NEVADA

MAGAZINE

February 2000

INSIDE:

NEVADA NV2000 Making Millennium Magic

MILLENNIUM Countdown Calendar

What a Deal!

Casino getaways, events, and gaming in the new millennium

Casino Characters

These performers give their resorts personality

Reels of Fortune

The slots that built Nevada

Special Gaming Issue



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NEVADA

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When I first walked into a poker room, I said, 'This is my Moulin Rouge.'"
—Reno artist Ann O'Lear



On the Cover:
Character Michelle Mull with (10-Ace) Nina, Craig Dunbar, Laura Lago, Read Scot, and Mark Weitz. **Photo by Steve Spatafore. Card portraits (Jack-Ace) by Sue Altenburg**

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Scribe of Slots

This Special Gaming Issue of *Nevada Magazine* salutes the people, games, resorts, and historical phenomena that have made Nevada's casino industry so colorful and dynamic. One of those phenomena is a device that **Marshall Fey** calls "the diminutive giant." In his story, "Reels of Fortune," Marsh reveals how the slot machine helped Nevada hit the jackpot.

As a writer, historian, collector, publisher, restaurateur, and saloonkeeper, Marsh knows slots. His book, *Slot Machines: A Pictorial History of the First 100 Years*, recently appeared in its fifth edition and won a National History Award from the American Association for State and Local History. "It took 10 years to write," he says. "It was something I always wanted to do."



Marshall Fey (right) and his brother Frank.

When Marsh Fey writes about slots, he not only is describing a device that he has great fondness for. He also is recounting family history. In 1899 his grandfather, Charles Fey, invented a three-reel slot machine named the Liberty Bell. Charlie's device became the model for all slots to follow. Marsh says, "I was 16 when he died. To me he was just like anybody's grandfather, even though he was famous in San Francisco and the coin-machine industry."

Marsh and his brother Frank were operating a beer parlor in San Mateo when they decided to move to Reno in 1958. "By then we knew more about our grandfather, and we figured Nevada would be an ideal place to have slots." They named their saloon and restaurant the Liberty Belle after Charlie's invention. Marsh and Frank display slots and other antiques from their collection. Outside, customers can see pioneer wagons if they look skyward. Marsh explains, "We didn't have room inside, so the best place to put the wagons was on the roof."

Today Marsh writes articles for coin-machine and collector's magazines and the historical publications of E Clampus Vitus. At age 71 he is writing two more books—a second volume of *Slot Machines* and a book on Nevada saloons. "I do all the photography, writing, typesetting, and color separations," he says. "I enjoy doing the whole book. That way the end product is exactly the way you want it."—*David Moore*



Photo: Gary Elam

Letters

Basque disco in Winnemucca and a night with Olivia.

Mining Camp Cheer

Thanks for the beautiful, heartwarming story, "Mining Camp Santa," by Phillip I. Earl in the last issue. Every December I look forward to reading another wonderful story about people who care about others, bringing holiday joy to those who need cheering up the most without expecting anything in return.

Angela L. Taylor
Raleigh, NC

Dancing in Winnemucca

Leafing through the 20th century's final issue of *Nevada Magazine*, I was shocked to see Larry Angier's photo of the boot-scootin' blonde caught in the act of performing a spirited fandango atop the antique bar of the Winnemucca Hotel. Yes, I immediately recognized the setting, the ceiling, the proprietor, and (most shockingly!) the dancer. She's none other than Caroline J. Hadley, noted *Range* publisher, editor, writer, photographer, and originator of the Great Nevada Picture Hunt when she ran *Nevada Magazine*.

A few questions spring to mind: Who put her up to it, and how did she get up there? What happens if she should slip and fall? After all, it's a long, long drop to the hardwood floor—as I and other of Mike Olano's loyal patrons can attest. And what's the deal with all that U.S. currency swirling about C.J.'s feet? Is there a cover charge for this sort of entertainment? And will Medicaid pick up some of it?

Richard Menzies
Salt Lake City, UT

Cowboys on the Cover

I recently ordered extra copies of the Nov/Dec '99 issue of the *Nevada Magazine* because the buckaroos on the cover, John Bell and Will DeLong, are two of my grandsons. Isabel Espinoza, the magazine's retail coordinator, got right with it, and I received the issues by UPS less than 24 hours later. By the way, when I heard Doug Keister was doing the picture taking for the cover, I knew he would make great photos.

Dale DeLong
Winnemucca



Basque disco? Former *Nevada* chief C.J. Hadley in prize photo.

A Night With Olivia

The item about the Las Vegas Hilton's theater in "Casino Notes," Sept/Oct '99, forgot to mention Olivia Newton-John's concerts there last New Year's. My daughters and I were fortunate to see the New Year's Eve concert, and she was fabulous. Her talent is often overlooked, but few others can match her vocal range. The Hilton Theatre is a great place to see a show. We also saw "Starlight Express" and Debbie Reynolds there. I just regret that I wasn't able to see Elvis Presley.

Nancy McKenney
Cumberland, MD

Tonopah Skyline

The picture of the Tonopah Mining Park by Jim Galli in May/June '99 does not show the Mizpah headframe, as the caption states. It is the Silver Top headframe—check the May/June '95 cover. Silver Top is constructed of wood. The Mizpah is steel. We enjoy the magazine.

John and Darlene Quas
Tonopah

John and Darlene, thanks for setting the record straight on that section of the Tonopah Mining Park.—Ed.

Adults Only?

On a recent family trip to Las Vegas I was deeply saddened to find out that children under 18 can be kept out of a public facility. I tried to enter the Bellagio Hotel to not only see the magnificent structure but to also do some shopping. I was abruptly stopped by a security guard and told my 10-year-daughter was not welcome. That this discriminatory policy is allowed to exist in this day in an "open to the public" establishment is beyond my comprehension.

My daughter, although 10 years old, showed more maturity than most people I noticed in the hotel. She was not half dressed. She was not walking with a drink in her hand, and she was not using foul language. I was told children under 18 were not permitted unless, of course, to view a show for which they paid full adult price.

I thought the alcohol and gambling rules were that no one under 21 was permitted in the casino. So why is it that 18-year-olds are permitted in the hotel? It seems we have targeted a group, those children under 18, to be discriminated against.

I take my daughter on any trip or vacation I can because I believe it to be the best education to see how the rest of the world lives. Well, on this trip she got the best education I could have asked for—she witnessed discrimination first-hand. Perhaps it will make her more tolerant.

Nicholas Campanella

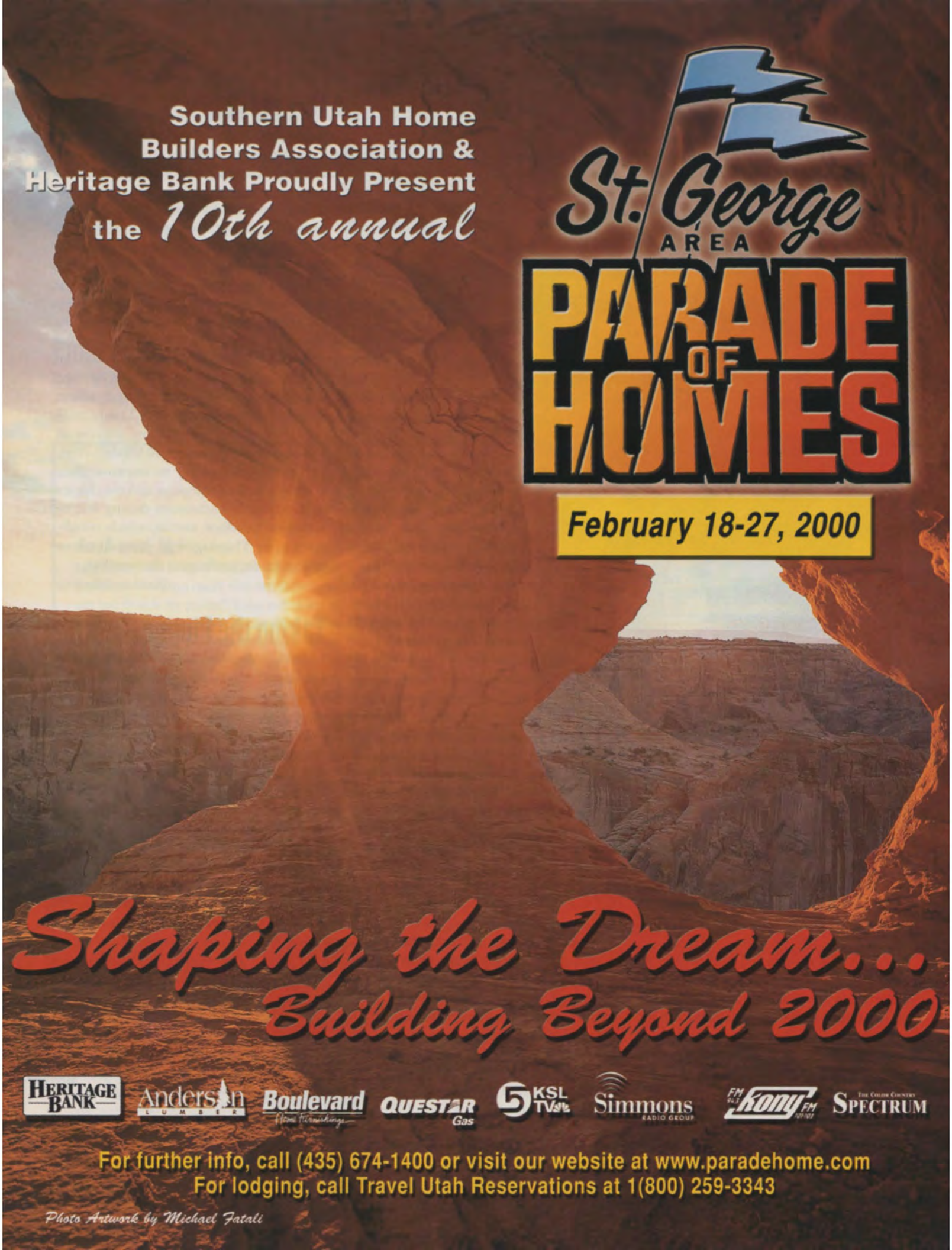
A Word in Edgewise

You say, "We love to hear from our readers." OK, please then listen up. The varied articles and photos are excellent; however, the principal reason I've been a subscriber is the information about the casinos. "Too much advertising" is another objection stated in "Letters" last issue. Really? Does the writer not realize that advertising is the principal reason why a publication is able to keep the price of a subscription reasonable? In any case, please continue to give us readers major casino news.

L.R. Gregory
Mount Lebanon, PA

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Roadside Attractions

Stars in wax, the ice rinks of Northern Nevada, and marriage free-falls.



Cool characters like Icy the Penguin and other skaters can hit the ice at Reno's Rink by the River (above) and other Northern Nevada arenas.

Nevada on Ice

RENO & LAKE TAHOE—Ice-skating enthusiasts looking for places to practice their figure-eights will find several ice rinks in the Reno-Tahoe area. Skate rentals are available for about $3 at the rinks.

The **Reno Ice Pavilion** recently opened at the Reno Hilton. The 16,000-square-foot rink was dismantled and moved to Reno from Atlantic City, New Jersey. Skaters can practice their leaps and lutzes or opt for a game of roller hockey or broom ball. The Reno Ice Pavilion is off the Glendale exit of U.S. 395 behind the Reno Hilton. Skate prices are $5 for adults and $3 children and seniors. Call 775-329-1000 for information.

The **Rink by the River,** next to the Truckee River, is an intimate rink tucked amid the cottonwood trees with views of downtown Reno. This year the municipal rink is located at Barbara Bennett Park across from the Wingfield Park Amphitheater off Arlington Avenue. Although the 85-by-200-foot rink had to be shortened by 60 feet to fit the new location, skaters will still enjoy the outdoor setting. If you're hoping to carve off a few calories during lunch time, the rink offers a Lunch Skate from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. "Many of our locals take advantage of our Lunch Skate—it's a great way to get some exercise," says Al Rogers, recreation manager for the City of Reno. The Rink by the River, which has a snack bar, is open daily in the winter from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. and until 11 p.m. on weekends and holidays. Prices are $4 adults and $2.50 youths and seniors. Season passes and 10-visit punch passes are available. Call Reno Parks and Recreation, 775-334-2262, for information.

North of Sparks in Spanish Springs you'll find the new **Wingfield Springs Ice Arena** at the Red Hawk Golf Club. The rink is covered by a huge tent and offers skating even in inclement weather. Freddie's Roost at Wingfield Springs offers hungry skaters pizza, salads, seafood, and steaks. To reach the Wingfield Springs Ice Arena from I-80 in Sparks, exit on Vista Boulevard and head north seven miles. Vista leads to the entrance to Wingfield Springs. For information call 775-626-6000.

High in the Sierra Nevada, skaters can glide around the **Olympic Ice Pavilion** at Squaw Valley USA at Lake Tahoe. At 8,200 feet, the ice rink is the highest in North America and offers breathtaking views of Lake Tahoe, Alpine Meadows, Freel Peak, and the Desolation Wilderness. Skaters can ride the cable car to the Pavilion and enjoy a two-hour skate session for $19 or skate only for $7; seniors and children 12 and under pay $10 and $5. Prices include skate rental and a two-hour skating session. The rink is open year-round except during October, when the rink closes for maintenance. "On Saturdays we have ice hockey games for whoever shows up to play. Just meet at the cable car at 8 a.m.," says Shaun Geitner, supervisor at the Olympic Ice Pavilion. The rink is open daily from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information log on at www.squawvalley.com or call 530-581-7246.

For skaters looking to improve their skills, all rinks offer lessons and the chance to meet other enthusiasts during league activities. Outdoor arenas, which usually open after Thanksgiving, generally close by Easter, depending on the weather.

—Shannon Montana

Taking the Plunge

LAS VEGAS—The **MGM Grand** on the Las Vegas Strip offers a number of options for couples who want to get their marriages started on a high note.

To add some ceremonial shock value, couples can choose to take their vows atop the 250-foot tower at the MGM's SkyScreamer thrill ride. Once they have kissed, the new husband and wife leap from the tower into a 100-foot free-fall approaching speeds of 70 mph. Just don't expect your wedding party to follow suit. Couples who fell in love on the dance floor can recite their vows beneath the shimmering disco ball in the MGM's Studio 54 nightclub. Guests can resurrect their '70s silk shirts, white jumpsuits, and Angel Flight pants. The three-story nightclub doubles



Photo: Jay Aldrich Illustration: April Pedersen

as the chapel and reception hall and will inspire members of the wedding party to polish their John Travolta moves.

Couples also can tie the knot amid knights in shining armor and damsels in distress on the set of "EFX." The wedding party is escorted by woodland sprites, and the wedding takes place near a waterfall with Merlin presiding as minister. The bride and groom seal their vows with a kiss while fireworks light up the forest setting.

For more tradition-minded couples, the MGM has two wedding chapels. Call the MGM Grand, 800-646-5530, for more information.—*Shannon Montana*

Pioneer Provisions

LAS VEGAS—Browsing around **Ray's Beaver Bag** in Las Vegas is like taking a stroll through early American history.



Ray Potter outfits adventurers at Ray's Beaver Bag.

Shelves and counters are piled with the artifacts of frontier life. Although the shop resembles a museum, it's a place where pioneer wannabes can buy provisions.

There are stacks of red-flannel underwear, gingham sunbonnets, muskets and black powder, soup kettles, and gun cases made from serapes. Among the most interesting garments in the shop are the capotes, coats made from Hudson Bay four-point blankets (the term "four-point" signifies that the Indians traded four beaver skins for one blanket).

Owner Ray Potter became interested in frontier paraphernalia in 1972 when he went hunting with a friend who was shooting a muzzleloader. At the time, Potter was manager of Fletcher Jones Tire Town in Las Vegas. About six years later, he opened Ray's Beaver Bag, naming it after the bags made of beaver skins in which pioneers carried their parched corn, beef jerky, and other necessities. "People would store everything you could possibly need in them, and that's why they were also called

Traveler's Advisories

Surf and Ski

Lake Tahoe skiers generally have two questions when it comes to choosing a resort: How deep is the snow, and how fresh is the powder? If you surf as well as ski, you can find the answers at the Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority Web site at www.virtualtahoe.com. The site features a snow report for the Tahoe Basin resorts as well as other valuable information. There's a link to Tahoe's hotel-casinos, and visitors can reserve rooms at some hotels online. You'll also find areas devoted to current road conditions as well as Tahoe-area restaurant listings, events, attractions, and nightclubs.

Mapping the Carson Valley

Visitors who would like to discover the recreation and history of the Carson Valley can pick up a copy of the new Carson Valley Walking/Driving Tour Map. The four-color, easy-to-follow map pinpoints areas of interest in Minden, Gardnerville, Genoa, and the surrounding Carson Valley. For instance, in Minden you can cruise by the old Farmer's Bank of Carson Valley (now the Nevada Gourmet Grocery), which opened in 1909 and later became the Minden post office. In Gardnerville, you can look up the East Fork Hotel, which was built in 1893 by two brothers who came to Genoa with a traveling circus. Copies of the brochure are available at the Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Authority, 1512 U.S. Highway 395 North, Suite 1, Gardnerville, NV 89410; phone 775-782-8144.



In the Bag

Las Vegas travelers hoping to save time while flying out of McCarran International Airport may speed up the check-in process by going to the Imperial Palace on the Strip. The hotel now offers the nation's first off-airport Airline Baggage Check-In Service, operated by Certified Airline Passenger Services (CAPS). The service is available to passengers, both guests and nonguests, flying out of Las Vegas on America West and Delta. CAPS employees can transfer baggage, issue claim checks, and make seat assignments up to 12 hours before departure. Passengers must call the Airline Baggage Check-In at the Imperial Palace, 702-731-3311, ext. 3102, between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. to set up an appointment, preferably at least 12 hours before departure.

Great Basin Information

If you're traveling to Great Basin National Park, you should pick up the new four-color brochure published by the Baker Business and Tourism Council. The brochure features photographs of the park's pursuits, such as mountain biking and wildlife watching. On the back you'll find a list of attractions, including Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive, which winds up to the park's high-altitude campgrounds, and the trails in the Mount Moriah Wilderness Area, just north of the park. The brochure notes that visitors can seek out the park's 230 species of birds and discover the "post-impressionist" artwork that lines State Route 488 from Baker. The detailed map shows several routes into and around Great Basin National Park and the Mount Moriah Wilderness Area, pointing out that several, such as the road to Lexington Arch, are remote and best explored in high-clearance vehicles. For a copy of the free brochure, call the Baker Business and Tourism Council, 775-234-7323, or the Nevada Commission on Tourism, 800-NEVADA-8.

Polishing Red Rock

Officials at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area have used the $1 million in fees collected from visitors since November 1997 to add amenities and spruce up visitor facilities throughout the park, 12 miles west of Las Vegas. The most recent improvements include two refurbished campgrounds, one with 52 sites and the other with 40, as well as 18 new restroom stations for the campgrounds, trailheads, and the 13-mile scenic loop drive. Visitors also will find a permanent fee station at the entrance as well as a new classroom at the visitor center. Picnickers will find new tables and barbecue grills throughout the park. Future improvements will include an outdoor information center with touch screens at the BLM visitor center in addition to new brochures and renovations to the Willow Springs Picnic Area. Entrance fee to the park is $5 per car; $20 annual passports are available. Call the park, 702-363-1921, for more information.



Visitors to Red Rock Canyon will find park improvements.

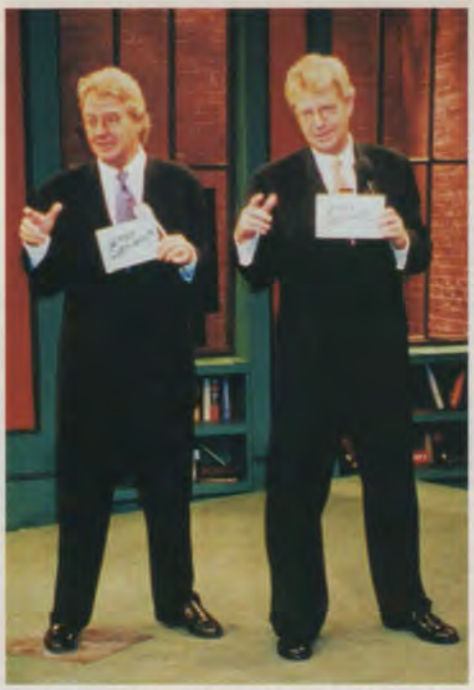
Photos: Connie Emerson (top), Nevada Commission on Tourism (bottom right)

'possibles bags,'" he says. Ray's Beaver Bag, at 727 Las Vegas Boulevard South in Las Vegas, is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Call 702-386-8746.—*Connie Emerson*

Waxing Nostalgic

LAS VEGAS—Even amid the numerous landmarks that have been transplanted from Europe, very little that's British has made its way to the Strip, with one exception: Madame Tussaud's renowned wax museum, which originated on London's Baker Street.

At **Madame Tussaud's Celebrity Encounter** in the Venetian Hotel, starry-eyed visitors will find almost 30,000 square feet of museum space with five themed settings. The "Big Night's" Hollywood setting resembles an Oscar party with the likes of Arnold Schwarzenegger, Cybil Shepherd, Brad Pitt, and other stars. Martina Hingis and Evander Holyfield share the "Sports Arena" with Babe Ruth, Florence Griffith Joyner, and Muhammad Ali. The "Rock and Pop" area showcases entertainers such as Stevie Wonder, Bruce Springsteen, Engelbert Humperdinck, and Tammy Wynette. None of the figures is roped off—visitors can march right up and snap photos of the otherwise elusive stars.



Jerry Springer debuted his wax twin (left) before it was moved to Madame Tussaud's at the Venetian.

One of the most fascinating areas of the museum is the "Behind the Scenes at Madame Tussaud's" series of exhibits that illustrate the painstaking processes—which range from taking precise measurements and photos of each celebrity to matching skin tones, dental impressions, and eye and hair color—involved in creating the wax figures.

Another popular section is "Las Vegas Show Time Legends." The first room features a skinny young Frank Sinatra performing on the stage of the Sands Hotel. Recordings of Sinatra standards such as "Come Fly With Me," "It Was a Very Good Year," and "Luck Be a Lady Tonight" enhance the Rat Pack mood.

Other "Show Time Legends" stand in cocktail-party poses: Bob Hope chats with George Burns, Louis Armstrong with Ella Fitzgerald. Multiple mirrors catch Marilyn Monroe posing in a slinky orange and black sequined gown, while Liza Minnelli and Judy Garland are paired near the piano. Bugsy Siegel, sitting on a red plush divan (his back to the wall, naturally), takes it all in.

"People think Paul Newman is very realistic. Louis Armstrong, too. And everybody has their picture taken with Elvis," says Julie Fairhurst, a snack-bar attendant in the "Legends" room. Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward are positioned near the door so they can welcome guests to the museum's Las Vegas-themed wedding chapel, where couples can get married with all manner of celebrities looking on.

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Nevada's New Delhi

SPARKS—Wherever you wander in Nevada, it pays to stray off the beaten path—even if it's only half a block.

In Sparks, for example, you might discover the **A-1 Appliance Indian Grocery**. Stepping into this unusual store, tucked next to Longs Drugs in a strip mall paralleling Oddie Boulevard, is like visiting a foreign land.

The store's front windows are obscured by posters advertising phone cards, satellite systems, and CDs and cassettes by East Indian musicians. In the entry, sacks of flour, cartons of cooking oil, and bags of rice—from India, Pakistan, Thailand, and the California Delta—compete for space. On the west wall, orange, yellow, green, black, brown, and white legumes—maybe 50 varieties in all—graphically illustrate that 80 percent of the store's Hindu, Sikh, and Muslim customers are vegetarians.

"About 500 to 600 Indian families live in the Reno-Sparks area," proprietor Yogeshi Sidher (pronounced like "cedar") says. To Sidher, the term "Indian" includes Pakistanis, since Pakistan was formerly part of India.



