. Community Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

James Russell Hunley Concert • Feb. 26 • Classical guitarist. Presbyterian Church, Virginia City, 847-9ART.

Argenta Quartet • Feb. 26 • Performance includes Mendelssohn's "Quartet for Piano and Strings in B Minor, Op. 3" and Mahler's "Piano and Strings Quartet in A Minor." Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 784-6847.

"A Clockwork Orange" • Feb. 26-27 • Drama by the Nevada Repertory Company. Redfield Theatre, U of N, Reno, 784-6847.

Reno Chamber Orchestra • Feb. 27 • Program includes "Dances in Gray" and "Romance for Viola Op. 85" featuring Virginia Lenz as soloist. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 348-9413.

EXHIBITS

Model T: America on Wheels • Thru Jan. 4 • Historical perspective on the Model T. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.

Art of the Sierra Nevada • Thru Jan. 8 • Exhibit focuses on the Sierra Nevada mountain range and the settling of the Far West. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 329-3333.

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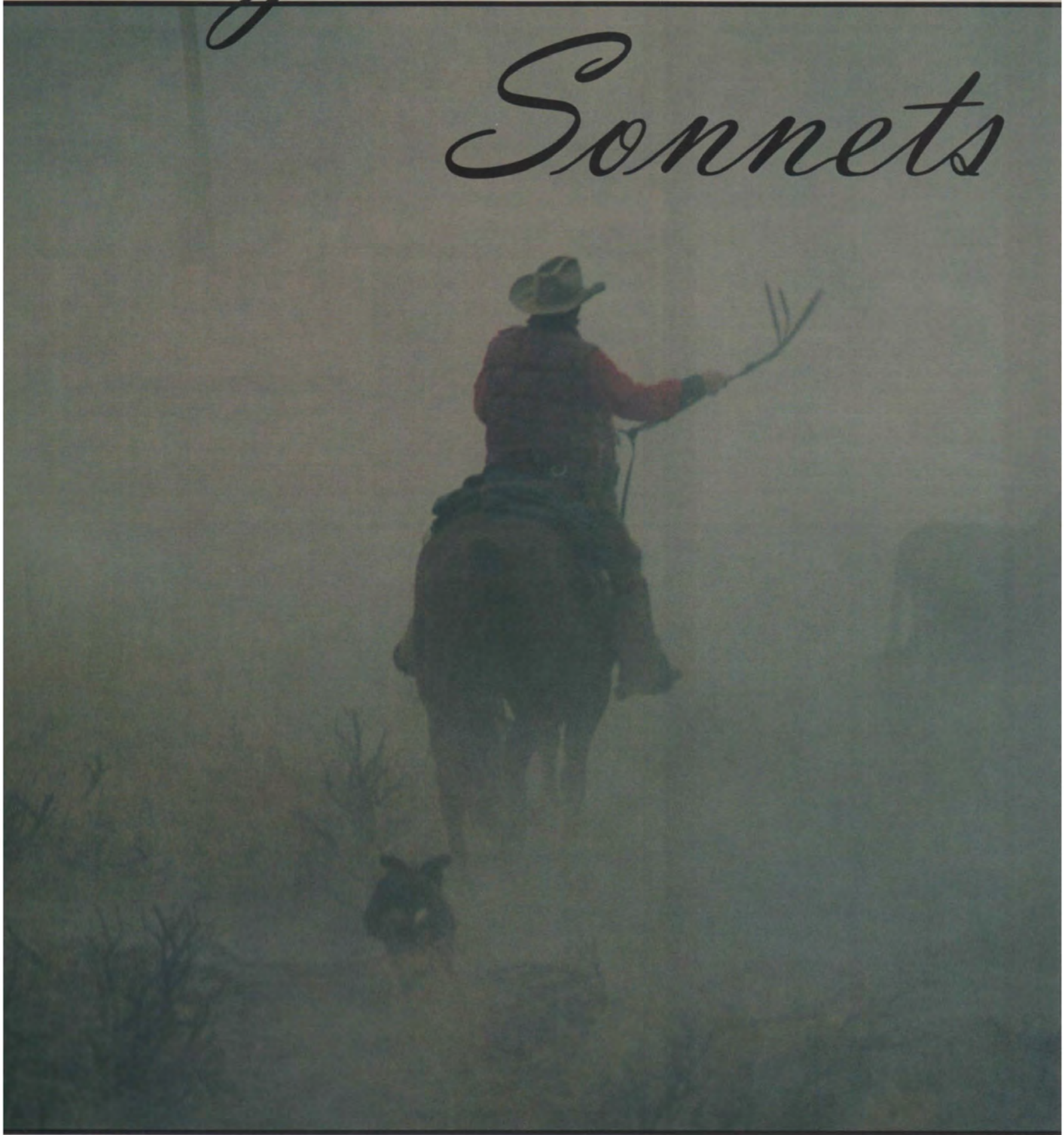
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Sagebrush Sonnets



Singers and poets gather January 23-30 in Elko to celebrate cowboy life. Over the decades little has changed for riders like Terry Sullivan (above), moving cattle the old-fashioned way in Smith Valley during John Ascuaga's annual drive. At right, Ramblin' Jack Elliott sings at last year's gathering.

Photos by
C.J. HADLEY

It was the dead of winter in 1985 when working cowboys gathered in Elko for the first Cowboy Poetry Gathering. A January date was chosen because the normally heavy load of ranch chores are lighter then, allowing ranch men and women to spend a weekend immersed in poetry—a literary pastime associated more with drawing rooms than corrals.

During the next 14 years, the Cowboy Poetry Gathering has taken on a verse of its own to become a week-long celebration of the buckaroo culture. The event draws fans and press—asking directions in a dozen different languages—to the Northeastern Nevada mining and ranching town. It also has helped spawn a grass-roots arts movement in the West.

Cowboy poetry is not the stuff of Shakespeare sonnets or Poe poems. Riders of the range write about life as they experience it—humorous, sad, insightful. For those whose emotions are easily moved, an extra handkerchief might be needed for performances by such poets as Waddie Mitchell, J.B. Allen, Randy Rieman, Wallace McRae, and Gail Steiger.

There's entertainment, too, at concerts featuring singer-songwriter Michael Martin Murphey on Wednesday evening and the dinner theater starring R.W. Hampton as "The Last Cowboy" on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. For those who want to practice their two-step, the Plainsmen play for a dance on Saturday night.

A "cowboy college" offers workshops led by blacksmith Frank Turley and master saddle maker Dale Harwood. Participants can learn how to make a wool saddle blanket in two days and the art of cooking biscuits in a Dutch oven. Michael Martin Murphey and Andy Wilkinson will teach a songwriting workshop, Jay Dusard will lead sessions on photography, and Buster and Sheryl McLaury will teach a class on horsemanship.



The gathering is topped off with an exhibit of custom hats, chaps, and boots, the Working Ranch Cowboy Association's Winter Classic Ranch Rodeo, and an exhausting after-hours schedule of bands and jam sessions in local bars and casinos. It soon becomes clear why Elko is the playing field for the Super Bowl of cowboy poetry.—*Ann Henderson*

This year's Cowboy Poetry Gathering will be held January 23-30 in Elko. For ticket information, call 800-880-5885 or 775-738-7508 or e-mail tbaer@westfolk.org. For accommodation information, call the Elko Chamber of Commerce, 800-428-7143, or visit the Web site, www.elkonv.com.

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Li Hu • Thru Jan. 8 • Figurative oil paintings. C.I.T.Y. 2000 Gallery, City Hall, Reno, 329-1324.
A Common Thread • Thru Jan. 10 • More than 30 artists who have been inspired by the theme "Great Basin Landscape." Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 329-3333.
Heart of the Jag • Thru Jan. 11 • History of the XK engine and a display of Jaguar automobiles. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.
Biggest Little Art Show in Nevada III: Playing With a Full Deck • Thru Jan. 21 • Juried show of miniature art on playing cards. Sierra Arts Center, Reno, 329-1324.
'Vettes • Thru March 29 • Classic and modern Corvettes, including a 1953 convertible originally owned by John Wayne. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.
The Palm Series • Jan. 11-March 5 • Oil paintings by Robert Dunahay. C.I.T.Y. 2000 Gallery, Reno City Hall, 329-1324.

Big Band Sound

The Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra and the Dorsey Dixieland Band perform January 13 at the Community College of Southern Nevada in North Las Vegas. The band's vocal group, the Pied Pipers, sings music of the Big Band era, and Nancy Knorr recreates the hits of Helen O'Connell.



Pop Art Palms

"In Bloom" is among Robert Dunahay's paintings of palm trees in bold colors exhibited through January 8 at the C.I.T.Y. 2000 Gallery in Reno City Hall.

Experimental Labs • Jan. 15-28 • Nevada sculptor Joe Zuccarini's work is made from metal, glass, wood, and fabric. Sheppard Art Gallery, U of N, Reno, 784-6658.
Selections from the Wells Fargo Collection • Jan. 15-Feb. 21 • 50 large-scale prints by American modernists. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 329-3333.
Watercolors of Sophie Sheppard • Jan. 15-Feb. 21 • Large-scale works focusing on biological images. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 329-3333.
A Second Language • Feb. 19-March 11 • Functional objects are stripped of their functionality and given new meaning. Sheppard Art Gallery, U of N, Reno, 784-6658.

SPORTS & SKI EVENTS

Full Moon Tour and Party • Jan. 1 • Cross-country tour hosted by ski staff. Kirkwood, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-7248.
University of Nevada Women's Basketball • The Lady Pack plays Jan. 8 v. UC Irvine, Jan. 10 v. Cal State Fullerton, Jan.

22 v. New Mexico State, Feb. 12 v. Boise State, Feb. 14 v. Idaho, Feb. 19 v. UC Santa Barbara. Lawlor Events Center, Reno, 348-PACK.

Celebrity Sports Challenge • Jan. 8-10 • Entertainers race head-to-head for charity. Resort at Squaw Creek, Squaw Valley, 530-583-6300.

Far West Master's Race • Jan. 9-10 • Open to skiers 35 and older who are registered as masters racers. Kirkwood, south of Lake Tahoe, 530-387-7551.

University of Nevada Men's Basketball • The Wolf Pack plays Jan. 14 v. UC Santa Barbara, Jan. 16 v. Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Jan. 28 v. New Mexico State, Jan. 30 v. North Texas, Feb. 6 v. Utah State, Feb. 11 v. Cal State Fullerton, Feb. 18 v. Boise State, Feb. 20 v. Idaho. Lawlor Events Center, Reno, 348-PACK.

Wendy's Relays Dual Slalom • Jan. 16 • Former Olympic and World Cup champions compete in a relay-style dual slalom. Heavenly, Lake Tahoe, 586-7000.

Freestyle World Cup • Jan. 22-24 • Heavenly, Lake Tahoe, 586-7000.

Tahoe Snowboard Series Boardercross • Jan. 24 • Head-to-head competition on the "show-off" run in front of the main lodge. Mount Rose Ski Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, 849-0704.

Resolution Solution 20K Race/Tour • Jan. 24 • Cross-country ski race and tour on forested trails. Lakeview Cross-Country Ski Area, Tahoe City, 530-583-9353.

Fox Freeride World Championships • Jan. 28-31 • Male and female snowboarders compete in freestyle and aggressive snowboarding. Sierra at Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, 530-659-7453.

Tahoe Snowboard Series • Jan. 30 • Amateur snowboarders compete. Kirkwood, south of Lake Tahoe, 323-8883.

USASA Slopestyle and Grand Slalom Snowboard Competition • Jan. 31 • Recreational competition open to the public. Kirkwood, south of Lake Tahoe, 530-577-4760.

Lakeview Quick Kick • Feb. 6 • 10K race/tour on marked and groomed trails. Lakeview Cross-Country Ski Area, Tahoe City, 530-583-9353.



Hot Contest on Ice

A Las Vegas Thunder player sweeps past his opponent during an International Hockey League game at the Thomas and Mack Center. The Thunder plays such teams as the Kansas City Blades, Houston Aeros, and the Long Beach Ice Dogs, providing fans competitive play and fast action.

USASA Snowboard Series • Feb. 6-7 • Half-pipe competition and slalom snowboarding. Sugar Bowl, Lake Tahoe, 530-426-6721.

World Pro Ski Tour • Feb. 12-14 • Men and women pro skiers compete in a dual race format. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Truckee Sled Dog Races • Feb. 13-14 • Three-, four-, six-, and eight-dog teams compete. Truckee Airport on Brockway Road, Truckee, 530-587-3657.

Shooting Weekend • Feb. 25-28 • Sporting clays, five-stand,

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Photo: Steve Spatafore

and trap shooting, with game feed at the Carson Valley Inn. Minden, 800-321-6983, ext. 625.

GENERAL INTEREST

Rink on the River • Thru Feb. 28 • Outdoor ice skating rink with open skating, lessons, hockey leagues. Downtown Reno, 334-2417.
Winter Wine and All That Jazz • Jan. 16 • Wine and cheese tasting, jazz music to benefit cancer victims. Ormsby House, Carson City, 884-7477.
Antique Show and Sale • Jan. 16-17 • Sierra Nevada Golf Club, Genoa, 782-4951.
Firearms, Engravers, and Gunmakers Exhibition • Jan. 22-24 • Silver Legacy, Reno, 829-2810.
Fantasy Wedding Faire • Jan. 24 • Getting the bride ready for Feb. and June. Reno Hilton, 322-7064.
Dream Workshop with Deborah Quail • Feb. 20 • Classes on the meaning of dreams. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.
Mardi Gras Gala • Feb. 20 • Mimes, music, and magic. Eldorado Hotel, Reno, 322-7064.
RV, Boat, and Sport Show • Feb. 25-28 • Reno-Sparks Convention Center, Reno, 852-7469.

COMING EVENTS

Big West Conference Basketball Tournament • March 3-6 • Reno, 784-6900.
Snowfest • March 5-14 • North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-7625.
Cowboy Poetry and Jubilee • March 13-14 • Carson City, 883-1532.
Mountain Oyster Fry • March 13-14 • Virginia City, 847-0311.
Reno Jazz Festival • April 22-24 • 784-4046.
Grand Prix Motorcycle Race • May 8-9 • Virginia City, 837-0311.
Comstock Historic Preservation Week • May 12-16 • Virginia City, 847-0311.
Carson City Rendezvous • June 11-13 • 687-7410.
Far West Regional Wheelchair Tennis Championship • June 17-20 • Reno, 530-587-2108.
Reno Rodeo • June 19-27 • 329-3877.
Uptown Downtown ARTown Festival • July 1-31 • Reno, 329-1324.
Music at Sand Harbor • July 9-10 • Incline Village, 530-583-7625.
Way it Was Rodeo • July 24-25 • Virginia City, 847-0311.
Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival • July 30-Aug. 29 • Incline Village, 800-74-SHOWS.
Hot August Nights • Aug. 3-7 • Reno-Sparks, 356-1956.
Nevada State Fair • Aug. 25-29 • Reno, 688-5767.
Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off • Sept. 3-6 • Sparks, 353-2284.
International Camel Races • Sept. 10-12 • Virginia City, 847-0311.
The Great Reno Balloon Race • Sept. 10-12 • Reno, 826-2281.
Reno National Championship Air Races • Sept. 16-19 • Reno, 972-6663.
Genoa Candy Dance • Sept. 25-26 • Genoa, 782-8696.



That Italian Girl in Algiers

Nevada Opera presents "L 'Italiana in Algeri," Rossini's comic opera about a woman determined to have her way, on February 18 and 20 at the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts in Reno.

Cowboy Country

FESTIVALS & HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

Family New Year's Eve • Dec. 31 • Bingo, games. Community Hall, McDermitt, 532-8742.
New Year's Eve Dance • Dec. 31 • A celebration for young people. Community Center, Lovelock, 273-7144.
Cowboy Poetry Gathering • Jan. 23-30 • Rodeo calcutta, barbecue, working ranch cowboy rodeo performances, poetry reading, exhibit, dance, music, films, and discussions, and a performance by Michael Martin Murphey

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Western Folklife Center and local casinos. Elko, 738-7135.

PERFORMANCES

The Magic of Jay Owenhouse • Jan. 16-18 • Benefit for the Elko County Sheriff's Posse. Elko Convention Center, 744-4334.

EXHIBITS

Levi's Cowboy Clothing • Jan. 15-March 31 • Clothing and gear. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418.

GENERAL INTEREST

Soup and Salad Lunch • Jan. 21 • Fund-raiser for domestic violence. Community Center, Lovelock, 273-7373.
Eagles Crab Feed • Feb. 6 • Community Center, Lovelock, 273-2195.
Team Trap Shoot • Feb. 14 • Trap Club House, Lovelock 273-0745.
Fireman's Ball • Feb. 20 • Community Center, Lovelock, 273-0409.
Gun Show • Feb. 20-21 • Elko Convention Center, 916-934-7230.
Great Basin College Dinner Dance • Feb. 27 • Semiformal fund-raiser. Convention Center, Elko, 753-2237.

COMING EVENTS

Shooting the West Photography Seminar • March 5-7 • Winnemucca, 623-5071.
National Basque Festival • July 2-4 • Elko, 738-9691.
Art in the Park • July 17-18 • Elko, 738-1553.
Land Speed Opener • July 22-24 • Wendover, 801-785-5364.
Jarbidge Days • Aug. 13-15 • 488-2311.
Elko County Fair • Aug. 28-Sept. 6 • Elko, 738-3616.
Winnemucca Tri-County Fair • Sept. 2-7 • 800-WMCA-NEV.

Pony Express Territory

FESTIVALS & HOLIDAYS

Model Train Expo • Feb. 27 • Antique, collectible, and new displays. Bristlecone Convention Center, Ely, 289-8877.

GENERAL INTEREST

Hidden Cave Tours • Jan. 9 and 23• Free guided tour of Hidden Cave archaeological site. Departs from Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677.
Community Day Fair • Jan. 23 • Program to promote community involvement. Bristlecone Convention Center, Ely, 289-8877.

COMING EVENTS

Operation Haylift Tribute • March 5-6 • Ely, 289-8877.
Silver State Classic Challenge Auto Race • May 13-16 • Ely, 289-6267.
Fernley Fly-In • May 23-24 • Fernley, 595-4459.
Gridley Days • June 18-20 • Annual town celebration, Austin, 964-2200.
All-Indian Rodeo, Stampede, and Pioneer Days • July 16-18 • Fallon, 423-2544.

Pioneer Territory

FESTIVALS & HOLIDAYS

New Year's Eve Ball • Dec. 31 • Convention Center, Tonopah, 482-6109.

SPORTS

Toughman Turkey Shoot • Jan. 17 • Skeet shoot, free food. Middlegate Station, Hwy. 361, 423-7134.
President's Day Weekend Fish Derby • Feb. 13-15 • Catch judged on heaviest fish, three-day creel weight, daily creek weight. Adult and youth categories. Walker Lake, Hawthorne, 945-5896.

COMING EVENTS

Outdoor Sports Expo • March 6-7 • Hawthorne, 945-5854.
Homecoming Celebration • May 28-31 • Caliente, 726-3132.
Jim Butler Days • July 24-26 • Tonopah, 482-3859.
Lyon County Fair • Aug. 19-22 • Annual fair and rodeo, Yerington, 463-2090.
Pioche Labor Day • Sept. 3-5 • Mining events, parades, Pioche, 962-5544.



Life in the Hot and Dry

An exhibit explaining how creatures like the delicate painted lady butterfly manage to thrive in harsh desert conditions runs through September at the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society in Las Vegas.

A Reminder:

To confirm dates and times, please use the phone number listed with each event. The Las Vegas Territory's area code is 702; the rest of the state is 775.

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Photo: G.T. Austin

Nevada Showguide

Where the stars and shows are playing in January and February.

Nevada clubs and hotels offer big-name entertainment and production shows. This winter, Tony Bennett will appear at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Louise Mandrell performs at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, and Michael Martin Murphey and Ian Tyson headline at the Stockmen's and Red Lion Inn respectively during the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko. Here, *Nevada Magazine* presents a guide to featured performers. Showrooms often fill fast, so call for show times and reservations. Las Vegas Territory's area code is 702 and the rest of the state's is 775.

Las Vegas Territory

BOULDER CITY

Gold Strike Inn • Between Boulder City and Hoover Dam, 293-5000 or 800-245-6380: Will be closed until May 1999.

HENDERSON

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

Reserve • 558-7000: Wasimba's Lounge: Bands play Wed.-Sun.

Sunset Station • 547-7777: Club Madrid: Headliners TBA; the Fab, Mon., Thurs.-Sat.; Disco Inferno on Fri. and Sat. 10pm-2am; Sunset Brewing Co.: Entertainment Wed.-Sat.

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 appear nightly except Wed. in the casino.

LAS VEGAS

Arizona Charlie's • 258-5100: Naughty Lady Saloon: "Jay Kessler's Pajama Party," thru Jan. 3; big-band dancing Wed.-Fri.; bands play nightly; Palace Grand Theatre: TBA.

Bally's • 739-4567 or 800-237-SHOW: Jubilee Theater: "Jubilee!" (dark Fri.); Celebrity Room: Taylor Dayne, Dec. 31; Celebrity Theatre: Harry Belafonte, Dec. 31-Jan 2.

Barbary Coast • 737-7111: Bands play nightly except Mon.

The Beach • 731-9298: Concerts TBA.

Bellagio • 888-987-6667: Cirque du Soleil's "O," indf. (dark Wed.-Thurs.).

Boulder Station • 432-7777 or 800-683-7777: Railhead Lounge: Headliners TBA; bands play nightly.

Bourbon Street • 737-7200: Bourbon Street Lounge: Bands play nightly except Mon.

Caesars Palace • 731-7333 or 800-445-4544: Circus Maximus: Tony Bennett, Dec. 31-Jan. 2; Drew Carey, Jan. 15-17, David Copperfield, Jan. 29-Feb. 19; Crosby, Stills, and Nash, Feb. 25-27; The Moody Blues, March 4-7; Wynonna, March 10-14; The Legends of Motown starring The Temptations, April 8-11; Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme, April 16-18; Julio Iglesias, April 29-May 1; Huey Lewis and The News, May 13-16; Tony Bennett, June 17-20; Bands play in La Piazza Lounge, Palace Court Restaurant, and Cleopatra's Barge. Magicians such as The Pendragons and Bob Jardine perform in the Secret Pagoda and Sultan's Palace theaters at Caesars Magical Empire.

Casino Royale • 737-3500: Volcano Room: TBA.



How'd They Do That?

Stacy Jones and Michael Giles star in "Eclipse: Magic for the Millennium," appearing January 13-April 25 at Harrah's Lake Tahoe. The duo specialize in "transformation illusions"—the art of magically switching places or moving through metal from one object to another.

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

Continental • 737-5555: Club Continental: Cook E. Jarr, Fri.-Sat. (indf.); Continental Lounge: Bands play Wed.-Sat.

Desert Inn • 733-4566 or 800-634-6909: Crystal Showroom: Daryl Hall and John Oates, Dec. 31-Jan. 2; Starlight Lounge: Entertainment nightly.

Excalibur • 597-7600: King Arthur's Arena: "King Arthur's Tournament," closes Jan. 2; "Tournament of Kings," music-dinner show, opens Feb. 4; 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: Entertainers appear nightly.

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

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.

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 except Mon.; karaoke nightly in the West Lounge; Gold Coast Showroom: TBA, Tropical Splash, Sat. (indf.); ballroom dancing with disk jockey Larry Taylor Tues. and Sun.

Golden Nugget • 386-8100: Theatre Ballroom: Concert series featuring artists such as Swingerhead, thru Feb.; bands in the lounge nightly except Mon.

Hard Rock Hotel • 226-4650 or 800-HARD-ROCK: The Joint: Brian Setzer Orchestra, Jan. 1-2.

Harrah's Las Vegas • 369-5222 or 800-392-9002: Spellbound Theater: "Spellbound" (dark Sun.); "The Improv at Harrah's" (dark Mon.); entertainment nightly in the La Playa Lounge; nightly live entertainment in the Range Steakhouse and Piano Bar.

Holiday Inn Boardwalk • 730-3194: Lighthouse Showroom: "The Dream King" with Trent Carlini (dark Mon.); Bobby Wade's Emperors, Jan. 12-March 7 (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 Theater: Kenny Kerr Show, female impersonator revue (indf.).

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

Lady Luck • 477-3000 or 800-523-9582: Lady Luck Theater: "Steve Wyrick: World Class Magician," 7:30 and 10:30pm, (dark Mon.).

Las Vegas Hilton • 732-5755 or 800-222-5361: Hilton Theater: Olivia Newton-John, Dec. 31-Jan. 2; The NightClub: 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.

Main Street Station • 387-1896 or 800-713-8933: 777 BrewPub: Shuffle-aires, Tues.; "Divine Divas," musical impersonators, Fri.-Sat.

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

MGM Grand • 891-7777 or 800-929-1111: Grand Theatre: "EFX" (dark Jan. 3-12); Hollywood Theatre: Rodney Dangerfield, thru 31; Grand Garden Arena: Neil Diamond, Dec. 31-Jan. 1; Shania Twain, Jan. 2; Catch a Rising Star Comedy Club: Comedians nightly; live entertainment in the Show Bar Lounge, Brown Derby, and Gatsby's; Studio 54: Kristine W, Tues.-Sat., dancing nightly.

The Mirage • 792-7777: Siegfried and Roy Theater: "Siegfried and Roy," magic spectacular (dark Wed.-Thurs.

It's Olivia, Honest

Olivia Newton-John of *Grease* fame performs a New Year's gig December 31-January 2 at the Las Vegas Hilton. She will debut her new album and perform her hits, including a new version of "I Honestly Love You."

Nevada Events & Shows
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except Dec. 31); 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.); Top 40, disco, country, and classic rock dance music nightly in the Monte Carlo Pub and Brewery.

New Frontier • 794-8200: Gilley's Saloon: Mickey Gilley, Jan. 1.

New York-New York • 740-6969: Broadway Theatre: "Lord of the Dance" (dark Sun.-Mon.); bands play in the Empire Bar, and the N.Y.P.D. (New York Piano Duos) dueling pianos play 3-6:30pm Fri. and 8pm-2:15am nightly in the Bar at Times Square.

The Orleans • 800-ORLEANS: Orleans Showroom: Beach Boys, Dec. 30-Jan. 2; Neville Brothers, Jan. 14-17; Smothers Brothers, Jan. 19-24; Al Martino, Jan. 26-30; Righteous Brothers, Feb. 1-14; Bourbon Street Cabaret: Bands play nightly; strolling Orleans Parade Band (dark Sat.-Sun.).

Palace Station • 367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Palace Saloon: Kroakies Karaoke, Tues.; bands play Thurs.-Sat.

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 with exotic floats and costumes above the casino, every two hours beginning at noon Sun.-Tues. and 1pm Thurs.-Sat. (dark Wed.); Ipanema Piano Bar, Shutters Piano Bar, Voo Doo Lounge, and Cucina, Masquerade, Village, and Mambos bars have live entertainment; Club Rio: Dance-video nightclub Wed.-Sat.



Country New Year's Eve

Collin Raye headlines with Mark Kornhauser December 31-January 1 at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks. Raye's hits include "Love Me," "In This Life," and "Little Red Rodeo."

Riviera • 794-9301: Grand Ballroom: New Year's Eve Party With Bobby Rydell, Sha Na Na, and The Shangrilas, Dec. 30-31; Air Supply, Feb. 12-13; Bobby Vinton, March 19-20; Top of the Riv: Damon Wayans, Jan. 29-30; Splash Theatre: "Splash," nightly; La Cage Theatre (third floor): "An Evening at La Cage," celebrity female impersonators revue (dark Tues.); Maynard Ferguson, Jan. 26; Mardi Gras Plaza (second level): "Crazy Girls: Sensuality and Passion," adult revue (dark Mon.); "Riviera Comedy

Club," comedians appear nightly; Le Bistro Lounge: Groups like Jeff Colvin and Susan McDonald's Reign perform; Jazz on the Strip, Mon.; Lon Bronson's All-Star Band, Fri. and Sat. at 1am; bands play Tues.-Sun.

Sahara • 737-2515: Congo Showroom: John Pinette, thru Jan. 3 (dark Jan. 1).

Sam's Town • 454-8048: Western Dance Hall: Bands play 9pm-3am; Roxy's Saloon: Entertainers such as Phlash and Jumpin' Boots play daily 4pm-6am; Mystic Falls Park: "Festival in the Park," artists, musicians, variety acts, and strolling performers, 11am-5pm Sat.-Sun.

San Remo • 739-9000 or 800-522-7366: Parisian Cabaret: "Broadway Cabaret" (dark Sun.); Bon Chance Lounge: New Year's Eve party with Tim Ballard, Dec. 31; entertainers such as Tommy and Louina perform nightly.

Santa Fe • 658-4900: Entertainment Tues.-Sat. in the Ice Lounge and nightly in the Atrium; Pavilion: Jazz music Wed.-Sat. and Sun., noon-3:30pm.

Showboat • 383-9232 or 800-826-2800: Mardi Gras Room: TBA.

Silverton • 263-7777 or 800-588-7711: Opera House: Entertainment TBA; dinner music nightly except Tues.-Wed.; Rattlesnake Rickey's Saloon: Bands play nightly.

Stardust • 732-6111 or 800-824-6033: Stardust Theatre: "Enter the Night," production show (dark Fri.), family (covered) shows are 7:30pm Tues.-Thurs. and Sat.; Stardust Ballroom: Three Dog Night, Jan. 8; Big Band Dance Party, March 6; 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.; Top of the World Lounge: Bobby Dickerson (dark Mon.); L'Isles Bar: Caribbean and reggae music.

Treasure Island • 894-7111: Cirque du Soleil in "Mystère" (dark Mon.-Tues. and Feb. 7-10); entertainment nightly in Captain Morgan's piano bar and the Hideaway Lounge.



H2 "O" at Bellagio

Cirque du Soleil's first aquatic production, "O," pairs its production's trademark theatrical circus acts with synchronized swimmers and divers at the Bellagio in Las Vegas. A quartet of Mongolian contortionists, Dashbaljir Enkhjargal, Damba Namchinkhand, Gantumur Saraana, and Enkhee Tumendelger, are among the acts performing in or on the water.

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 Fri.; Comedy Stop Theatre: "The Comedy Stop," stand-up comedy nightly; bands play in the Atrium Lounge; free Wildlife Walk 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: "Country Generation," country music revue, Wed. and Sat.



Wild Wild West Gambling Hall • 736-8988.
World Trade Center • 369-5750: International Showroom: "The Michael La Rocca Show," musical revue (dark Sun.-Mon.).

LAUGHLIN

Avi • 535-5555: Bands play nightly.
Colorado Belle • 298-4000: "D" Deck: Riverboat Ramblers, strolling musicians; Boiler Room Brew Pub: Live entertainment in the microbrew pub (dark Mon.).
Edgewater • 298-2453: Kokopelli's Lounge: Vincent Hall and the Vision, Dec. 29-Jan. 3; Limelight Orchestra big-band tunes, Dec. 31.
Flamingo Hilton Laughlin • 298-5028 or 800-435-8469: Silver Bullet Showroom: "Dancing to the Hitz," musical revue (dark Fri.); Wynonna Judd, March 28.
Golden Nugget Laughlin • 298-7111 or 800-237-1739: Tarzan's Lounge: Bands like Menage, Stinger, and Person to Person play nightly except Mon.
Harrah's Laughlin • 298-4600 or 800-447-8700: Fiesta Showroom: Ronn Lucas Show, thru Nov. 30; Paul Revere and the Raiders, Jan. 8-10.
Ramada Express • 298-4200 or 800-243-6846: Pavilion Theater: Back to the 1940s Speakers, Tuesdays at 1:15pm, free; "On the Wings of Eagles: A Tribute to American Heroes," multimedia show, daily on the hour beginning at 9am; Caboose Lounge: Karaoke Madness, Mon.; bands play nightly except Mon. Train rides also are available.
River Palm (formerly the Gold River) • 298-2242 or 800-835-7904: Playing in the Crystal Sands Club: "Spice on Ice," revue, indf.; DJ music or bands perform nightly in the Bermuda Club.
Riverside Resort • 298-2535 or 800-227-3849 ext. 616: Don's Celebrity Theatre: Debbie Reynolds, thru Jan. 2; Williams and Ree, Jan. 5-10; Carl Hurley, Jan. 11-14; Charlie Prose 10th Anniversary Show, Jan. 17-Feb. 11; Oak Ridge Boys, Feb. 12-14; Mel Tillis, Feb. 18-22; Eddy

Fun in a Toga

Rip Taylor stars in the musical comedy "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," which follows the antics of a Roman slave, his master, and a virginal courtesan. The show runs January 15-17 at the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts in Reno.



Hot Dogs

It's a one-night stand for Three Dog Night on January 8 at the Stardust in Las Vegas. The '70s group, which draws its name from the number of canines needed to stay warm on a winter night, is remembered for hits like "Joy to the World" and "Easy to Be Hard."

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Smooth Soundin' Devil

At age 73, Tony Bennett packs Nevada showrooms with his tributes to San Francisco, the good life, and Billie Holiday. The Silver Crooner appears December 31-January 2 at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

RENO/SPARKS

Atlantis • 825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Grand Ballroom: Entertainment TBA; bands play nightly in the Center Stage Cabaret, Treasure, Waterfall, Bird, and Atrium bars.

Boomtown • 345-6000: Boomtown Cabaret: Lacy J. Dalton, Dec. 31; Entertainers like Stew Stewart, Louie Fontaine, and Zella Lehr play nightly except Mon.

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: B.B. King, Dec. 31; Kool and the Gang, Jan. 1; "Spirit of the Dance," Jan. 14-Feb. 25; Brew Brothers: Bands play nightly; piano music in Bistro Roxy Wed.-Sun.

Eddie's Fabulous '50s • 329-1950: Lounge entertainment.

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

Flamingo Hilton Reno • 785-7080: Bands play in the Show Spot Cabaret; Terry Thompson plays at the Top of the Hilton restaurant overlooking downtown Reno (dark Tues.).

Harrah's Reno • 788-3773 or 800-HARRAHS: Sammy's Showroom: "Broadway Showstoppers" indf.; "Skin Tight," adult musical revue, indf.; Sheena Easton, Dec. 30-Jan. 3.

John Ascuaga's Nugget • Sparks, 356-3304 or 800-648-1177: Rose Ballroom: The Four Tops, Dec. 31-Jan. 1; Celebrity Showroom: Collin Raye/Mark Kornhauser, Dec. 31-Jan. 2; Mickey Gilley/Waddie Mitchell, Jan. 3-20; Lee Greenwood/Milt Abel, Jan. 21-Feb. 3; Mel Tillis, Feb. 4-17; Louise Mandrell/Carol Hughes, Feb. 18-March 3; Bill Medley, March 4-17; The Marshall Tucker Band/Fielding West, March 18-31; bands play nightly in the Casino Cabaret and Trader Dick's restaurant at the downtown Sparks hotel-casino.

Peppermill • 826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Peppermill Showroom: Entertainment TBA; bands play in the Cabaret Lounge.

Rail City Casino • Sparks, 359-9440: Entertainers play weekends in the Side Track Lounge.

Reno Hilton • 789-2285 or 800-648-3568 (U.S. outside Nevada): Hilton Theater: "Red Hot Country," revue, Dec. 29-Feb. 21; Bill Engvall, Jan. 2; Enrique Iglesias, March 29; Hilton Pavilion: Journey, Dec. 31; Ballroom: Gala dinner dance with Rat Pack celebrity impersonators, Dec. 31; The Improv Comedy Club: Stand-up comedy nightly except Mon.; live music and dancing in the Aspen Lounge and the Pylon Bar Stage.

Riverboat • 323-8877.

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

Silver Legacy • 329-4777 or 800-225-BASS: Grande Exposition Hall: Sinbad, Jan. 16-17; Lionel Richie, Feb. 14-15; Ringo Starr and His All Star Band, March 19-20; comedians at the Catch a Rising Star comedy club.

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): New Year's Eve Arnold, Feb. 23-28; Roy Clark, March 24-29; Oak Ridge Boys, May 29-30.

MESQUITE

CasaBlanca • 346-7529 or 800-459-7529: CasaBlanca Theatre: Entertainment TBA; bands play nightly except Mon. in the Cascades Lounge; piano bar is scheduled for afternoons.

Mesquite Star • 346-1177: Bands play in the Shooters Bar.

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 Mon.

NORTH LAS VEGAS

Fiesta Casino • 631-7000: Entertainment is presented 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: South Padre: Entertainment TBA; Armadillo Lounge: Dancing to Sunday Swing with Jerry Tiffe, 4-8pm; country, Tues.; Kroakies Karaoke, Wed.; swing dance music and lessons, Thurs.; Loveshack plays Fri.-Sat.

PRIMM

Buffalo Bill's Resort • 382-1111 or 800-FUN-STOP: Star of the Desert Arena: Entertainment TBA; Stage Bar: Bands play Thurs.-Sun.; Carolee's Comedy Club: Michael Rapport hosts guest comedians.

Primm Valley • 382-1212 or 800-826-4471.

Whiskey Pete's • 382-1212 or 800-367-7383 • Whiskey Pete's Showroom: Entertainment TBA.

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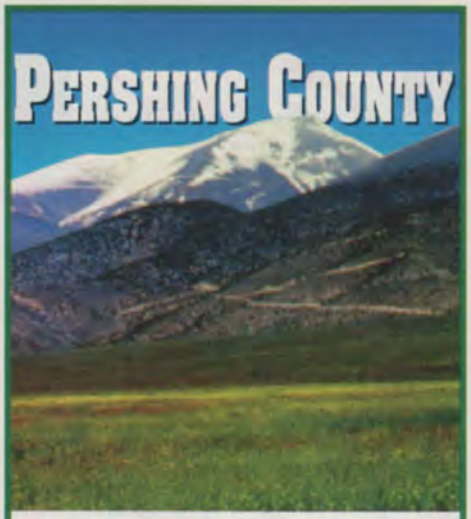
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party, Dec. 31; Nugget Show Bar: Bands play nightly.

Carson Station • Carson City, 883-0900: Bands play in the casino lounge.

Carson Valley Inn • Minden, 782-9711 or 800-321-6983: Bands play in the Cabaret Lounge; Shannon Ballroom: Entertainment TBA.

Ormsby House • Carson City, 882-1890: Mark Twain Lounge: Bands like Blue Flame and X Factor play nightly.

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

Sharkey's Nugget • Gardnerville, 782-3133: Live music and dancing Fri. and Sat.

Topaz Lodge • Topaz Lake, 266-3339.

STATELINE, LAKE TAHOE

Bill's Lake Tahoe • 588-2455.

Caesars Tahoe • 588-3515 or 800-648-3353: Circus Maximus: Jackson Browne, Dec. 31-Jan. 2; Howie Mandell, Jan. 29-30; KC and the Sunshine Band, Feb. 5-6; Crosby, Stills, and Nash, Feb. 19-20; Moody Blues, Feb. 26-27; Willie Nelson, March 5-6; George Carlin, March 12-13; Wynonna, March 19-20; Steve Miller Band, March 26-27; Carrot Top, April 2-10; Nero's 2000 nightclub presents 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: Lou Rawls/Nancy Wilson, Dec. 31-Jan. 3; "Eclipse! Magic for the Millennium," Jan. 13-April 25; Vonda Shepard, Feb. 12-14; bands play nightly in the Casino Center Stage.

Harveys • 588-2411 or 800-553-1022 ext. 2883: Emerald Theatre: "Tap Girls," musical revue; Llewellyn's: Ron Rose Sound.

Lake Tahoe Horizon • 588-6211 or 800-322-7723: Golden Cabaret: "Phantasy," magic and comedy revue (dark Mon.); bands play in the Aspen Lounge.

Lakeside Inn • 588-7777: Entertainment TBA.

NORTH LAKE TAHOE

Cal-Neva Resort • Crystal Bay, 832-4000 or 800-225-6382: Cal-Neva Showroom: Entertainment TBA.

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

Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe • Incline Village, 832-1234: Ciao Mein Trattoria Lounge: Entertainment TBA; Stage Bar: Live entertainment nightly except Mon.

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: Ian Tyson, Jan. 28-30; Top 40 bands, Thurs.-Sat.

Stockmen's Hotel • 738-5141 or 800-648-2345 (U.S. and Nevada): Stockmen's Lounge: Michael Martin Murphey, Jan. 28-30, during the Elko Cowboy Poetry Gathering.



Mom Can't Decide

The Smothers Brothers mix music, their squabbling-siblings humor, and a special appearance by the Yo Yo Man on February 1-14 at The Orleans in Las Vegas.

JACKPOT

Barton's Club 93 • 755-2341.

Cactus Petes • 755-2321 or 800-821-1103: Cabaret Lounge: The Tokens, Dec. 29-30.

Horseshu Casino • 755-2321.

MILL CITY

Burns Bros. Casino • 538-7306: Bands often appear in Mr. B's Lounge at the Mill City casino on Interstate 80.

WENDOVER

Peppermill • 664-2255 or 800-648-9660 (U.S. outside Nevada): 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: Stateliner Lounge: Entertainment TBA.

WINNEMUCCA

Winners Hotel • 623-2511: Bands play nightly in the Winners' lounge.

Pony Express Territory

ELY

Hotel Nevada • 289-6665.

FALLON

Bonanza Inn • 423-3111 ext. 47.

Fallon Nugget • 423-3111.

Pioneer Territory

AMARGOSA VALLEY

Longstreet Inn • 372-1777: Weekend entertainment.

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 Hotel, Casino, and RV Park • 727-1111 or 800-GEDDY-UP: Casino-lounge entertainment.



The Eyes Have It

Singer Sheena Easton performs December 30-January 3 at Harrah's Reno.