Parveen Sidher offers an array of delicacies at the A-1 Appliance Indian Grocery in Sparks.

Sharing space with the lentils, chick peas, and other legumes are dozens of plastic bags containing spices—fennel, caraway, dark and light cumin seeds, white and green podded cardomoms, poppy seeds, black, brown and yellow mustard seeds, saffron, chile pepper. More spices and condiments—in cans, glass jars, and boxes—line the shelves of the free-standing counter across the aisle.

"People from the different parts of India use totally different seasonings," says Sidher, who came from New Delhi to Reno in 1979. His wife, Parveen, is from Punjab. Sidher, whose working day is from 10 a.m. to midnight, has a second job as restaurant shift manager at the Reno Hilton.

Groceries are only part of the shop's appeal. There are magazines and books printed in Hindi, Urdu, and Punjabi, three of the 15 official languages recognized by the Indian government. You'll find videos produced in India and Pakistan, tubes of henna for painting intricate designs on the hands, the jeweled forehead decorations called bindi, and shelves filled with incense.

As the store's name implies, the Sidhers also carry appliances—electric rice cookers, microwaves, electronic insect killers, and other American-made items.

The A-1 Appliance Indian Grocery is located at 2302 Oddie Boulevard in Sparks (the backs of the stores face Oddie). The store is open 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. daily except Tuesday. Call 775-358-4099 for more information.—*Connie Emerson*

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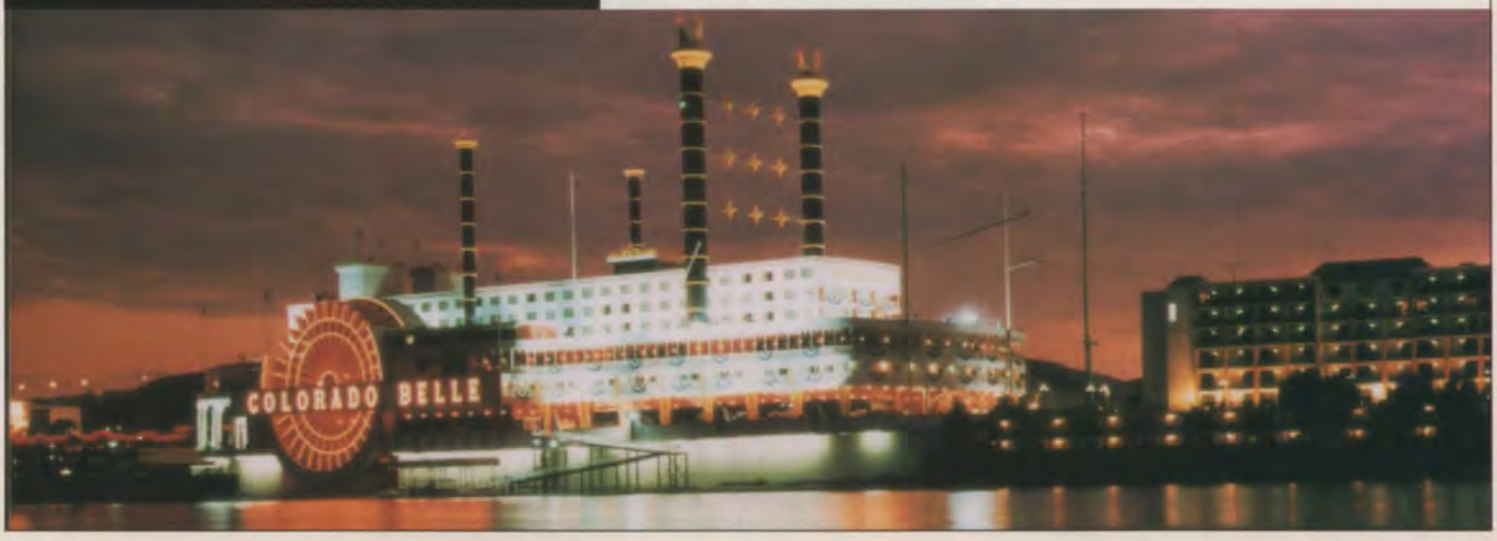


Photo: Candice Towell

Casino Characters

Rio Rita, Caesar, and other casino mascots give their resorts colorful symbols—and lots of personality.

By Kim Pryor



A cast of characters gathers above the Strip at the Rio. From left: Klingon Mark Weitz of Star Trek, Las Vegas Hilton; Read Scot, who plays King Arthur at the Excalibur; Craig Dunbar, the British captain at Treasure Island; Rio Rita Michelle Mull; and Caesar Eric Torres and Cleopatra Laura Lago of Caesars Palace.

It was a confrontation between the most feared creatures in the universe: a Star Trek Klingon versus several hulking warriors of the World Wrestling Federation. While paying a visit to Star Trek: The Experience at the Las Vegas Hilton the wrestlers had come face to face with Commander Churoq, the Klingon captain. The wrestlers glared, their muscles bulging. The Klingon stared back, his ridged forehead forming a menacing prow.

"Let me tell you something," the Klingon told the wrestlers. "I've seen your form of battle, and when a Klingon warrior strikes an enemy, he does not miss by three feet."

Beneath his Klingon costume, Mark Weitz waited for the WWF heavyweights' reply. He recalls, "Luckily, the wrestlers laughed, and they didn't kill me."

As he re-creates a world where no man has gone before, Weitz is one of a small group of Nevadans known as casino characters, or mascots, who represent their resorts and entertain customers. Many of the characters are products of themed resorts and attractions. Treasure Island has its pirates, the Excalibur its royal court. Courtesans and musicians of the Renaissance stroll the halls of the Venetian. New York-New York has Miss Liberty. Star Trek characters reign at the Las Vegas Hilton, as do Caesar and Cleopatra at Caesars Palace and Caesars Tahoe. Some roles are played by several actors: the Rio Suite Hotel in Las Vegas has three Rio Ritas. At Caesars Tahoe, on the other hand, there's only one Caesar.

The mascots' duties vary from hotel to hotel. The actors at Treasure Island present an action-packed sea battle in

Photo: Steve Spatafore

Buccaneer Bay. Most mascots, like Rio Rita and Nina, the Harrah's Reno showgirl, mingle with visitors on the casino floor. The mascots often help celebrate birthdays, host slot tournaments, chat with guests, and pose for photographs. They also serve as walking information booths. Casino mascots visit schools, reading to children and praising good study habits.

"We're the goodwill ambassadors," explains Michelle Mull, a Rio Rita.

These ambassadors are chosen for their talent, looks, and ability to think on their feet. At the Excalibur, Jason Neistadt's gymnast build and wacky sense of humor earned him the role of the resort jester. His courtmate Read Scot, who plays King Arthur, once wore a goatee so he would look more regal. At Star Trek: The Experience, Klingons must be tall, Ferengi short.

Their appearance helps the casino characters introduce visitors to a realm of fantasy. When the mascots mingle with casino guests, all the world becomes a stage. "Anything is possible when you involve the audience," says Scot. Or as Neistadt explains, "Our entire day is improv."

As Sir Quip, the Excalibur's court jester, Neistadt often slides down banisters, makes bunny ears behind guests' heads, and joins children's games. Some guests respond in kind. Once a man lifted Neistadt over his head and spun him around. Again. And again. And again. By the sixth revolution, Neistadt feared his head would collide with a slot machine. When the man finally put him down, Neistadt feigned picking him up and then fell on the ground, faking a back injury.



Jason Neistadt plays Sir Quip, the Excalibur's court jester. Above, Neistadt enlivens a family photo session.

"It was fun," Neistadt says. "It was like a roller coaster ride for free."

Mark Weitz, the resourceful Klingon at Star Trek: The Experience, often exchanges clever intergalactic humor with visitors. He relies on his background as a standup comic to dish out quick comebacks. Some of his improvisations now appear regularly in the show.

"What do you do on your planet, human?" he asks a guest.

"Nothing," the human answers.

"Ah, you're a politician," the Klingon replies.

Occasionally Weitz, who has watched every *Star Trek* tape and read most of the books, must deal diplomatically with aggressive trekkies who have no use for Klingons. "We have a treaty," Weitz will say in his deep Commander Churoq voice. "I am an honorable Klingon. Therefore, I will let you live." Often the guests simply want to film their Klingon altercation on video. "I give them what they want," Weitz says. "I growl at them and snarl at them, and they walk off very happy."

At Caesars Tahoe, staying in character is not always the goal of Bryan Davis, who, as Caesar, strolls the casino with the other three members of the resort's Roman entourage: Cleopatra, the Princess, and the Centurion. Davis could portray Caesar as a stern, serious ruler, but he often slips into a more relaxed persona when dealing with guests. An elderly woman who plays at Caesars likes to call Davis over to chat. He usually plants a kiss on her cheek and stands next to her while her niece snaps a photograph. "Her niece is calling me Uncle Caesar because she pays so much attention to me," Davis says.

Although he has researched the lives of Caesar and Cleopatra, Davis says he learns even more from guests. One man explained how purple, the color of Davis' robe, was the traditional color of an emperor. "It's kind of incredible," Davis says. "People come up and tell you about battles that Caesar was in." Those ancient-history buffs make up for the visitors who yell, "Hey, I love your salad," as Caesar walks past.

Other history lessons unfold at Treasure Island. Several times each night crowds watch pirates battle the British navy on Buccaneer Bay. The show also is entertaining on a historical level, as Craig



Et tu, Harriette? Caesars Tahoe's Davis with Texans Georgia Pettijohn, Nancy Raper, and Harriette Bowles.

Photos: Steve Spatafore (top), Jay Aldrich (bottom)



Nina, the Harrah's Reno showgirl, greets golf fans at last summer's Reno-Tahoe Open.

Dunbar, the show's British captain, came to appreciate through the eyes of a tourist from England. "Besides the entertainment value of your show," the Englishman told Dunbar, "there will never again be seen on the high seas another engagement between square-rigged ships of the line in full scale. It is an amazing thing that you fellows re-create that battle." Dunbar says, "There's an amazing responsibility in remaining true to a somewhat historical representation of what went on."

Dunbar and his fellow Treasure Island stuntmen have perhaps the most challenging jobs of all the casino characters. That's because the pirate show includes numerous dives, catapults, and explosions, all timed so that each pirate and British sailor must reach a specific location on a certain count. If a pressure plate doesn't sense an actor's presence at the designated moment, a computer cancels the special effect. Good timing is critical to the show's success.

For the stuntmen, so is a strong constitution. Since the Buccaneer Bay show is rarely canceled due to weather, Dunbar has performed in both rain and snow. Everyone but the pirate captain takes a dunking, so in winter Dunbar must plunge into 37-degree water several times each night.

Spectators often compliment the cast after the show. When a guest says, "It's amazing how well your voice carries across the bay," Dunbar explains that he and his mates perform to a prerecorded soundtrack. In fact, the voice of the British captain is actually that of Steve Wynn, owner of Treasure Island and the other Mirage resorts.

Costumes are important in creating a casino character. Some of the prettiest costumes can be found at Harrah's Reno, which is represented by a showgirl, symbolizing the glamour of Nevada. Showgirl Nina has been an "environmental entertainer" at Harrah's for nine years (and appeared on *Nevada's* Nov/Dec '99 cover). The former Christian Dior and Calvin Klein model makes all her own outfits. She also orders the feathers and fabrics and creates the patterns.

"Macy's doesn't carry that kind of stuff," she says. "I hand sew every jewel onto my costume and make sure that there never is so much as a thread that is hanging out anywhere. Needless to say, on Halloween I don't dress up."

As Rio Rita, Michelle Mull twirls around the Rio in colorful Carmen Miranda ruffles, her hat spilling over with plastic fruit. Not long after she became a Rio Rita, Mull hoisted a four-year-old boy into her arms as his mother snapped a photograph. The little boy yanked a fistful of plastic cherries, an apple, and an orange off the hat. When he asked if he could keep the fruit, Mull giggled. "Go for it," she said, and the boy departed with a Rio souvenir.

The characters often preside over casino ceremonies. On bright summer days at Caesars Tahoe, Davis and his Roman colleagues may decide on the spur of the moment to gather on a stage near U.S. 50, which bisects Stateline's casino corridor. The Centurion announces, "Hail the mighty emperor of Rome and the beautiful Queen of Egypt, Cleopatra!" Peering down on the sidewalk, Caesar and Cleopatra choose a volunteer to become an honorary citizen. The volunteer is

Nevada's Biggest Star



Bertha stood tall with trainer Don Bloomer and showgirl Karen Starrett at the Nugget.

She performed for peanuts but shared the spotlight with celebrities like Jimmy Durante, Raquel Welch, and Liberace. Her baths drew crowds, and her afternoon strolls in Sparks stopped traffic. She was a major attraction at the Nevada Day Parade. In short, Bertha, the performing pachyderm at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, will be remembered as the matriarch of casino mascots.

Bertha died in November of age-related ailments after performing for 37 years at the Sparks casino. She was 48 years old. At the time she retired in October, Bertha also suffered from systemic arthritis, a common illness among Asian elephants.

Originally from India, Bertha was performing with a circus in Wisconsin when Nugget founder Dick Graves saw her and brought her to Sparks. In 1962 she began entertaining audiences in the Nugget's Circus Showroom. Over the years, she warmed up crowds for Debbie Reynolds, Shirley MacLaine, Pearl Bailey, and scores of other stars in the renamed Celebrity Showroom.

In 1992 Bertha took up a hobby—painting. Holding a giant paintbrush in her trunk, she created abstracts, prints of which were sold in the hotel gift shop. Away from the spotlight, visitors enjoyed watching her relax in her barn and backyard next to the Nugget. In the summer she and her partner, 11-year-old Angel, splashed in their swimming pool in the company of their trainer, Don Bloomer.

Angel will continue performing at the Nugget. The hotel has no immediate plans to acquire another elephant, but there are plans to breed Angel in the near future. As for Bertha, her legacy will endure as long as an elephant's memory.—*Carolyn Graham*

Photos: Chris Talbot (top), Candice Towell (bottom)

seated on a throne, dressed in Roman attire, and led through the casino. The honorary citizen helps host the casino's daily slot tournament and hands out gold medallions to jackpot winners.

The royal court at the Excalibur reigns over the resort's daily slot tournaments, choosing 10 volunteers to play for $100 dinners. Later the characters parade the winner through the castle to collect the grand prize.

Many guests so appreciate the mascots' attention that they send them gifts. As Rio Rita, Mull has received fruit earrings to match her costume and a Sea World jumper for her two-year-old son, Steven. But the best gift is the guests' friendship, and visitors include the Rio Ritas in on-property weddings and reunions.

At Harrah's Reno, Nina has forged similarly close bonds with the hotel's patrons. Guests return to Harrah's to see Nina,

Excalibur characters reign over slot tournaments and parade the winners through the castle.

telling her about their lives and families. Other patrons bombard her with questions: "Where's the buffet?" "Where are the 21 tables?" She's a problem solver, sometimes serving as an intermediary between guests and hotel supervisors.

"I can literally get on a phone, call a supervisor, and say this is my situation, this is what I want to do, and I can instantly make something happen," Nina explains. "I have opportunities that go way beyond somebody who just walks and greets and waves and stands there."

The casino characters admit that they couldn't help guests have fun if they weren't having fun themselves. An example is Mull, who was a senior majoring in education at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas when she postponed her studies to become a Rio Rita.

"It's completely fun all day long," Mull says. "I can't imagine what else I could do where I could have people smile at me and want to take pictures of me and just be happy to see me. I know that I will never have a job that will even compare to this one."

Kim Pryor is a Lake Tahoe writer who once faced her own challenges inside the costume of the U.S. Forest Service mascot, Smokey Bear.



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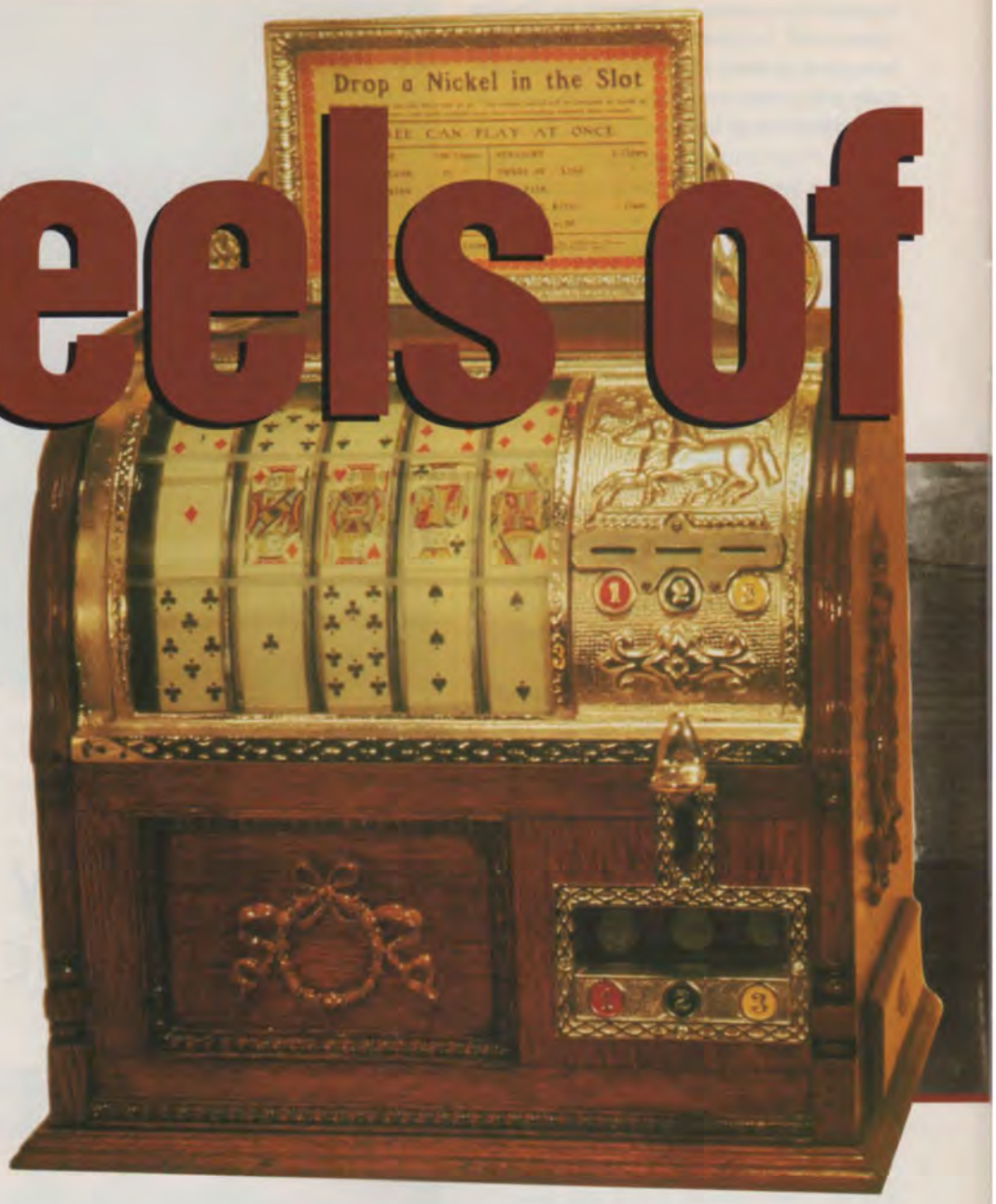
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Reels of



By Marshall Fey

The first known report of a slot machine in Nevada appeared in the *Pioche Weekly Record* on February 21, 1895. The paper stated, "N.P. Dooley arrived Thursday evening from San Francisco. He left on Monday's stage for DeLamar, and will take charge of his store there. He bought back with him a nickel-in-the-slot machine..." A week later the *Record* reported this news from the mining camp of Delamar: "Considerable excitement has prevailed at Dooley's store the past week, the cause being a nickel-in-the-slot machine. This is the first machine of the kind ever seen here and it created much amusement for many."

Slot machines have been creating much amusement for many in Nevada ever since. Surviving a reform law that banned slots in the state from 1910 to 1912, residents' and visitors' fascination with the machines continued unabated.

Today Nevada's slot population stands at more than 200,000. Slot machines are responsible for $5.5 billion, or 65 percent, of the Silver State's gross casino win, far outpacing the total of all other games. The machines work 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with little need for attention. They are the breadwinners for the casinos and the favorite games of the players.

The evolution of the slot machine has closely paralleled the development and success of Nevada gaming since the turn of the century. Whereas casinos once were dominated by table games, slots gradually became the game of choice. Club owners found that slots required minimal labor and maintenance. Players appreciated the fact that slots required no special skills—only a strong arm. And the machines were finely crafted. Over the years the original three-reel slot reappeared in new models, each with its own look and personality.

The slot machine, so closely associated with Nevada, can trace its birthplace to San Francisco. At the time N.P. Dooley transported his machine to Delamar, coin-operated poker slots were the rage in San Francisco. Saloons and cigar stands there boasted up to 3,000 of the devices, which were legal from 1894 to 1909. Those early poker machines had five reels, and each reel contained 10 miniature playing cards. The machines' major drawback was their inability to "read" winning combinations on so many reels. Because the slots were unable to pay out automatically, an attendant had to verify and pay each win.

Tackling the problem, San Francisco inventor Charles Fey in 1898 created a three-reel slot that revolutionized the slot business. His poker machine could determine wins and pay them out automatically without an attendant. The next year Fey, a German immigrant (and the author's grandfather), replaced the miniature playing cards with liberty bells, horseshoes, stars, and suit symbols. Called the Liberty Bell, Fey's 1899 machine is recognized as the forerunner of today's casino slots.

Because the Liberty Bell was so successful, Fey decided not to sell his slots but to place and operate them himself. The only way a competitor could get a machine was to steal it. This occurred in 1905 when one was stolen from a Powell Street saloon and surfaced in the Mills Novelty factory in Chicago. Soon Mills produced its own Liberty Bell. Two other Eastern slot manufacturers replicated the Mills machine, and the three-reel slot spread nationally and internationally. Unfortunately for Fey, a federal circuit court ruling in 1897 stated that slot machines, because they could

Photos: Liberty Belle Collection (top left and lower right), Nevada Publications (top right)

Fortune



Before the state legislature outlawed gambling in 1910, poker machines were popular in Nevada saloons. A 1905 Mills Jockey machine was operated in this bar in Montello, north of Wendover. A royal flush paid 100 cigars or drinks, which usually were exchanged for cash.

The ever-evolving slot machine has given Nevada multiple jackpots, giant resorts, and a handle on gaming's future.

be used only for gambling, were not useful devices and therefore should not be protected by patent laws.

At the turn of the century in Nevada, what we know as casino gambling took place in saloons. In those days women didn't go in bars, so virtually all the players were men. Many early gambling halls consisted of a bar with only three games: a faro layout, a crap table, and a roulette wheel. In those establishments slots were not considered a principal game of chance, although the devices were popular at cigar stands and in saloons that did not have table games.

Of course, slots were not held in esteem by all businesses where people might congregate. In 1904, H.M. Yerington, superintendent of the Virginia and Truckee Railroad, received a request from a New York slot operator to place machines in the V&T depots in Reno, Carson City, and Virginia City. Yerington turned the proposal down.

In 1909 reformers persuaded the Nevada Legislature to pass a gambling bill, effective October 1, 1910, that outlawed all games of chance, including slot machines. On that date the *Reno Evening Gazette* prophesied, "This marks the last day of licensed gambling in America, and from the present look licensed gambling will never be allowed again in Nevada."

In 1912, the legislature tempered the law to allow slot machines if wins were paid only in trade tokens. The tokens were supposed to be exchanged for cigars and drinks but often were traded to the



In 1899, Charles Fey of San Francisco invented a three-reel slot he called the Liberty Bell. After one of his machines was stolen and copied in 1905, the "bell" slot spread internationally and became the industry standard.