TONOPAH

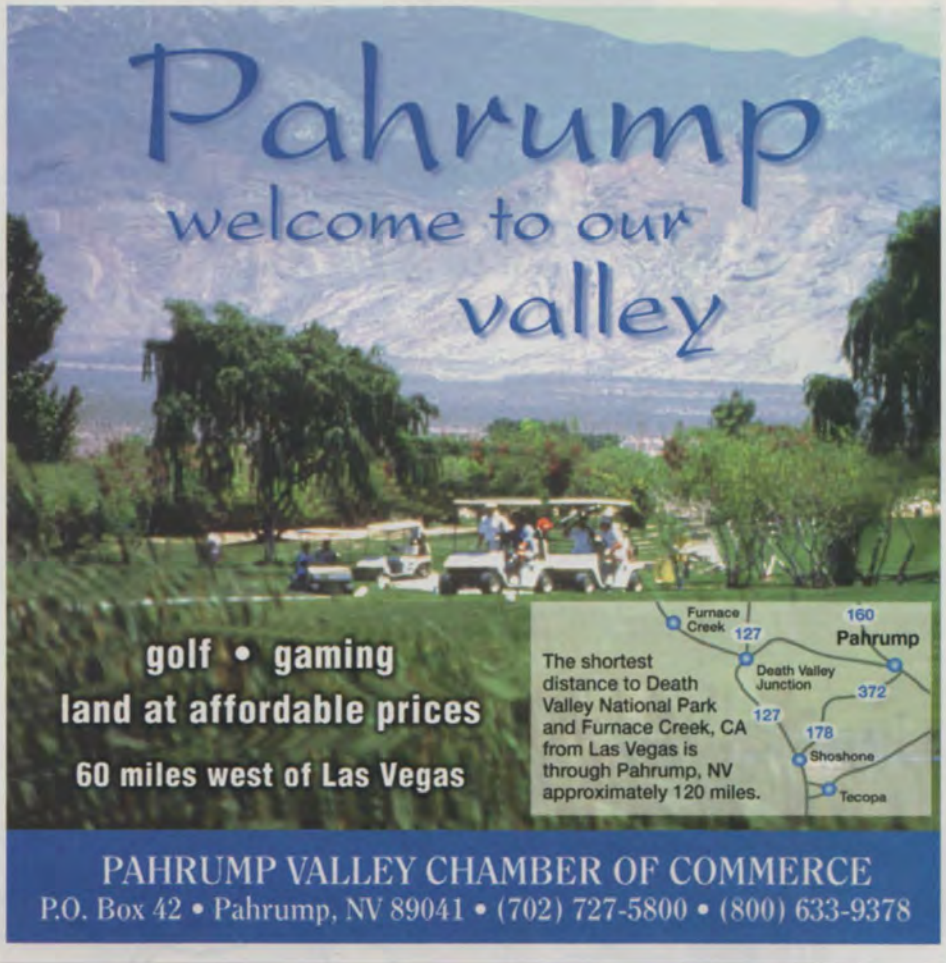
Banc Club • 482-5409 • Entertainment TBA.
Mizpah Hotel • 482-6202.
Station House • 482-9777: Bands play nightly.

YERINGTON

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

A Reminder: To confirm dates and times, please use the phone number listed with each event. Las Vegas Territory's area code is 702; the rest of the state's is 775. For hotels' toll-free numbers, call 800-555-1212.





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Shopping!

A Guide to Nevada's malls and shopping meccas.

By Carolyn Graham

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, 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.

Your shopping bags—as well as your senses—will be overloaded at the **Forum Shops at Caesars** with its 105 shops and 10 restaurants. The attractions—the "Race for Atlantis" IMAX motion-simulator ride, Omnimax theater, talking sculptures, and 3-D Cinema Ride—nearly overwhelm the opulent stores and restaurants. Shops include the Museum Company, Nike-Town, and Versace. 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

The **Horizon Outlet Center** in Laughlin has 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 movie theater, food court, and covered parking as well as the Muddy Rudder Pub and Cecil's Market and Deli, both of which are open 24 hours. Phone 702-298-3003.

Primm

The outlet mall scene heated up last summer in Southern Nevada when the **Fashion Outlet of Las Vegas** opened in Primm, 43 miles south of Las Vegas. The indoor mall has a New York Times Square theme, complete with huge billboards, and a cityscape look both inside and out. Shoppers can hunt for bargains at the mall's 80 stores. The Williams Sonoma Marketplace, Pottery Barn, and Hold Everything offer home decor items. Clothing stores include Last Call (the clearance store for Neiman Marcus), J. Peterman, Versace, Donna Karan, and Kenneth Cole, among others. The $75-million mall, which is adjacent to the Primm Valley Resort, is a joint venture between TrizecHahn, which developed the Fashion Show Mall on the Strip, and Gordon Group Holdings, developer of the Forum Shops at Caesars. Phone 702-874-1400.

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 a 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 is Nevada Magazine's *highly dedicated associate editor who logged many hours in the state's malls, all in the name of research.*

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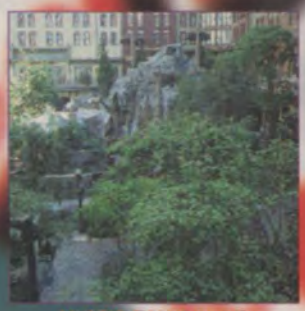
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Man of Magic

Steve Wyrick brings his passion for magic to the Lady Luck in Las Vegas.

By Dick Ronca



Steve Wyrick faces a grind illusion during his "Blades of Death Challenge" at the Lady Luck in Las Vegas.

When Steve Wyrick invited 60 magic students and their parents to his show at the Lady Luck in downtown Las Vegas last summer, it brought back bittersweet memories for the 28-year-old magician.

"When I was growing up, my world revolved around magic," Wyrick says. "But there were not a lot of professionals to give encouragement. Plus, we didn't have a lot of money to see shows. It was exciting for me when the kids came. I saw that [longing] in their eyes. I had a blast."

When Wyrick was seven, his mother, Billie, bought him his first magic supplies, a deck of trick cards. Last summer she was in the Lady Luck audience to help her son celebrate the first anniversary of his show, "Steve Wyrick: World Class Magician," and to hear that his contract had been extended. An emotional Wyrick stopped the show to introduce his mother and talk about his father, Gale, an assembly line worker for Ford Motor Company who died in 1980.

In the show's grand finale Wyrick showed his mother how far he had progressed from card tricks. In a startling illusion he produced the largest object among the Las Vegas magic shows—a full-size twin-engine Beechcraft Baron 58, which has a 40-foot wingspan.

"It was a funny thing when I was growing up," he says. "My sister-in-law gave me a heavy-duty shoe box that I used to keep all my little magic tricks. When I moved into the Lady Luck, it took 12 eighteen-wheelers, and that didn't include the airplane."

To fellow magicians, Wyrick is considered one of the art's rising stars. He has won a string of competitions and achieved the status of Master Magician, the equivalent of a graduate degree in magic. Wyrick's show recently was taped for a segment on ABC's *Good Morning America*, and in January he will walk through the turbine engine of a 747 for *Most Dangerous Magic* on the same network.

Wyrick's grand finale summons a full-size twin-engine airplane with a 40-foot wingspan.

But to the group of kids attending his show—enjoying illusions like the "Blades of Death Challenge" and the comic antics of his "assistant," Lola the duck—Wyrick was an awesome star who not only popped for free tickets but also talked magic and swapped stories with the students afterwards. For Wyrick, the evening was an opportunity to support kids who share his passion for the art of illusion.

"I cannot remember a time since I was three or four that I wasn't totally fascinated with magic," Wyrick says. "I was never interested in kid things like baseball. I always knew I would grow up to be a 'real' magician."

Wyrick began dreaming of performing as a magician in Las Vegas when, at age 10, he visited the city with his family.

"We made a special trip to Las Vegas to see 'the magicians with the tigers, as I called them," he says. But Wyrick couldn't see Siegfried and Roy, then performing at the Frontier, because he was too young. "I'll always remember the look on my father's face when he got off the phone and gave me the bad news."

Since childhood, Wyrick says, he has focused on the two challenges for every magician—close-up magic, as when the performer makes a coin vanish or doves appear by sleight of hand, and big stage illusions, as when Wyrick makes the airplane appear on stage in his current show. Although most performers consider sleight-of-hand magic more difficult—because it is done close-up and requires a great deal of practice and patter to misdirect the audience—the big illusions are essential for stage success.

"My first big piece of magic was a 'zig-



zag box,'" Wyrick recalls. "My sister was my assistant. It's not too many 11-year-old kids who can 'saw' their sibling in three pieces." Soon afterward his sister, Erica, assisted when Wyrick made his first public appearance, performing an illusion with doves.

In high school, magic had its benefits. He recalls, "When I was a freshman at J.J. Pearce High School in Richardson, Texas, they let me close the senior talent show—which increased my popularity level overnight." A similar gig in the school drill team's show paid off. "I was guy hero and met a pretty girl," he says.

Wyrick didn't even have his driver's license when at 15 he won first place in his first serious magic competition, the Texas Association of Magiciana Competition. More competitions filled the next year, and more big wins: First place in the International Brotherhood of Magicians Junior Division, and another first in the Society of American Magicians Senior Division. A ninth-place finish in an international competition in Madrid, Spain, where Wyrick competed against much older and more seasoned performers, was a big honor. Those successes prompted Wyrick to create a new act using sleight of hand. "It was the biggest disaster of my life," he recalls. "Everything that could go wrong, did. It wasn't funny."

In order to return to his more successful big stage illusions and give himself time to practice close-up magic, Wyrick needed a "Plan B" to earn money. The opportunity came in Garland, Texas, where he and a friend sold firewood door-to-door as the Poor Students' Firewood Company.

"One day I was making my delivery rounds, and I met someone who totally changed my life," he says. "My last customer lived on the third floor, so it took a good hour to unload the wood and get it stacked up. She fixed me something warm to drink and asked if I really wanted to be a firewood salesman for the rest of my life. I told her about my dream to be a professional magician."

Later that day Wyrick decided that he would devote all his energies to magic. He never sold another cord of firewood.

During the next few years Wyrick performed at church and civic functions, nursing homes, parties, state fairs, and conventions, always with his eye on Las Vegas. He also became involved in designing illusions to help corporations like McDonalds and Avis promote their products and educate their sales forces. Wyrick graduated to being the featured performer at corporate gatherings, but he did not find it fulfilling. He says, "I felt I was playing for a captive audience."

Meanwhile, he looked for a hotel in Las Vegas that would be a good partner for his magic, a process that took about 18 months. Finally on August 12, 1997 he opened his own show at the Lady Luck.

Wyrick says he appreciated the support and encouragement of other magicians, including Lance Burton, who performs at the Monte Carlo. "Lance is always so nice and gave me advice before I opened. He said it would be a long, tough ride, but the key is to keep my spirits up through the slow times."

Having his own show "is kind of a weird mind-set," Wyrick says. "The realization hasn't really clicked. I think it's because I'm doing two shows a night and keeping up with a schedule of interviews and other projects."

The private Wyrick is a dedicated magician, living and breathing his magic 24 hours a day. "I'm trying to have a regular life," he says. "I want everything that everyone else wants, but it's difficult to even date because of the time crunch."

His interests away from magic are few. Before success, he used to fish and hunt. After success, Wyrick tries to find time to see a movie on Monday (his night off) or join a few friends for dinner at P.F. Chang's, his favorite restaurant. Or he might take time, as he did last summer, to show a group of Las Vegas children that magic is not just an illusion.

Show Notes

"Steve Wyrick: World Class Magician" plays nightly except Monday in the Lady Luck Theater at the Lady Luck Hotel in Las Vegas. Show times are 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. Ticket price is $27.95, plus tax and tip. For ticket and show information, call 702-385-4386.

Dick Ronca is a retired magician who teaches classes to Las Vegas children, who call him Mardic. He also performs close-up magic Friday through Sunday in front of the Las Vegas Club at the Fremont Street Experience.



Casino Notes

News from hotel-casinoland. **By Ann Henderson**

Las Vegas Territory



The real Michael Jackson (left) visited the Imperial Palace in Las Vegas to see his "Legends in Concert" clone, William Bostick, who impersonates "the gloved one" in the long-running show. The two met previously when Jackson invited Bostick onstage during a concert in Africa.

First Impressions: When **Bellagio's** aquatic production, "O," opened in October, Las Vegas showgoers cheered the athletic skill of the entertainers. The aerial performers are classic Cirque du Soleil—uniquely daring and precise in their movements. Synchronized divers and swimmers join the traditional lineup of Cirque trapeze and bungee artists. Tickets to "O" are $90 and $100.

A Woman Knows: The **Fiesta Hotel** in North Las Vegas topped the list of the 10 best casinos in the nation, as ranked by *Woman's World* magazine. Casinos were included in the ranking if they were considered places where players are more likely to win.

Super Sunday: Casinos statewide are a favorite gathering place to watch the Super Bowl game January 31. Many have celebrations open to the public with food and drink specials, giveaways, and contests. In downtown Las Vegas, the **Fremont Street Experience** plans a three-day celebration with live entertainment. On Super Bowl Sunday, NFL players will be on hand to sign autographs, and the game will be shown on large video walls.

So Long: Former Partridge Family member David Cassidy flies the coop December 31 as the star of "EFX," the **MGM Grand's** special effects production. When Cassidy took over the role in 1996 from Michael Crawford, his creative changes improved the Las Vegas show. An announcement is expected on a new lead performer who will take over after the production reopens following a hiatus in early January.

Let 'er Rip: Gilley's Saloon, complete with a mechanical bull for urban dudes and dudettes, opened in December at the **New Frontier** on the Strip. The 9,000-square-foot dance hall and restaurant will feature Gilley's All-Star Band and other entertainers throughout the year, including Mickey Gilley, who will perform January 1. Gilley's Saloon will serve a full barbecue menu Tuesday through Sunday.

Apple Polisher: **New York-New York** in Las Vegas received a 1998 THEA Award for Outstanding Achievement in Hotel and Casino Design. The Themed Entertainment Association (THEA) recognized the hotel's re-creation of the Manhattan skyline and awarded a separate achievement for the hotel's Coney Island-themed arcade.

Lady Luck: Lightning did strike twice for a 67-year-old Las Vegas woman who played $300 on a Megabucks machine and won the largest slot machine jackpot in history—$27,582,539.48. Six weeks earlier the woman, who requested anonymity, had won a $680,000 jackpot while playing a progressive Wheel of Fortune game. Both of the big payouts hit at the **Palace Station** in Las Vegas. She will receive 24 annual payments of $1.1 million from Megabucks. There are about 700 Megabucks machines at 133 locations in Nevada. The last Megabucks jackpot was $8.3 million and was won on July 13, 1997, at the Tahoe Biltmore at Lake Tahoe.

New Hotel: The **Ramada Inn and Speedway Casino** recently opened at Interstate 15 and Cheyenne Road, making it the closest hotel to the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. The 125-room property has a Hot Rod Cafe and a 15,000-square-foot speedway-themed casino with slots and a sports book. A full-service casino is expected to open in June.

Big Vino: The largest bottle of wine in the world—dubbed "The Treasure of the Titanic" because of its epic size—has docked at the **Rio Suite Hotel** in Las Vegas. The wine, a Dry Creek Vineyard 1995 Reserve Merlot, was purchased at auction for $20,000 and is equivalent to 36 bottles, or 162 glasses of wine. No opening date for the vino has been named, according to the Rio's master sommelier, Barrie Larvin.

On Strike: Pro bowler Dick Weber recently appeared at the grand opening of the renovated 56-lane AMF Showcase



Rio Suite Hotel sommelier Barrie Larvin has custody of "The Treasure of the Titanic," which at 27 liters is considered the world's largest bottle of wine. The Las Vegas hotel purchased the wine for $20,000 and named it after the movie because of the bottle's epic size.

Bowling Center at **Sam's Town** and competed in a one-roll charity tournament with hotel executives. Sam's Town will host the PWBA National Doubles, the PBA Regional Players, and the Senior Players Classic tournaments in May.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Retro Comeback: The **Atlantis** Nightclub holds Ladies' Eighties Nights every Friday, when ladies get in free between 10 p.m. and midnight. Dancers can bop to classic '80s funk mixed with West Coast house music spun by DJ Bobby G from San Francisco.

The Boardwalk: Monopoly-themed slot machines have been added to **Atlantis'** gaming floor. The reels display symbols of Monopoly such as Chance, Rich Uncle Pennybags, and Community Chest.

Additional Mileage: Guests at **Caesars Tahoe** in Stateline can earn and redeem ClubMiles if they belong to the Sheraton Club International frequent-stay program.

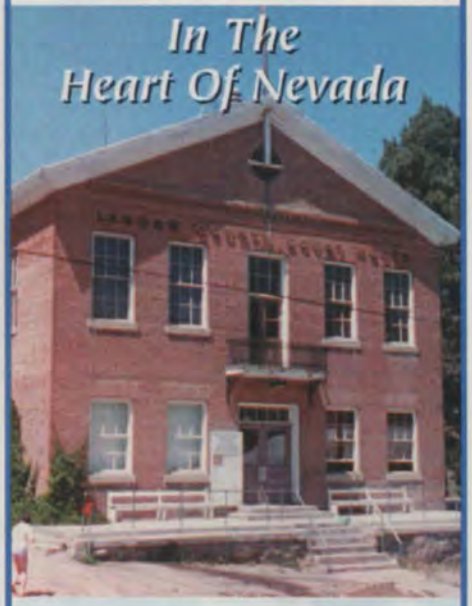
Geographic Change: Primavera, the gourmet Italian restaurant at **Caesars Tahoe** in Stateline, has moved from the second-floor health spa area to a place near the casino and the Circus Maximus showroom.

Menu Update: Diners at Katie's Restaurant at the **Carson Valley Inn** in Minden will find several new menu items, including omelettes, salads, sandwiches, burgers, veggie items, and dinner entrees.



The Golden Fortune-He Fu Li, which serves Hong Kong cuisine, recently opened at the Eldorado in Reno.

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Early risers can dig into seasonal breakfast specials such as cinnamon apple pecan waffles.

Golden Dining: The **Eldorado Hotel** recently introduced Hong Kong-style cuisine at its Golden Fortune-He Fu Li. The new Chinese restaurant presents more than 90 specialties, including such items as deep-fried quail and shark's fin soup. Fresh lobster and Peking duck are among the entrees. The decor includes handmade mahogany furniture and hand-blown and stained glass imported from China. The restaurant is open nightly for dinner.

History Preserved: Reno's historic **Mapes Hotel** has been spared from the wrecking ball. QM Corporation of Sparks and San Diego developer DDR Oliver McMillan have submitted plans to turn the ground level into retail shops and restaurants, the mezzanine level into a health club, floors two through nine into 88 time-share suites, and the top floor into a cocktail lounge and convention facility.

Western Feeding: The Whiskey Steakhouse and Saloon is **Piñon Plaza's** latest addition. The 24-hour, Western-themed restaurant at the Carson City casino offers a signature steak dish and 40 margarita flavors at its 52-seat bar. The buffet was closed to make way for the new restaurant. The casino has a bowling alley and recently added hotel rooms.

Call a Bet: Nevada residents can now place a bet over the phone with the **Reno Hilton** sports book. Bettors can establish an account with a $300 minimum. The minimum bet is $30 except on football on Monday, Saturday, and Sunday when the minimum bet is $50. Visit the sports book for more information.

Tell 'em Rocky Sent You: A Roaring '20s-themed hotel, the **Reno Ramada Inn and Speakeasy Casino**, has opened in downtown Reno. The 224-room property offers a 10,000-square-foot conference and special events center, the Gatsby Cafe, and a casino with slots and a sports book. A full-service casino is scheduled to open in June.

Learn the Game: Novice table players can take free gaming lessons at the **Silver Legacy**. Instructors teach blackjack, craps, roulette, and pai gow poker from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 775-329-4777 for details.

Early Bird Bargains on Logo Shirts from NEVADA MAGAZINE





Nevada Emblem Shirts: Artist Brenda Locke-Knight has captured the essence of two of Nevada's precious symbols in full-color T-shirt designs. The Lahontan Cutthroat Trout tee (above) features the state fish, and the Mountain Bluebird tee (modeled on left) offers the official state bird perched on a branch of the piñon pine, which is the official state tree. Both shirts are 100% preshrunk cotton. Trout tees (#TFISH) are printed on oatmeal-colored shirt. Sizes M, L, XL, $17.95; add $2 for XXL. Bluebird tees (#TBIRD) are printed on a light blue shirt. Sizes M, L, XL, $17.95; add $2 for XXL.



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Good Deals

Forget Cabin Fever: The **Carson Valley Inn** in Minden offers three winter packages ranging in price from $39.95 per person to $99 per couple. The deals are good for Sunday through Thursday arrivals and include dining certificates good at any of the hotel's three restaurants.

Duffer Alert: The **Edgewater** in Laughlin offers golf packages at three area courses. Prices range from $125 to $195 and include a two-night stay, two golf passes with cart rental, two prime-rib dinners, two cocktails, and golf towels.

Winter Golf: **John Ascuaga's Nugget** in Sparks offers the Red Hawk Golf Package for snow-free days. The package includes a tower room, two tickets to a Celebrity Showroom concert, and green fees at the Red Hawk Golf Club for $175 for two people.

Broil Your Own: The same choice beef served at **John Ascuaga's Nugget** in Sparks is available in gift packages such as the Nugget Gold Sampler. The sampler includes two five-ounce filets, two 10-ounce New York steaks, and two eight-ounce top sirloins for $38, or $69.50 delivered. The beef is raised on ranches owned by casino owner John Ascuaga can be purchased from Nugget Meat Packers by calling 800-648-1177 ext. 3310.

Attractions, Tours & Museums

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



Winter in the Mountains

St. Mary's in the Mountains Catholic Church in Virginia City forms the centerpiece of a picturesque scene in the historic Comstock mining town. In the foreground, a blanket of snow covers the tracks of the Virginia and Truckee Railroad, whose steam engines carry visitors during warmer weather.

Visitors can explore Nevada's diverse attractions—from the collection of Shelby Cobra automobiles and factory tour at Shelby American in Las Vegas to the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno—when they visit the Silver State's many museums, hotels, and state and national parks. Nevada's area code for the Las Vegas Territory is 702, while the remainder of the state is 775.

Las Vegas Territory

BOULDER CITY

Bellagio • Art gallery, choreographed fountain shows at the Strip entrance, 693-7111.

Black Canyon River Raft Tours • 293-3776.

Boulder City Historic District • Walking tour. 1305 Arizona, 293-2034.

Boulder City/Hoover Dam Museum • Displays and books on the dam's construction in 1930s. 1305 Arizona, 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 • Excursion on Lake Mead, 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 • 330 Carousel Pkwy., 434-1700.

LAS VEGAS

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

All-American Sportpark • Golf, baseball, in-line skating, and NASCAR racing, corner of Las Vegas Blvd. and Sunset Road, 798-7777.

Caesars Palace • Dining, magic shows, and special effects at Caesars Magical Empire, 731-7333.

Crystal Palace In-Line Skating and Hockey Complex • 9295 W. Flamingo, 253-9832.

Excalibur • Dragon battle in front moat, motion simulators, 597-7777.

Flamingo Hilton • Wildlife sanctuary. 733-3111.

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

Flyaway Indoor Skydiving • 200 Convention Center Drl, 731-4768.

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 Las Vegas, 678-5600.

Gameworks • Climbing wall and arcade. Showcase Mall, 597-3122.

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

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

Harley-Davidson Cafe • Motorcycle memorabilia, Harleys

Photo: Gary Elam

and other items on display. The Las Vegas Strip, 740-4555.
Holy Cow! Casino • Brewery tours, 732-2697.
Horseshoe Casino • $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 Natural History Museum • 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, closed for winter, 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.
Rainforest Cafe • Bird habitat and animated creatures. MGM Grand, 891-8580.
Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area • 363-1921.
Rio • Treasures of Russia exhibit thru April 15 and free carnival-themed sky parade, 252-7777.
Sahara Hotel • Virtual reality Indy car racing on the Strip, 737-2777.
Sam's Town • Water and laser show, 456-7777.
Santa Fe Hotel • Ice arena, 4949 N. Rancho Dr., 658-4993.
Shelby American • Shelby Cobra auto museum and factory tour. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 643-3000.
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.
Tropicana • Wildlife walk and tiger habitat, 739-2222.
Ultrazone • Laser-tag arena, 734-1585.
Walker African-American Museum and Research Center • Exhibits and records, 647-2242.
Wet 'n Wild • Water theme park, seasonal, 734-0088.
World of Coca-Cola • 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, 298-1047.
Ramada Express • WWII museum and multimedia tribute to American war heros, 298-4200.
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, on the Nevada-California border, 382-1111.

SEARCHLIGHT

Searchlight Gallery • 297-1540.
Searchlight Historic Museum • 455-7955.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

CARSON CITY

Brewery Arts Center • 449 W. King St., 883-1976.
Carson and Mills Park Railroad • Seasonal, Mills Park, 887-2523.
Children's Museum of Northern Nevada • 813 N. Carson St., 884-2226.
Kit Carson Trail • Walking tour, 687-7410 or 800-638-2321.
Nevada State Capitol • 687-5030.
Nevada State Library and Archives • State Constitution exhibit. 100 Stewart St., 687-5210.
Nevada State Museum • 600 N. Carson St., 687-4810.
Nevada State Railroad Museum • S. Carson St. at Fairview Dr., 687-6953.
Nevada Supreme Court • Tours. Stewart St., 687-8616.
Roberts' House Museum • 1207 N. Carson St., 882-1805.
Stewart Indian Museum and Cultural Center • 5366 Snyder, 882-1808.
Warren Engine Co. No. 1 Museum • 777 S. Stewart St., 887-2210.

DAYTON

Dayton State Park • 687-5678.







GARDNERVILLE

Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center • Old Douglas County High School on U.S. 395 S., 782-2555.

GENOA

Genoa Courthouse Museum • Seasonal, 782-4325.
Mormon Station State Historic Park • Seasonal, 782-4325, 687-4379.
Walley's Hot Springs • 2001 Foothill Rd., 782-8155.

LAKE TAHOE

Heavenly Aerial Tram • Stateline, 586-7000.
Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park • 2005 Hwy. 28, Incline Village, 831-0494.
M.S. Dixie II Sternwheeler • Zephyr Cove, 588-3508.
Ponderosa Ranch • Seasonal, Incline Village, 831-0691.
Pope House • Tours daily except Thurs. thru Sept. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-544-3029.
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 to reach Animal Ark, 969-3111.
Earth Window Museum • Native American artifacts, 100 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 (the Harrah Collection) • 10 Lake St. S., 333-9300.
National Bowling Stadium • Tournaments and IMAX theater. 300 N. Center St., 334-2695.
Nevada Historical Society Museum • 1650 N. Virginia St., closed through Jan. for remodeling, 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 • Stunt shows, giant mining and 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 • 355-1144.
Wild Island • Seasonal, off I-80, 359-2927.

VIRGINIA CITY

Assay Office Museum • 847-0777.
The Castle • Seasonal, 847-0275.

Nevada Events & Shows
is a section of
NEVADA MAGAZINE



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Basking in the Glow of Neon

While nightly light-and-sound shows take place overhead at the Fremont Street Experience, visitors can stroll the pedestrian mall to view artifacts from Las Vegas' past—historic signs such as Andy Anderson, the Anderson Dairy's mascot from 1956 to 1994—that have been rescued from the neon graveyard.

Chollar Mine • Tours of workings, 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 • 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 • Climbing wall, motion theater, Ferris wheel, and miniature golf, 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

BATTLE MOUNTAIN

Trail of the 49ers Interpretive Center • 453 N. Second St., 635-5720.

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.

Visit White Pine County, where the only negatives come from your camera.







Annual Events

January
Ice Fishing and Ice Skating on Cave Lake
Nevada Fur Trappers Fur Sale

February
Indoor Invitational Archery
Model Railroad Display

March
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Dinner
Annual Greek Party

April
Community Choir Performance
Easter Egg Hunt

May
Beginning of the Ghost Train season
Silver State Open Road Challenge
Eastern NV Paint Horse Show
Run to the Red Lights-Harley Run

June
Long Steel Rails Festival
Annual Pony Express Ride
Men's One-Pitch Tournament
Eastern NV Umpires Co-ed Tournament
Rides on the Ghost Train

July
Fireworks
Nevada 4-Wheelers Rally
Jr. Jazz Fund Raiser - Slow Pitch Tourney
Lund Pioneer Days
More great Train Rides

August
Bristlecone Arts in the Park
Senior Olympics
White Pine County Fair & Horse Races
S.N.O.R.E
Fantasy Classic & Antique Car Show
Cattlewoman's Deep Pit BBQ

August (cont.)
Coyotes Motorcycle Race
Budge Stanton Memorial Co-ed Tourney
More Exciting Train Rides

September
NV Northern Rail Days
Ultra-light fly-in
Silver State Classic Open Road Challenge
WPC High School Rodeo

October
Trains Unlimited - Photographer's Weekend
Merchant's Showcase

November
Doll & Teddy Bear Show
Toys for Tots Co-ed Pitch
Turkey Shoot at Mosier Canyon

December
Crafter's & Merchant's Bazaar
Holiday Sweet Tooth Extravaganzas

White Pine County
NEVADA

For more information...

Bristlecone Convention & Visitors Bureau	1-800-496-9350
White Pine Chamber of Commerce	702/289-8877
Nevada Northern Railway Museum	702/289-2085
Great Basin National Park - Lehman Caves	702/234-7331

Photo: Larry Angier

WINNEMUCCA

Buckaroo Hall of Fame • 623-2225.
Humboldt Museum • Winnemucca-area history, 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 • 30 miles west 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 • Exhibits on history of the Hawthorne area. 400 10th St., 945-5142.
Walker Lake State Recreation Area • 945-5896.

PAHRUMP

Death Valley National Park • Park can be reached via Pahrump, 619-786-2331.
Pahrump Valley Winery • Tours. 3810 Winery Rd., 727-6900 or 800-368-WINE.

PIOCHE/CALIENTE

Cathedral Gorge State Park • South of Pioche, 728-4460.
Kershaw-Ryan State Park • South of Caliente, 728-4460.
Lincoln County Historical Museum • Pioche, 962-5207.
Million Dollar Courthouse • Pioche, 962-5207.
Spring Valley State Park • 728-4460.
Stone Cabin Living History Museum • One mile north of Eagle Valley Reservoir near the historic mining town of Pioche, seasonal, 728-4460.

TONOPAH

Belmont Courthouse State Historic Site • 50 miles north of Tonopah, 867-3001.
Central Nevada Museum • Artifacts and photographs on Tonopah-area history, 482-9676.
Tonopah Historic Mining Park • 482-9274.

YERINGTON

Lyon County Museum • Exhibits and photos on the history of the Yerington area, 463-2245.

A Reminder: To confirm hours of operation, please use the phone number listed with each attraction. Nevada's area code is 702 in the Las Vegas area, and the rest of the state is 775.

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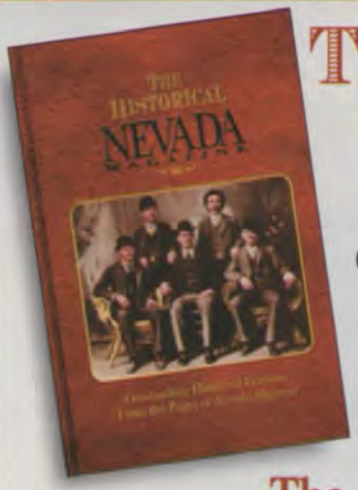
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Gaming Tournaments

A guide to hotel-casino tourneys.

Gaming tournaments are designed for players of all levels. Some hotels offer daily, weekly, and monthly tournaments—some of them free. Arizona Charlie's in Las Vegas hosts a video poker tournament every Monday for a $10 entry fee, and Sharkey's Nugget in Gardnerville has weekly Tuesday video poker and blackjack tournaments with a $10 entry. Here, *Nevada Magazine* presents a list of winter gambling events. It is a good idea to confirm dates and times.

Las Vegas Territory

Video Poker • Jan. 5 • Arizona Charlie's, Las Vegas, 702-258-5100.
Poker • Jan. 10-29 • Rio, Las Vegas, 702-252-7777.
Slots • Jan. 14-17 • Las Vegas Hilton, 702-732-5151.
Alice in Slotland Slots • Jan. 17-20 • MGM Grand, Las Vegas, 800-929-9410.
Video Poker • Jan. 19 • Arizona Charlie's, Las Vegas, 702-258-5100.
Reels of Glory • Jan. 19-21 • Edgewater, Laughlin, 800-289-8777.
Slots • Feb. 7-9 • Imperial Palace, Las Vegas, 800-351-7400, ext. 1.
The Four Slotketeers • March 14-17 • MGM Grand, Las Vegas, 800-929-9410.
Cash Combat Slots • April 13-15 • Edgewater, Laughlin, 800-289-8777.
You Only Win Twice • April 15-18 • MGM Grand, Las Vegas, 800-929-9410.
Rebel Reels • Oct. 19-21 • Edgewater, Laughlin, 800-289-8777.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Keno • Jan. 3 • Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-6992.
Blackjack • Jan. 5 • Harveys, Stateline, 800-553-1022.
Wild Wednesday Slots • Jan. 6 • Caesars Tahoe, Stateline, 800-648-3353.
"Let's Get It On" Mills Lane Poker • Jan. 8-10 • Boomtown, Verdi, 800-648-3790.
Start Your Year a Winnter Slots • Jan. 9-10 • Silver Legacy, Reno, 775-329-4777.
Blackjack • Jan. 12 • Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-6992.
Planet Hollywood Blackjack • Jan. 14 • Caesars Tahoe, Stateline, 800-648-3353.
Bucks and Benz Slots • Jan. 16-18 • Eldorado, Reno, 800-648-4597.
Keno • Jan. 17 • Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-6992.
Blackjack • Jan. 19 • Harveys, Stateline, 800-553-1022.
Wild Wednesday Slots • Jan. 20 • Caesars Tahoe, Stateline, 800-648-3353.
Blackjack • Jan. 26 • Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-6992.
Planet Hollywood Blackjack • Jan. 28 • Caesars Tahoe, Stateline, 800-648-3353.
End of Month Keno • Jan. 30 • Harveys, Stateline, 800-553-1022.
Wild Wednesday Slots • Feb. 3 • Caesars Tahoe, Stateline, 800-648-3353.
Fun February Slots • Feb. 6-7 • Silver Legacy, Reno, 775-329-4777.
Blackjack • Feb. 11 • Harveys, Stateline, 800-553-1022.
Keno • Feb. 14 • Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-6992.
Slot Marathon • Feb. 19-21 • Boomtown, Verdi, 800-648-3790.
Blackjack • Feb. 23 • Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-6992.
Keno • Feb. 27 • Harveys, Stateline, 800-553-1022.

Rural Nevada

Blackjack • March 7-9 • Peppermill, Wendover, 800-648-9660, ext. 521.

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Vacation Hot Lines

Where to call or write for Nevada travel tips.

When planning your Nevada trip or vacation, be sure to write or phone these one-stop sources for information. Also, Internet users can visit the Web sites listed. 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.

Statewide Information

Nevada Commission on Tourism: Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710; www.travelnevada.com; 775-687-4322 or 800-NEVADA-8 anywhere in U.S. and Canada.

Las Vegas Territory

African American Activities: 3838 Raymert Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89121; 702-456-3838.

Boulder City C of C: 1305 Arizona, Boulder City, NV 89005; 702-293-2034.

Boulder City Visitor Center: 100 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; 702-294-1252.

Henderson C of C: 590 S. Boulder Hwy., Henderson, NV 89015; www.hendersonchamber.com; 702-565-8951.

Hoover Dam Visitors Services: Box 60400, Boulder City, NV 89006; www.hooverdam.com; 702-294-3523.

Jean Visitor Center: Interstate 15 South, Exit 12, Jean, NV 89019; 702-874-1360.

Las Vegas C of C: 3720 Howard Hughes Pkwy., Las Vegas, NV 89109; lvchamber.com; 702-735-1616.

Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority: 3150 Paradise, Las Vegas, NV 89109; www.lasvegas24hours.com; 702-892-0711.

Latin C of C: 829 S. Sixth St., Las Vegas, NV 89125; LasVegasLatincc.com; 702-385-7367.

Laughlin C of C: Box 77777, Laughlin, NV 89028; www.laughlinchamber.com; 702-298-2214 or 800-227-5245 outside Nevada.

Laughlin Visitor Center: 1555 Casino Dr., Laughlin, NV 89029; www.visitlaughlin.com; 702-298-3321 or 800-4LAUGHLIN.

Mesquite Area C of C: 850 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite, NV 89027; 702-346-2902.

Mesquite Visitor Center: Interstate 15 Exit 122, 460 Sandhill Blvd., Mesquite, NV 89027; 702-346-2702 or 877-MESQUITE.

Moapa Valley C of C: Hwy. 169, Box 361, Overton, NV 89040; 702-397-2160.

North Las Vegas C of C: 2290 McDaniel, North Las Vegas, NV 89030; www.vegas.com\nlvcofc; 702-642-9595.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Carson City C of C: 1900 S. Carson St., Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89701; carsoncitychamber.com; 775-882-1565.

Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau: 1900 S. Carson St., Suite 200, Carson City, NV 89701; www.carson-city.org; 775-687-7410 or 800-NEVADA-1 in U.S.

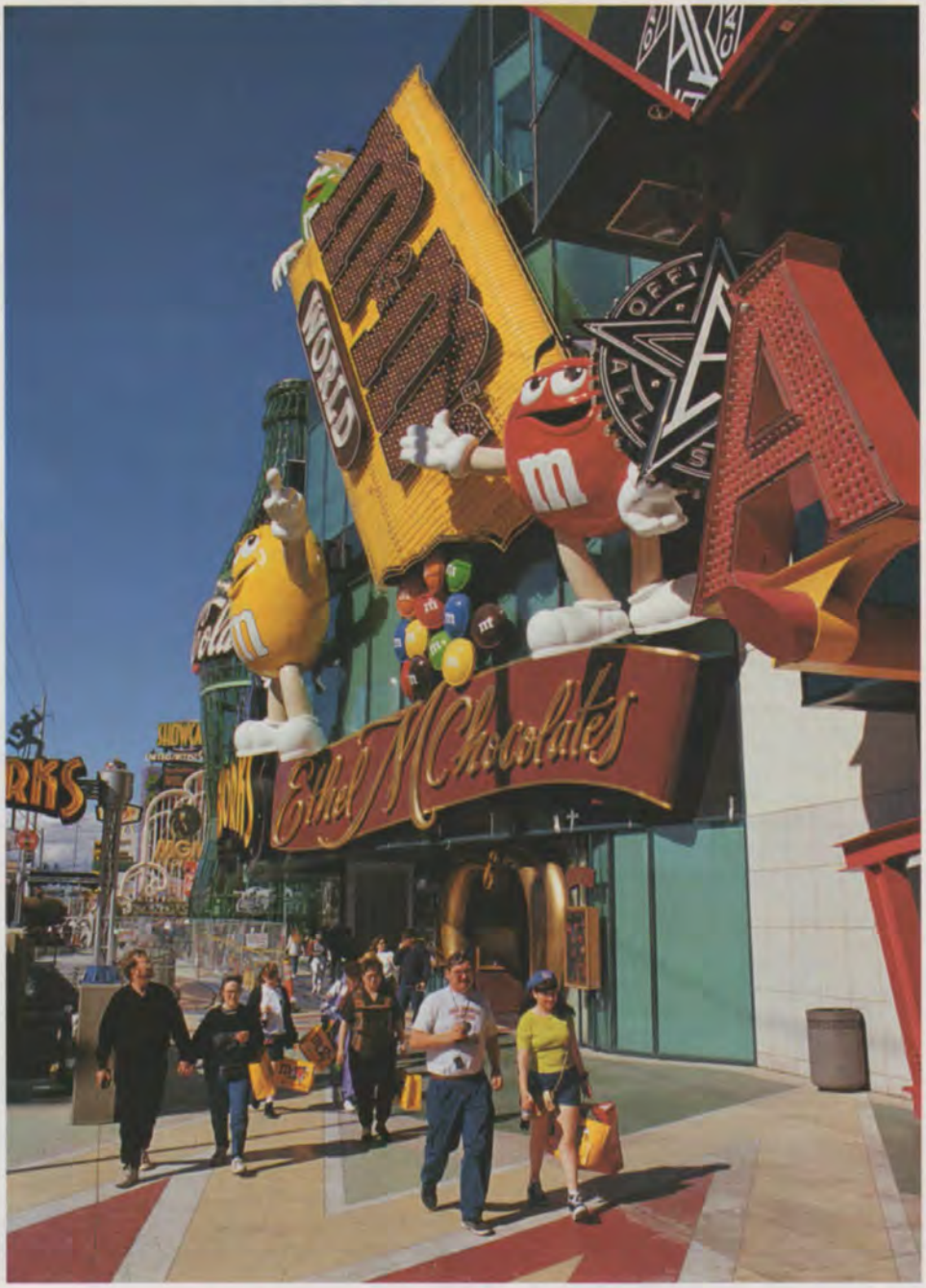
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Dayton Area C of C: 15 Main St., Box 2408, Dayton, NV 89403; 775-246-7909 (open Thurs.-Sun.).

Greater Reno-Sparks C of C: 405 Marsh Ave., Reno, NV 89505; www.reno-sparkschamber.org; 775-686-3030.

Incline Village/Crystal Bay C of C: 969 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village, NV 89451; www.laketahoechamber.com, 775-831-4440.

Lake Tahoe, Incline Village/Crystal Bay Visitors and Convention Bureau: 969 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village, NV 89451; www.gotahoe.com; 775-832-1606 or 800-GO-TAHOE anywhere in U.S.



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Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority: 1156 Ski Run Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; www.virtualtahoe.com; 530-544-5050, 800-AT-TAHOE in U.S.

North Lake Tahoe C of C: 245 N. Lake Blvd., Tahoe City, CA 96145; 530-581-6900.

North Lake Tahoe Resort Association: Box 5459, Tahoe City, CA 96145; www.tahoefun.org; 530-583-3494 or 800-824-6348 for travel information on the North Lake Tahoe area.

Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority: 4590 S. Virginia St., Reno, NV 89502; www.playreno.com; 775-827-7600 or 800-FOR-RENO in U.S.

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Tribal Council: 98 Colony Rd., Reno, NV 89502; 775-329-2936.

South Lake Tahoe C of C: 3066 Lake Tahoe Blvd., S. Lake

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Tahoe, CA 96150; www.tahoe.com; 530-541-5255.
Sparks C of C: 831 Victorian Ave., Sparks, NV 89431; www.sparkschamber.org; 775-358-1976.
Tahoe-Douglas C of C: Box 7139, Stateline, NV 89449; www.tahoechamber.org; 775-588-4591.
Virginia City C of C: V&T Railroad Car, C St., Virginia City, NV 89440; 775-847-0311.