Harolds Club in Reno was the first major casino to emphasize slot play. In the 1940s and '50s Harolds featured rows of revamped Pace machines, all painted red. Each had an enlarged money bowl, with room for a drink and ashtray, and a sign instructing, "Need Change? Call Loudly And Raise Your Hand."

attendant for cash. This type of slot play was popular not only in populous Reno but also in small communities like Winnemucca, Elko, Ely, Fallon, and the newly established town of Las Vegas.

To lend the device an aura of innocence, Mills added a gum vender to the machine's side in 1910, which gave players the option of taking a package of cheap, fruit-flavored gum. To fortify the concept, symbols were added to show the fruit flavors—cherry, lemon, orange, and plum—symbols that remain common today. Other manufacturers added apples, pears, pineapples, and strawberries. The proliferation of these insignias led the English to call the slot a "fruit machine."

The bell symbol, representing the Liberty Bell's largest pay, was retained. The bar that appeared on each reel was not a jackpot symbol; it was a gum-wrapper label and paid 20 tokens. After 1928, when the first jackpots were introduced, lining up three gum-wrapper symbols on the pay line dispensed 20 coins while activating a jackpot reserve containing about 80 coins. Eventually the slot helped popularize the term "it's a jackpot." It also gave us the expression "it's a lemon" because the lemon was the only slot symbol that was not a winner.

After the Nevada Legislature legalized wide-open gambling in 1931, slots once again could pay wins in cash. During the 1930s a moderate number of machines could be found in Nevada's casinos and saloons, but it was not until the 1940s that slots became a significant casino game.

The first major operators to emphasis slot play were the Smith family of Harolds Club in Reno. Raymond I. "Pappy" Smith and his son Harold decided to saturate their casino with slots. During the late 1940s they had more than 500 slots that paid numerous jackpots. They replaced the lemons with jackpot bars, resulting in a five-fold increase in jackpots and raising the payout percentage about five percent to 83.7 percent, extremely high for that era.

After World War II Harolds Club raised the jackpot on nickel machines from $6.50 to $7.50 and liberalized the payout another five percent. In his autobiography, *I Want to Quit Winners*, Harold Smith boasted that the club paid 6,250 jackpots one Labor Day. Referring to the 1940s, when Reno was Nevada's leading gaming mecca, Smith stated that "a customer of ours once won a bet that Harolds Club paid more jackpots in one day than all of Las Vegas did in one year."

Harolds prospered because Pappy Smith was the first operator to correlate slot machines with crowd appeal. With more than 2,000 "Harolds Club or Bust"

Slots of Facts

Slots accounted for 65 percent of the state's gaming win last fiscal year, according to Nevada Gaming Control Board figures. Of the state's $8.5-billion win, slots accounted for $5.5 billion, while all other games—such as blackjack, craps, keno, and baccarat—brought in $3 billion.

In 1960, there were only 16,067 slots in Nevada. During the 1960s and early '70s, table games accounted for two thirds of gaming revenue—and slots just one third.

Last June, Nevada had 205,726 slot machines, or one for every 10 residents. Of the total, 187,362 were located in casinos (and a handful of large supermarkets and drugstores) and 18,364 in establishments that have restricted licenses, which allow no more than 15 machines.

Half the slots in Nevada casinos are quarter machines.

Nickel machines comprise 25 percent and dollar slots 19 percent of the total.

Looking for a $100 machine? There are 173 of them (about 70 percent of the state's total) on the Las Vegas Strip.

Megabucks, the progressive slot network launched in 1986 by Reno-based International Game Technology, linked 652 dollar machines in 147 Nevada casinos last fall.

A Las Vegas woman set the current world slot record when she hit a $27.5-million Megabucks jackpot on November 15, 1998, at Palace Station in Las Vegas.

Last summer the Las Vegas Strip had 58,987 slot machines (93.7 percent average payout), downtown Las Vegas 18,004 slots (94.8 percent), the Boulder Strip 15,100 slots (95.3 percent), Laughlin 11,544 slots (94.1 percent), North Las Vegas 6,147 slots (95.9 percent), Reno 19,751 slots (95 percent), and Lake Tahoe 6,167 slots (94.7 percent).

Photos: Liberty Belle Collection



Mills added a gum vendor to make its machine legal in 1910. Fruit-gum emblems like cherries and lemons became familiar slot symbols.

signs posted around the country, he knew his mammoth advertising campaign had to attract more than just table-game players. He realized that slots, which required no gaming knowledge or skills, could attract a multitude of potential patrons.

Harolds Club used revamped Pace Comet machines painted a bright red. The Reno casino exclusively used Pace machines because the Chicago-based company was the only manufacturer that would extend credit to the Smith family, who had started the club with a $500 stake.

Oscar Lewis noted that "Nevada produces more jackpots than jack rabbits."

It proved a wise decision by Pace, for many other Reno casinos sought to emulate Harolds' successful slot operation. A few doors down the street, Bill Harrah at Harrah's Club—also using Pace machines—followed suit by capitalizing on slot play. Harrah's was among the first Nevada casinos to operate 2,000 machines in a single location. Harrah's and Harolds advertised their slot play. As Oscar Lewis noted in his 1953 book, *Sagebrush Casinos*, the clubs could brag "that Nevada pro-

Photos: Gary Elam (top right), Liberty Belle Collection (bottom)

Finding the Antiques

Finely crafted old-time slot machines are displayed at several casinos and restaurants around the state. In some places machines are for sale. Here's a sampling:

Las Vegas: Inside the Tropicana Hotel, the Casino Legends Hall of Fame (702-739-5444) has a large collection of gaming memorabilia, including antique slots. The museum is open from 7 to 9 daily. Admission is $4 (seniors $3), but free-admission coupons can be obtained in the casino.

Laughlin: The Riverside Resort (800-227-3849, ext. 5832) displays more than 30 antique machines, including a cast-iron 1910 Mills Operators Bell, from owner Don Laughlin's private collection in the lower-level classic car showroom. Also, the Pioneer (702-298-2442) has six life-size wooden slot figures that were hand-carved by Frank Polk of Reno in the 1950s.



The author (left) and his brother Frank display all kinds of coin machines at the Liberty Belle in Reno.

Reno: Marshall and Frank Fey show much of their slot collection at their Liberty Belle Saloon and Restaurant, 4250 South Virginia Street in Reno (775-825-1776). Included are the 1899 Liberty Bell, the original draw-poker machine (1901), and the first dollar machine (1929), all invented by their grandfather, Charles Fey.

Tonopah: Downstairs at the Station House (775-482-9777) you'll find 19 antique slots such as a 1934 Mills Silent Mystery Bell and a 1949 Jennings Sun Chief. Two large Mills floor machines are encased on the casino floor. A number of the devices came from the Maxim Hotel in Las Vegas.

Virginia City: Comstock visitors can admire many old-time machines as well as other gaming-related items in the Nevada Gambling Museum (775-847-9022), an offshoot of the Delta Saloon. Models include a 1933 Jennings Little Duke, a 1936 Watling Rol-A-Top, and a more modern 50-cent Big Bertha. The museum usually closes in January and February. Otherwise, hours are 10 to 6 daily. Admission is $1, with kids 11 and under free.

Wendover: The State Line Hotel-Casino (800-354-3671) has half a dozen antique slots on display in its gift-shop window. Among them are a 1920s Mills Try Your Skill candy machine and a mint-condition Watling Rol-A-Top.

Millennium Slot Machines



Charles Fey

A display of antique slots to celebrate "The Centennial of the Slot Machine" is open to the public in the Assembly Chambers of the State Capitol in Carson City from December 26 to February 28. The exhibition, part of Carson City's Countdown to the Millennium Celebration, will detail the development of the slot machine and its connection with the Silver State. The slots are part of the Liberty Belle Slot Machine Collection, accumulated by Reno's Marshall and Frank Fey, grandsons of Liberty Bell slot inventor Charles Fey.

Exhibited machines include a 1899 Fey Liberty Bell, the forerunner of today's three-reel casino slots, and a 1946 Harolds Club Pace, which popularized casino play. A 1956 Character Cocktail Waitress, holding a slot machine in her midriff, and a 1975 Fortune Coin slot, forerunner of the video-poker slot, also are displayed. For more information on Carson City's Countdown to the Millennium Celebration, contact the Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau, 775-687-7410 or www.carsoncity2000.org.

I Dream of Jackpots

A new slot generation offers players a show-biz spin. By Art Nadler

Take a peek in the remote corners of today's casinos, and you'll see examples of the technology that is poised to take over Nevada's gaming industry. These new interactive slot machines, called "iGames" in the parlance of slot maker International Game Technology, house mini-microprocessors that are connected to high-resolution color monitors. Basically the iGames are personal computers that deliver an array of betting options and make slot playing more interactive.

This high-tech world of interactive slots also is borrowing names, games, and even hosts from another small-screen arena—popular television shows.

Reno-based International Game Technology redesigned its Wheel of Gold machine to mirror the game show *Wheel of Fortune*. As in the TV show that stars Pat Sajak and Vanna White, players who hit a bonus line spin a big wheel. As they watch the reels, "Wheel...of...Fortune" blares from stereo speakers, as if a live audience and studio band were hidden inside the machine.

"Gaming is about entertainment," says Michelle Burke, an IGT spokeswoman. "The reel spinning is a classic [slot machine], but now slot machines are more interactive."

Besides Wheel of Fortune, IGT recently introduced Indigo Swing, which features the music of Louis Prima and swing dancing by four animated '40s-style couples. IGT also produces an Elvis machine. The late entertainer talks to the player during the game, and when a bonus line is hit, the player wins the chance to select a video segment of an Elvis concert. Meanwhile, the company is awaiting state approval for machines based on *The Addams Family, I Dream of Jeannie, The Pink Panther,* stock-car driver Richard Petty's Driving Experience, and *The Munsters.*

Another show-turned-slot, Let's Make a Deal, has been introduced by Bally Gaming Systems. The high-resolution screen features five-reel, five-line play with 3-D graphics set against voice-overs from the TV show's host, Monty Hall. On a bonus win a player can pick what's behind doors number one, two, or three.

"The Strip is still dominated by the [traditional] reel spinners, but the locals are into the video machines," says Marcus Prater, director of marketing for Bally Gaming.

Williams Gaming, Inc. of Chicago entered the "branded" slot market last year when it launched a new line of Monopoly machines. The game uses animation, big-band music, and 3-D graphics featuring Monopoly's familiar top-hatted host, the Chairman of the Board. The game board is displayed on the slot's upright face. Reel symbols are Monopoly game board icons such as the railroad engine, light bulb, chance symbol, and little red house.

The branding craze will continue until all the trade names are used up, says Prater of Bally Gaming. He says future slots will offer more bonus features while entertaining the player and allowing for more multiple-line betting. Burke of IGT points out that new machines are appearing with multi-denominational capabilities—allowing the slot aficionado to play nickels, quarters, or dollars at the same machine.

Eventually, Burke says, players won't even touch money. Instead of spilling a bucket full of coins, the slot machine will spit out a ticket voucher that the player can redeem at the cashier's cage—or slip into another machine while listening to the encouraging roar of a studio audience.



Part of the latest generation of slots, IGT's Wheel of Fortune machine produces visions of Pat and Vanna (top). Monty Hall speaks for Bally's Let's Make a Deal (left), and Louis Prima plays for Indigo Swing players (right).

Art Nadler is a Las Vegas writer.



A bank of 1949 Jennings Sun Chiefs line the wall of El Rancho Vegas. These light-up machines were the choice of many casinos on the Las Vegas Strip, where table games were the main attraction. The single-coin machines offered a maximum 150-coin jackpot.

duces more jackpots than jack rabbits."

In Las Vegas during the 1950s and 1960s, the Strip hotels catered mostly to table-game players. The function of slots was to entertain wives while their husbands played the big-money table games. The Strip's slot machine of preference was the brightly lighted Jennings Sun Chief, which complemented the gaudy interior of the casinos. In contrast, downtown Vegas, not catering to high rollers, gave the slot machines a greater priority.

During the 1950s, Nevada saved the slot machine from extinction.

In the 1950s, a series of national anti-slot measures made Nevada an important refuge for slot operators. In 1951 Congress passed a law forbidding the interstate shipment of machines into states where slots were not legal, and states introduced further anti-slot legislation. In 1950, California passed a law that fined an owner $500 for each machine in his possession. Consequently, machines around the country were destroyed by owners voluntarily, seized by government agents, hidden in storage, or relegated to home use. Operators were isolated in Montana, Idaho, and Maryland, where slots remained legal for a few more years. When Idaho closed down in 1953, some operators trucked their slots across the Nevada line and created the new border town of Jackpot. Idaho operator Dick Graves moved to Nevada and opened a string of Nugget casinos in Sparks, Reno, Carson City, and Fallon. Another former Idaho operator, Carroll Eaton, inaugurated Virginia City's first major slot operation when he moved his machines into the Silver Queen. It would be another 25 years before another state, New Jersey, would allow slots or casino gambling. In a sense, Nevada had saved the slot machine from extinction.

Since Nevada was the last remaining market, machines in the 1950s were revamped for casino play. Lights were added to illuminate the reels and to make the machines more attractive. To emphasize jackpots, slot makers added a bell (usually a domestic doorbell) and a candle light mounted on a large plastic award sign above the machine. In the late 1950s the first front-open cabinet appeared; previously slot mechanics had to turn a machine around to reach the mechanism. Also, light-up signs bally-hooed jackpots and the casino's name, changes that set future standards.



Bally's Model 809 pioneered multiple-coin play in 1967. This and other Bally electromechanical machines instantly made the old mechanical slots obsolete.

In 1964, Bally Manufacturing Company of Chicago introduced a new machine that would revolutionize slot play. This slot had a payout hopper capable of dispensing 200 coins. Previously, machines could drop only 20 coins, with additional winnings paid by an attendant. Another revelation was electro-mechanical circuitry, which made possible many new types of games including two-, three-, and five-coin multipliers, three- and five-line machines, left-to-right and right-to-left pay, and the first five-reel machines.

These innovations resulted in a quantum leap that would make slots the premier casino game. By 1969, Bally virtually monopolized the Nevada new-machine market, making the old mechanical slots obsolete.

Further electronic technology was introduced in 1980 when Bally replaced the aging electro-mechanical circuitry with a microprocessor. During Bally's age of dominance, 1965 to 1985, the number of licensed slots in the Silver State soared from 22,890 to 102,353. Prior to 1970, single-coin nickel slots were the most

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prevalent machines. Afterward, the multi-coin quarter and dollar slots replaced many nickel and dime slots.

During the mid-1970s dollar slots and carousels of slots—linked together to pay one progressive jackpot—became popular. The Las Vegas Hilton linked five-reel, progressive-jackpot dollar machines and offered an unprecedented $250,000 jackpot. Casinos raised their payouts higher than 90 percent. This was possible because the house take on high-denomination machines was much greater than nickel or quarter slots at the same percentage.

In 1975, there appeared a new slot that would have a tremendous impact on the industry. That year Walt Fraley's and Stan Fulton's Fortune Coin Company, based in Las Vegas, created the original video slot. Operating flawlessly, the machine had only three basic components: a solid-state logic assembly (which controlled the functions), a television monitor (to display the symbols), and a hopper (to dispense the pays). The hopper and the handle were the only two moving parts. The video slot featured 45 symbols, or more, per reel, compared to mechanical reel machines' maximum of 25. Adding 20 stops per reel raised the possible number of reel combinations from 15,625 to 91,125. However, the Fortune Coin machine was considered a novelty and didn't sell well.



IGT founder Si Redd converted Fortune Coin's video device into a draw-poker machine. The result: video-poker mania.

The video slot's potential was not exploited until 1978, when Si Redd, founder of International Game Technology and owner today of Si Redd's Oasis in Mesquite, purchased Fortune Coin. Using the same basic components, Redd revamped the circuitry and created the first video-poker machine.

Another inspired adaptation of the Fortune slot came in 1981. The microprocessor-driven, four-reel video machine could offer unlimited odds, and that allowed an unprecedented $1-million jackpot on dollar-slot carousels. The concept was expanded five years later when IGT formed a network of 125 three-coin dollar progressive slots in nine casinos, all linked to a system called Megabucks. Soon IGT became the largest manufacturer of coin-operated gaming equipment in the world, and Megabucks recently has awarded jackpots of more than $20 million.

The final transition to today's casino slot came in 1985, when Universal Company of Japan premiered the first stepper slot. The machine is named for the stepper motors that control each reel. A microprocessor, using a random-number generator, can select an unlimited number of combinations for each reel. The spinning reels, with 11 symbols and 11 blank spaces, give the impression of the 22 symbols used on a conventional slot, and huge jackpots arouse the player with visions of wealth. Best of all, stepper slots can be operated with a liberal payout percentage.

Slot machines today can be found worldwide. As the year 2000 begins, 20 states have slot machine operations. The explosion of slots has extended to countries in Europe, Africa, South America, and Asia.

But the slot's real home is Nevada. The importance of this entertaining device can be seen not only in Las Vegas, Reno, and Lake Tahoe but also in gambling-born border towns such as Laughlin, Primm, and Jackpot. The modern slot has helped build the fabulous new resorts on the Las Vegas Strip, where the huge, 5,034-room MGM Grand operates about 3,700 slots and other hotels hold 2,000 and more machines. Slots can be found at nearly 2,500 establishments in Nevada, including more than 400 casinos and other nonrestricted licensees. It would be impossible to imagine Nevada beginning this new millennium without its more than 200,000 slots and without expectations for many more to come.

Marshall Fey, a grandson of slot inventor Charles Fey, is a slot-machine collector, operator, historian, and author. His book, Slot Machines: A Pictorial History of the First 100 Years, *is in its fifth edition (Liberty Belle Books, 4250 South Virginia St., Reno, NV 89502; phone 775-825-1776; e-mail LibBelBks@aol.com; Web www.LibertyBelleReno.com). Along with his brother Frank, Marshall Fey owns and operates the Liberty Belle Saloon and Restaurant in Reno.*

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Riders in the Sky perform at the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko.
Center Photo: C.J. Hadley Background: Jay Aldrich

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Rhyme Time in Elko

The annual Cowboy Poetry Gathering presents verse, music, and a look at life on the Y2K Ranch.

Story by Chris Chrystal, Photos by C.J. Hadley

A buckaroo at a UP Ranch cow camp.

Some of the stories are funny, and some are sad. They are rooted in the lives of the cowboys who compose poignant tales, put them to rhyme and music, and present them to ardent audiences during the soul-stirring Cowboy Poetry Gathering, January 22-29 in Elko.

Buckaroos, cowgirls, and their admirers gather in the Northeastern Nevada community each winter to celebrate one of America's best-loved folk heroes—the cowboy—with storytelling, music, Western art, and workshops that demonstrate ranching skills. The gathering is a jolly, down-to-earth event. It captures the soul of the American West and yet is multicultural, embracing Native Americans and cowboys from other countries.

"It's like a great big family reunion, only everybody likes each other," Elko poet Waddie Mitchell says. "It's almost addictive. People who come have told me that if they're not able to come the next year, they're grumpy for a month."

Workshops fill the days, music the nights, and cowboy poetry virtually all the time. After each evening's scheduled entertainment ends, cowboy poets gather at the Stockmen's Hotel, an authentic Western hostelry in downtown Elko, for an all-night jam session with banjos and guitars. During the gathering everything Western is worn, sold, and displayed, from elegant hand-crafted cowboy boots, hats, and saddles to Native American jewelry, Western gifts, crafts, artwork, and clothing.

This year's Millennial Cowboy Poetry Gathering will explore the cowboy's place on the Y2K Ranch. "The theme will focus on the role of the cowboy at the millennium, how it is changing, and what will be the cowboy's place in the future," says Charlie Seemann, executive director of the Western Folklife Center in Elko, which produces the Cowboy Poetry Gathering.



Red Steagall sings of cowboy life's humor and pathos.





Elko's Waddie Mitchell (left) will be among the 70 bards taking the stage during the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko this January. Poetry, music, Western art, and workshops draw visitors from around the world.

Much of the storytelling will relate to the millennium. Poets Paul Zarzyski, Ed Brown, and Joni Harms will entertain with "Crossing the Millennium," and Baxter Black will present "Back in the New Millennium." Likewise, workshops will blend the old and the new. Favorites include Basque cooking, gentling wild horses, ranch blacksmithing, rawhide braiding, tying fancy knots, and new interests such as digital communications on the ranch.

"Part of the cowboy culture remains largely as it was," Seemann says. "Cowboys still work with livestock on horseback and have much the same kind of gear and working conditions." But technology has led to changes, he adds. "Cowboys take their horses by trailer to where they're working, and they may carry cell phones instead of six-shooters."

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Cowboy poetry is a traditional form of storytelling that buckaroos use to fill lonely days and nights on the range and in the bunkhouse when no other entertainment is available. Some stories are drawn from experience, others from imagination.

For example, Waddie Mitchell tells about a cowboy who escorts a pretty young girl to a dance, only to be relegated to the sidelines as she whirls away in others' arms. But for the last dance she chooses her escort—revealed at the poignant tale's end to be her dad. Mitchell says the story was inspired by the time he escorted his 16-year-old daughter to a high school dance.

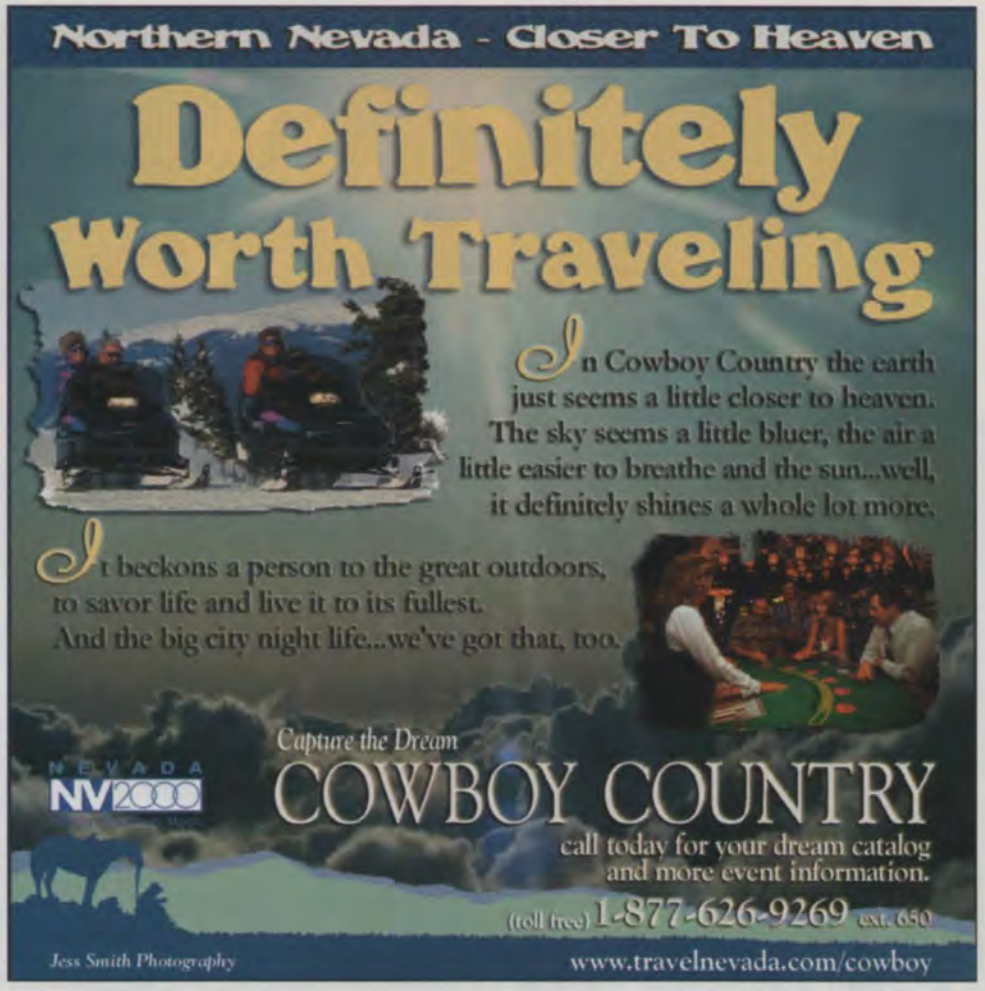
Rhymes and music can transform ordinary stories into durable entertainment.

"We expected it to be only a one-time event," Hal Cannon recalls of the first poetry gathering in 1984. "We knew it was a powerful art form, but we didn't know it would captivate people like it did."

"You tell the same people the same story three times, they're all going to roll their eyes and say they've heard it," Mitchell says. "But put that same story to rhyme and meter and make it feel like they can relate very strongly, and, like a song, they'll listen to it over and over." Mitchell will present his poetry on January 29 with Larry McWhorter, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, and Jesse Smith at the G Three Bar Theater in the Western Folklife Center.

Not all of the music played at the gathering is composed by the cowboy poets. Many old-time audience-pleasers like "Red River Valley," "Home on the Range," and "Good-bye, Old Paint" are mingled with the cowboys' own creations.

For those who want to try their own hand at cowboy poetry, Paul Zarzyski will





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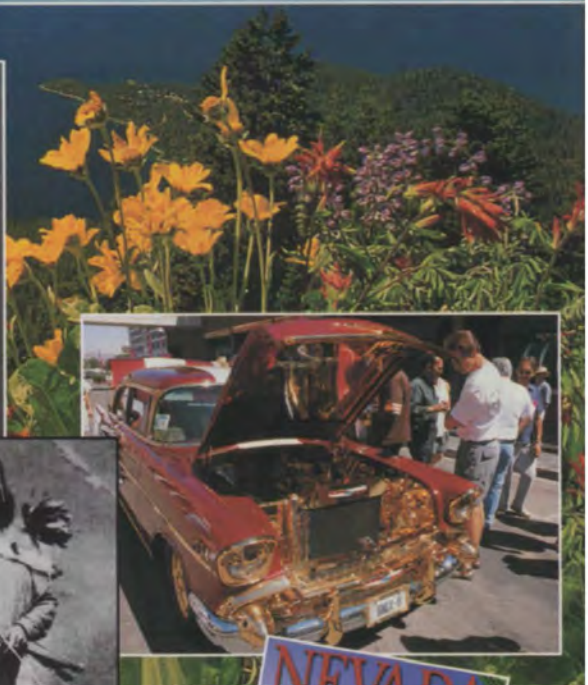
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conduct "The Last Poetry Workshop." He will lead group discussions of poetry writing and students' works in progress.

New at the 2000 gathering will be "Visions of the West," a display of artifacts from the collection of corporate maverick and historic preservationist J.P. Bryan in its first appearance outside Houston, Texas. The exhibit showcases art of the West not generally seen, including multicultural art work by African Americans, cowgirl artifacts, cowboy equestrian gear, arms representing more than 200 years of collecting, and traditional folk art of Native Americans, Spaniards, and Mexicans from the Southwest.

The Cowboy Poetry Gathering was first staged in Elko 1984. "We expected it to be only a one-time event," recalls Hal Cannon, founding director of the Western Folklife Center. "We knew it was a powerful art form, but we didn't know it would captivate people like it did. After the first year, we decided we'd have to do it again."

Today, the gathering draws about 8,000 people and fills the city's 2,000-odd hotel and motel rooms. Its popularity has spread far and wide, spawning some 150 similar gatherings in other Western towns.

About 70 cowboy poets are in the January lineup, including Michael Martin Murphey of New Mexico, Don Edwards of Texas, Glenn Ohrlin of Arizona, Georgie Sicking of California, Baxter Black of Colorado, Wallace McCrae and Henry Real Bird of Montana, J.B. Allen of Texas, and Sunny Hancock of Oregon. Nevada poets include Jack Walther of Lamoille, Jake Miller of Spring Creek, and Bimbo Cheney of Elko. Besides the veterans, the gathering always attracts new talent who bring rhyme to the range.

Elko After Dark

Hotels and casinos have booked special entertainment for the crowds attending the Cowboy Poetry Gathering on January 22-29 in Elko:

Commercial Hotel • Musicians play 90-minute sets every two hours between 8 p.m. and 2 a.m. Call 775-738-3181.

Gold Country Casino • Erni Sites plays January 25-29 in J.R.'s Lounge. There is no charge to hear the country singer perform 8 to 11 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 10 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday. Call 800-621-1332.

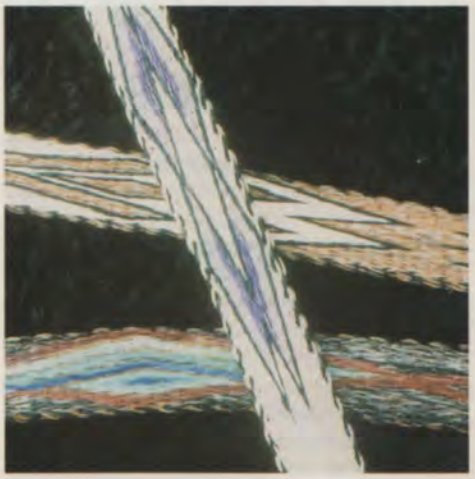
High Desert Inn • Entertainment TBA. Call 775-738-8425.

Red Lion • Ian Tyson headlines January 27-29 in the Club Max Showroom. Show times are 8:30 p.m. Thursday and 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Tickets are $17.50 and $20. Call 775-738-2111.

Stockmen's • Michael Martin Murphey performs at 8 and 10 p.m. on January 27-30. Ticket prices TBA. Call 775-738-5141 for show information.









Western art by cowboy craftsmen will be showcased during the gathering. Above and right: The intricate work of Jeremiah Watt, boots by John Weinkauf, Jeff Sailors' woven art, and an Eddie Brooks saddle.

Gathering Notes

Elko is located 430 miles north of Las Vegas and 288 miles east of Reno on Interstate 80. If you plan to attend the Cowboy Poetry Gathering on January 22-29, it's best to secure room reservations as early as possible. When seeking a room reservation, persistence pays, Charlie Seemann of the Western Folklife Center advises.

"Last year we had rooms available here and there that didn't get filled," he says, adding that even last-minute room-seekers can find one if they try, and new motels are opening in Elko. During the gathering free shuttle vans will pick up and drop off attendees at the various venues.

Events, art displays, and handicrafts can be found at several locations, including the Elko Convention Center, Western Folklife Center, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Great Basin College Theater, and Elko hotels. The Western Folklife Center offers a gift shop filled with Cowboy Poetry Gathering wares and a long bar where cowboys and cowgirls assuage their thirst and swap stories.

Daytime events on January 27-29 (Thursday through Saturday) require passes, and tickets also are needed for evening shows and some special day events. A guest pass costs $20, and a single-day pass is $8. To order tickets write the Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Box 888, Elko, NV 89801; phone 775-738-7508; fax 775-738-2900; or e-mail tbaer@westfolklife.org. The gathering's Web site is www.westernfolklife.org.

Organizers suggest that attendees bring a warm jacket for the cold high-desert winter temperatures and don cowboy boots and hats. Visitors also can purchase cowboy attire in one of Elko's Western-wear shops.

Chris Chrystal of Carson City is media relations manager for the Nevada Commission on Tourism.

Millennium Countdown

CALENDAR

Nevada, with its glittering resorts, friendly small-town festivals, cultural events, and scenic and man-made attractions, is holding a celebration for the millennium. Instead of one party, one night, Nevada has welcomed visitors to 15 months of festivities that extend to Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 15, 2001. Following is a statewide day-by-day guide to events and entertainers. Dates are subject to change, so it is wise to confirm dates and times. Each event is color-coded to the Nevada Territory Map.

January 2000

• **1 Millennium Brunch and Cruise:** Sightseeing trip aboard the *Desert Princess* paddlewheeler to celebrate New Year's Day 2000. Lake Mead Cruises at Lake Mead, Boulder City, 702-293-6180.

• **1 Debbie Reynolds** performs at the Riverside, Laughlin, 800-227-3849 ext. 616.

• **1 Joe Diffie** headlines at Cactus Petes, Jackpot, 800-821-1103.

• **1 The Flying Elvi:** Si Redd's Oasis, Mesquite, 702-346-4031

• **1 Full Moon Cross-Country Ski Tour:** Northstar-at-Tahoe, Truckee, 530-562-1010.

• **1 Pat Benatar** headlines at the Las Vegas Hilton, 702-732-5111

• **1 Willie Nelson** appears at John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427

• **1 Rodney Dangerfield** performs at the MGM Grand, Las Vegas, 702-891-7777

• **1 Wayne Newton** headlines at the Stardust, Las Vegas, 702-732-6111

• **1 Brooks and Dunn** perform at Caesars Tahoe, Stateline, 800-648-3353.

• **1 Bobby Slayton and Robert Schimmel** appear at the Riviera, Las Vegas, 702-734-5110.

• **1 The Guy Lombardo Orchestra** plays at the Stardust, Las Vegas, 702-732-6111

• **1-2 Tony Bennett** performs at the Desert Inn, Las Vegas, 702-733-4444.

• **1-2 Daryl Hall and John Oates** headline at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, 800-445-4544.

• **2-9 Carl Hurley** appears at the Riverside, Laughlin, 800-227-3849 ext. 616.

• **3-5 Millennium Slots: January Slot Tournament of Champions:** Tropicana, Las Vegas, 702-739-2222.

• **4 UNLV Basketball:** The Runnin' Rebels play High Point, the Lady Rebels play Navy. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-895-3900.

• **5-7 Golden Star's Ski Clinic:** For skiers age 60 and over. Northstar-at-Tahoe, Truckee, 530-562-2470.

• **6-9 The McGuire Sisters** headline at the Orleans, Las Vegas, 800-ORLEANS.

• **6-19 The Drifters and Billy Richard's Coasters** play John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427

• **6-9 Extreme Team Clinic:** The techniques of freeskiing. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 800-X-TEAM-70.

• **7 Sharkey's Serbian Christmas:** Free feast. Sharkey's Nugget, Gardnerville, 775-782-3133.

• **7-8 "The Space Cracker":** Modern dance version of "The Nutcracker" done in science-fiction style, performed by Area 51 Dance Theatre. Flamingo Hilton Reno, 775-322-1343.

• **7-9 Video Poker Tournament:** Comstock, Reno, 800-266-7862, ext. 7231

• **7-9 Learn Right From Wong:** Ski clinic taught by freestyle skier Wayne Wong. Diamond Peak, Incline Village, 775-831-3537

• **8 UNLV Women's Basketball:** The Lady Rebels play Valparaiso. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-895-3900.

• **8 University of Nevada Men's Basketball:** The Wolf Pack plays Santa Clara. Lawlor Events Center, U of N, Reno, 775-348-PACK.

• **8 Hidden Cave Tour:** Tour to archaeological site. Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 775-423-3677





Skiers race head-to-head during the Red Bull Ultracross, January 16-17 at Squaw Valley USA at North Lake Tahoe.

• **8-9 Millennium Mud Mania:** Racers plow through mud to victory. Fairgrounds, Mesquite, 702-346-3766.

• **9 USASA Snowboard Competition:** Slalom and half-pipe competition. Northstar-at-Tahoe, Truckee, 530-562-1010.

• **9-15 PBA Senior Tour Doubles:** Tournament play at the National Bowling Stadium. Reno, 800-304-BOWL.

• **9, 16, and 23 Coffee Shop Sundays:** Music, hot java, and edibles. Black Mountain Recreation Center, Jan. 9; Silver Springs Recreation Center, Jan. 16; Valley View Recreation Center, Jan. 23. Henderson, 702-565-2367

• **9-28 Carnivale of Poker Tournament:** Harrah's Las Vegas, 888-475-6661

• **10 UNLV Men's Basketball:** The Runnin' Rebels play BYU. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-895-3900.

• **10 Chutal Kritzer Duo: Sweet Love Doth Now Invite:** Valentine concert. Community Center, Lovelock, 775-273-2197

• **11 The Lincoln Highway in Nevada: America's First Transcontinental Highway:** Lecture. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1191

• **12-16 The Osmond Brothers** headline at the Riverside, Laughlin, 800-227-3849.

• **13 UNLV Women's Basketball:** The Lady Rebels play BYU. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-895-3900.

• **13 University of Nevada Men's Basketball:** The Wolf Pack plays UC Irvine. Lawlor Events Center, U of N, Reno, 775-348-PACK.

• **13-15 Shecky Greene Comedy Slot Tournament:** Tropicana, Las Vegas, 702-739-2222.

• **13-16 Jerry Lewis** performs at the Orleans, Las Vegas, 800-ORLEANS.

• **13-16 Tidal Treasures Slot Tournament:** Las Vegas Hilton, 800-457-3307

• **14 "The Pirates of Penzance":** Western Nevada Musical Theatre Company touring production. Fernley High School, Fernley, 775-887-3115.

• **14-15 Dockers Big Air:** Skier and boarder big air competition. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985 for event information.

• **14-15, 20-22, 27-29, and Feb. 3-5 "Under Milkwood":** Dylan Thomas' last play. Bruka Theatre, Reno, 775-323-3221

• **14-16, 20-23, and 27-30 "It's Only a Play":** Story about a lavish opening-night party and the group gathered to await reviews. Gothic North Theater, Reno, 775-329-7529.

• **15 Carl Grove Combo:** Big band dance. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

• **15 University of Nevada Men's Basketball:** The Wolf Pack plays Cal State Fullerton. Lawlor Events Center, U of N, Reno, 775-348-PACK.

• **15 UNLV Women's Basketball:** The Lady Rebels play Utah. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-895-3900.

• **15 Bob Newhart** performs at the Las Vegas Hilton, 702-732-5111

• **15 Destination Red Rock:** Two-mile hike includes an orientation to the canyon's geology, plants, wildlife, and ancient Anasazi culture. Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-363-1922.

• **15 "The Pirates of Penzance":** Western Nevada Musical Theatre Company touring production. Jeanne Dini Center, Yerington, 775-887-3115.

• **15 Winter Wine and All That Jazz:** Wine and cheese tasting, music. Ormsby House, Carson City, 775-884-7477

• **15 Reno Chamber Orchestra Concert:** Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 775-348-9413.

• **15-16 Ray Charles** headlines at John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427

• **15-17 Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration:** Events will take place in Las Vegas and Reno/Sparks.

• **16 Las Vegas Civic Symphony:** Free concert. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211

• **16 Far West Junior Olympic Qualifier:** Diamond Peak, Incline Village, 775-832-1176.

• **16-17 Magic of Jay Owenhouse:** Benefit for the Elko County Sheriff's Posse. Convention Center, Elko, 775-744-4334.

• **16-17 Ultracross:** Teams of two racers compete head-to-head. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

• **17 Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration:** Dinner with featured speaker Dr. Samuel Betances, professor emeritus of sociology at Northeastern Illinois University, who will speak on "Diversity." John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 775-329-8990.

• **18 Alpine Meadows Bordercross Series:** Mass-start race. Alpine Meadows Ski Resort, Lake Tahoe, 800-441-4423.

• **18-20 An Edgewater Odyssey Slot Tournament:** Edgewater, Laughlin, 800-289-8777

• **18-23 The Smothers Brothers** perform at the Orleans, Las Vegas, 800-ORLEANS.

• **18-29 Bob Goss and His Silver Sizzles Review** headlines at the Riverside, Laughlin, 800-227-3849.

• **19-20 ESPN Winter Games X Qualifier:** Men and women skiers compete in skiercross and big air events. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

• **20 Duet Unique:** Guitar and clarinet concert includes classical, pop, jazz, and movie themes. Virgin Valley High School, Mesquite, 702-346-2787

• **20, 23, 27, and 30 "I Never Saw Another Butterfly":** Story of children in a Nazi concentration camp and the hope a young teacher supplies through art and poetry. Carson High School, Carson City, 775-885-6331



A racer gets stuck in the mud at the Millennium Mud Races January 8-9 in Mesquite.

Photos: Nathan Kendall/Squaw Valley USA (top), Keith Gray (bottom)



The Western Nevada Musical Theatre Company production of "The Pirates of Penzance" plays Fernley, Yerington, Reno, and Winnemucca on selected weekends in January and February.

- **20-23 Laughlin Desert Challenge:** Off-road race around the Colorado River community. Laughlin, 800-452-8445.
- **20-Feb. 2 Mel Tillis** performs at John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800843-2427
- **21 Diane Schuur** appears at Boulder Station, Las Vegas, 702-432-7575.
- **21 University of Nevada Women's Basketball:** The Lady Wolf Pack plays Long Beach State. Lawlor Events Center, U of N, Reno, 775-348-PACK.
- **21 Thomas Jefferson Chautauqua:** Taping of Clay Jenkinson's National Public Radio program, *The Thomas Jefferson Hour.* It will be broadcast from the only operational round courthouse in the U.S. Pershing County Courthouse, Lovelock, 775-273-2082.
- **21 Organ Concert:** Arthur Johnson and Mark Lord perform. Trinity Episcopal Church, Reno, 775-784-6847
- **21, 22, and 29 "A Piece of My Heart":** Play about nurses and USO singers who recount tragic moments in Vietnam and their struggle to regain their lives. Carson High School, Carson City, 775-885-6331
- **21-23 Sprint U.S. Freestyle Grand National:** World Cup ski competition with more than 32 countries represented in mogul and aerial events. Heavenly Ski Resort, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.
- **21-24 Americana Indian Jewelry Show:** Henderson Covention Center, 520-526-9232.
- **22 Itzhak Perlman:** Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 702-895-3801
- **22 Hidden Cave Tour:** Guided tour to archaeological site. Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 775-423-3677
- **22 UNLV Men's Basketball:** The Runnin' Rebels play San Diego State. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-895-3900.
- **22-23 Antique Show and Sale:** Golf Club at Genoa Lakes, Genoa, 775-782-4951
- **22-23 USASA Snowboard Series:** Sanctioned slopestyle and half pipe amateur competition. Sierra-at-Tahoe Ski Resort, Lake Tahoe, 530-659-7453.
- **22-23 Paul Mitchell American Snowboard Tour:** Giant slalom and half-pipe competitions for pro riders. Northstar-at-Tahoe, Truckee, 530-562-1010.
- **22-29 Cowboy Poetry Gathering: Cowboys and Ranching Culture at the Millennium:** Poetry readings, music, blacksmithing, ranch photography, Dutch-oven cooking, and the role of the cowboy on horseback in the 21st century. Elko, 775-738-7508.
- **23 University of Nevada Women's Basketball:** The Lady Wolf Pack plays Pacific. Lawlor Events Center, U of N, Reno, 775-348-PACK.
- **23 Fantasy Wedding Faire:** Exhibit by 85 businesses of wedding services and products. Reno Hilton, 775-322-7065.
- **23 Drummers of West Africa:** Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 702-895-3801
- **25 Reno Philharmonic Concert:** Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-323-6393.
- **25 Maynard Ferguson's Big Bop Nouveau Band** headlines at the Riviera, Las Vegas, 702-734-5110.
- **25-29 The Everly Brothers** perform at the Orleans, Las Vegas, 800-ORLEANS.
- **27 Las Vegas Philharmonic:** Master class featuring pianists Igor Kipnis and Karen Kushner. KNPR Studios, Las Vegas, 702-258-5438.
- **27 University of Nevada Women's Basketball:** The Lady Wolf Pack plays New Mexico State. Lawlor Events Center, U of N, Reno, 775-348-PACK.
- **27-29 "Show Boat":** Broadway musical tells the story of the Cotton Blossom floating theater and its family of actors. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-686-6600.
- **28-29 Lord of the Boards:** Supercross-style race featuring up to five skiers at a time. Sugar Bowl, Lake Tahoe, 530-426-9000.
- **28-29 Jamie Foxx** appears at the Las Vegas Hilton, 702-732-5111
- **28-30 "The Pirates of Penzance":** Western Nevada Musical Theatre Company touring production. Redfield Theatre, U of N, Reno, 775-887-3115.
- **28-30 Super Bowl Super Sunday:** Free entertainment on two stages and viewing of the Super Bowl. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 702-678-5777
- **28-30 and Feb. 4-6 "Angels in America: Millennium Approaches":** Tony Kushner's play explores the future through magical realism. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 702-895-3662.
- **28-30 and Feb. 4-6 "Don't Mention My Name":** A case of amnesia causes chaos at a bed-and-breakfast inn. Reno Little Theater, Sparks, 775-331-1877
- **28-Feb. 6 "Our Town":** University Theatre. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 702-895-3801
- **29 University of Nevada Women's Basketball:** The Lady Wolf Pack plays Cal Poly. Lawlor Events Center, U of N, Reno, 775-348-PACK.
- **30 Super Bowl Parties:** Casinos throughout Nevada celebrate the big game.

February 2000

- **1-2 Mel Tillis** headlines at John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427
- **1-3 Spin and Win Slot Tournament:** Ramada Express, Laughlin, 800-243-6846.
- **1-6 The McGuire Sisters** headline at the Riverside, Laughlin, 800-227-3849.
- **2 Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill:** Fiddle and guitar players offer Celtic, jazz, classical folk, and rock music. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 775-784-6847
- **3 UNLV Women's Basketball:** The Lady Rebels play Colorado State. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-895-3900.
- **3 University of Nevada Men's Basketball:** The Wolf Pack plays New Mexico State. Lawlor Events Center, U of N, Reno, 775-348-PACK.
- **3-5 "Under Milkwood":** Dylan Thomas' last play. Bruka Theatre, Reno, 775-323-3221
- **3-16 Mickey Gilley** appears at John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427
- **3-26 Nevada Shakespeare Festival:** Performance of Shakespeare's "Hamlet." Java Jungle, Reno, 775-324-4198.
- **4 Dr. Rex Ellis:** The director of the Center for Museum Studies at the Smithsonian Institution uses storytelling and song to teach African-American history. Cal-Neva Resort, Crystal Bay, Lake Tahoe,



Competition is desert tough during the Laughlin Desert Challenge, January 20-23 in Laughlin.

Photo: Centerline (bottom)

530-546-4602.

• **4-6 Quick Strike Keno:** Comstock, Reno, 800-266-7862, ext. 7231

• **4-6 Al Martino** headlines at the Orleans, Las Vegas, 800-ORLEANS.

• **5 Repertorio Espanol:** "Fresa y Chocolate" Comedy about the relationship between a gay artist and revolutionary purist. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

• **5 Fur Trappers Sale:** Bristlecone Convention Center, Ely, 775-289-3720.

• **5 University of Nevada Men's Basketball:** The Wolf Pack plays North Texas. Lawlor Events Center, U of N, Reno, 775-348-PACK.

• **5 UNLV Men's Basketball:** The Runnin' Rebels play Utah. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-895-3900.

• **5 The Duttons:** Concert. Virgin Valley High School, Mesquite, 702-346-2787

• **5 Believe in Angels Masquerade Ball:** Fundraiser for children with cancer. Four Seasons Hotel, Las Vegas, 702-739-1919.

• **5 Eagles Crab Feed:** Diners feed on 1,500 pounds of crab. Community Center, Lovelock, 775-273-0409.

• **5 The Sabella Consort:** Renaissance jazz, improvisation, original works. Churchill County High School, Fallon, 775-423-1440.

• **5 Valhalla Winter Microbrew Festival:** Brew tasting, music, and food. Must be 21 or older to attend the brew festival. Harrah's Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **5-6 African-American Cultural Arts Festival:** Music, dance, poetry, plays. Doolittle Community Center, Las Vegas, 702-647-2242.

• **5-6 USASA Snowboard Series:** Slopestyle and boardercross races. Sugar Bowl, Lake Tahoe, 530-426-6724.

• **6 Dynamic Trombone Quartet:** From country to classical music. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211

• **6 Las Vegas International Marathon and Half-Marathon:** More than 7,500 runners from 50 states and 40 countries compete in the 34th annual 26.2- and 13.1-mile races. Event includes a 5K "friendship" run on Feb. 5, and on race day an international food festival and health and fitness expo. Las Vegas, 702-240-2722.