Cowboy Country

Battle Mountain C of C: Box 333, Battle Mountain, NV 89820; 775-635-8245.
Elko C of C: 1601 Idaho St., Elko, NV 89801; www.elkonevada.com; 775-738-7135.
Elko Convention and Visitors Authority: 700 Moren Way, Elko, NV 89801; 775-738-4091, 800-248-3556 outside Nevada.
Jarbidge Community Association: c/o Trading Post, Box 260072, Jarbidge, NV 89826; e-mail Jarbidge@aol.com; 775-488-2315.
Lovelock C of C: Box 821, Lovelock, NV 89419; 775-273-7213.
McDermitt Information: Box 278, McDermitt, NV 89421; 775-532-8742.
Wells C of C: Box 615, Wells, NV 89835; 775-752-3540.
Wendover USA Chamber/Visitors Bureau: Box 2468, West Wendover, NV 89883; www.wendover-usa.org; 775-664-3414 or 800-426-6862.
Winnemucca C of C: 30 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; 775-623-2225.
Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Bureau: 50 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; www.winnemucca.nv.us; 775-623-5071 or 800-WMCA-NEV.

Pony Express Territory

Austin C of C: Box 212, Austin, NV 89310; 775-964-2200.
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; 775-237-5484.
Fallon Convention and Tourism Authority: 100 Campus Way, Fallon, NV 89406; www.fallon.net; 775-423-4556 or 800-874-0903.
Fernley C of C: 70 N. West St., Box 1606, Fernley, NV 89408; fernleynevada.com; 775-575-4459.
Great Basin Business and Tourism Council: Information on Baker and Great Basin National Park. Box 166, Baker, NV 89311; 775-234-7323.
Greater Fallon Area C of C: 65 S. Maine St., No. B, Fallon, NV 89406; www.fallonchamberofcommerce.com; 775-423-2544.
Silver Springs EDASS (Econ. Dev. Authority of Silver Springs): Box 269, Silver Springs, NV 89429; 775-577-5094.
White Pine C of C: 636 Aultman, Ely, NV 89301; 775-289-8877.

Pioneer Territory

Amargosa C of C: HCR 69-2, Box 401W, Amargosa, NV 89020; 775-372-5459.
Beatty C of C: Box 956, Beatty, NV 89003; 775-553-2424.
Caliente C of C: Depot Building, Box 553, Caliente, NV 89008; 775-726-3129.
Gabbs, City of: Box 176, Gabbs, NV 89409; 775-285-4019.
Goldfield C of C: Box 219, Goldfield, NV 89013; members.xcom.com/gfldchamber; 775-485-3560.
Greater Smoky Valley C of C: Box 1977, State Route 376 at Carver's Station, Round Mountain, NV 89045; 775-377-2490.
Mason Valley C of C: 227 S. Main St., Yerington, NV 89447-2536; www.tele-net.net/lceda; 775-463-2245.
Mineral County C of C: 932 E. Street, Box 1635, Hawthorne, NV 89415; e-mail info@mcchamber.hawthorne.nv.us; 775-945-5896.
Pahrump Valley C of C: Box 42, Pahrump, NV 89041; 775-727-5800 or 800-633-WEST.
Pioche C of C: Box 127, Pioche, NV 89043; www.pioche.com/chamber.htm; 775-962-5544.
Tonopah C of C: 301 Brougher Ave., Box 869, Tonopah, NV 89049; 775-482-3859.
Tonopah Convention Center: Box 408, Tonopah, NV 89049; www.tonopahminingpark.org; 775-482-3558.

Indian Territory

Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada: 680 Greenbrae, Sparks, NV 89431; 775-355-0600 for information.
Indian Territory: Nevada Commission on Tourism, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710; 775-687-4322 or 800-NEVADA-8.

State and National Parks

Death Valley National Park: Beatty Visitor Center: 307 Main St., Beatty, NV 89003; 775-553-2200. Park: Death Valley, CA 92328; 760-786-2331.
Great Basin National Park: Baker, NV 89311; www.nps.gov/grba; 775-234-7331.
Lake Mead National Recreation Area: 601 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; www.nps/gov/lame; 702-293-8907.
Nevada Division of State Parks: 1300 South Curry St., Carson City, NV 89710; 775-687-4370.
Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area: HCR 33, Box 5500, Las Vegas, NV 89124; 702-363-1921.

More Outdoor Activities

Bicycling in Nevada: Nevada Dept. of Transportation: 1263 S. Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89712; e-mail: bicycle@dot.state.nv.us; 775-888-RIDE for information on bike paths and other bicycling opportunities.
Bureau of Land Management: Main: 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, NV 89520; www.nv.blm.gov; 775-861-6400; 4765 W. Vegas Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89108; 702-647-5000; 3900 E. Idaho, Elko, NV 89801; 775-753-0229.
Humboldt National Forest: 2035 Last Chance Rd., Elko, NV 89801; 775-738-5171.
Nevada Division of Wildlife: Main: Box 10678, Reno, NV 89520; www.state.nv.us/cnr/nvwildlife/ 775-688-1500; Southern Nevada: State Mail Complex, Las Vegas, NV 89158; 702-486-5127.
Pyramid Lake Fisheries: Star Route, Sutcliffe, NV 89510; 775-476-0500.
Toiyabe National Forest: 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431; 775-331-6444; 2881 S. Valley View, Suite 16, Las Vegas, NV 89102; www.fs.fed.us/htnf/; 702-873-8800.

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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 ($$$$). Nevada's area codes are 702 in the Las Vegas area and 775 in the rest of the state.

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/Betty's Diner—794-3261. Shakes, malts, and sundaes as well as sandwiches, soup, breakfast bakery. B, L, D. $, major.

Imperial Palace/Burger Palace—794-3261. Burgers, fries, and other fast-food items. B, L, D. $, major.

Imperial Palace/Emperor's Buffet—731-3311. Carving station featuring roast baron of beef. B, L, D. $, major.

Imperial Palace/Rib House—794-3261. Barbecued ribs and chicken, blackened and cajun entrees. D. $$, major.

Imperial Palace/Teahouse—731-3311. Carving station featuring prime rib of beef. Weekend brunch. B, L, D. $, major.

Riviera Hotel/Kady's Coffee Shop—794-9318.

Monte Carlo/Buffet—730-7777. Exhibition-style kitchen. 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. Variety of entrees including 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. Variety of entrees and side dishes. 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. B, L, D. $, no CC.

Riviera Hotel/World's Fare Buffet—794-9400. International cuisines presented in buffet, plus prime rib. B, L, D. $, major.

ITALIAN

Circus Circus/Stivali Italian Ristorante—691-5820. Homemade sauces and pastas. D. $$, major.

Circus Circus/The Pizzeria—734-0410. Fresh-baked pizza, calzones, and salads. L, D. $, major.

Imperial Palace/Pizza Palace—794-3261. Pizza, pasta, salads. L, D. $, major.

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

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.



Sterling's offers seafood and steaks at the Silver Legacy in Reno.

MEXICAN

Sahara Hotel/Paco's Hideaway—737-2407. D. $, major.

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

STEAK & SEAFOOD

Circus Circus/The Steak House—794-3767. Steaks cooked over an exhibition-style mesquite grill, prime rib, and lobster. D. $$$, major.

Imperial Palace/Embers—794-3261. Steaks and continental dishes, 28 menu choices. D. $$, major.

Imperial Palace/Seahouse—794-3261. Alaskan crab legs, seafood salads. 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.

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 Station/Station Restaurant—883-0900. Prime rib, sole almondine, club sandwiches, home-style cuisine. B, L, D. $, major.

Carson Station/Station Grill and Rotisserie—883-8400. Baby back ribs, gourmet pizza, oriental chicken salad, gourmet rotisserie foods. 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, and breakfast specials. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

Carson Valley Inn/ Michael's—Minden, 782-9711. Rack of lamb and fresh seafood creations. D. Closed Tuesdays. $-$$, major.

Napa-Sonoma Grocery Co.—390 E. Moana Lane, 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—Reno, 786-5700. Northern Italian cuisine with veal, chicken, and seafood entrees. Award-winning wine list. D. $$, major.

INTERNATIONAL

Eldorado Hotel/Choices—Reno, 786-5700. Express cafe with hofbrau, deli, bakery, ice cream. B, L, D. $, major.

Eldorado Hotel/Chefs' Pavilion Buffet—Reno, 786-5700. Rotisserie chicken, mushroom ravioli, salad bar, prime rib. B, L, D. $, major.
Eldorado Hotel/Bistro Roxy—Reno, 786-5700. Gourmet dishes include Chilean sea bass with Yukon gold potatoes and creamed spinach. D. $$, major credit cards accepted.
Eldorado Hotel/Tivoli Gardens—Reno, 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
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. Entrees include veal scaloppini, scampi in dill sauce, and more. D. $$, major.
Eldorado Hotel/Grill and Rotisserie—Reno, 786-5700. Mahogany-fueled rotisserie and grill, fresh fish, fowl, lamb. D. $$, major.
Piñon Plaza/Carson City—885-9000. "End of the Trail" 22-ounce porterhouse steak, "Prospector" bacon-wrapped shrimp dinner, Caliente ribs, Dutch oven roasted short ribs. B, 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. Entrees include medallions of filet mignon, spicy roast chicken. D. $$, major.

BREW PUBS
Eldorado Hotel/The Brew Brothers—Reno, 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, and more. 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.
WINNEMUCCA: Model T/Casino Restaurant—623-2588. Offers a variety of dishes including chicken strips, chicken-fried steak, prime rib special, ribeye steak, fried prawns. B, L, D. $, major.
WINNEMUCCA: Model T/Kentucky Fried Chicken Express—623-2588. L, D. $. No CC.

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Show of Shows

Reliving musical memories of Broadway at Harrah's Reno.

By Kim Pryor



Showstoppers appearing in Harrah's Reno's tribute to Broadway include (from left) Jennifer Casper, Dejah Juarez, Shannon O'Keefe, Leah Peterson, and Jennifer Knorr.

When a show covers 60 songs in 65 minutes, there's a danger the fast pace will leave the audience musically unsatisfied. But the cast of "Broadway Showstoppers" does not shortchange showgoers at Harrah's Reno while presenting more than five decades of history from the Great White Way. The tribute revisits musicals like "Showboat" (1930s), "Oklahoma" (1940s), "West Side Story" (1950s), "Hair" and "Jesus Christ Superstar" (1960s), "Cats" (1970s), and "Phantom of the Opera" (1980s).

"Showstoppers" succeeds under the guidance of veteran producer Greg Thompson and choreographer Mistinguett, the team responsible for a string of revues at Harrah's Reno and Lake Tahoe, including "Broadway" and "New York, New York." Thompson says that a Broadway tribute allows the choreographer to develop a wider range of routines than in other kinds of revues. And the formula works.

"The Broadway musical is so universal and well-liked that people recognize the material and go, 'Wow, I love that song,'" says Thompson. "Sometimes when you do a musical revue, producers and choreographers let their own personal tastes get involved, and you start picking the music you like or what you think the dancers will like. When you do a Broadway show, you've picked a variety that the audience will like."

To pull off a Broadway tribute, however, a producer needs strong vocalists. Thompson's good taste in singers is evident in the medley of love songs during which Darryl Ross, Christine Shelton, and Lainie Gulliksen sing "On the Street Where You Live" from "My Fair Lady," "Some Enchanted Evening" from "South Pacific," "Getting to Know You" from "The King and I," and "People" from "Funny Girl." Ross takes the lead on "Somewhere There's a Place for Us," a rendition beautiful enough to melt even the hardest of hearts. Medleys can be annoyingly brief, but this one satisfies because, with the exception of "What I Did for Love," the medley shies away from songs so powerful that we feel we must hear the end of them.

Thompson saves those songs for the rest of the show, with the singers completing each number, thanks to the comments of one Harrah's casino executive. He voiced his disappointment to Thompson that Gulliksen did not finish "Memories" from "Cats," a song she turns to velvet.

Thompson gives the cast members the freedom to interject their own humor into the show. Ross, for instance, works a perfect transition between the medley of love songs and "Show Boat" by stripping out of his white tuxedo as he addresses the audience. "You didn't know when you bought your ticket," he says, "that you were going to see a soul brother get naked."

After Ross' change of costume, the dancers follow suit on a raised platform at the rear of the stage. As Ross sings "Old Man River," the dancers slip on their 1930s-style bustled dresses.

A tribute to the rock operas of the '60s is far out, due in part to the backstage crew's adept lighting. During the "Aquarius" scene the lights bathe the dancers and singers in pink, blue, and orange.

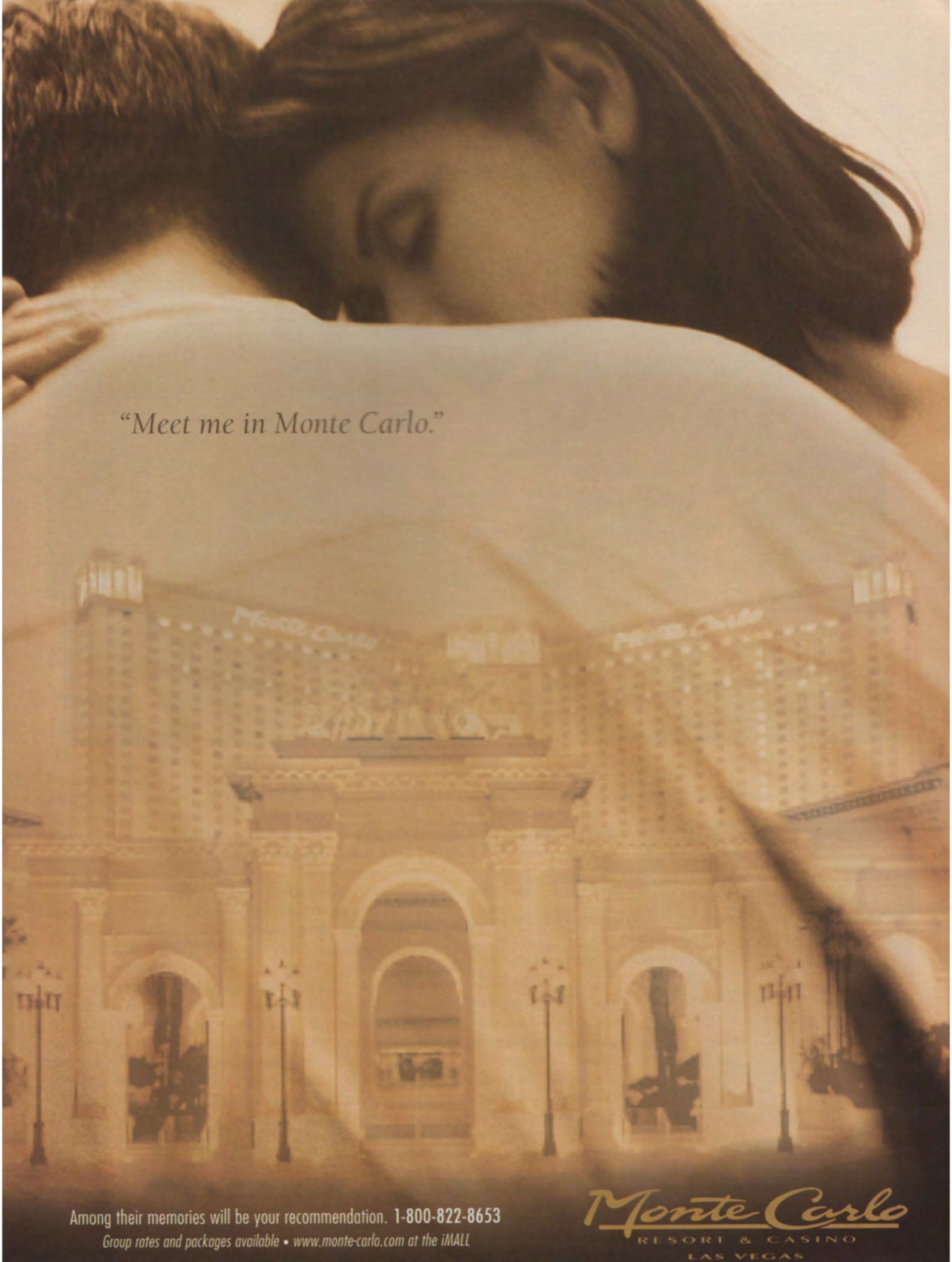
There follows an engaging tribute to "Phantom of the Opera" and the '90s "Stomp," and comedian David Iannaci offers his impressions of Jerry Lewis, Ed Sullivan, and an Italian walrus.

With the exception of the show's somewhat slow opening tribute to choreographer-director Bob Fosse, "Broadway Showstoppers" sparkles, and its colorful costumes and choreography satisfy the cravings for those songs we all love.

Show Notes

"Broadway Showstoppers" plays nightly except Thursday in Sammy's Showroom at Harrah's Reno. Show time is 7 p.m. with an additional 9:30 p.m. show Saturday. Tickets are $21.95 and do not include drinks. Children six and older are permitted. Call 800-HARRAHS or 775-788-3773.

Kim Pryor is a Lake Tahoe writer.


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The Treasure of the Sierra Nevada



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Dining Out

Notable eateries to discover in Reno and Lamoille.



Jeanie and Steve Budija turned an old haunt into Bricks.

Restaurant Renaissance

By Connie Emerson

When 15-year-old Croation immigrant Steve Budija got his first job in America washing dishes at the Ponderosa Casino in Reno, he wasn't planning on a career in the restaurant business. But a few years later he had become a cook at Vario's, a legendary eatery on South Virginia Street, and he realized that he loved his work.

"I knew I was going to have my own restaurant some day," he says, "but I never imagined it would be Vario's. I always loved this building, knew every corner. It's a dream come true."

Budija and his wife, Jeanie, began living that dream in 1996 when they bought the former Vario's and renamed it Bricks. By then Budija (pronounced Boo-dee'-yuh) had gained experience at such Reno-area restaurants as the Pioneer Inn, Western Village, Seaweed Inn, Hobo Junction, Hungry Tiger, Famous Murphy's, two stints at Vario's, and five at the Peppermill. Steve and Jeanie met when both worked at the Seaweed Inn.

"I was a busboy at the Peppermill in the early '70s," he recalls. "Every time I grew out my mustache, I'd get fired. And each time they would call me, tell me to shave off the mustache and come back—with a raise of about 10 cents an hour." Jeanie adds, "They didn't mind Steve's long hair because he tucked it up under a wig."

When the Budijas purchased their current eatery, it had gone through several owners and name changes since Vario's closed in 1981. First order of business was to give the restaurant yet another name. Since the divider panels installed by previous owners incorporated the letter "B" on their etched-glass inserts, a name that began with B seemed the logical choice. Discarding their own name ("It's hard to know how to pronounce it," Jeanie says), they asked friends for suggestions. The result was Bricks, which refers to the building's thousands of bricks, which originally were part of a mercantile in Carson City.

The couple has since transformed the restaurant's appearance. Outside, espaliered apple trees and rose bushes accent the brick walls. Inside, from the bar's fieldstone fireplace to the tasteful prints on the brick walls, the ambience is one of comfortable sophistication. The color scheme of deep rose, sage green, and ivory; spectacular flower arrangements; and at-table touches like quality linens and chilled salad forks reflect an uncommon attention to detail.

But the main reason people dine at Bricks is its culinary reputation. The best seller among the entrees is New Zealand rack of lamb with fresh mint sauce. An unusual main dish, chicken pesto, features chicken breasts prepared with traditional pesto ingredients, untraditionally left unblended. Appetizers run the gastronomic gamut from crispy stuffed shrimp to beef carpaccio. Standout desserts include Belgian chocolate mousse cake and a memorable creme brulee.

A few of the herbs Steve uses grow outside amongst the flowers. The others come from his mother's garden. "Someday we'll have a real herb garden here," Jeanie says. And although the bread isn't made at Bricks, an on-premise bakery is another one of the Budijas' dreams.

Bricks Restaurant and Wine Bar, 1695 S. Virginia St., Reno, 775-786-2277. Open for lunch 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, dinner 5 to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Lunch entrees start at $8.95, dinner entrees at $11.95. Reservations are recommended. Major credit cards accepted.

Connie Emerson of Reno wrote about "Made in Nevada" specialty foods in Nov/Dec '98.

Animal Attraction

By Kay Fahey

The Pine Lodge Dinner House serves steak and seafood in the little ranching town of Lamoille, 20 miles southeast of Elko and within shouting distance of scenic Lamoille Canyon and the Ruby Mountains. The Pine Lodge also has one of the most original decorating themes you'll find outside a natural history museum.

Strolling into the bar, you notice the



Diners at the Pine Lodge always have company.

Photos: Candice Towell (top), Doug Bruha (bottom)

mounted deer heads that seem to be gazing serenely over the smoky room, which is crowded with customers sipping brews and cocktails while they wait for tables on a Saturday night.

To the right of the door stands a well-lit glass case from which stare a snow partridge and a marmot, both beautifully mounted and displayed in their natural habitat.

Soon your table is called. You follow the hostess through the saloon-style doors into the dining room. Your eye immediately locks onto a life-like black bear that is snarling at a squirrel, and then you sigh in secret relief that the bear is safely contained behind glass. Looking around, you see rustic pine paneling, American bison and gray Stone's sheep, and an impressive chimney of river rock.