• **6-8 Valentine Victory Slot Tournament:** Imperial Palace, Las Vegas, 702-731-3311

• **8 Zion in Gomorrah: The Mormons of Nevada:** Lecture. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1191

• **8 Betty Buckley's Broadway Theater:** Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 702-895-3801

• **10 UNLV Men's Basketball:** The Runnin' Rebels play Colorado State. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-895-3900.

• **10 Chuatal Kritzer Duo:** Vocalist and classic guitar perform Valentine's Day music. Community Center, Lovelock, 775-273-2082.

• **10-11 "Not His Story":** Play about a man with AIDS, from his sister's point of view. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-893-8980.

• **10-13 Debbie Reynolds** headlines at the Orleans, Las Vegas, 800-ORLEANS.

• **11 Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company:** Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-785-7915.

• **11 University of Nevada Women's Basketball:** The Lady Wolf Pack plays Idaho. Lawlor Events Center, U of N, Reno, 775-348-PACK.

• **11 Paula Poundstone** headlines at Sunset Station, Henderson, 702-547-7777

• **11-12 Air Supply** appears at the Riviera, Las Vegas, 702-734-5110.

• **11-12 Father/Daughter Sweetheart Dance:** Fairgrounds, Gardnerville, 775-782-9828.

• **11-13 Mini-Slot Tournament:** Comstock, Reno, 800-266-7862, ext. 7231

• **11-13 Kawasaki Team Green: Laughlin U.S. Hare Scrambles:** Desert motorcycle race. Laughlin, 702-457-5775.

• **11-13 and 17-20 Nevada Stories:** Storytelling and music for entire family, tales based on actual events. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6553.

• **11-13, 17-20, and 24-27 "The Sisters Rogenweig":** Reunion of three sisters coming to terms with their differences. Gothic North Theater, Reno, 775-329-7529.

• **12 Hidden Cave Tour:** Guided tour of the archaeological site includes a self-guided tour of nearby Petroglyph Park. Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 775-423-3677

• **12 UNLV Men's Basketball:** The Runnin' Rebels play Wyoming. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-895-3900.

• **12 Flying Saucer Trap Club Shoot:** Trap Club, Lovelock, 775-273-2436.

• **12 Mardi Gras Gala:** Dinner dance to benefit the American Heart Association. Peppermill, Reno, 775-322-7065.

• **12 Valentine's Ball:** Volunteer Fire Department, Dayton, 775-246-0161

• **12-13 Bumps and Jumps Challenge:** Mogul and aerial ski competition. Heavenly Ski Resort, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

• **13 Valentine Sweetheart Race:** Skiers compete for a 14-karat diamond pendant and ring. Heavenly Ski Resort, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

• **13 University of Nevada Women's Basketball:** The Lady Wolf Pack plays Boise State. Lawlor Events Center, U of N, Reno, 775-348-PACK.

• **14 Valentine's Day Race:** Fun ski race open to all skill levels. Northstar-at-Tahoe, Truckee, 530-562-1010.

• **14 Ballet de l'Opera de Bordeaux:** "Romeo and Juliet. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 702-895-3801

• **14 ESPN's ESPY Awards:** Ceremony honoring the best performers, performances, and highlights in sports. MGM Grand, Las Vegas, 702-891-1111

• **15-20 Mel Tillis** headlines at the Riverside, Laughlin, 800-227-3849 ext. 616.

• **15-20 Neal Sedaka** headlines at the Orleans, Las Vegas, 800-ORLEANS.

• **17 UNLV Women's Basketball:** The Lady Rebels play Air Force. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-895-3900.

• **17 University of Nevada Men's Basketball:** The Wolf Pack plays Utah State. Lawlor Events Center, U of N, Reno, 775-348-PACK.



The Nevada Millennium Countdown Calendar and further details on the state's 15-month celebration can be found at www.2000nevada.com.

Nevada's Millennium Web Site

The Nevada Millennium Countdown Calendar, devoted to the state's 15-month millennial celebration, appears in each issue of *Nevada Magazine* during the state's celebration. The Nevada Millennium Countdown Calendar also is available online at www.2000nevada.com. In addition to millennium events, the site has information on ordering "NV2000: Making Millennium Magic" merchandise, millennium travel packages, and a countdown clock. The site links to the Nevada Commission on Tourism's information site, www.travelnevada.com, which offers a wide variety of travel and vacation ideas.

Happy New Year!

Nevada communities and hotel-casinos have many events planned for the Millennium New Year's Weekend.

Las Vegas Area

Arizona Charlie's: Sonny Charles and Sweet Louie and The Checkmates on New Year's Eve; tickets $50. 702-258-5200.
Caesars Palace: Elton John and Tina Turner perform Dec. 30 at Thomas and Mack Center. 702-895-3900. Daryl Hall and John Oates headline at Caesars Dec. 31-Jan. 2. 702-731-7333.
Desert Inn: Don Rickles, Dec. 29-31 Tony Bennett, Jan. 1-2. 702-733-4444.
Flamingo Hilton: Robert Goulet, Dec. 31 Tickets are $225, which includes dinner. 702-733-3111
Fremont Street Experience: Starship, The Guess Who, REO Speedwagon, Creedence Clearwater Revisted perform Dec. 31 702-678-5777
Jackie Gaughan's Plaza: "Kenny Kerr Show" and the Sunspots, Dec. 31 702-386-2444.
Lake Mead Cruises: Cruise to Hoover Dam Dec. 31 $60 adults, $30 children. New Year's Day brunch cruise, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m., $32 adults, $12 children. Desert Princess, Lake Mead Cruises Landing, Boulder City. 702-293-6180.
Las Vegas Hilton: Pat Benatar rings in the new millennium Dec. 31-Jan. 1 800-222-5361
Luxor: "Imagine: A Theatrical Odyssey" runs through Jan. 1 Lasting Impressions with Bill Acosta (7:30 p.m.), "Midnight Fantasy" production revue (10:30 p.m.). 702-262-4822.
MGM Grand: Barbra Streisand, Dec. 31 Rodney Dangerfield, Dec. 24-Jan. 1 Studio 54 Nightclub: Party Dec. 31 10 p.m. "EFX" starring Tommy Tune, 10:15 p.m. 800-929-1111
Mandalay Bay: Bette Midler performs Dec. 31-Jan. 1 877-632-7520.
Monte Carlo: Master Magician Lance Burton performs. 877-386-8224.
Opportunity Village: First Night Las Vegas 2000: Dec. 31 6 p.m. to midnight. $25 adults, $15 children. 702-225-TREE.
The Orleans: The Smothers Brothers headline Dec. 29-31 702-365-7075.
Rio Suite Hotel: Rod Stewart headlines Dec. 31 702-252-7777
Riviera: On Dec. 31 "Splash" will have one show at 10:30 p.m. Royale Pavilion: Frankie Avalon, the Tokens, and the Shangri-las appear Dec. 30-31 Top of the Riv: Comedy show. La Cage Theater: The Salsa Machine. Grande Ballroom: Dance party. Le Bistro Lounge: Spiral Staircase plays Dec. 28-Jan. 2. 702-794-9433.
Sahara: The Platters, the Marvelettes, and Billy Guy's Coasters perform at 10:30 p.m. on New Year's Eve. Tickets are $99.99. 702-737-2111
Showboat: "Millennium Mayhem, an interactive murder-mystery dinner show, includes dinner. Tickets are $75 for the 6 p.m. show, $95 for the 9:30 show. Bobby Morris and His All Star Band play in the Mardi Gras Room. 702-385-9190.
Stardust: Wayne Newton performs Dec. 31-Jan. 1 Tickets are $302.50, which includes unlimited beverages. The Guy Lombardo Orchestra plays Jan. 1 $29.95 and $39.95. 702-732-6325.
Star Trek: The Experience: Las Vegas Hilton. Millennium party 8 p.m.-2 a.m. Live band, DJ, buffet, open bar, unlimited rides on the Voyage Through Space until 11 p.m., live countdown on large screen in Deep Space Nine Promenade. Tickets are $350. 702-697-8702.
Sunset Station, Henderson: The Fab and Disco Inferno play in Club Madrid at 8 p.m. Tickets are $75 and $125. 702-547-7777
Texas Station, North Las Vegas: Club Millennium 2000 is a "nightclub of the future" for the party Dec. 31 Loveshack and Jonathan and Music Magic play for dancing. 702-631-8104.
Tropicana: Branscombe Richmond and the Renegade Posse, Dec. 31 702-739-2222.

Laughlin

Colorado Belle: Lowering of the New Year's ball, bands 9 p.m.-until. 702-298-4000.
Edgewater: Jumpin' Jimes play swing music Dec. 31-Jan. 1 800-677-4837
River Palms: The Edge performs Dec. 28-Jan. 2. 702-298-2242.
Riverside: Debbie Reynolds headlines Dec. 29-Jan. 1 800-227-3849, ext. 616.

Mesquite

Mesquite: New Year's Eve fireworks and party. 702-346-1935. The Flying Elvi parachute into Si Redd's Oasis on Jan. 1 702-346-4031

Reno-Sparks

Atlantis: Siren performs Dec. 28-Jan. 2. 775-825-4700.
Boomtown, Verdi: The Lelands headline Dec. 28-Jan. 2. 775-345-8680.
Eldorado: New Year's Eve "Spirit of the Dance" can be combined with dinner packages. Brew Brothers: Steel Breeze on Dec. 31 plus a 1 a.m. dance party Jan. 1 775-786-5700.
Fitzgeralds: Joey Carmon plays Dec. 27-Jan. 2. 775-785-3312.
John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks: David Martin's House Party plays Dec. 31 in the Rose Ballroom. Willie Nelson, Dec. 31-Jan. 1 800-843-2427
Reno Hilton: John Popper Band of Blues Traveler appears Dec. 30-31 $100 and $125. The Miracles, dinner show in the Hilton Theater, $75 and $150. 775-789-2000.
Silver Legacy: Comedian Gilbert Gottfried performs in Catch a Rising Star at 8 and 10:30 p.m, Dec. 31 $49.95. Call 775-325-7454.

Lake Tahoe

Caesars Tahoe: Brooks and Dunn perform Dec. 30-Jan. 1 Tickets New Year's Eve are $150 and $250. 800-648-3353.
Cal-Neva Resort, Crystal Bay: Dec. 31 dinner-dance with Bob Barnes Big Band in the showroom. Dancing to Ken Dobbs, D.J. Express, in the Indian Room. 775-832-4000.
Harrah's Lake Tahoe: Mitch Woods Orchestra, John Carleton Orchestra, and Rick Michel headline New Year's Eve. 800-HARRAHS.

Carson City

Carson Nugget: New Year's Eve Party. Nugget Show Bar: David Proud. Nugget Ballroom: The Motifs. Carson City. 800-426-5239.
Carson Station: Stew Stewart headlines Dec. 31 in the Cabaret Lounge. 775-883-0900.
Countdown to the Millennium Celebration: Festivities on Dec. 26-31 include nightly fireworks, parades, antique slot machine exhibits, Taste of Downtown food specials, strolling musicians, magicians. Carson City, 800-426-5239.
Piñon Plaza: The Buddy Balue Band appears Dec. 29-Jan. 1 in the Lizard Lounge. Convention Center: The Zella Lehr Show plays Dec. 31. 775-885-9000.

Carson Valley

Carson Valley Inn: The Palmores appear Dec. 28-Jan. 9. 775-783-6679.
Sharkey's Casino: Once in a Lifetime Event, Dec. 31 at Sharkey's Casino, Gardnerville. Dancing 9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., buffet breakfast, 1 a.m., $55 per person, with drinks extra; seating is limited. Reservations necessary. 775-782-3416 or 775-265-5402.

Rural Nevada

Caliente: Millennium party on Dec. 31 RSVP and Senior Centers of Lincoln County, Olson Senior Center. 775-726-3126.
Elko County: Dunn's Wildhorse Resort, 62 miles north of Elko on SR 223, plans a wild meat feast Dec. 31 775-758-6471
Ely: Volunteer Firemen's New Year's Eve Ball at the Convention Center. 775-289-3720.
Fallon: Hay rides, bonfire, snake dance, music on Dec. 30. Pancake breakfast, vintage car parade, New Year's Eve dance, fireworks on Dec. 31 Singers and dancers, clock dedication, time capsule burial on Jan. 1 775-423-4556.
Jackpot: Joe Diffie headlines at Cactus Petes on Dec. 31-Jan. 1 800-821-1103.
Pioche: Grubsteak Restaurant. Party starts at 10 p.m. on Dec. 31 Seating limited to 80. For price call 775-962-5527

• **17-18 Dick Sargeant: LA's Improv Extravaganza:** Comedy from Second City and the Improv Olympics. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-893-8980.
• **17-March 1 Louise Mandrell** headlines at John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427
• **18 Organ Concert:** John Fenstermaker of San Francisco's Grace Cathedral performs. Trinity Episcopal Church, Reno, 775-784-6847
• **18-19 Toto** appears at Caesars Tahoe, Stateline, 800-648-3353.
• **18-20 "The Pirates of Penzance":** Western Nevada Musical Theatre Company touring production. Sarah Winnemucca Hall, Western Nevada Community College, Winnemucca, 775-887-3115.
• **18-20 Super Slots Tournament:** Comstock, Reno, 800-266-7862, ext. 7231
• **19 Winter Nature Walk:** Three-mile moderate hike to learn about natural history and winter adaptations of plants and animals. Red Rock National Conservation Area, 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-363-1922.
• **19 University of Nevada Men's Basketball:** The Wolf Pack plays Long Beach State. Lawlor Events Center, U of N, Reno, 775-348-PACK.
• **19 Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young** headline at the MGM Grand, Las Vegas, 702-474-4000.
• **19 UNLV Women's Basketball:** The Lady Rebels play New Mexico. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-895-3900.
• **19 Firemen's Ball:** Sturgeon's Casino, Lovelock, 775-273-0409.
• **19 Torchlight Parade and Fireworks:** Kirkwood Ski Resort, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-6000.
• **19 B.J. Thomas** headlines at Sunset Station, Henderson, 702-547-7777
• **19 Reno Chamber Orchestra Concert:** Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 775-348-9413.
• **19-20 Jazz and Arts Festival:** Music, fine arts, crafts, and food. City Hall, Mesquite, 702-346-6038.
• **19-20 Piccadilly Antique Show:** Henderson Convention Center, 727-345-4431
• **19-21 Walker Lake Fishing Derby:** Competition for cash prizes. Walker Lake, Hawthorne, 775-945-5896.
• **20 Anthony Zerbe:** Actor performs a one-man poetry reading. Tahoe-Truckee High School, Truckee, Lake Tahoe, 530-546-4602.
• **22 UNLV Men's Basketball:** The Runnin' Rebels play Florida Atlantic. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-895-3900.
• **22-March 5 "Buddy,"** the Broadway musical, appears at the Las Vegas Hilton, 702-732-5111
• **22-24 Salute to Swing Slot Tournament of Champions:** Tropicana, Las Vegas, 702-739-2222.
• **22-24 Card Sharks Video Poker Tournament:** Edgewater, Laughlin, 800-289-8777
• **22-27 Roy Clark** appears at the Riverside, Laughlin, 800-227-3849 ext. 616.
• **24-25 "Fading Joy," "Avacado Season," "The Next to Last Bow":** Three one-act plays that explore the faces of the con artist. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-893-8980.
• **24-25 Annual Shooting Weekend:** Sporting clays, five-stand, and trap plus optional pheasant hunt. Red Hills Gun Club/Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 800-321-6983, ext. 625.
• **24 and 26 "Don Giovanni":** Nevada Opera presentation of the sin-steeped story of love and revenge. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-786-4046.
• **24-27 Vans/G Shock Triple Crown of Snowboarding:** World-class competitors in big air, boardercross, halfpipe, and slopestyle for a $375,000 purse. Sierra-at-Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, 530-659-7453.
• **25-26 Las Vegas Philharmonic:** Master class featuring pianist Vladimir Feltsman. Feb. 25 at KNPR Studios. Feb. 26 at Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV. Las Vegas, 702-258-5438.
• **25-27 $100K Blackjack Tournament:** Tropicana, Las Vegas, 702-739-2222.
• **25-27 Mel Tillis** headlines at the Orleans, Las Vegas, 800-ORLEANS.
• **25-27 Blue Moon $150,000 Slot Tournament:** Ramada Express, Laughlin, 800-243-6846.
• **26 Gala Wine Tasting:** Benefit to help restore historic Piper's Opera House includes a silent auction and celebrity talent show. Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-847-0454.
• **26 UNLV Basketball:** The Runnin' Rebels play Air Force. The Lady Rebels play San Diego State. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-895-3900.
• **26-27 "The Velveteen Rabbit":** Musical adaptation of the children's story about a toy rabbit. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.
• **27 Las Vegas Woodwind Quintet:** Concert. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211
• **27 Las Vegas Master Singers:** A capella concert featuring arrangements by Robert Shaw. Flamingo Library, Las Vegas, 702-228-8316.
• **27 Carson City Symphony Concert:** Selections by Tchaikovsky and Suk. Community Center, Carson City, 775-883-4154.
• **29 Quink:** Concert featuring Renaissance, baroque, folk songs. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 775-784-6847
• **29 "Bandanna":** UNLV orchestra and opera concert. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 702-895-3801

March 2000

• **1-July 1 WIBC National Tournament:** Female amateur bowlers compete. National Bowling Stadium, Reno, 800-304-BOWL.
• **1 Louise Mandrell** performs at John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427
• **1-5 "Buddy,"** the Broadway musical, appears at the Las Vegas Hilton, 702-732-5111
• **1-5 Red Buttons** headlines at the Riverside, Laughlin, 800-227-3849.
• **2 University of Nevada Men's Basketball:** The Wolf Pack plays Boise State. Lawlor Events Center, U of N, Reno, 775-348-PACK.
• **2-4 Ford Downhill Series:** Head-to-head competition. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985 for event information.
• **2-16 Roy Clark and Tony D'Andrea** headline at John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427
• **3 Snowfest Opening Ceremonies:** Torchlight parade, fireworks, and laser light show opens the annual snow carnival. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 775-832-7625.
• **3 Mariposa Trio Recital:** Black Box Theatre, UNLV, 702-895-3801
• **3 St. Paul Chamber Orchestra with Andre Watts:** Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 702-895-3801
• **3-4 Hoover Dam Weekend:** Square dances. Elton Garrett Junior High School, Boulder City, 702-565-8372.
• **3-4, 9-11, and 16-18 "The Tempest":** William Shakespeare's story of a duke's vengeance. The Actory, Sparks, 775-331-9228.
• **3-5 Krazy Keno:** Comstock, Reno, 800-266-7862.
• **3-5 and 10-12 "Dream Lover":** Football widow Emily daydreams herself an attentive Latin lover and the fun begins. Reno Little Theater, Sparks, 775-331-1877
• **3-12 "Angels in America":** University Theatre. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 702-895-3801
• **3-12 Snowfest Winter Carnival:** 20th annual Mountain Mardi Gras with serious and offbeat ski races, outdoor parties, concerts, parades, bonfire, ice carvings, snow sculptures, polar bear swim, snowshoe races, and torchlight parade. Area ski resorts, North Lake Tahoe, 775-832-7625.
• **4 Folk Music Dance Festival:** Features Nicholai Masseukoff. Virgin Valley High School, Mesquite, 702-346-2787
• **4 University of Nevada Basketball:** The Wolf Pack plays Idaho. The Lady Wolf Pack plays North Texas. Lawlor Events Center, U of N, Reno, 775-348-PACK.
• **4 UNLV Men's Basketball:** The Runnin' Rebels play New Mexico. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-895-3900.
• **4 Fattburger** headlines at Boulder Station, Las Vegas, 702-432-7575.
• **4-5 "The Velveteen Rabbit":** Musical adaptation of the children's story about a toy rabbitt. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.
• **5 CarsDirect.com400:** NASCAR Winston Cup race. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 800-644-4444.
• **5 Sierra Winds Recital:** Black Box Theatre, UNLV, 702-895-3801
• **5 UNLV Orchestra Concert:** Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 702-895-3801
• **7 Reno Philharmonic Concert:** Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Rerio, 775-323-6393.
• **8-11 Mountain West Conference Basketball Tournament:** Women's (• 8-11) and men's (• 9-11) and games. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-895-3900.
• **8-11 Big West Conference Basketball Tournament:** Women's (• 8-11) and men's (• 9-11) games. Lawlor Events Center, U of N, Reno, 775-348-PACK.
• **8-12 North American Freeride Championships:** Qualifier for the World Cup of Extreme Freeskiing. Kirkwood Ski Resort, Lake Tahoe, 209-349-2002.
• **10 Clandestine:** Celtic music concert. Convention Center, Fallon, 775-423-1440.
• **10-11 Bobby Vinton** headlines at the Riviera, Las Vegas, 702-734-5110.
• **10-12 Shooting the West XII:** Photography seminar. Winnemucca, 800-962-2638.
• **10-13 Blackjack Tournament:** Comstock, Reno, 800-266-7862, ext. 7231
• **11 Echo to Kirkwood Race and Tour:** Nordic event covers 13 miles across the crest of the Sierra Nevada from Highway 50 to Highway 88. Kirkwood Ski Resort, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-7248.
• **11 "An Evening in Old Vienna":** San Diego Young Artists Symphony Orchestra performs.

Millennium Countdown Calendar

Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6511

- **11 Mountain Oyster Cook-Off:** Creative cooking and festive booths and clothing. Virginia City, 775-847-0311
- **11 Cowboy Jubilee and Poetry:** Benefit for Carson-Tahoe Hospital Auxiliary. Carson City, 775-883-1532.
- **11-13 and 17-20 "Nevada Stories":** Musicals based upon historical events. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6553.
- **12 St. Patrick's Day Parade:** Wearing and sipping of the green in the historic Comstock mining town. Virginia City, 775-847-0311
- **12 SSEA Fiber Art Show:** Quilt and fiber arts show, includes demonstrations and related art and educational displays. Silver Springs Elementary School Multipurpose Room, Silver Springs, 775-577-3424.
- **14 Prohibition in Nevada: Drying Up America's Wettest State:** Lecture. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1191
- **16 Four Shadow:** Quartet performs popular songs from the last five decades. Pershing County High School, Lovelock, 775-273-2082.
- **16-18 St. Patrick's Slot Tournament:** Tropicana, Las Vegas, 702-739-2222.
- **16-19 Rich Little** appears at John Ascuaga's Nugget, 800-843-2427



Innovative programs helped the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno win a National Award for Museum Service. Above, young Reno muralists participate in Youth ArtWorks.

- **16-19 Reba McEntire** headlines at the Las Vegas Hilton, 702-732-5111
- **17 St. Patrick's Day Race:** Fun race open to all skill levels. Northstar-at-Tahoe, Truckee, 530-562-1010 for further event information.
- **17 St. Patrick's Day Bingo:** Catholic Church, Caliente, 775-726-3752.
- **17-19 St. Patrick's Day Celebration:** Food, music, arts, crafts. Fitzgerald's, Reno, 775-785-3300.
- **17-19, 23-26, and 30-April 2 "Picnic":** Pulitzer Prize-winning play. Gothic North Theater, Reno, 775-329-7529.
- **17-19 and 24-26 "The Last Barbecue":** Comedy about family values. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-893-8980.
- **18-19 Heuga Snow Express:** Three-person team, skier, snowboarder, or telemarker, race in fun event to raise funds for Jimmie Heuga Center for Multiple Sclerosis. Squaw Valley USA, 530-587-2434.
- **18-19 Spring Awakening Powwow:** Native American arts, crafts, drummers, and singers. Stewart Indian School, Carson City, 775-882-6929.
- **19 Jazz in the Afternoon:** Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211
- **20 Greek Night:** Traditional food, music. Bristlecone Convention Center, Ely, 775-289-3720.
- **21 Las Vegas Philharmonic:** Master class featuring violinist Stefan Milenkovich. KNPR Studios, Las Vegas, 702-258-5438.
- **21-23 March Madness Video Poker Tournament:** Ramada Express, Laughlin, 800-243-6846.
- **24 UNLV Chorale Concert:** Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 702-895-3801
- **24-25 Spring $15,000 Tri-Game-A-Thon:** Slots, blackjack, and keno. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-7711
- **25 British Rock Symphony:** Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 702-895-3801
- **25-26 The Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band:** Fusion band performance. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.
- **25-26 Silver Sage Quilters Guild Show:** Convention Center, Elko, 775-753-8422.
- **26 Oscar Night America:** Dinner, silent auction coincides with the Academy Awards to benefit the Arthritis Foundation. Mandalay Bay, Las Vegas, 702-367-1626.
- **26 UNLV Jazz Ensemble Concert:** Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 702-895-3801
- **26 Les Ballets Trocadero:** Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 702-895-3801
- **26-28 March Slot Tournament of Champions:** Tropicana, Las Vegas, 702-739-2222.
- **26-28 March Madness Slot Tournament:** Ramada Express, Laughlin, 800-243-6846.
- **26-29 Field of Slots Tournament:** Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, 888-927-2758.
- **28-April 1 Roger Whittaker** headlines at the Riverside, Laughlin, 800-227-3849 ext. 616.
- **31 Khac Chi Ensemble:** Vietnamese music concert. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211 for more event information.