One wall is given entirely to a display featuring a Dall's sheep, wolf, badger, grizzly, and mountain lion.

The hostess leads you into a long, narrow room, and here, you realize, is the heart of the matter. One wall is given entirely to a panoramic display case featuring Dall's sheep, badger, Alaskan brown bear, Canadian wolf, grizzly, mountain lion, and other creatures. The background is painted in a peaceful mountain and valley scene.

The mounted animals came from longtime Pine Lodge owners Ron and Pam Druck. Ron, according to Pam, was "born hunting." The dinner house recently was bought by Todd and Dina Schwandt, who also own Nevada High Country Outfitters in Lamoille.

There's no exotic game animals on the menu, but the dishes fit the decor. You can choose ribeye steak and filet mignon wrapped in bacon, smoked baby back ribs, and whole chicken or Cornish game hen. There's a selection of seafood, from shrimp scampi to grilled halibut steak. Everything comes with plenty of side dishes—hot bread, soup or salad, and a baked potato, rice, or fries. For the smoked dishes, you are served cole slaw in place of salad and baked beans along with everything else.

This is the kind of food you crave after a long day hiking the glorious crags of the Rubies in summer or stalking your year's supply of venison in autumn. Not surprisingly, the Pine Lodge seems to do best with hearty dishes like ribs, smoked chicken, and steaks.

Meats are juicy and packed with a robust flavor that is hard to find these days. The bread is served warm, crusty and tangy with sourdough. Even simple dishes like cole slaw and baked beans, which often are ruined through negligence or strange ingredients, are tasty. You find yourself wondering how the kitchen manages to do such a good job when the restaurant is so far from a major city.

And where did all the customers come from? Here you sit in scenic isolation, surrounded by mountains and a verdant valley, and yet on weekend evenings this restaurant can be so jammed that the usually prompt service is temporarily overwhelmed. The answer is that a lot of savvy travelers swing out of their way to visit the Pine Lodge for dinner and wildlife watching.

Pine Lodge Dinner House, Lamoille, 20 miles southeast of Elko via State Route 227, 702-753-6363. Open nightly from 5 to 10 p.m. Entrees $10 to $25. Major credit cards are accepted. The Pine Lodge's motel has three suites with a $55 nightly rate.

Kay Fahey is a Reno writer and food columnist.

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Sharkey's Incredible Collections

Sharkey Begovich presents several worlds of memorabilia at his Gardnerville casino.

Story by Treva Lind

Photos by Jay Aldrich

Nobody serves up a slice of Americana quite like Sharkey Begovich. For 28 years, people have enjoyed the collectibles that now cover every inch of available space in his homey Gardnerville casino. It's true that folks drive many miles for a dinner of Sharkey's prime rib, and customers like to introduce their children to the burly casino owner known for his generosity. But Sharkey points to his wall-to-wall nostalgia as the key attraction that brings people back with their friends and relatives.

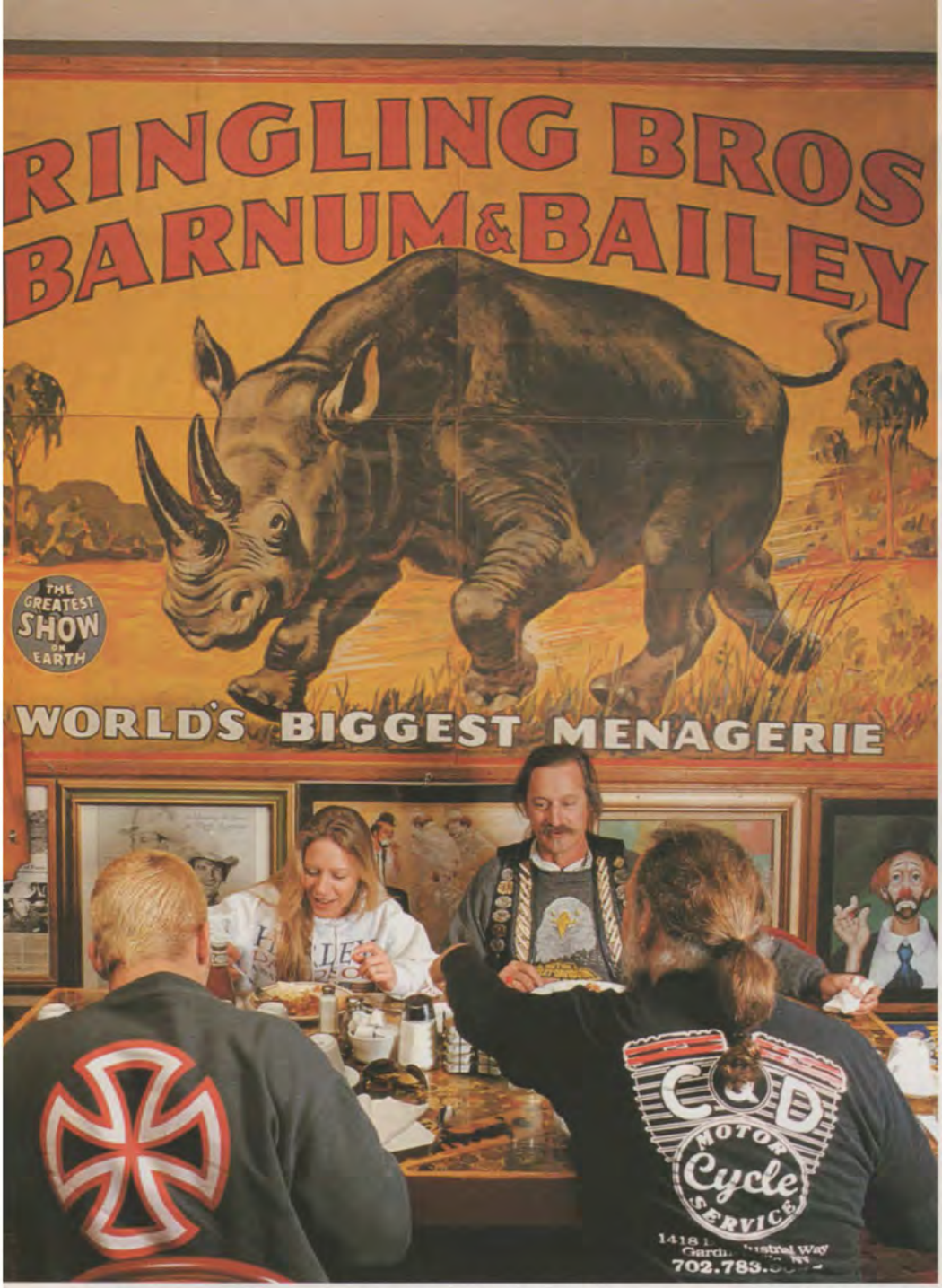
Patrons playing the slots can look up to see a photograph of Roy Rogers or a tin advertisement of Marilyn Monroe hawking Lustre Creme Shampoo. There's a poster seeking the whereabouts of the Lindberghs' kidnapped baby. A glass case devoted to Franklin D. Roosevelt displays campaign buttons, photographs, and three clocks in the shape of FDR's head. A collection of saddles owned by rodeo champs and movie stars stands near a hallway lined with boxing photographs.

"I don't do any advertising. I don't have rooms," Sharkey says. "What keeps this place going seven days a week, 365 days a year, are people bringing people in to see the memorabilia."

Sharkey, 72, loves the collectibles, but he seems to care most about the people, history, and stories behind each object. For



Sharkey Begovich, posing amid portraits of Indian chiefs, has filled his casino with collectibles.





A colorful menagerie of circus posters and clown portraits encircle Sharkey's patrons such as (clockwise from back left) Debbie Crawford, Frank Sharp, Chris Crawford, and Tim Hammerquist. Each decorated restaurant table has an inlaid photo that refers to Sharkey's granddaughter, Mary Sophia.

instance, a few years ago an old man borrowed $20 from Sharkey for food and promptly repaid him. About six months later the man returned to say he was in a terrible fix. "How much?" Sharkey asked. This time it was $100. When the fellow returned to repay the $100, he had a paper-wrapped item tucked under his arm. It was an Abraham Lincoln-Andrew Johnson campaign poster.

"It's probably the most valuable item I have," Sharkey says of the poster, which now hangs near the bar. "He said, 'This has been in my family for years, and if something happened to me now, it would end up in the trash. I know you will take care of it. Many times I've tried to give people money for something, and they wouldn't let me."

Sharkey's accumulation of old things seems to know no boundaries: boxing gloves, police badges, arrowheads, gangster Meyer Lansky's hat racks, even antique furnishings acquired from a home in Geneva, Minnesota. Sharkey's son, Butch, describes his dad as "the original pack rat." Butch says, "He has a knack for finding things, and now, with all his years of collecting things, things find him."

Folks call Sharkey almost weekly with offers of rare items. Others just bring them in. Because of space limitations, he must store some of his memorabilia, perhaps destined one day for a museum in his hometown of Plymouth, California.

Of all his collectibles, the saddles rank among Sharkey's favorites. There's the 1945 saddle of rodeo star Casey Tibbs, who rode it to nine world championships. It sits in a glass-enclosed corner near the bar along with a black-and-silver John Wayne saddle that Sharkey traveled to the East Coast to buy from a 91-year-old former girlfriend of Wayne's. Sharkey says, "To me, a saddle that belonged to a famous person, it makes you feel pretty close to a guy. Ordinarily it's just a piece of leather, but if it had John Wayne's butt in it, it means something." Equally important to Sharkey are about 200 saddles hanging in storage, including saddles that belonged to Charlie Russell and Will James. Another saddle is decorated with silver pieces a poor cowboy bought one or two at a time each payday.

Sharkey's love for boxing dates back to his youth, when he was nicknamed for the Slav world heavyweight champion, Jack Sharkey. The casino owner's respect for circus professionals led him to acquire the many circus posters and clown paintings that customers see at Sharkey's.

"I got acquainted with so many circus people. They are a different breed. They seem thrilled about anyone who cares anything about them," he says. "Old circuses are almost all gone, and in a few years there won't be anyone left to talk about them except in a book."



The colorful circus posters, many of Ringling Bros., Barnum and Bailey, are concentrated in the restaurant, where Sharkey serves a free Serbian Christmas feast to all comers every January 7. The tables are inlaid with coins, photos, and casino chips. Next door, more than 75 paintings of Indian chiefs and warriors by Sparks artist K.F. Young hang in the Rib Room.

Sharkey says he never worries about the theft of valuable antiques, although a few have disappeared. Mostly, the collectibles remain where they were nailed to the walls over the years.

People return to his casino, according to Sharkey, because they can't see all the memorabilia on one visit, or they bring back a friend to see a certain collection. Although the casino's charm is partly due to its country-western atmosphere and famous prime-rib dinners, the proprietor still puts his bet on the treasures that delight the eyes.

"For the first 17 years before the Carson Valley Inn came to town, I spent a lot of money on entertainment," Sharkey says. "But when the entertainer's gone, he's forgotten. If you buy an antique to hang on the wall, it's there forever."

Treva Lind is a freelance writer based in Gardnerville who, after 12 years of visiting Sharkey's Nugget, has yet to see it all. Jay Aldrich is a Minden photographer and longtime Sharkey's habitué.



Sharkey's collections include images of Will Rogers and Buffalo Bill (above left), the saddles of rodeo star Casey Tibbs and other celebrities (above), and portraits of rodeo life near the bar (below).



The New, New Wave

(Continued from page 15)

Blues, a live-music and restaurant chain, will open with a 2,000-seat theater and a 600-seat restaurant next to the casino. Perhaps most exciting of all, the Bay's wave pool will have six-foot swells—the roughest waters on the Strip.

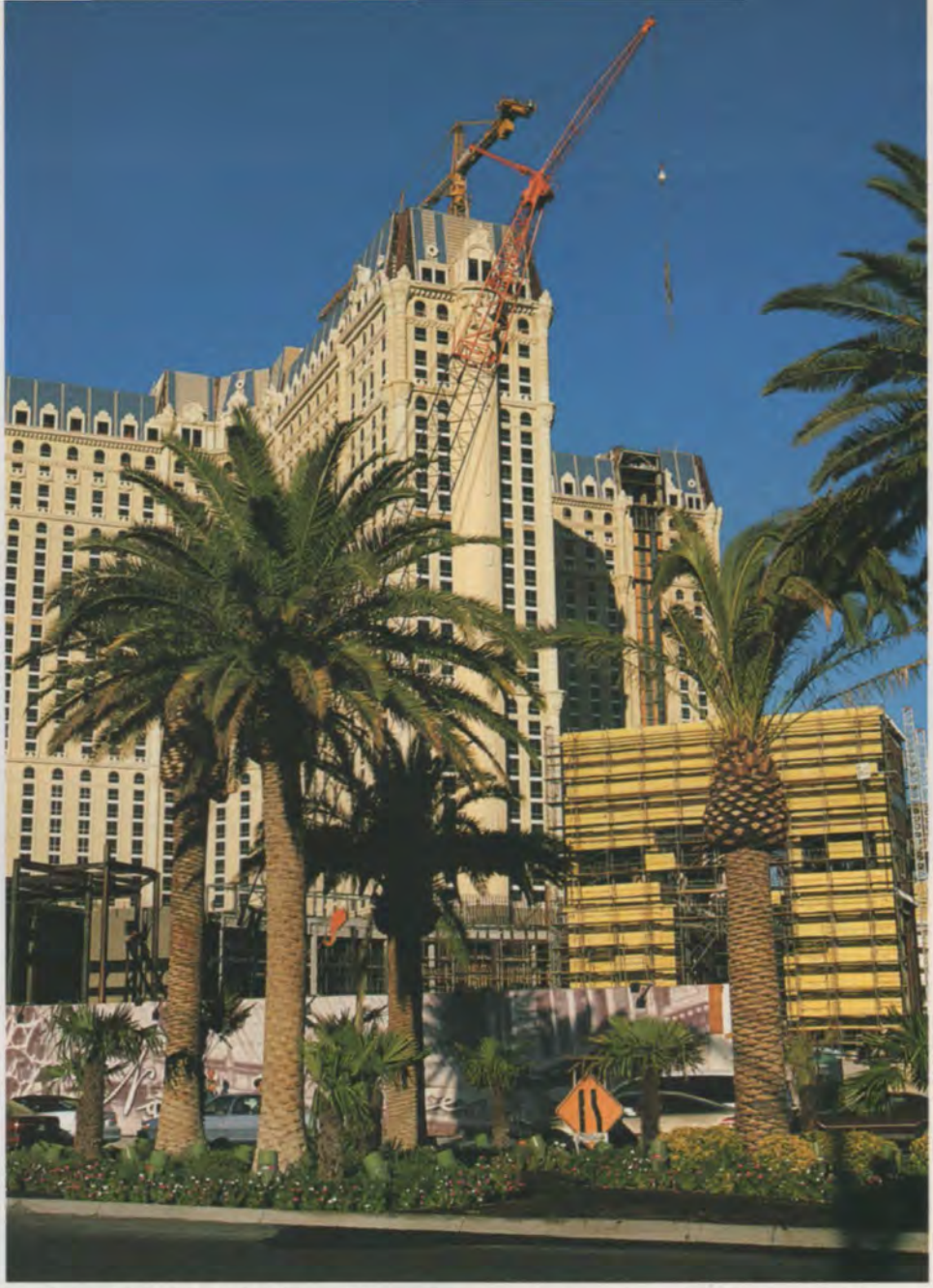
After Mandalay Bay has its 15 minutes (or seven weeks, more accurately) of fame, the next megaresort will make its debut. Scheduled to open on April 23 is the Venetian, for which the Sands was imploded. This $1.2-billion casino-convention-entertainment-shopping-resort complex will recreate Italy's most romantic city—canals and all.

The centerpiece of the Grand Canal Shoppes, a 90-store mall, will be a 1,200-foot-long reproduction of Venice's Grand Canal, known as the Canalazzo, which shoppers and visitors can ply on gondolas operated by serenading gondoliers. A branch of Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum will display 100 "wax-portrait" figures, many with strong links to Las Vegas, such as Tom Jones, Frank Sinatra, and, it's rumored, Deke Castleman. Most of the entertainment will be provided by Billboard Live, a four-level dining-performance venue with seating for 1,400.

The Venetian will be connected directly to the sprawling Sands Convention Center.



A construction worker takes a break at Bally's.



Located next to Bally's, Paris will unveil its own Louvre, Arc de Triomphe, and Eiffel Tower this fall.

The hotel will comfortably accommodate conventioneers in 700-square-foot business suites—3,000 of them. For a sunken living room, three telephones (one next to the toilet), two 27-inch televisions, and a fax machine in a pear tree, you'll pay a mere $200 or more a night

That's high, but the Eiffel Tower down the Strip is higher—50 stories to be exact. The half-scale replica will be the centerpiece of Paris, a 2,914-room joint going up next to Bally's that is scheduled to open this fall. Guests will find a French restaurant at the 17th-story level, and a glass elevator will take them up to an observation deck that towers 540 feet above center Strip. Inside, Paris will claim the largest ballroom in town, modeled after the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles. Le Brasserie will feature the only outdoor restaurant seating on the Strip.

When Paris opens this fall, Las Vegas will boast 19 of the 20 largest hotels in the world. When the 2,600-room Aladdin opens in April 2000, Las Vegas will have 20 out of the lucky 21. The Aladdin's preview center reveals a few details of the Arabian Nights-themed main resort as well as the colossal Desert Passage shopping mall. The Desert Passage's main attraction will be a 250-foot-long moored clipper ship, complete with water, entertainment, and a restaurant on the top deck overlooking the mall. A 1,000-room music-themed mini-resort, tentatively called Aladdin Music Center, could set a new standard for high-tech glitz and new-wave hipness.

Off the Strip, the 253-room Regent Grand Palms and its 287-room sister hotel, the Regent Grand Spa, will open in April in the northwest Las Vegas master-planned community of Summerlin. The two ultra-

Photos: Richard Cummins (top), Carolyn Fox (bottom)



The MGM Grand is planning upscale retreats. With 5,005 rooms, the MGM remains Vegas' biggest hotel.

upscale hotels, charging upwards of $250 a night, will share a casino, panoramic views of Red Rock Canyon and Las Vegas Valley, tee times at the Tournament Players Club (TPC) at the Canyons Golf Course, and an elaborate 11-acre pool-and-garden complex with more than 3,000 trees.

In early 2000, Hyatt Hotels will open Monte Lago, a 500-room Mediterranean-themed luxury hotel-casino, at Lake Las Vegas, the sprawling master-planned community situated on a 320-acre manmade lake in Henderson. Monte Lago is one of up to six hotels planned for LLV. It will feature a small casino, spa and fitness center, and an 18-hole golf course designed by Jack Nicklaus (two of the development's eventual five courses are already open).

The MGM Grand is opening a separate super-high-roller lodging called the Mansion, with 30 posh villas, garden atrium, and indoor and outdoor swimming pools. Over on Paradise Road, the Hard Rock Hotel plans to debut its new guest tower, expanded beach club, spa, restaurants, and nightclub this spring.

On the drawing board is Phase II of the Venetian, including another 3,000-room tower, huge casino, and convention center expansion. A 2,500-room Harveys Las Vegas is planned behind the Aladdin, and a 700-room Playboy Hotel-Casino next to that. A 2,000-room joint across from the Rio is planned by the owners of the Fiesta.

Meanwhile, the Rio, Caesars Palace, Luxor, Harrah's, Circus Circus, and the Desert Inn have added rooms.

Other projects include the Caribbean, a long-stalled 3,000-room hotel-casino a block east of Bally's; a 320-suite Bugsy's Casino across from the MGM Grand; and a renovated and upgraded Moulin Rouge on the Westside.

Meanwhile, let's not forget the recent past. In the last year or so, the Rio added a 1,000-room tower, Caesars Palace added a 1,000-room tower, Luxor added 1,500 rooms, Harrah's added a 700-room tower, Circus Circus added a 1,000-room tower, and the Desert Inn added two new buildings with suites and villas plus a whole new facade.

So there you have it. This latest wave of hotel building is so big that it can't even be contained by an entire millennium. Its ripples will be seen and felt (and copied) into the next thousand years.

Deke Castleman is managing editor of the Las Vegas Advisor *and author of the guidebooks* Nevada Handbook *and* Las Vegas.

New Wave Vacations

As the new high-end hotels further transform the Las Vegas Strip, you can reserve rooms in advance. Several have preview centers and scale models for inspection.

Bellagio **Opened:** October 1998. **Parent Corp.:** Mirage Resorts. **Imploded Predecessor:** Dunes Hotel. **Landmark:** Lake, five pools. **Restaurants:** Le Cirque, Picasso. **Entertainment:** Cirque du Soleil's "O." **Shopping:** Promenade. **Rooms and Suites:** 3,000. **Rates:** $159 to $1,400. **Reservations:** 888-98-ROOMS.

Mandalay Bay **Opening:** March 1. **Parent Corp.:** Circus Circus. **Imploded Predecessor:** Hacienda Hotel. **Landmark:** Sand-and-surf beach. **Restaurants:** Aureole, Border Grill. **Entertainment:** House of Blues. **Rooms and Suites:** 3,700, including 400 in Four Seasons. **Rates:** $100 to $400. **Reservations:** 877-632-7000.