Marvin Schnicke of Hawthorne shows a string of Lahontan cutthroat trout he caught during the Walker Lake Fishing Derby. This winter's event will be held February 19-21 at Sportsman's Beach, 17 miles north of Hawthorne.

- **31 UNLV Opera Performance:** Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 702-895-3801
- **31 Organ Concert:** Kei Koipo of the Lausanne Conservatorie of Music in Switzerland performs. Trinity Episcopal Church, Reno, 775-784-6847
- **31-April 2 Invitational Native American Arts Festival:** Demonstrations, dance and music performances, lectures and films, outdoor Native American arts and crafts market, food vendors. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

April 2000

- **1 Roger Whittaker** performs at the Riverside, Laughlin, 800-227-3849.
- **1 Sierra Sunsplash:** Spring celebration includes pond skimming and music. Sierra-at-Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, 530-659-7453.
- **1-2 "Picnic":** Pulitzer Prize-winning play. Gothic North Theater, Reno, 775-329-7529.
- **1-2 "Cinderella":** Nevada Festival Ballet, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-785-7915.
- **1-July 1 WIBC National Tournament:** Female amateur bowlers compete. National Bowling Stadium, Reno, 800-304-BOWL.
- **2 "Macbeth":** Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 702-895-3801
- **3-4 FWSA Championships:** Giant slalom and slalom competition. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-7270.
- **3-5 Twice as Nice Twin Stakes Slot Tournament:** Fremont, Las Vegas, 702-385-3232.
- **4-22 Nevada Shakespeare Festival:** Performance of "Come Back, Little Sheba" by William Inge. Einstein's Quantum Cafe, Reno, 775-324-4198.
- **5-9 Summerlin Street Fair:** Carnival, food festival, arts and crafts, home exhibits, and vendors. Summerlin Library, Las Vegas, 702-286-4944.
- **5-9 Laughlin Rodeo Days:** PRCA rodeo, entertainment, vendors. Special Events Arena, Laughlin, 702-298-2214.
- **6-9 Clark County Fair and Rodeo:** PRCA rodeo,

ONGOING EVENTS

Nevada explorers will find ongoing activities this year ranging from car-culture exhibitions at the National Automobile Museum (The Harrah Collection) in Reno to Broadway musicals at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park near Las Vegas.

Wanamaker Wing: Ongoing permanent wildlife exhibits and Western art displays. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

Fine Art Shows: Ongoing exhibits by the Boulder City Art Guild at the Boulder City Airport, Alan Bible Visitor Center, Lake Mead Marina, and the Boulder Dam Hotel. Boulder City, 702-293-2138.

Great Basin Basket Makers: Thru Jan. 8. Exhibit by artist Mary Lee Fulkerson of Reno. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

Westward Bound: An Exhibition of Book Art From the West: Thru Jan. 21. Sierra Arts Gallery, Reno, 775-329-2787

Temple and Village: Patterns and Prints of India: Thru Jan. 24. Textile exhibit. Charleston Heights Arts Center and Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211

Corvair: An American Car in Controversy: Thru Jan. 29. Exhibit on the small car and the uproar it unleashed. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

Rink on the River: Thru Feb. Outdoor ice-skating rink offers lessons, rentals, and food. Downtown Reno, 775-334-2417

2,000 Years on the Job and Still Going Strong: Thru March 5. Exhibit of yesterday's tools and their modern equivalents. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

Around the World in 170 Days: Thru March 5. Exhibit on 1907 Thomas Flyer, the car that won the 1908 New York to Paris race. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

Works by Mary Street: Thru March 31. Linocut print and acrylics on canvas. C.I.T.Y. 2000 Gallery, Reno City Hall, 775-329-2787

Woody World: Thru April 23. Exhibit of wood-paneled automobiles. National Automobile Museum (The Harrah Collection), Reno, 775-333-9300.

Walt Disney's "Fantasia 2000": Jan. 1-April 30. IMAX Theatre, Luxor, Las Vegas, 702-262-4000.

Pueblo Grande de Nevada: The Only City in Nevada a Millennium Ago: Jan. 2-Dec. 31. Exhibit highlights life of Pueblo people in Southern Nevada. Lost City Museum, Overton, 702-397-2193.

Ultralounge: Jan. 6-Feb. 12. Works by 11 local artists. Nevada Institute of Contemporary Art, Las Vegas, 702-434-2666.

Reflecting Life on Our Walls: Jan. 11-March 19, West Las Vegas Library and Feb. 2-April 23, Whitney Library. Paintings by New York artist Aleathia Brown celebrating African-American History Month. Las Vegas, 702-228-4274.

Las Vegas Silver Bandits: Team plays its first International Basketball League season. Jan. 12 v. Cincinnati, Jan. 15 v. Baltimore, Jan. 28 v. New Mexico, Feb. 2 v. Baltimore, Feb. 7 v. St. Louis, Feb. 8 v. San Diego, Feb. 13 v. Cincinnati, Feb. 14 and 16 v. Trenton, Feb. 19, 20, and 27 v. St. Louis, March 1 and 4 v. Richmond, March 5 and 14 v. Baltimore, March 19 v. San Diego, March 27 and 29 v. Trenton, March 31-April 1 v. San Diego, April 7 and 9 v. Cincinnati, April 12 v. Richmond, April 15 v. San Diego, April 28 and 30 v. New Mexico. Games at Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-260-9881

Works by Jeff Russo: Jan. 13-March 5. Exhibit of large format etched glass works. West Charleston Library, Las Vegas, 702-228-4274.

Anita Getzler: Jan. 14-Feb. 26. Photographic exhibit. Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History, UNLV, 702-895-3381

Piccadilly Antique Shows: Jan. 15-16, Feb. 26-27. Dec. 2-3. Convention Center, Henderson, 813-345-4431

Siqiniq: Under the Same Sun: Jan. 18-April 11. Children's exhibit related to the Inuits of Canada's eastern Arctic. Lied Discovery Children's Museum, Las Vegas, 702-382-3445.

American Indian Jewelry and Art Shows: Jan. 21-24 and Oct. 20-23. Convention Center, Henderson, 520-526-9232.

Nevada Wide: Panoramic Photography in the Silver State: Jan. 21-May 12. Pioneer photographers such as Carleton Watkins, Charles Gallagher, E.W. Smith, and Al Smith. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1191

Visions of the West: Jan. 22-April 17. Includes artwork by African Americans, cowboy gear, and firearms. The exhibit, which represents more than 200 years of collecting, is on loan from the collection of Houston-based Torch Energy Advisors. Western Folklife Center, Elko, 775-738-7505.

New Beginnings: Jan. 27-April 11. Paintings and drawings by Kevin Wilson to celebrate African-American History Month. Clark County Library, Las Vegas, 702-228-4274.

Western National Antique Shows: Jan. 29-30, Feb. 12-13, April 22-23, July 7-8, Nov. 25-26. Convention Center, Henderson, 702-382-7043.

Elizabeth Ingraham: The Skin Series: Jan. 31-March 10. Life-size female sculpture. Sierra Arts Gallery, Reno, 775-329-2787

Okavango: Africa's Last Eden: Feb. 1-March 31. Photographic exhibit by Frans Lanting, whose work has appeared in National Geographic, Life, Audubon, and GEO. Las Vegas Natural History Museum, 702-384-DINO.

Material Evidence: Feb. 3-April 24. Fiber arts exhibit by 10 artists. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211

Marietta Patricia Leis: Feb. 3-April 24. Paintings pay tribute to Renaissance artist Marietta Robusti Tintoretto. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Erik Lauritzen: Silver gelatin prints. Feb. 7-March 31. C.I.T.Y. 2000 Gallery, Reno City Hall, 775-329-2787

Nevada Camera Club Exhibition: Juried 2000: Feb. 17-May 7. Photo exhibit from the annual print competition. Enterprise Library, Las Vegas, 702-228-4274.

Curiously Strong Collection: Feb. 24-March 1. Exhibit of 25 pieces from emerging artists. Nevada Institute of Contemporary Art, Las Vegas, 702-434-2666.

WIBC National Tournament: March 1-July 1. Female amateur bowlers compete. National Bowling Stadium, Reno, 800-304-BOWL.

Women of the Land: Images of Native Americans: March 11-May 7. Photogravures from Edward Curtis' North American Indian series with basketry, pottery, and beadwork. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

Sidne Teske: Pastel, gourds, and furniture. April 3-May 26. C.I.T.Y. 2000 Gallery, Reno City Hall, 775-329-2787

Kuan Chun-mai: April 28-July 4. Exhibit of carved eggshells. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Roberts House Crafts Sale: First Sat. and Sun. of each month, May-Oct., Roberts House Park, Carson City, 775-882-1805.

Chagall for Children: May 2-Aug. 11. Exhibit teaches children about art. Lied Discovery Children's Museum, Las Vegas, 702-382-3445.

Apron Strings: Ties to the Past: May 15-Aug. 13. Aprons chronicle the changing views of women and domestic work. Free recipes. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

Tonopah and Beyond: May 18, 2000-May 17, 2001. Exhibit on the centennial of the founding of Tonopah and the mining towns that followed. Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 775-687-4810.

Humboldt River Canoe Trips: June-Aug. Rangers lead boaters on a nature tour along 10 miles of the Humboldt River below Rye Patch Dam. Participants must bring own canoes or other boats. Event dates may depend on water flow. Rye Patch State Recreation Area, Lovelock, 775-538-7321

Super Summer 2000: "Fiddler on the Roof": June 14-17, 21-24, 28-July 1. Outdoor picnic performance of Broadway play. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 18 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-594-PLAY.

Sparks Hometowne Farmer's Market: Thurs. evenings from June 15-Aug. 31. Victorian Square, Sparks, 775-353-2291

Annie Lee and Friends: June 30-Aug. 28. Group show of original works by nationally acclaimed African American artists. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211

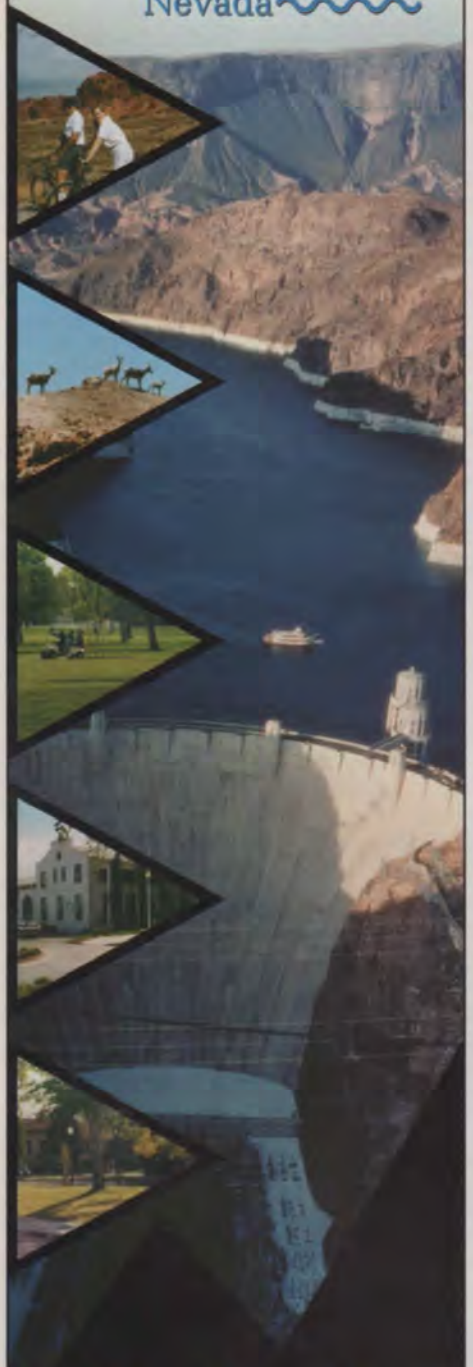
Fiber Arts Exhibits: Aug. 1-31 and Nov. 17-22. Gourds, basketry, weaving. Silver State Gallery, Reno, 775-324-2323.

Valhalla Arts and Music Festival: July and Aug. celebration includes fine art, photography, potter's studio, and Boathouse Theatre productions. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-4975.

Super Summer 2000: "Grease": July 12-15, 19-22, and 26-29. Outdoor picnic performance of Broadway plays. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 18 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-594-PLAY.

Super Summer 2000: "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat": Aug. 9-12, 16-19, and 22-26. Outdoor picnic performance of Broadway plays. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 18 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-594-PLAY for performance information.

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Millennium Countdown Calendar

concert, entertainment, carnival, junior livestock judging and auction, juried art show, and antique farm equipment displays. Fairgrounds, Logandale, 888-876-FAIR.

- **7 Elizabeth Edwards:** Country music concert. Virgin Valley High School, Mesquite, 702-346-2787
- **7-9 Lake Tahoe Pioneering Film Festival:** World premieres, screenings, tributes. South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-9429.
- **7-9 Harvey Korman and Tim Conway** appear at the Las Vegas Hilton, 702-732-5111
- **7-9 Keno Shootout:** Comstock, Reno, 800-266-7862, ext. 7231
- **7-9 Desert Quilters:** Show and sale. Henderson Convention Center, 702-437-2766.
- **7-9 NHRA Winston Drag Races:** New facility opens for NHRA national event. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-644-4444.
- **7-15 Henderson Heritage Days:** 50th anniversary celebration includes a parade, carnival, talent show, picnic in the park, chili cook-off, car show, dance, barbecue, softball tournament, and beauty pageant. Henderson, 702-565-8951
- **7-16 "Wetlands":** Original play for children with an ecological theme. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-329-6553.
- **8 Trader Vic's Tiki Cup:** Polynesian food, dancers, flame-throwers, and canoes filled with mai tais. Sugar Bowl, Lake Tahoe, 530-426-6724.
- **8 Nevada Opera's Annual Gala and Auction:** Dinner dance. Harrah's Reno, 775-786-4046.
- **8 Hatchery Open House:** Tour of the Lahontan National Fish Hatchery south of Gardnerville on U.S. 395. 775-265-2425.
- **8 Gymkhana:** Female competitors, food, entertainment. Caliente, 775-726-3203.
- **8-9 Skiercross World Championships:** Four racers compete simultaneously on a course with gates, banks, and tabletop jumps. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.
- **11 Reno Philharmonic Concert:** Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-323-6393.
- **11 World War II in Nevada: The Homefront:** Lecture. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1191
- **11-13 Spring Golf Shootout:** Played at Calvada Country Club. Sponsored by Saddle West, Pahrump, 775-727-1111
- **14 WOFA:** Musicians and dancers from Guinea. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211
- **14-15 Kenny Rogers** appears at the Las Vegas Hilton, 702-732-5111
- **14-16 Las Vegas Gem Club:** Show and sale. Convention Center, Henderson, 702-566-1698.
- **14-16 (tentative) Spring Fling:** Carnival in the park and a senior pro rodeo. Petrack Park, Pahrump, 775-727-8195 or 775-727-1555.
- **15 Chili Cook-Off and Craft Fair:** Cooking competition with more than 40 cooks. Live music, entertainment, arts and crafts, and chili tasting. Topaz Lodge, Topaz Lake, 775-266-3468.
- **15 Ski Sail Regatta:** Competitors race on the waters of Lake Tahoe and slopes of Squaw Valley. 530-525-SAIL for further event information.
- **15 WOFA:** Musicians and dancers from Guinea. Churchill County High School, Fallon, 775-423-1440.
- **15 Boarding for Breast Cancer:** Snowboarding and music festival with half pipe and big air competitions to benefit cancer research and education. Sierra-at-Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, 530-659-7453.
- **15 Best of Kirkwood:** Food and drink prepared by local restaurants for tasting. Entertainment, dancing. Kirkwood Ski Resort, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-7248.
- **15 Buckland Station History Talk:** Park rangers discuss the history of the newly restored station. Fort Churchill State Historic Park, Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.
- **15-16 Annual Fly Fishing Festival:** Demonstrations, classes, and exhibits. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-265-2626 or 775-782-2522.
- **15-16 Art Walk in the Park:** Regional arts and crafters. Hills Park in Summerlin, Las Vegas, 702-229-6511
- **15-16 Loon Festival:** Boat tours of Walker Lake during the loons' migration season appeals to photographers and naturalists. Walker Lake, 12 miles north of Hawthorne, 775-945-5896.
- **15-23 Kirkwood Jammin' 7:** Spring ski and snowboard party featuring music, food, and contests. Kirkwood Ski Resort, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-6000.
- **18 UNLV Jazz Combos Concert:** Black Box Theater, UNLV, 702-895-3801
- **19-23 World Cup 2000:** American hunter-jumper horse show. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-260-8605.
- **20 UNLV Wind Symphony Concert:** Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 702-895-3801
- **21 NASCAR Winston West Race:** Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-644-4444.
- **21-23 Las Vegas Governor's Cup Regatta 2000:** Nevada State Powerboat Championship, Ms. Regatta Queen Contest. Boulder Beach, Lake Mead, 702-393-6163.
- **21-23 Nevada 200 Trail Ride:** Motorcycle race. Caliente, 702-457-5775.
- **22 Rotary Club Easter Egg Hunt:** Prizes, gifts, games. Caliente, 775-726-3171
- **22 Pep Boys Indy Racing League:** Race moves from its fall schedule to preceed the Indianapolis 500. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-644-4444.
- **22 The Three Tenors,** Jose Carreras, Placido Domingo, and Luciano Pavarotti, perform at the Mandalay Bay Events Center, Mandalay Bay, Las Vegas, 702-474-4000.
- **22-23 Spring Jam III:** Big air, skiercross, and boardercross competition, music, and prizes. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.
- **23 UNLV Orchestra Concert:** Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 702-895-3801.
- **23 Easter Social:** Egg hunt, lunch, and Easter bonnet contest. Community Hall, McDermitt, 775-532-8742.

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Uptown Downtown ARTown, Reno's month-long arts festival in July, offers more than 200 events such as concerts, dance performances, plays, exhibits, and demonstrations, most of which are free.

• **26 UNLV Community Band Concert:** Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 702-895-3801

• **27-30 Laughlin River Run:** The West Coast's largest motorcycle event featuring displays, trade show exhibits, custom bike show, and concerts. Laughlin, 800-357-8223.

• **27-30 Spring Stage Golf Outing:** Event at The Golf Club at Genoa Lakes and Sierra Nevada Golf Ranch. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 800-321-6983, ext. 625 for further event information.

• **28 Brenda Lee** headlines at Boulder Station, Las Vegas, 702-432-7575.

• **28 UNLV Chorus:** Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 702-895-3801

• **28-30 RSVP Spring Fun Fair:** Carnival, food booths, arts and crafts, entertainment, games, contests, and dances. Mills Park, Carson City, 775-687-4680.

• **28-30 Eagle Valley Muzzleloaders Spring Rendezvous:** Traders, trappers, black-powder shooting, and encampment. Millard Canyon, Carson City, 775-887-1221

• **28-30 Super Slots Tournament:** Comstock, Reno, 800-266-7862, ext. 7231

• **28-May 6 "Crazy for You":** University Theatre. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 702-895-3801

• **28-30 and May 5-7 "Strange Snow":** Drama about the aftermath of a friend's death in Vietnam. Reno Little Theater, Sparks, 775-331-1877

• **28-30 and May 5-7 "Ballad Hunter":** Play about a secret shared by three generations of Appalachian women. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-893-8980.

• **29 Las Vegas City of Lights Jazz Festival:** International performers. Hills Park at Summerlin, Las Vegas, 702-228-3780.

• **29-30 Clark County Art Show:** Outdoor fine art only event. Bicentennial Park, Boulder City, 702-293-6284.

• **30 Carson City Symphony:** Concert features Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 Community Center, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

May 2000

• **1-July 1 WIBC National Tournament:** Female amateur bowlers compete. National Bowling Stadium, Reno, 800-304-BOWL.

• **2 UNLV Chamber Chorale Concert:** Black Box Theater, UNLV, 702-895-3801

• **4 UNLV Wind Orchestra Pops Concert:** Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 702-895-3801

• **4 and 6 "H.M.S. Pinafore":** Nevada Opera presents the story of what happens when good girls turn



Photo: Lonnie Peck/Reno News Bureau

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Millennium Countdown Calendar

bad. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-786-4046.

- **5 Derby Day:** Buffet lunch, mint juleps, live and silent auction, viewing of the Kentucky Derby to benefit the Reno Chamber Orchestra. Hidden Valley Country Club, Reno, 775-348-9431
- **5-6 Cinco de Mayo:** Food, arts and crafts, live music, and a parade down Wendover Boulevard. Scobie Park, Wendover, 800-426-6862 or 775-664-3414.
- **5-7 Silver State Square and Round Dance Festival:** Styles include square, round, clogging, and country-western dancing. Reno-Sparks Convention Center, Reno, 775-673-2557
- **5-7 Spring Dance Concert:** Redfield Theatre, U of N, Reno, 775-784-4041 ext. 240.
- **5-7 Pioche Heritage Days:** Local actors present humorous and heartwarming true stories from the past. Town Hall, Pioche, 775-962-5308.
- **5-7 "Ballad Hunter":** Play about a secret shared by three generations of Appalachian women. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-893-8980.
- **6 Las Vegas Philharmonic in Concert:** Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 702-895-2787
- **6 Canoe Trip:** Park rangers lead a canoe trip along the Carson River from Fort Churchill to Lahontan Reservoir. Fort Churchill State Historic Park, Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.
- **6 Cinco de Mayo Chili Cook-Off:** Cooking and tasting of the spicy frontier dish. Virginia City, 775-847-0311
- **6 Jewel in the Desert 5K:** A 5K run around Toana Vista Golf Course. Wendover, 775-664-3289.
- **6-7 Spring Jamboree:** More than 125 craft booths, food, music, entertainment, and a car show. Bicentennial Park, Boulder City, 702-293-2034.
- **6-7 Third Annual ArtFest of Henderson:** Arts, crafts, and music. Water Street, Henderson, 702-566-2681
- **6-7 The X Rides:** Fully-supported bicycle rides include an evening ride to Area 51 mailbox, a mountain bike ride to Area 51 gate, based at Little A 'Le' Inn, Rachel. Call 775-588-9658.
- **7 Las Vegas Woodwind Quintet:** Concert. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211
- **7 Las Vegas Master Singers:** U.S. premiere of Anton Hansen's "Messe Uden Gloria" and other Scandinavian music. Christ Church Episcopal, Las Vegas, 702-228-8316.
- **12-14 Spring Wings Bird Festival:** Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, Fallon. 800-874-0903.
- **12-14 Nevada Open Road Challenge:** Car race against the clock on S.R. 318 from Lund to Hiko. Pre-race activities in Ely. 775-289-8877
- **12-14 and 18-21 "South Pacific":** Western Nevada Musical Theatre Company presents the Broadway musical. Community Center, Carson City, 775-887-3115.
- **13 Antique and Collectible Sale:** Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 775-265-6097
- **13-14 Western States Racing Association Grand Prix:** Motorcycle race around the hills of historic Virginia City. 775-847-0311
- **13-14 Art Faire:** Fine art, crafts, entertainment, booths. Convention Center, Henderson, 702-565-4771
- **13-21 Northern Nevada Senior Olympics:** Variety of competitive events to participate in or watch. Lampe Park, Gardnerville, 775-782-9828 or 775-782-8165.
- **14 Mother's Day Breakfast:** Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 775-265-5125.
- **14 Walt Boenig Big Band Mother's Day Concert:** Light refreshments follow the performance. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211
- **18-21 Comstock Historic Preservation Week:** Theatrical presentations, lectures, guided tours, demonstrations, costume ball, fireman's muster, and parade. Virginia City, 775-847-0311
- **20 Reno Chamber Orchestra Concert:** Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 775-348-9413.
- **20 Horseback Tours:** Park rangers lead a tour of the new Carson River ranches. Fort Churchill State Historic Park, Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.
- **20 Carl Grove Combo:** Big band dance. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.
- **20-21 Portuguese Festa:** Dance, parade, Mass, lunch, auction. Fallon, 775-423-2223.
- **20-21 Minden Spring Arts and Crafts Festival:** Esmeralda Ave., Minden, 775-324-6435.
- **20-21 Armed Forces Day:** Salute to the military features a parade, displays, open house at the Hawthorne Army Depot, stock car races, dances, kids' games, barbecue, and horseshoe tournament. Hawthorne, 775-945-5896.
- **20-21 Fly-In and Air Show:** Demonstrations, fly-by's, hot-air balloons, model airplanes, static displays. Fernley, 775-463-2245.
- **20-21 Fallon Air Show:** Demonstrations, Canadian Snowbirds. Fallon, 800-874-0903.
- **21 Brass Roots Quintet:** From classical to Dixie and ragtime music. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211
- **21 Las Vegas Jaycees' Blues Jamobree:** Blues bands, food. Lorenzi Park, Las Vegas, 702-229-6511
- **26-28 Snow Mountain Powwow:** Tribal songs and dances, arts, crafts, and foods. Paiute Indian Reservation, U.S. 95 North, Las Vegas, 702-386-3926.
- **27 Henderson Memorial Day Celebration:** Henderson, 702-565-2367
- **27 Kit Carson Trail Wild West Tour:** Tour of historic homes, costumed characters. Historic District, Carson City, 775-687-7410.
- **27-28 Portuguese Festival and Parade:** Food and dancing. Community Center, Lovelock, 775-273-2566
- **27-29 Lincoln County Homecoming:** Ball games, barbecue, dances, scavenger hunts. Caliente, 775-726-3129.
- **29-30 Fort Churchill Celebration:** Living-history demonstrations by the Nevada Civil War Volunteers. Fort Churchill State Historic Park, Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.
- **31-June 4 Reno's Historic Motor Sports Festival:** For 1954 cars and older, on rural roads. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

June 2000

- **1-July 1 WIBC National Tournament:** Female amateur bowlers compete. National Bowling Stadium,

Reno, 800-304-BOWL.

• **2-4 Railroad Days:** Historical festival featuring a train display, parade, car show, talent show, and vendors. Beatty Park, Beatty, 775-553-2424.

• **2-4 and 9-11 "Jake's Women":** Neil Simon's story about a novelist who is more successful with fiction than real life. Reno Little Theater, Sparks, 775-331-1877

• **2-11 "The Skin of Our Teeth":** Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning fable about the survival of the Antrobus family. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-329-6553.

• **3 Build an Adobe Wall:** Assist park rangers with building a wall at the Fort Churchill ruins. Fort Churchill State Historic Park, Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.

• **3-4 Celebrate the River:** Entertainment, arts and crafts, food and beverages, and children's activities. Downtown Reno, 775-334-2417

• **3-4 Portuguese Celebration:** Dance, parade, Mass, sopa lunch, auction. Yerington, 775-463-2763.

• **3-4 Spring Fling Car Show:** Classic cars, show-and-shine, cruise, poker run, crafts, food. Yerington, 775-463-2245.

• **3-4 and 10-11 Valhalla Renaissance Festival:** Knights in armor, jousting, musicians, jugglers, 100 vendors. Historic Camp Richardson Resort, Highway 89, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **3-17 Model Train Expo:** Display and sale. East Ely Railroad Depot Museum, Ely, 775-289-8877

• **4 America's Most Beautiful Bike Ride:** Bicycle ride around Lake Tahoe offers a combination boat cruise and ride and 72- and 100-mile courses. Lake Tahoe Horizon, Stateline, 775-588-9658.

• **4-5 Kids Fishing Derby:** For ages three-12. Lampe Park, Gardnerville, 775-782-9828.

• **7-10 EAT'M (Emerging Artists Talent and Music Conference):** Workshops and concerts featuring more than 200 groups and artists. Separate concert ticket is $10. Rio Suite Hotel, Las Vegas, 702-837-3636.

• **7-11 Reno's Historic Motor Sports Festival:** Open car show, music. National Automobile Museum and Rancho San Rafael Park, Reno, 775-333-9300.

• **9-10 High School Rodeo:** All-round events. Rodeo Grounds, Lovelock, 775-273-2968.

• **9-11 Carson City Rendezvous:** Civil War reenactment and living-history camps. Mills Park, Carson City, 775-687-7410.

• **9-11 Long Steel Rail Festival:** Hobo jungle, vendors, folk-era entertainment, storytelling, dancing in the railroad tradition. East Ely Railroad Depot Museum and the Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 775-289-8877 for event information.

• **9-11 National Wild Horse and Burro Show:** Wild horse adoption; mustang and burro competition in English, Western, and timed events; demonstrations; vendors. Livestock Events Center, Reno, 775-687-1400.

• **9-11 Cool Caddy Nights:** Cadillac and custom car show, entertainment. John Ascuaga's Nugget and Victorian Square, Sparks, 925-634-1188.

• **10 River Ranch Tour:** Ranger-led tour of the Carson River ranches. Fort Churchill State Historic Park, Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.

• **10 Rock Point Mill Site:** Park rangers will give a tour of the historic 1860s mill and its importance in the development of the Comstock and Tonopah and Goldfield mining booms. Free admission. Dayton State Park, Dayton, 775-687-5678.

• **10 Gymkhana:** Caliente, 775-726-3203.

• **10-11 Lincoln County Groundshakers Motorcycle Race:** Caliente, 775-962-5245.

• **10-11 Carson Valley Days:** Arts and crafts, food, rodeo, dance, and millennium parade. Downtown, Gardnerville, 775-265-2021

• **10-11 Valhalla Renaissance Festival:** Knights, jousting, musicians, jugglers, jesters, dancers, plays, vendors. Camp Richardson Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **10-11 Carson Valley Days Hot-Air Balloon Race:** Gardnerville, 775-782-8144.

• **11 Washoe Indians:** Lectures and demonstrations about the Washoe people, their customs, and foods. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.

• **11-17 PBA Reno Stadium Open:** Senior professional bowlers and players with more than a 220 average compete. National Bowling Stadium, Reno, 800-304-BOWL for more event information.

• **11-25 "Scapino":** Outdoor presentation of the comedy by Frank Dunlop and Jim Dale. Rainbow Library Amphitheater, Las Vegas, 702-873-0191

• **14-18 Vegas Ventriloquists Festival:** Shows and workshops. Harrah's Las Vegas, 702-737-9713.

• **15-18 "Potpourri 2000":** Las Vegas Civic Ballet's annual performance. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211

• **15-18 14th Annual Farwest Regional and International Wheelchair Tennis Championship:** Competition among 14 divisions of men, women, juniors, and seniors. Plumas Tennis Center, Washoe County Tennis Courts, Reno Hilton, Reno, 775-852-

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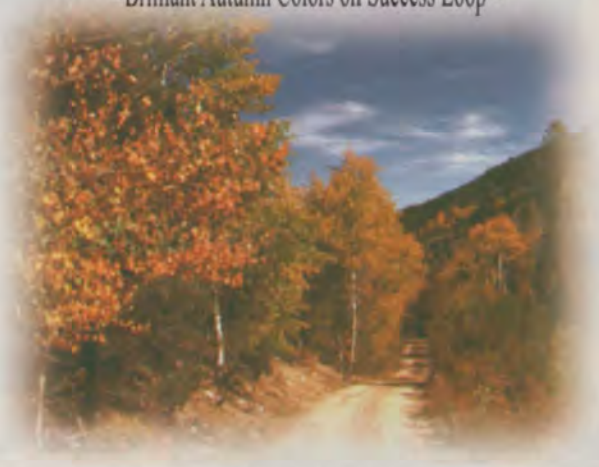
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2000 EVENTS CALENDAR

- Fallon Air Show with Canadian Snowbirds, May 20–21
- Spring Wings Bird Festival, May 12-14
- Silver State Int'l Rodeo, June 30-July 4
- Stampede & Pioneer Days Pow Wow, July 14-16
- Hearts O' Gold Cantaloupe Festival, Sept. 1-4
- Wings Over the Valley Hunting Festival, Sept. 22-24

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Millennium Countdown Calendar

7077 or 530-587-2108.

• **16-18 Gridley Days and Rock and Bottle Show:** Parade, entertainment, exhibits, crafts, vendor booths, barbecue, pancake breakfast, and mountain bike rally commemorate the town's famous 1864 election bet, for which Reuel Gridley carried a sack of flour. Austin, 775-964-2200.

• **16-18 Quinn River Father's Day Open Rodeo:** Horse roping Friday, open rodeo Saturday and Sunday. Fort McDermitt Pai-Sho Indian Reservation, McDermitt, 775-532-8304.

• **16-18 and 23-25 "Oliver":** Western Nevada Musical Theatre Youth Company, Community Center, Carson City, 775-887-3115.

• **17 A Taste of Downtown:** Street dance, walking tour with live bands at each stop, local restaurants offer food tasting. Downtown, Carson City, 775-883-7654.

• **17 Jim Maffet and His Orchestra:** Big band dance. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

• **17 Buckland Station History Talk:** Rangers lead a discussion of the newly restored station. Fort Churchill State Historic Park, Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.

• **17 Coyote Chase:** 5K and 10K runs, breakfast, entertainment, crafts. Wellington, Smith Valley, 775-465-2147

• **17 Chautauqua: Colonel John Reese:** Story of the founder of Mormon Station. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.

• **17-18 VC Hillclimb: Audi Quattro:** Virginia City, 775-847-0311

• **17-25 Reno Rodeo:** Major PRCA rodeo with a cattle drive, parade, carnival, entertainment. Livestock Events Center, Reno, 775-329-3877

• **18 Pops Party Concert:** Carson City Symphony performs with the Carson Chamber Singers. Garden of the Governor's Mansion, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

• **22-25 Just For Fun:** National Quilting Assn. annual show. Atlantis, Reno, 775-267-5503.

• **23 The Drifters in Concert:** New and old fans listen to hits of the 1950s and '60s. Community Center, Carson City, 775-687-4680.

• **23-25 Run What Cha Brung:** More than 300 hot rods and custom cars are displayed. Fuji Park, Carson City, 775-883-0927

• **24 Ruins Tour:** Ranger-led tour of Fort Churchill. Fort Churchill State Historic Park, Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.

• **24 Fat Tire Madness:** Cross-country mountain bike race, fun ride. Fundraiser for Make-A-Wish. Virginia City, 775-265-1657

• **24 Nevada's One-Room Schools:** Slide show and talk on one-room schools past and present. Dayton State Park, Dayton, 775-687-5678.

• **24-25 Snowshoe Thompson Festival:** Arts and crafts, demonstrations, entertainment, antiques, children's games, living-history programs, food. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-265-6097

• **25 Tallac Site Celebration:** Grand opening of the Tallac Historic Site and the Valhalla Arts and Music Festival offers a sampling of fine art, photography, music, hors d'oeuvres, and desserts. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **25 Pizen Switch Roundup:** Old-timers and newcomers picnic and potluck. Walker River Resort, Smith Valley, 800-446-2573 or 775-588-5372.

• **25 Lamoille Country Fair:** Arts and crafts, exhibits, food court, entertainment, and demonstrations. Lamoille Women's Club House and Grove, Lamoille, 775-738-4488.

• **30-July 2 37th National Basque Festival:** Entertainment, games of skill and strength, dancing, food and drink. Fairgrounds and City Park, Elko, 775-738-7135.

• **30-July 2 Fourth of July Powwow and Rodeo:** Native American dancing and traditional rodeo events. Celebration Campgrounds, Owyhee, 775-757-3080.

• **30-July 4 Silver State International Rodeo:** Parade, booths. Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon, 775-423-4674.

• **30-July 4 RSVP Cavalcade of Spectaculars:** Fireworks, dance, carnival, midway games, arts and crafts, food booths, and entertainment. Mills Park, Carson City, 775-687-4680.

July 2000

• **1-2 37th National Basque Festival:** Traditional dances, games, food, drink, and contests of strength and skill. Fairgrounds and City Park, Elko, 775-738-7135.

• **1-4 RSVP Cavalcade of Spectaculars:** Fireworks, dance, carnival, midway games, arts and crafts, food booths, and entertainment. Mills Park, Carson City, 775-687-4680.

• **1-4 White Pine High School All-Class Reunion 2000:** Games, music, displays, picnics, and barbecues involving 60-70 years of graduates. Ely, 775-289-8877

• **1-31 Uptown Downtown ARTown:** Summer arts festival with performances and exhibits citywide. Reno, 775-329-1324.

• **1-Sept. 3 Nevada Shakespeare Festival:** Performances include Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance." Two shows daily except Mon. at 1 and 4 p.m. Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-324-4198.

• **3-4 Freedom Fest 2000:** Parade, barbecue, arts and crafts, live music, and fireworks. Scobie Park, Wendover, 800-426-6862 or 775-664-3414.

• **4 Independence Day Celebration:** Anything that floats can compete in the Liar's Boat Race, plus games, food, and water sports. Cliff House Beach, Walker Lake, Hawthorne, 775-945-5896.

• **4 Pops in the Park:** The Sierra Philharmonic performs holiday music. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.

• **4 Mason Valley Fourth of July:** Barbecue, crafts, entertainment, fireworks. Mt. View Park, Yerington, 775-463-2245 for further event information.

• **4 Damboree:** Old-fashioned celebration with parade, games, patriotic program, food, and fireworks. Central Park, Boulder City, 702-293-9256.

• **4 Parade and Fireworks:** Virginia City, 775-847-0311 for further event information.

• **4 Henderson's July Fourth Celebration:** Family event highlighted by an evening of fireworks. Henderson, 702-565-2367

• **4 Jarbidge's Fourth of July Celebration:** Live music, bingo, barbecue, and parade. Jarbidge, 775-488-2311

• **4 (tentative) Berlin Centennial Celebration:** Featuring an open house, guest speakers, and ex-

hibits. Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, 23 miles east of Gabbs, 775-538-7321

• **4 Old-Fashioned Fourth of July:** Parade, family events, and fireworks. City Park, Beatty, 775-553-2424.

• **4 Rockets Over the River:** 22-minute fireworks display over the Colorado River. Laughlin, 702-298-2214.

• **4 Fireman's Celebration:** Fireworks, parades, ball games, kids games. Caliente, 775-726-3317

• **4 Skyfire:** Entertainment and fireworks. Rancho San Rafael Park, Reno, 775-332-3333.

• **6-9 Silver State International Rodeo:** High school champions from the U.S. and Canada. Fairgrounds, Fallon, 775-423-4674.

• **7 Stargaze:** Night stargazing led by experts from the Fleischmann Planetarium at U of N, Reno. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.

• **7-8 Millennium Music at Sand Harbor:** Well-known jazz and acoustic-guitar performers offer their musical salute to the millennium with Lake Tahoe as the background. Sand Harbor State Park, Incline Village, 775-832-7625.

• **7-9 Traditional Fandango:** Games, gambling, dancing, free admission. Ely Shoshone Reservation, Ely, 775-289-3013.

• **7-9 Celebrity Golf Championship:** Sports and entertainment stars compete in golf tourney. Edgewood Tahoe, Stateline, 530-544-5050.

• **8 Birds of Prey:** Slide show on native and migratory birds and how animals and birds are rescued, rehabilitated, and released. Free admission. Dayton State Park, Dayton, 775-687-5678.

• **8 Fireman's Barbecue and Dance:** Smith Valley, 775-463-2245.



Karrie Webb (above) and 29 other top LPGA golfers will compete in the PageNet Tour Championship in Las Vegas in November.

• **8 Gymkhana:** Caliente, 775-726-3203.

• **8-9 The Big Easy:** Louisiana Zydeco music and Cajun food. Downtown, Reno, 775-332-3333.

• **8-10 White Pine 4x4 Rally:** All four-wheel-drive vehicles invited. Full- and half-day runs in White Pine County. Ely, 775-289-6798.

• **8-15 Nevada 2000:** A 2,000-mile off-road race loops around the state to celebrate the millennium. The start and finish will be in Las Vegas. Best in the Desert Racing Assn., 702-457-5775.

• **9-10 Nevada 2000 Off-Road Race:** Competitors stop at the Convention Center. Ely, 775-289-8877

• **9-12 Lincoln County Fair:** Talent show, rodeo, entertainment. Caliente, 775-729-2514.

• **11-Sept. 3 Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival:** The Bard's plays are presented on the beach with Lake Tahoe as a backdrop. Sand Harbor, Incline Village, 800-74-SHOWS.

• **14-16 Storey County Fair and Carnival:** Virginia City, 775-847-0311

• **14-16 Fallon All-Indian Rodeo and Powwow:** Rodeo, Native American dancers, handgames, arts and crafts, dance, parade, and food booths. Annual rodeo and gathering takes place at Regional Park, Fallon, 775-423-2544.

• **14, 21, and 28 Children's Summer Concert Series:** Variety of performing arts for children age five and older. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211

• **15 Uncle Sugar and the Sweet Daddies:** Big band dance. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

• **15 Topaz Golf Tournament:** Limited to 120 entrants. Carson Valley Golf Course, Gardnerville, 775-782-7917

• **15-16 Squaw Valley World Cup Downhill:** World Cup mountain bike race featuring pro racers from 40 nations. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-582-8900.

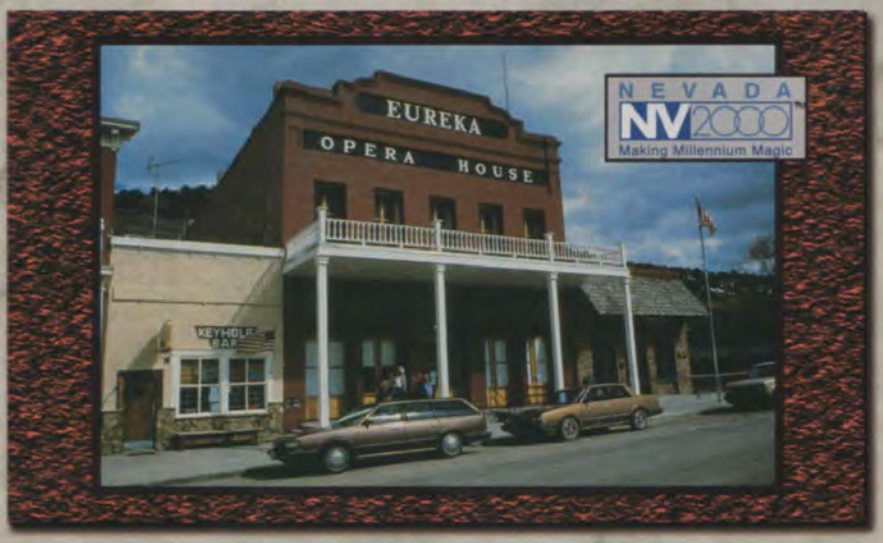
• **15-16 Great Eldorado BBQ, Brews, and Blues Festival:** Food, microbrews, music. Eldorado, Reno,

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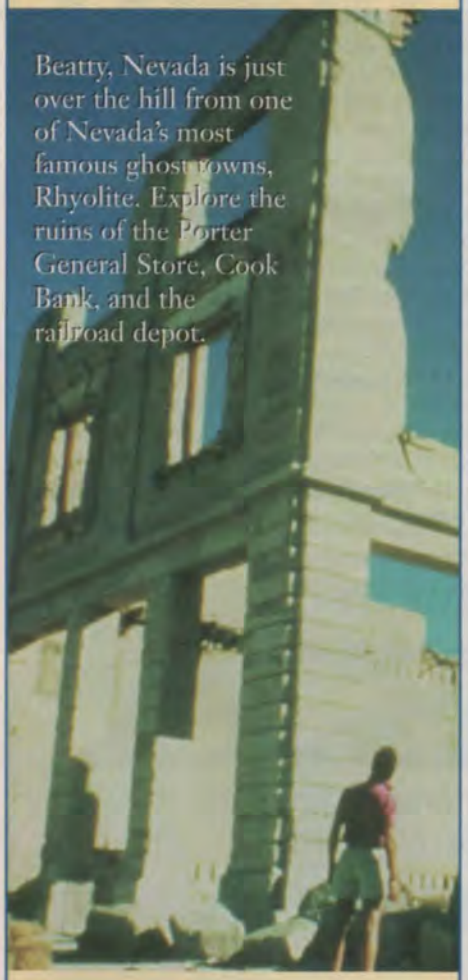
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Photo: Pete Fontaine/LPGA

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

775-553-2424

Beatty Chamber of Commerce
119 E. Main, Beatty, NV 89003

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800-648-5966.

• **16 Nevada Raptors:** Lecture by Nancee Goldwater on birds found in Northern Nevada. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.

• **21-23 Virginia City Rodeo 2000:** Virginia City, 775-847-0311

• **21-23 Reno Basque Festival:** Traditional food, dance, games, Mass, barbecue. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-787-3039.

• **22 Chautauqua: Dr. Eliza Cook:** First female doctor in the Carson Valley. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.

• **22 Mountain Run I:** The 3.6-mile uphill course follows the 1960 Olympic downhill ski route to the High Camp facility. Event includes an alternate fitness walk. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-550-0885.

• **22-23 Fireman's Muster 2000:** Virginia City, 775-847-7500.

• **23 Celtic Festival at Valhalla:** Traditional music, dance, crafts, food, and ale from Ireland and Scotland. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-4975.

• **26 Ice Cream Social:** Old-fashioned gathering. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1191

• **26-29 Land Speed Opener:** World-class racing to set land speed records on the Bonneville Salt Flats. Wendover, 801-785-5364.

• **28-30 Lovelock Frontier Days:** Games, barbecue, vendors, arm wrestling, horseshoes, home arts. Court House Park, Lovelock, 775-273-7213.

• **28-30 Jim Butler Days:** Annual town party will celebrate Tonopah's founding in 1900. Tonopah, 775-482-3558.

• **28-30 Silver Dollar Car Classic:** Street dance, custom cars, poker run, barbecue, entertainment. Mills Park, Carson City, 775-687-7410.

• **29 Ruins Tour:** Ranger-led tour of Fort Churchill. Fort Churchill State Historic Park, Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.

• **29 Water Olympics:** Children seven to 14 years learn about the properties of water. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.

• **29 Valhalla Brews and Blues Festival:** Unlimited tasting of 150 brews from 80 microbreweries and distributors. Admission includes a souvenir beer glass and a concert. Must be 21 or older to attend. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-4975.

• **29-30 Goldfield Days:** Parade, 10K run, bike race, horseshoes, gold panning, food and vendor booths, miners breakfast, arts, crafts, chili cook-off. Goldfield, 775-485-6365.

• **29-30 Renaissance Fair:** Arts and crafts, antiques, actors, jugglers, jousters, and rapier fighters. Antiques Plus, Genoa, 775-782-4951 or 775-782-2893.

• **30-31 Children's Festival:** Mask making, T-shirt printing, and papermaking. Location TBA, North Lake Tahoe, 530-546-4602.