Venetian **Opening:** April 21. **Parent Corp.:** Las Vegas Sands Inc. **Imploded Predecessor:** Sands Hotel. **Landmark:** Gondolas and Grand Canal. **Restaurants:** Postrio, Delmonico. **Entertainment:** Billboard Live. **Shopping:** Grand Canal Shoppes. **Suites:** 3,036. **Rates:** $159 to $399. **Reservations:** 800-494-3556. **Preview Center:** Open for inspection.

Regent Grand Spa and Regent Grand Palms, Resort at Summerlin **Opening:** Spring. **Parent Corp.:** Seven Circle Resorts. **Recreation:** Golf, spa. **Rooms and Suites:** Regent Grand Spa 287, Regent Grand Palms 253. **Reservations:** 877-869-8777.

Paris **Opening:** Fall. **Parent Corp.:** Hilton Hotels. **Imploded Predecessor:** None. **Landmark:** Arc de Triomphe. **Restaurants:** Eiffel Tower Restaurant. **Entertainment:** Parisian theater. **Shopping:** Rue de la Paix district. **Rooms and Suites:** 2,916. **Rates:** Not available. **Reservations:** 888-BON-JOUR. **Scale Model:** Inside Bally's.



Picasso diners can drink in Picasso art at Bellagio.

Aladdin **Opening:** April 2000. **Parent Corp.:** Aladdin. **Imploded Predecessor:** Aladdin. **Entertainment:** Aladdin Music Center. **Shopping:** Desert Passage mall. **Preview Center:** Near site.

Photos: Carolyn Fox (top), Bellagio (bottom)

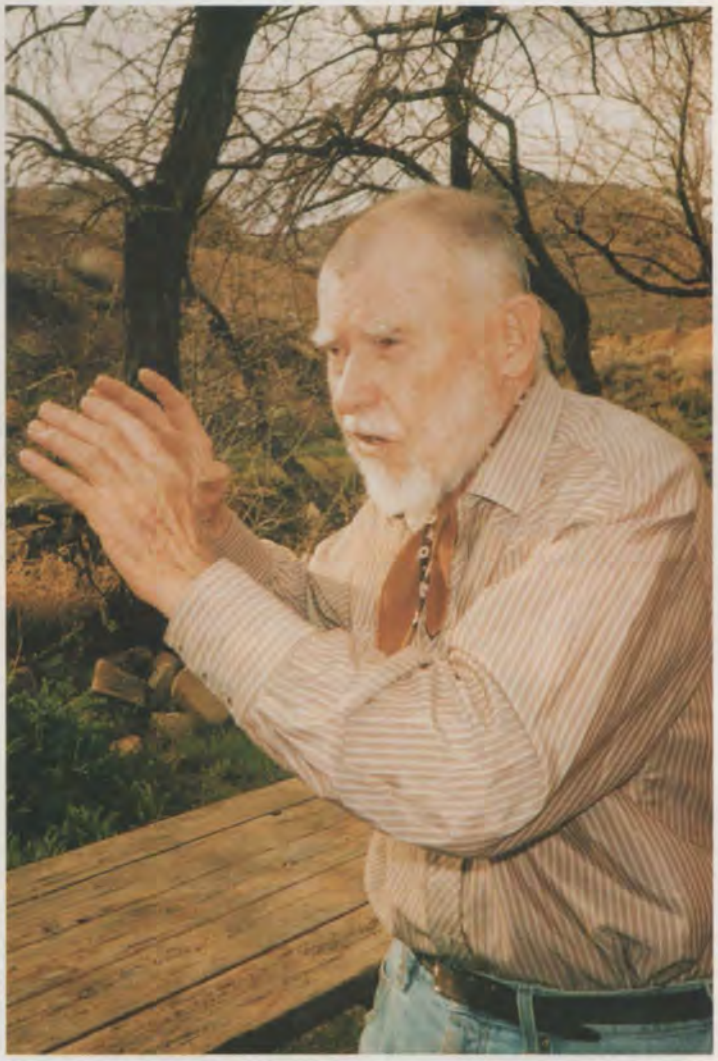


"Tom, Huck, and the Dead Cat," 48" tall: "I painted this oil in 1939 for the WPA and the Reno library. Now it belongs to the Smithsonian."

'This Is My Studio'

Richard Guy Walton reflects on painting, photography, and a Virginia City artist's perspective.

By Mary Beth Hepp-Elam



Richard Guy Walton: The expressive artist at his Virginia City home.

In 1929, Richard Guy Walton came to Nevada by train with his mother, who had moved from California to Reno to get a divorce. "I came here when I was just 14 and never wanted to live anywhere else," the 84-year-old artist recalls. "I came into Verdi and looking out the window saw the trees there coming down the mountains, the way the light was. I knew I was going to stay."

Walton attended Northside Junior High and Reno High School. After that, he studied art.

"I wasn't happy at the art school I was going to in San Francisco, so I would go to the art museum at the Palace of the Legion of Honor, where they had a collection of [American sculptor Arthur] Putnam's and Rodin's works," Walton says. He quit the San Francisco art school. When he was 20 and living in Las Vegas, Walton met the well-known painter James Swinnerton, who encouraged Walton to continue painting and to study at the Chouinard Art Institute in Los Angeles.

At age 25, Walton painted a series on Tom Sawyer that was commissioned by the Washoe County Library in downtown Reno through the Works Progress Administration. Years later, Walton discovered the paintings stored in the basement of the library. Some were damaged beyond repair, but he managed to save two. Those works, "Aunt Polly's Sid" and "Tom, Huck, and the Dead Cat," had been influenced by Walton's many visits to Virginia City and by Mark Twain's books. Following their rescue, the paintings found a new home in the National Museum of American Art at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

In 1981 Walton traveled to Washington to see the paintings, which had been shown in a long-running Bicentennial show. When he couldn't find them, he introduced himself to the gallery receptionist and discovered he had missed the show by a year.

"She looked as if she'd seen a ghost when she realized who I was," Walton says. "She told me she thought I had died years ago. You see, I painted those in 1939."

Walton has lived in Virginia City since 1958. He and his wife, Vivian, make their home in a metal, 20-by-60-foot Butler Building that was once used as a Navy hospital in Oakland. Walton bought the building in 10-foot sections after World War II. He says, "I put it together myself—like a great big Tinkertoy."

A visitor to the Walton homestead, which includes a horse barn, corrals, and outbuildings, will note that everything has its place. The house's interior is simple and utilitarian. There's a red wooden floor below rafters that frame silver-colored insulation. The front room consists of two metal director's chairs and a coffee table. The chairs face a permanent easel where the painter can mount his current work or finished pieces. Propped against the west and east walls are rows and rows of paintings meticulously ordered according to theme.

Standing in his yard, Walton declares, "This is my studio. Who would want to paint anywhere else?" A sweep of his arm takes in Six-Mile Canyon, Sugar Loaf Mountain, and Sun Mountain.

When he speaks about art, science, and Nevada, his eyes narrow and his hands go to his hips. He's dynamic and intense. It's hard to get a word in when he's talking. "I know I get going on my tangents," Walton says, "but you go right ahead and stop me if you need to ask a question."

Back in the house, he takes out a black-and-white photograph

Photo: Gary Elam

he took in the 1970s. It shows Virginia City looking down from Ophir Hill. The hills undulate, and the old mining camp is bathed in angelic light. His finger taps the center of the photograph. "This is a good place to think things through—I loathe big cities," Walton says. He loathes them enough to have turned down invitations by New York artists and galleries to move there.

His style has evolved from realism in the '30s to symbolism today. "I use symbols to represent invisible, intangible, or abstract things," he says. "I am an internal artist, chiefly concerned with space." He explains that a viewer of one of his paintings should look not only at the tangible symbol but also at how the painted space and light surround and actually create the object.

Walton has shown his works from coast to coast. Museum and gallery curators describe him as a "rugged individualist," someone possessing "Nevada Spirit," a rare artist "who is forever reinventing his art." They call his work "fresh," "creative," and "vast." University of Nevada, Reno History Professor Emeritus James Hulse describes Walton in the catalog introduction for a 1982 exhibit in Las Vegas: "We confront in this show the works of one who is possibly Nevada's most tenacious, most durable, and most cosmopolitan painter."

He has produced two murals for federal buildings. The first, painted in 1941, was installed in the Buhl, Idaho, post office. The Boise Art Museum included the mural in a 1990 book on Idaho art.

Walton often turns to Nevada subjects. In the 1950s he exhibited a series of oils presenting his interpretation of Yucca Flats and the effect of atomic testing on Nevada's people and culture. During his research he received a rare tour of Ground Zero on the Test Site.

In 1966 Walton completed a mural for the federal building on Booth Street in Reno. The mural depicts the mountain bluebird, wild horses, and Nevada Indian spirit. During the '60s he created studies on "Letterism," a response to the free-speech movement and alternative newspapers, in which he painted intricate letters juxtaposed without spelling a word. "That's harder than you would think," he says.

As his art further evolved in the 1970s, Walton painted "Oceania," a series on underwater vision and the tropics. To view "Oceania" is like plunging into a turquoise ocean and seeing nothing but water—Walton captures the detail of water that most people don't notice.

He took two years off from painting in the '70s in order to photograph Virginia City. According to Walton, tourism was changing the town, and he wanted to capture Virginia City before it changed forever. The resulting black-and-white photos have appeared in national publications and architectural books and in a 1994 exhibition at Reno's Nevada Museum of Art.

Today Walton is writing a collection of essays about this era as he sees it. The topics range from White House scandals to his personal evaluations of the space-time continuum.

"It's the 20th century in a nutshell," Walton says. "I've got to finish this thing so I can get back to painting."



"Lest We Forget," 42″x33½″. "I started painting this oil in 1945 immediately after Hitler killed himself," Walton says. "It's my summation of Nazism."

Mary Beth Hepp-Elam is a Virginia City writer. She is editor of Mining the Treasures, *a book about contemporary Comstock artists.*



"Egg I," 26"x16"· "An important painting in symbolism. I didn't realize I was a symbolist. I was just a painter trying to paint my way out of chaos."

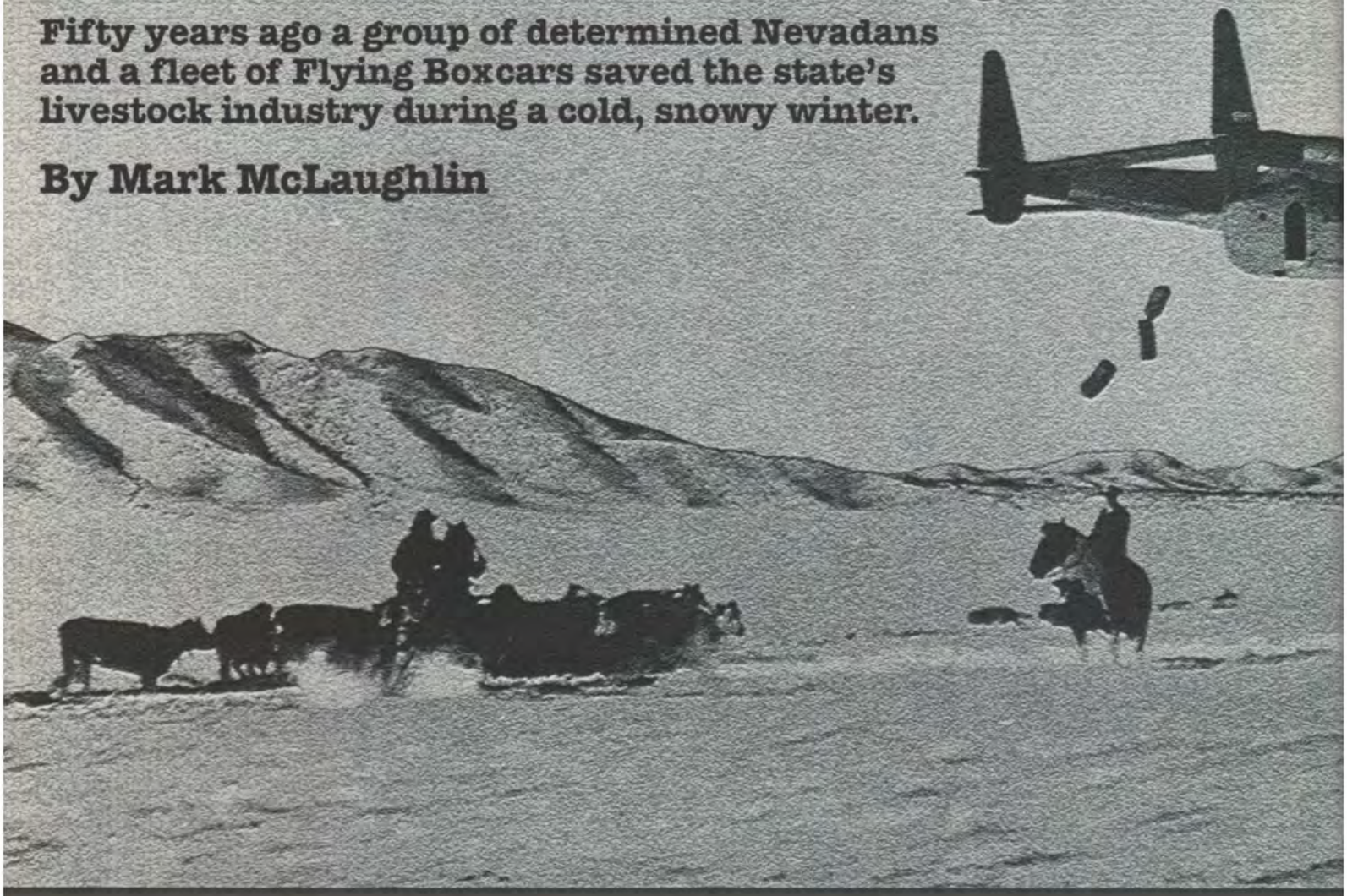


"Virginia City I," 13½"x9"· "It's my best known photo, one of over 3,000 I took of Virginia City in 1974. This is why I didn't move to New York."

Operation Haylift

Fifty years ago a group of determined Nevadans and a fleet of Flying Boxcars saved the state's livestock industry during a cold, snowy winter.

By Mark McLaughlin



Operation Haylift's C-82 Flying Boxcars dropped hay to cattle trapped by the snow and extreme cold.

Few Nevada winters have been as brutal as that of 1948-49, when towering snowdrifts and record cold waves shut down the state's major highways and isolated many rural communities. The elements nearly decimated Nevada's livestock industry as cattle and sheep became helplessly snowbound. Twentieth-century Nevadans had never seen anything like it.

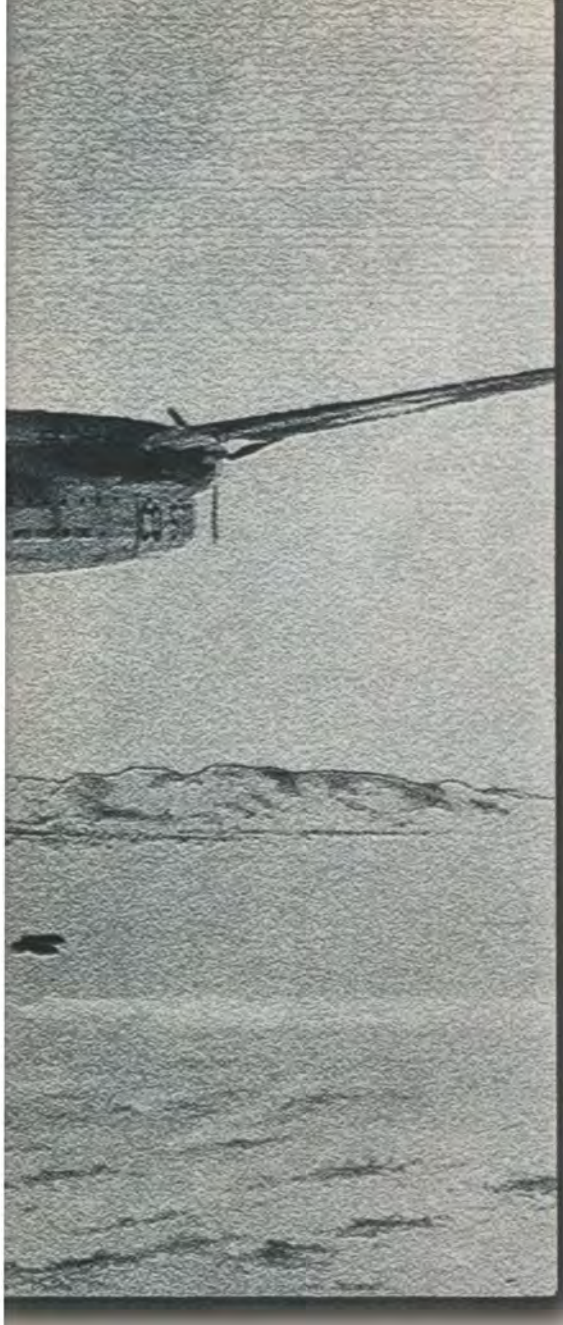
Weather conditions were so severe that a small group of ranchers in hard-hit Eastern Nevada devised an unusual plan to reach their starving cattle. The ranchers and officials were inspired by the besieged citizens of West Berlin, who were receiving shipments of food and fuel airdropped by U.S. military planes in the Berlin Airlift. The Nevadans organized "Operation Haylift," a massive relief effort using C-82 cargo airplanes, known as Flying Boxcars, to save the starving animals. Operation Haylift was a collaboration on a grand scale, involving brave men and women of the armed forces and National Guard as well as civilians from Nevada and California who came to the rescue like a modern cavalry.

The ranchers in trouble were mostly in Eastern and Southeastern Nevada, an area half as large as Ohio.

The drama began when Old Man Winter broadsided the Silver State on December 2, 1948. A vigorous storm system dumped nearly a foot of snow in some places and spawned winds in excess of 70 mph. More storms followed. The relentless snowfall forced some residents in the northern and central parts of the state to build tunnels through 10-foot drifts. Blocked roadways thwarted grocery deliveries. Gasoline was doled out on an emergency basis.

Soon cattle country near Elko and Ely was smothered by two feet of snow. More than 40 inches of the white stuff buried Jarbidge. Between storms, the snow cover and clear skies allowed daytime heat to

Photo: Eastern Nevada Historic Photo Archives



radiate back into the atmosphere, causing nighttime temperatures to plummet. On Christmas Eve the mercury slid to eight below zero in Elko and to 17 below in Ely. Las Vegas residents and tourists had been spared the worst of the snow but still shivered when the airport thermometer nosedived to 17 degrees.

Elko Daily Free Press Editor Chris Sheerin wrote, "When you walk outdoors, your nostrils freeze inside and the snow underfoot has a crunching sound it gets only in below zero weather. People stayed home last night and kept close to their stoves. They didn't go to the movies or to parties as they usually do."

Western Nevadans also felt nature's chill. Pipes froze and broke in dozens of Carson City homes. In Reno the deepening frost buckled city streets. When the bitter cold froze Virginia City's water mains, several sections of town were cut off for weeks.

Despite the severe cold, some ranchers were optimistic. The previous year had been one of the driest in Nevada history, and the early snowpack held promise for abundant water in the spring. Elko County ranchers reported ample hay supplies, but in Nye County feed was reported poor, and most watering holes around Eureka were frozen solid.

Worst off was the Ely area, where half a foot of snow blanketed the land. Cattle and sheep were in poor condition, and hay supplies were running dangerously low. In Eastern Nevada four- to eight-foot drifts marooned towns, cattle ranches, sheep camps, and mines. Automobile travel beyond the Ely area was risky even on the main highways.

Most of the ranchers in trouble were in Eastern and Southeastern Nevada, encompassing an area half as large as Ohio. Comparatively mild winters in the previous decade had led some to risk grazing their animals on the open range instead of rounding them up into home-ranch corrals for the winter. Centered around Ely and Pioche, these stock operators were caught with their herds and flocks in the hills and open range.

While Nevadans had starving cattle in mind, the rest of the world was watching U.S. military planes fly supplies to the citizens of West Berlin. On April 1, 1948, the Soviet Union had begun a land blockade of Berlin's Allied Sector. During the next 17 months, Britain and the U.S. airlifted 2,343,315 tons of food and coal into the besieged city—and broke the blockade. Nevada ranchers wondered if a similar airlift could help them, too.

George Swallow, an Ely rancher and spokesman for the United Stockmen's Association of Eastern Nevada, pounced on the idea. "Either the stock will have to be shipped out, or feed is going to have to be shipped in—quick," he told the *Reno Evening Gazette*. "The stock out here simply can't last much longer under present conditions." Fortunately, a delegation of Nevada officials happened to be visiting Washington for Harry Truman's inauguration. Governor Vail Pittman and U.S. Senator Patrick McCarran were able to alert the president and Congress regarding the ranchers' desperate situation. Almost overnight, county, state, and federal agencies joined forces to open highways, distribute feed, and haul water.

Swallow, now 88 and still living in Ely, recalls receiving a telephone call from McCarran at the Hotel Nevada in Ely. President Truman had declared the region a disaster area and authorized an emergency $50,000 grant, McCarran said. Swallow recalls, "He asked, 'What kind of help and equipment do you need?' I said, 'We need an airlift of C-82 cargo planes.'" Thirty minutes later, Swallow received another call from Washington. This time it was Air Force Lieutenant General Lauris Norstad. He asked about the plan of operations. Swallow had no plan but "off the top of my head" outlined and detailed the logistics needed to accomplish the task. Swallow says, "After I got off the phone, I bowed my head in prayer, saying, 'I hope to God it works.'"

Ranchers grew anxious as more and more livestock died. Lincoln County

"Either the stock will have to be shipped out, or feed is going to have to be shipped in—quick."

Sheriff Jack Fogliani reported finding 20 cattle near Pioche "huddled together in a small draw—all dead on their feet. We are losing some of our snow here but we still have 28 inches on the ground."

In an interview with the United Press, Elko rancher Arthur Carter said, "Snow is so deep the cattle can't move around any more, and I guess the sheep are really snowed under. I've been out with the cowboys every day for a week now trying to take feed to the cattle and to bring them in, but the wind blows so hard that the trails you open blow shut right behind you. Sheep just stand around in bunches and smother under the snow. They won't do anything to save themselves, and you almost have to force them to eat when they're like this. The cattle are a little smarter. They'll eat the hay and the grain if they can get to it."

Senator McCarran secured 16 C-82 Flying Boxcars from the Air Force base at McChord Field near Tacoma, Washington, and began the emergency airlift. The goal was to save an estimated 35,000 head of cattle and 100,000 sheep marooned in White Pine, Nye, and Lincoln counties. Ranchers had tried to move the animals to neighboring states for grazing, but California was already overstocked with 60,000 head of transplanted cattle, and heavy snowstorms in Arizona and New

Mexico blocked grazing lands there.

Operation Haylift officials decided that hundreds of tons of hay and other feed would be loaded on the giant transport planes in Fallon and Minden and flown to operation headquarters in Ely. From there, the supplies would be trucked into the snowbound sections of the Silver State. News reporters from around the country descended on Ely, and the town's bars, restaurants, hotels, and two houses of prostitution did a gangbuster business.

On January 24, six of the Flying Boxcars landed at the Ely airport, followed by 22 more planes over the next two days. Anxious ranchers scrambled to unload the planes.

Initially ranchers attempted to get their herds as close as possible to the main roads, which highway crews had hoped to clear with large tractors and bulldozers. But many of the cattle and sheep were stuck in isolated canyons, and gusting north winds drifted the snow over the roads as fast as the snowplows could clear them. With so many roads closed and time running out, another approach was needed—an airdrop delivery directly to the stranded herds.

Day after day pilots flew routes from McClellan Airfield outside Sacramento to Minden to pick up the hay and then off to Eastern Nevada to make their deliveries.

Recalling the Rescue



Operation Haylift focused on the plight of Nevada's ranchers, but the weather, as well as the dramatic rescue, had other effects on folks throughout the state during the winter of 1948-49.

• In Boulder City, residents didn't mind the gray skies. Just before Christmas, nearly 1,000 of the town's 5,000 residents elbowed their way into Gil Telford and Harry Rayner's saloon, which promised free beer if there was ever a day without sunshine in the arid town near Hoover Dam. As the bartenders poured frothing pitchers of cold beer, Telford and Rayner cheerfully declared that it was the first time in two years that clouds had blocked the sunshine over their saloon.

• Ely rancher George Swallow, 88, recalls how the harsh weather left many Eastern Nevada residents without access to roads and other services. One day Swallow received an emergency call to his office at the Nevada Hotel in Ely—there were two pregnant women in Eureka who needed medical attention. Massive snowdrifts had shut down highways, and no doctors were available.

The only way to reach the women was by airplane, but all the Flying Boxcars in Ely were delivering hay to starving cattle and no accessible landing strip was open in Eureka. So Swallow called the Nevada Highway Department and requested that they bulldoze a stretch of U.S. 50 near Eureka for a makeshift runway. Swallow, a licensed pilot, borrowed a high-wing plane and met a doctor and a nurse at the Ely airport. By the time they reached Eureka, 77 miles away, the highway department had both lanes cleared, and the trio landed.

Another cold front was barreling into the state. Swallow warned the doctor that since there were no lights on their temporary runway, they needed to depart before dark. But after the medical team examined the two pregnant women, more patients lined up, and it was pitch-black by the time the doctor and nurse returned to the plane. Still, Swallow was determined to return to Ely, where he was helping to direct the airlift. He found the sheriff and a deputy and asked them to position their cars behind each wing of the plane and turn on the high beams. Swallow took a deep breath, revved the engine, and taxied down Highway 50. As the plane gained speed, the sheriff and deputy gunned their patrol cars just behind the aircraft, effectively lighting the way. The plane took off and flew safely into the night.

• Swallow's and other rescuers' roles in Operation Haylift were immortalized in the movie *Operation Haylift* (1950). The East Ely Railroad Depot Museum will show *Operation Haylift* on March 5-7 The movie was shot near Ely and stars character actor Joe Sawyer (*How the West Was Won* and TV's *Rin Tin Tin*), who produced and co-wrote the movie and played the role of Swallow.—**Mark McLaughlin**

Eureka (above) was one of many towns plagued by the cold and snow, which at first immobilized residents as well as relief efforts.

Photo: Nevada Department of Transportation





The dramatic story of Operation Haylift premiered on the silver screen in 1950 (above). George Swallow (far right) helped coordinate Operation Haylift with military officers at Ely headquarters.

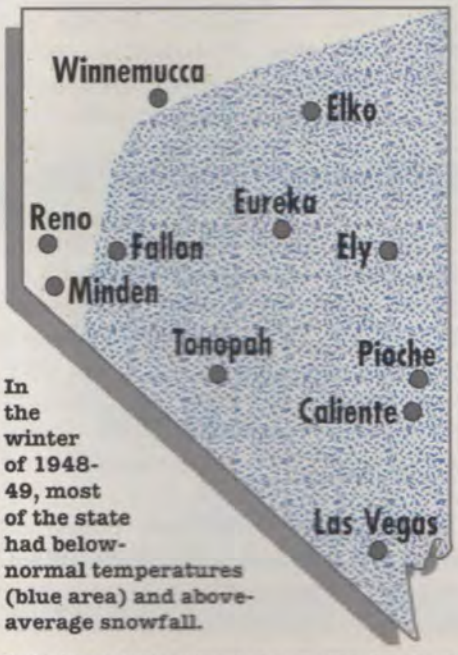
The skies around Ely and Elko droned with low-cruising transport planes. Pilots often flew their aircraft as far as 200 miles from Ely before spotting the marooned cattle or sheep. During most runs a local rancher familiar with the area to be "bombed" rode alongside the navigators. Up to three "pushers," each secured by a harness, were stationed near an open door at the tail of the plane. The pilot guided his Flying Boxcar over the target at 200 feet and then slowed to 130 to 140 mph. When the navigator signaled "drop!" the pushers shoved the bales out the door. The payload usually hit within 50 to 75 feet of the stranded livestock. Most of the bales burst upon impact, and the cattle often were eating by the time the plane made a second pass.

The system worked well—except for a few mishaps. An air delivery in Spring Valley, north of Pioche, went awry when a bale crashed through the roof of a rancher's wash house, demolishing a new electric clothes washer.

Animals were accidental targets, too. A Flying Boxcar was sent to help sheepherder Tony Perez, who was isolated with his flock east of Eureka on Pancake Flats. Perez had been fighting the snow for weeks, and his sheep were starving. As the pilot descended to 500 feet over Perez's flock, the pusher shoved several bales of hay overboard. The compact bales, each weighing one hundred pounds, rocketed to the ground.

Unfortunately, one of Perez's burros happened to be standing directly under the lethal bomb of dried feed. His burro, which for several years had patiently packed equipment for the sheepherder, never knew what hit him, and the animal died instantly. Then the deadly bale bounced another 12 feet, mortally wounding Perez's other burro. After witnessing two mules killed with one bale of hay, a stunned observer remarked, "That's one for Ripley."

Airport personnel, ranchers, and ranch hands as well as state transportation, Air Force, and Army officials worked together as the rescue effort kicked into high gear. Other emergency activities were per-



In the winter of 1948-49, most of the state had below-normal temperatures (blue area) and above-average snowfall.

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formed by members of the Nevada and California National Guard units and also by the Army's ground-transportation support units. These truckers, many of whom were African-American, hauled hay to all parts of Central and Eastern Nevada. As Operation Haylift's effectiveness became evident, the Senate Interior Affairs Committee passed an emergency fund of $750,000 to help rescue snowbound livestock in Utah, Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Montana.

In Ely, the rescue was a community effort. While loading hay in the bitter cold, one Ely townsman told a journalist, "Well, you can't just let those animals die without trying to do something about it." The Ely National Bank funded the hay deliveries for ranchers, whether or not they could pay. Gordon Lathrop, vice president of the bank, told the press, "The ranchers will pay us back when they can—if not this year, perhaps next year. I know them all." Ely automobile dealer George Hawes hired a pilot to fly him over some of his customers' remote homes in case they needed help. On the way he discovered many residents were struggling in isolation. Restocking the plane, he dropped emergency supplies to as many as 30 families and sheep camps. "It's costing about $50 a day," Hawes said, "but it's darn well worth it."

As February began, Nevadans hoping for a break in the crippling cold wave were doomed to disappointment. On February 5 and 6, the biggest storm of the winter slammed into the Sierra and spilled into the Silver State. The 57 inches of snow that smothered Donner Pass closed U.S. 40 (now Interstate 80) for nearly a day. Reno received only one inch of snow, but 70-mph winds created brutal blizzard conditions. During the next two days, virtually every road in Northern Nevada was blocked by drifts. All haylift operations were suspended because of impossible flying conditions. In Ely, George Swallow told the papers, "The situation is desperate. Right now, we're in the worst condition we've been in since the emergency began."

A week later, another storm swept eastward across the state. Elko's snowpack averaged two feet, with drifts up to 20 feet high. The storm trapped the east-bound *City of San Francisco* streamliner in deep drifts three miles west of Wells. Passengers on the luxury train were forced to wait for a Southern Pacific rotary snowplow to clear the tracks.

Operation Haylift finally ended on February 17, when winds shifted to the west and brought mild maritime air from the Pacific. Daytime temperatures soared

The epic winter of 1948-49 is still the coldest ever recorded in the Silver State.

into the 60s. When highway crews broke into the Starr Valley area, east of Elko, it was the first time the road had been passable in three weeks.

During 25 days the pilots and crewmen of the Flying Boxcars had flown 270,000 miles and dropped 2,000 tons of baled hay in their efforts to save Nevada's livestock. Fortunately, not one accident occurred to any pilot, crew member, or plane.

The epic winter of 1948-49 is still the coldest ever recorded in the Silver State. Snowfall was almost double normal.

Ely ranchers estimated that 300,000 head of livestock, mostly sheep, had been fed from the air. In late April, stockmen confirmed that 35 percent of the cattle and 25 percent of the sheep in Eastern Nevada had succumbed to the deadly weather. Roughly 25,000 cattle were thought dead along with 7,000 sheep. The loss was substantial, but there was no doubt among Nevada ranchers that Operation Haylift had prevented economic disaster.



While livestock languished in the freezing Nevada outback, African-American troops arrived in Ely and drove Army trucks loaded with hay to area ranchers.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Operation Haylift, and folks in Ely are honoring the dramatic effort with an exhibit of photographs at the White Pine County Library in March. There also will be a film tribute. The airlift was portrayed in a 1950s movie entitled *Operation Haylift*, starring Bill Williams and Ann Rutherford. The movie will be shown March 5-7 at the East Ely Railroad Depot Museum and will serve as a reminder of how teamwork—and the Flying Boxcars—saved the day.

Mark McLaughlin of Carnelian Bay, California, is the author of Sierra Stories: True Tales of Tahoe (Volumes I and II) *and writes frequently about Nevada and California weather history for several magazines and newspapers.*



Photo: Nevada Department of Transportation

Dog Days at Tahoe

This winter, skiers will find more wagging tails on Tahoe trails.

By Sharon Carter



From left, Gene Trivett, Kris Kozar, and Ashley Perry get the fur flying on the Sherwood Forest Trail at Diamond Peak with Kayla, Merlin, and Sasha.

Cross-country skiers at Lake Tahoe no longer have any excuses for not walking their dogs this winter. Dog owners now can go skiing with their pets at two Sierra cross-country ski areas, Diamond Peak in Incline Village and Royal Gorge near Truckee. The Danes call it *skijoring*—a Nordic sport that combines cross-country skiing and walking your dog.

This is the second winter that Debbie McMaster of Truckee has taken her dog, Tundra, on the thin-ski trails at Diamond Peak in Incline Village. "For someone who loves dogs and likes to ski, it's a great sport," McMaster says. "It's also something you can do by yourself. Lots of times my husband is doing other things. If you have your dog with you, you have a companion, and it feels safer on lonely back trails."

Dog skiing used to be limited to dog-sled mushers, who often would train a young dog by harnessing themselves to the pup. While some skiers take their dogs along to run free, others like to harness themselves to the dog like true *skijorers* and teach it to pull while they ski. But don't think the dog is doing all the work.

"I'm working as hard as my dog is, just to keep up with her. We get going pretty fast—the wind rushes by," says McMaster, who enjoys both techniques. She uses skate skis, which are short, fast skis that allow you to skate on the packed trails. "Skate skis are what make it feasible. They are more maneuverable. And when you both start going and get into a rhythm, it's incredible. You're at one with your dog."

McMaster says Tundra, a two-year-old husky mix, is beginning to recognize when she can tow her master and when she should heel. "She gets excited when we get the harness out—she can hardly contain herself," McMaster says.

Diamond Peak Cross-Country Manager Kris Kozar, who started the resort's dog-pass program last year, says the idea grew out of her own desire to take her dog, Spooner, on back-country trails.

"We had a special Ski With Your Dog Day during the 1996 Snowfest and donated part of the ticket proceeds to the Pet Network of North Lake Tahoe," Kozar says. "People loved it. Last year we allowed dogs in the late afternoons and all day Tuesdays and Sundays. This year we're extending the afternoon hours. To avoid potential user conflict on the trails, we still keep five mornings a week for serious skiers who don't want to deal with dogs."

This year, dogs are allowed on Diamond Peak trails after 12:30 p.m. daily and all day Tuesday and Thursday. Diamond Peak still donates part of its dog-pass earnings to the Pet Network.

"People have wondered if allowing dogs hurts the groomed tracks," Kozar says. "The dogs actually do less damage than people because they're generally much lighter." She adds that the resort has had no dog-related problems but cautions owners to keep pets on leashes in parking lots and at the lodge. "Dogs should be well-socialized and under their owners' positive control while they are here—on the trails

Photo: Chris Talbot



Debbie McMaster and Tundra compete in *skijor* races between their cross-country jaunts.

and off." Leashes are not required on the trails.

Kozar found her lab-border-collie cross abandoned at Spooner Summit about 10 years ago. She says Spooner loves to *skijor*.

"Spooner is mature enough that she doesn't chase every squirrel that runs across the trail in front of us anymore, but she still loves a good 10- or 15-K *skijor* outing three or four times a week," Kozar says. "It's refreshing and renewing for both of us."

Sharon Carter is a Carson Valley writer who likes to cross-country ski with her dogs Rowdy, Missy, and Sebastian.

Paws for Skiing

Cross-country skiers can buy a dog pass at Diamond Peak for $3, which includes a "pooper scooper" that dog owners are required to use. A dog pass at Royal Gorge is $5. Sundays are dog days at Royal Gorge, where canines are allowed on the Van Norden trails only. Dogs are not allowed at most ski areas that use U.S. Forest Service-administered public lands. The only exceptions are areas that allow snowmobiles.

At the Snowfest winter carnival during the first week in March, Diamond Peak will sponsor a Master-Dog Fun Race for *skijorers*. For more information about dog days call Diamond Peak, 775-742-7957 or 775-831-3211, or Royal Gorge, 530-426-3871. Additional information about *skijoring*, *skijoring* equipment, and related topics can be found on the Internet at www.northernterritories.com/Skijoring.htm or at the Sierra Nevada Dog Drivers website at www.jps.net/billieu/index.htm.

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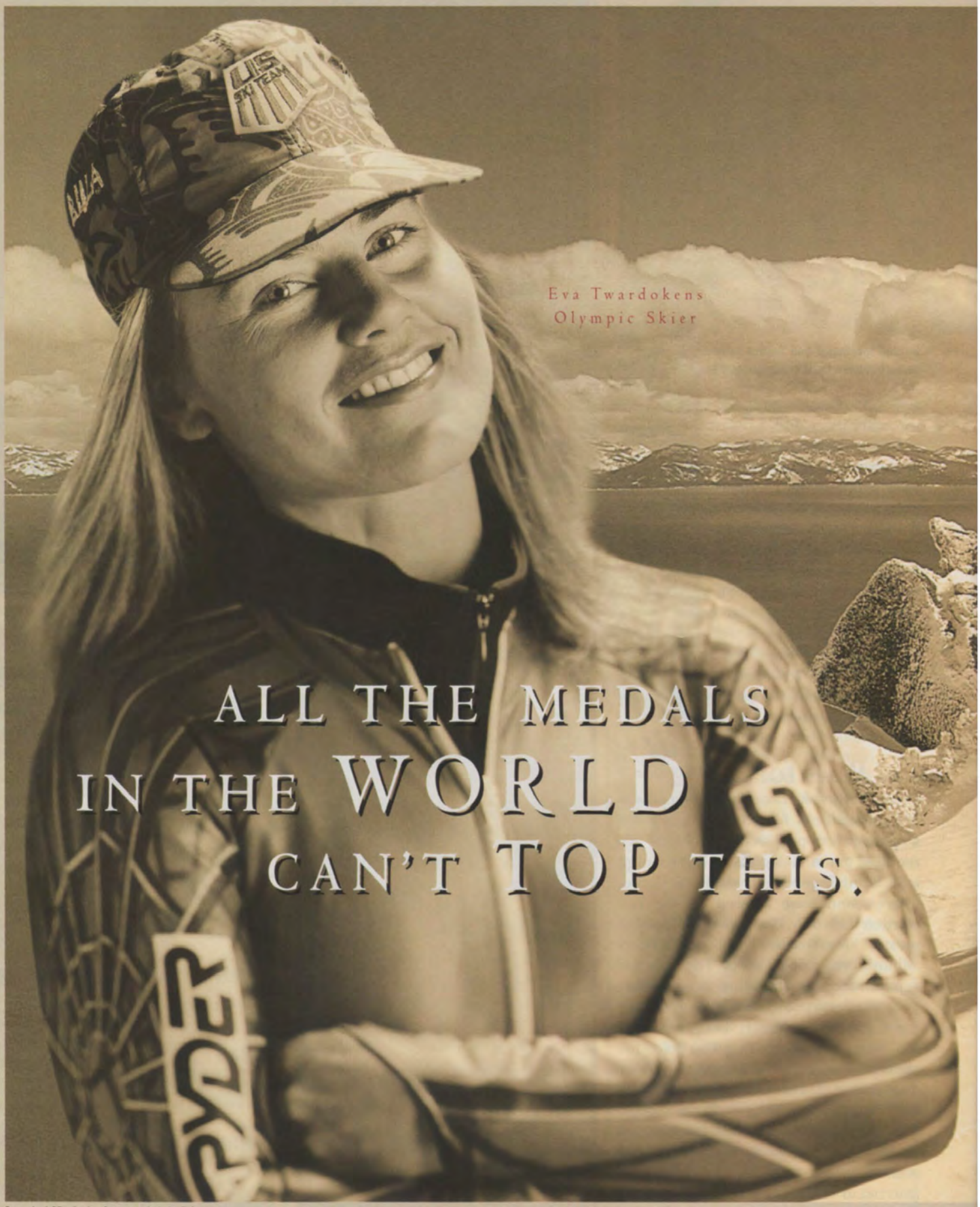


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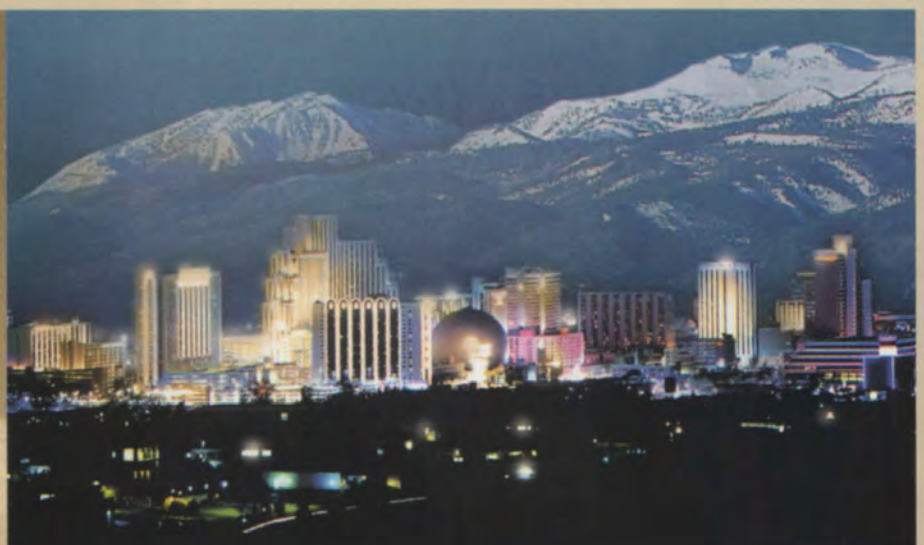
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