• **31-Aug. 5 Hot August Nights:** Hot rods, music of the '50s and '60s, dances, and concerts. Reno and Victorian Square, Sparks, 775-356-1956.

August 2000

• **1-Sept. 3 Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival:** The Bard on the beach at Lake Tahoe. Sand Harbor, Incline Village, 800-74-SHOWS.

• **1-5 Hot August Nights:** Hot rods, music of the '50s and '60s, dances, and concerts. Reno and Victorian Square, Sparks, 775-356-1956.

• **4 Children's Summer Concert Series:** Performing arts program for children age five and older. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211

• **5 Basque People of Nevada:** Slide show on the Basques and why they immigrated to Nevada. Free admission. Dayton State Park, Dayton, 775-687-5678.

• **5 Valhalla Summer Gala:** Champagne, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, music, dancing. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **5-6 Arts in the Park:** Show and sale, food booths. County Park, Ely, 775-289-8877

• **6 Logging in the Sierra:** Lecture and video presentation about the Tahoe Basin in the 1800s. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.

• **9-13 Northern Nevada Living History Festival:** Civil War camps, mountain man rendezvous, pow-wow, pro rodeo, carnival. Fernley, 775-575-4459.

• **11 Mule Deer:** Lecture about the social structure, physical features, and roaming area of the animal in Northern Nevada. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.



Costumed characters perform demonstrations at the Renaissance Faire in October in Las Vegas.

• **11-12 Concours d' Elegance:** On-the-water boat show featuring more than 125 antique and wooden boats dating back to the 1800s. Show includes tented exhibits, presentations, clinics, food and beverages, and live music. Proceeds benefit Lake Tahoe charities. Sierra Boat Company, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-4700.

• **11-13 Fantasy Car and Truck Show:** Antique automobiles on display, games, parade. Ely, 775-289-8877

• **11-13 Jarbidge Days:** Live music in the bar on Friday and outdoor music on Saturday afternoon. Arts and crafts and food and drink booths. Jarbidge, 775-488-2311

• **11-13 Great Gatsby Festival:** Living-history event celebrating the 1920s includes tours, food, vintage clothing and cars, music, children's activities. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-5227

• **12 Santa Maria Day:** Italian harvest festival with music, parade, games, horseshoes, food, crafts. Volunteer Fire Department, Dayton, 775-246-7909.

• **12 Nevada's Best Cow Dog Trials:** Trained cow

Photo: Jerome Hamilton

dogs move cows on specific field course. Lincoln County Fair, Delmue Ranch, Panaca, 775-728-4682.

- **12 Mule Deer in Nevada:** Slide show on mule deer population trends and habitat. Free admission. Dayton State Park, Dayton, 775-687-5678.
- **12 Las Vegas Music Festival Concert:** Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 702-895-3801
- **12-13 Junior High Rodeo:** All-around rodeo events. Rodeo Grounds, Lovelock, 775-273-2968.
- **12-13 Antique Engine and Tractor Show:** Tractor pulls, exhibits, food, parades. Heybourne Road and Stephanie Way, Minden, 775-267-4816.
- **13-15 Pony Express 100:** Open road race from Austin to Battle Mountain also has a car show, dance, and parade. Civic Center, Battle Mountain, 775-635-8245.
- **17-20 Lyon County Fair and Rodeo:** Rodeo, carnival, parade, tractor pull, hay boom, dance, demolition derby. Yerington, 775-463-2245.
- **18 Nevada's Best Cow Dog Trials:** Trained cow dogs move cows on arena course. White Pine County Fair, Ely, 775-728-4682.
- **18-20 Annual Valley Cruisers Main Street Event:** Car show open to all vehicles 1969 and older. Steak dinner, dancing in the street, and pancake breakfast also featured. Minden and Gardnerville, 775-265-2256.
- **19 Candle and Soap Making:** Lecture on how pioneers made the household essentials. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.
- **19 Railroads of Nevada:** Slide show on railroads significant to the development of Nevada during the Comstock and Tonopah-Goldfield booms. Free admission. Dayton State Park, Dayton, 775-687-5678.
- **19 Outhouse Races:** Virginia City, 775-847-0311
- **19-20 White Pine County Fair and Horse Races:** Fair with displays, vendors, games, rides, food booths, parimutuel betting. Fairgrounds, Ely, 775-289-8877
- **19-25 Bonneville National Speed Week:** Largest and most popular event on the Bonneville Salt Flats featuring straight-track racing against the clock, with times expected in the 500-600 mph range. Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 805-526-1805.
- **20 Reggae Sunday on the Valhalla Lawn:** Music, food, and beverages on the large grassy lawn of Valhalla. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-4975.
- **21-27 Reno-Tahoe Open:** Golf tournament featuring top PGA players. Montreux Golf and Country Club, Reno, 775-322-3900.
- **23-27 Nevada State Fair:** Livestock exhibits and auction, creative living competition, food booths, carnival, and entertainment. Livestock Events Center, Reno, 775-688-5767
- **24-27 Mineral County Fair:** Carnival, bike and foot races, food, crafts. Hawthorne, 775-945-5896.
- **25-27 Spirit of Wovoka Days Powwow:** Native American dance, food, arts, crafts. Yerington, 775-463-2350.
- **26 Nevada's Best Cow Dog Trials:** Trained cow dogs move cows on arena course. Elko County Fair, Elko, 775-728-4682.
- **26 Sertoma Truck Pull:** Food, drinks, and T-shirts. Fairgrounds, Gardnerville, 775-782-1939.
- **26 Ruins Tour:** Ranger-led tour of Fort Churchill. Fort Churchill State Historic Park, Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.
- **26 Canning by the Early Pioneers:** Lecture about



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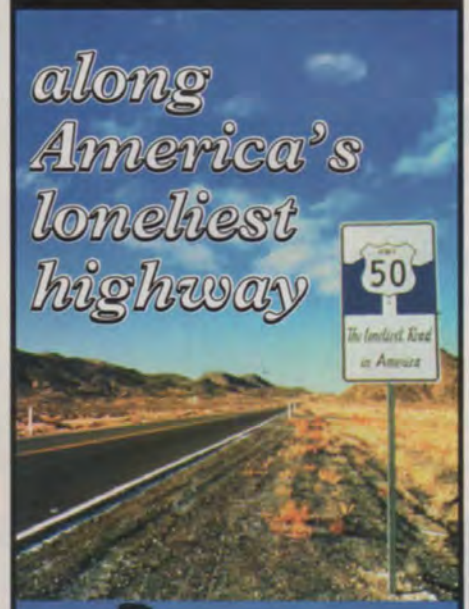
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Millennium Countdown Calendar

how the pioneers preserved their food. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.

• **26 Star Gaze:** Astronomers from the University of Nevada, Reno will guide viewers through the major constellations and explain astrological myths. Free admission. Dayton State Park, Dayton, 775-687-5678.

• **26-Sept. 4 Elko County Fair:** Quarter horse and thoroughbred racing, working cow horse competition, team-branding contests, 4-H livestock shows and sale, arts and crafts, food booths, dancing, and a carnival. Fairgrounds, Elko, 775-738-3616.

• **27-29 Valhalla Fine Quilt Exhibit:** Historic and modern quilts, demonstrations, workshops. Valhalla Estate, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

September 2000

• **1-4 Hearts of Gold Cantaloupe Festival:** Fallon, 775-423-2544.

• **1-4 Elko County Fair:** Quarter horse and thoroughbred racing, working cow horse competitions, team-branding contest, 4H livestock show and sale, home art exhibits, food booths, carnival, and dances. Fairgrounds, Elko, 775-738-3616.

• **1-4 Pioche Labor Day Celebration:** Mining events, parades, contests, booths, dancing, and arts and crafts. Pioche, 775-962-5544.

• **1-4 Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off:** A world-class event featuring the West's best rib cookers competing for fame and the crowd's acclaim. Also featured are nightly entertainment and an arts and crafts fair. Victorian Square and John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 775-356-3300.

• **2-3 Annual Corn Feed:** Potluck dinner, live music, and bingo. Proceeds go to community needs. Jarbidge, 775-488-2311

• **2-3 Ultra Lite Fly-In:** Air show, hot-air balloon rides, Ultra Lite flights for the public. Yelland Air Field, Ely, 775-289-4687

• **8-9 Boulder City Chautauqua:** History comes alive as scholars portray historical characters. Event includes arts and crafts, food booths, and musical entertainment. Bicentennial Park, Boulder City, 702-294-4365.

• **8-10 Virginia City International Camel Races:** Camel, ostrich, and water buffalo races, specialty acts, daily parades, and food. Camel Arena, Virginia City, 775-847-0311 or 775-329-7469.

• **8-10 Great Reno Balloon Race:** A top ballooning event that draws 120,000 people. The early morning rally has been voted as one of Northern Nevada's best events. Rancho San Rafael Park, Reno, 775-826-1181 for further balloon race information.

• **8-10 High Desert Jazz Festival:** Workshops, food, drinks. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.

• **9 Antique and Collectible Sale:** Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 775-265-6097

• **9 Canoe Trip:** Park rangers lead a canoe trip on the Carson River from Fort Churchill to Lahontan Reservoir. Fort Churchill State Historic Park, Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.

• **9 Gymkhana:** Caliente, 775-726-3203.

• **9-10 Fine Arts and Crafts Street Celebration:** Annual arts and crafts fair features live entertainment and food booths. Downtown Minden, 775-324-6435 or 775-782-8144.

• **9-10 Nevada State Museum/Carson City Mint Coin Show:** More than 35 dealers from across the U.S. showcase coins, collectibles, historical papers, books, stamps, jewelry, and medals. There will be free appraisals and free admission. Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 775-687-4810 ext. 221

• **10 Sundae in the Park:** Art and food festival with locally produced quilts, crafts, foods, and art. Entertainment and free ice cream. Yerington, 775-463-1783.

• **11-13 Twice as Nice Twin Stakes Slot Tournament:** Fremont, Las Vegas, 702-385-3232.

• **14-17 National Championship Air Races:** Four classes of racers—Unlimited, Formula One, AT-6, and Biplane—plus military displays and aerobatics. Reno, 775-972-6663.

• **15-16 Sierra Folklife Festival:** Nevada's cultural heritage is celebrated by 60 local groups with entertainment, crafts, food. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-329-1324 for further festival information.



***White Lightning*, which is powered by 6,120 batteries, is among the cars trying for record runs on the Bonneville Salt Flats. Major events take place in August, September, and October on the flats east of Wendover.**

• **15-17 Silver State Classic Challenge:** Ninety-mile open road car race against the clock on S.R. 318 from Lund to Hiko. Pre-race activities in Ely, 775-289-8877

• **15-17 Pahrump Harvest Festival and Rodeo:** Entertainment, PRCA rodeo, vendors, dancing under the stars, deep-pit barbecue, and fair exhibits. Also includes the Tod Canada Memorial Race, with 10K, 5K, and one-mile walk. Fairgrounds, Pahrump, 775-727-8195 or 775-727-1555. Tod Canada Race, 775-751-8382.

• **16 Horseback Endurance Ride:** Annual 100-mile ride in 25-mile loops around the hills of the Comstock mining town and scenic areas such as Washoe Lake. Virginia City, 775-847-0311

• **16 Tahoe Rim Trail Annual Hike-A-Thon:** Tahoe Rim Trail, 775-588-0686.

Photo: Bill McMillan

• **16 Buckland Station History Talk:** Rangers lead a discussion about the newly restored station. Fort Churchill State Historic Park, Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.

• **16-17 Dayton Valley Days:** Craft fair, quilt show, parade, food, senior pro rodeo, cowboy poetry, and art show. Old Town, Dayton, 775-246-7909.

• **17-19 Meadow Valley Days:** Poker run, horseshoes, baseball, barbecue. Caliente, 775-726-3129.

• **20-24 Las Vegas Street Fair/San Gennaro Feast:** Featuring an Italian food festival, carnival, live bands, and more than 80 vendors. Corner of Flamingo Road and Valley View, Las Vegas, 702-286-4944.

• **21-23 World of Speed:** Land speed time trials and record runs. Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 801-785-5364.

• **21-24 Street Vibrations Music, Metal and Motorcycles Festival:** Motorcycle tours, entertainment, ride-in shows, a parade, poker run/walk, vendors, and concerts. Various community locations, Reno, 775-329-SHOW or 800-200-4557

• **22-24 Annual Nevada Shakespeare in the Park:** Outdoor presentation of plays by the Bard. Henderson, 702-565-2367

• **22-24 Wings Over the Valley Hunting Festival:** Fallon, 800-874-0903.

• **23 Dash for Cash:** Gymkhana. Caliente, 775-726-3203.

• **23 Starving Artists Sale:** Nothing over $100. Sierra Arts Center, Reno, 775-329-1324.

• **23 Horseback Tours:** Rangers lead a tour of the new Carson River ranches. Fort Churchill Historic State Park, Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.

• **23-24 Ferrari Club of America Hillclimb, Parade, and Car Show:** Time trials. Virginia City, 775-847-0311

• **23-24 Genoa Candy Dance:** 80th annual arts and crafts fair featuring more than 300 fine arts and crafts booths. Dinner and dance held on Saturday night. Genoa, 775-782-TOWN.

• **23-24 High Desert Classic Softball Tournament:** Coed softball tournament. Event held at Lampe Park, Gardnerville, 775-782-9828.

• **24 Mountain Run II:** This event includes a 10K run and a four-mile fitness walk on a high mountain loop course following dirt roads and trails from Roller Pass and the Pacific Crest Trail. Lake Tahoe, 530-550-0885.

• **24 Stew-Doo:** Stew-cooking contest, food, arts and crafts, and a classic car show. Penny Park, Silver Springs, 775-577-3424.

• **24-30 America's Loneliest Bike Tour:** Annual camping-style ride across Nevada on U.S. 50 from Lake Tahoe to Great Basin National Park. Call 775-588-9658.

• **25-Oct. 10 Snaffle Bit Futurity:** Horses and riders compete for more than $700,000 in prize money. Reno, 775-784-6587

• **29-Oct. 1 Annual Tahoe Donner International Wheelchair Tennis Sectional Championship:** More than 80 players are expected in the 14th annual event. Tahoe Donner Tennis Club, Truckee, 530-587-2108.

• **30 Ruins Tour:** Ranger-led tour of Fort Churchill. Fort Churchill State Historic Park, Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.

• **30 Great Basin Book Festival:** Readings and book signings. Downtown, Reno, 775-784-6587

• **30-Oct. 1 Yerington Airport Fly-In:** Poker run, war bird display, static displays. Municipal Airport, Yerington, 775-463-3511

October 2000

• **1 Smith Valley Fun Days:** Show-and-shine, food, arts, crafts, Smith Valley, 775-465-2354.

• **1-10 Snaffle Bit Futurity:** Horses and riders compete for more than $700,000 in prize money. Reno, 775-784-6587

• **1-31 16th Annual Comstock Art Show:** Virginia City, 775-847-0311

• **3-8 Las Vegas International Bike Festival and Expo:** Racing, motocross, stunt shows, rock concerts, a world land speed record. Las Vegas, 702-260-8605.

• **7 Art and Earth Festival:** Art, food, crafts. Hawthorne, Walker Lake, and Schurz, 775-945-5896.

• **7 Scarecrow Festival:** Make your own life-size scarecrow or purchase a ready-made. Food, pumpkins, face- and pumpkin-painting. Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 775-782-7629.

• **7-8 Kokanee Salmon Festival:** Migration of landlocked kokanee salmon. Event includes children's activities, shows, salmon dinners, entertainment, exhibits, and environmental education. Forest Service Taylor Creek Visitor Center, South Lake Tahoe, 530-573-2674.

• **7-8 Art in the Park:** More than 300 booths featuring fine art and crafts for sale and browsing. Bicentennial Park, Boulder City, 702-294-1611

• **7-8 Valhalla Book Fair:** Used books sale, children's storytelling, a book appraiser, and book signing. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **7-8 Great Italian Festival:** Activities include a grape-stomp, spaghetti-eating contest, Italian food booths, and entertainment. Eldorado Hotel, Reno, 775-786-5700.

• **8 Las Vegas Basque Festival:** Authentic Basque food, dancing, exhibitions, including weightlifting and wood chopping. St. Viator Community Center, Las Vegas, 702-361-6834.

• **11-15 Las Vegas Invitational:** 18th annual PGA tournament. Top pros play at TPC at Summerlin, Desert Inn Golf Club, and Las Vegas Country Club. Las Vegas, 702-242-3000.

• **13-14 Sagebrush Quilter's Millennium Quilt Show:** Convention Center, Ely, 775-289-3334.

• **13-15 Renaissance Faire:** Food, medieval games, demonstrations. Sunset Park, Las Vegas, 702-455-8289.

• **13-15 and 19-22 "Steel Magnolias":** Western Nevada Theatre Company, Black Box Theatre, Carson High School, Carson City, 775-887-3115.

• **15 Harvest Farm Auction:** Antique sale. Smith Valley, 775-465-2353.

• **15-Nov. 30 ABC/WIBC Festival of Bowling:** Amateur bowlers compete at the National Bowling Stadium. Reno, 800-304-BOWL.

• **18-21 World Finals:** Cars and motorcycles try one



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Races and aerobatics propel spectators to the Reno-Stead Airport during the National Championship Air Races on September 14-17. The Reno event features several high-powered race classes.

last time in the year 2000 to set new land speed records. Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 805-526-1805.

• **19-22 Henderson Expo:** Art show, food booths, carnival, and businesses exhibit. Convention Center, Henderson, 702-565-8951

• **20-21 Deer Widows Weekend:** Non-deer-hunting spouses head to Wendover for the weekend. Wendover, 800-426-6862 or 775-664-3414 for further information.

• **20-22 Elko Te-Moak Powwow:** Tribal Gym, Elko, 775-753-5055.

• **20-22 Gem and Mineral Fair:** Demonstrations, sales of minerals, fossils, and rocks, silent auction. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

• **21 Carson City Symphony:** Premiere of Continental Harmony Project composition by Jim Cockey. Churchill County High School, Fallon, 775-883-4371

• **21 Cemetery Tour:** Carson Valley Historical Society, Gardnerville. Call for directions, 775-782-2010.

• **21-22 Fort Churchill Living History:** Troop formations, apple butter making, spinners, camp cooking, and crafts. Fort Churchill State Historic Park, Silver Springs, 775-358-2284.

• **22 Carson City Symphony:** Classical music concert. Community Center, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

• **24 Shoshone Christmas Craft Bazaar:** Native American arts and crafts, food booths. Shoshone Indian Colony, Ely, 775-289-3013.

• **24-31 Nevada Day Celebration:** Parade, carnival, midway games, entertainment, food booths, arts and crafts, and dance bands. Mills Park, Carson City, 775-687-4680 for further event information.

• **25-26 Haunted Grand Hall at Valhalla:** For children under 12. Valhalla Grand Hall, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **27-29 Celtic New Year Celebration:** Pipe band competition, Celtic dancing, entertainment, food, crafts. Livestock Events Center, Reno, 775-332-3333.

• **28 Nevada Day Parade:** More than 250 entries celebrate Nevada's admission to the Union. Carson Street, Carson City, 775-687-7410.

• **28 Kit Carson Trail Ghost Walk:** Walking home tour to hear historic tales presented by spirits of the past. Historic District, Carson City, 775-687-7410.

• **28 Black and Black Ball:** Ghosts, ghouls, live music, appetizers, and potions. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **28 Pig Roast/Halloween Party:** Pig roasted on a spit on Saturday afternoon with a bake auction by Jarbidge School following the barbecue. There will also be a costume party on Saturday night. Jarbidge, 775-488-2311

• **28 Burro Races:** Race against time to pack and unpack an uncooperative burro. City Arena, Beatty, 775-553-2424.

• **30 Kids Carnival:** Games, costumes, entertainment. Caliente, 775-726-3422.



Photo: Lonnie Peck/Reno News Bureau

• **30-Nov. 5 National Senior Pro Rodeo Finals:** Athletes 40 and older compete in traditional rodeo events. Livestock Events Center, Reno, 775-323-8842.

November 2000

• **1-30 ABC/WIBC Festival of Bowling:** Amateur bowlers compete at the National Bowling Stadium. Reno, 800-304-BOWL.

• **3-5 Western Heritage Festival:** Cowboy poetry gathering featuring chautauquas, Western music entertainment, vendors, arts and crafts, pickup truck display, and hot-air balloons. Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-658-4679.

• **3-5 Rhymer's Rodeer Cowboy Poetry:** Tales of the trail and Western lore. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-782-9711 or 800-321-6983.

• **3-5, 10-12, and 17-19 "My Fair Lady":** Western Nevada Musical Theatre Company presents the musical comedy. Community Center, Carson City, 775-887-3115.

• **4 Festival Americana:** Native American and pioneer crafts, demonstrations, entertainment, and food at the home of the Anasazi Indians. Lost City Museum, Overton, 702-397-2193.

• **5 Tour Las Vegas: Ride of the Century:** Fully-supported bicycle rides around Las Vegas. 775-588-9658.

• **6 Veterans Day Celebration:** Annual salute to the military. Henderson, 702-565-2367

• **11 Veterans Day Parade:** Patriotic pride on the Comstock. Virginia City, 775-847-0311

• **11 Pomegranate Art Festival:** Arts, crafts, pomegranate foods, cookbooks, entertainment, demonstrations. Moapa Valley Art Gallery, Overton, 702-397-8323.

• **13 St. Anne's Holiday Bazaar:** Local crafters sale and display. Catholic Center, Yerington, 775-463-3842.

• **17-19 Valhalla Holiday Faire: A Dickens Experience:** Holiday crafters, artists, boutiques, carolers, holiday treats, Father Christmas, and characters from Charles Dickens. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **24-26 "The Nutcracker":** Tchaikovsky's holiday ballet performed by the Pinkerton Dance Company. Community Center, Carson City, 775-882-3054.

• **25 Fisherman's Holiday Fish Derby:** Anglers compete for cash prizes. Walker Lake, Hawthorne, 775-945-5896.

• **25 Annual Thanksgiving Dinner:** R.S.V.P. and Senior Center, Caliente, 775-726-3129.

• **26-27 Scrooge's Craft Fair:** Homemade crafts, food. Caliente, 775-726-3649.

• **29 Deck the Halls of Valhalla:** Bring a non-breakable ornament for the annual Christmas decorating party. Valhalla Grand Hall, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **30-Dec. 9 NFR Cowboy Christmas Gift Show:** Anything cowboy can be found among the 500 exhibitors. North Hall, Las Vegas Convention Center, 702-260-8605.

December 2000

• **1-9 NFR Cowboy Christmas Gift Show:** About 500 exhibitors sell their cowboy trappings. North Hall, Las Vegas Convention Center, 702-260-8605.

• **1-10 National Finals Rodeo:** Top 126 rodeo contestants compete for more than $4.2 million in prize money. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-260-8605.

• **1-30 The Magical Forest:** Holiday lights and decorations create the annual winter wonderland. Opportunity Village, Las Vegas, 702-259-3700.

• **2 Crafters Christmas Bazaar:** Convention Center, Ely, 775-289-8261

• **2 Christmas on the Comstock:** Parade of lights and fireworks. Virginia City, 775-847-0311

• **2 Christmas Ghost Train Ride:** Holiday excursion aboard steam-powered train. Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 775-289-2085.

• **2 Christmas Parade:** Santa arrives at Bicentennial Park, Boulder City, 702-293-2034.

• **2 Parade of Lights:** Annual parade of 50 decorated boats on Lake Mead. The parade starts at Lake Mead Marina at 6pm and travels south along the public viewing areas on Boulder Beach, Special Events Beach, and Hemenway Harbor. Lake Mead Marina, 322 Lakeshore Road, off U.S. 93, Boulder City, 702-457-2797

• **2 Sparks Hometowne Christmas:** 14th annual parade with Santa, holiday music, arts and crafts, and a tree-lighting ceremony. Sparks, 775-353-2291

• **2-3 Festival of Trees:** Area businesses decorate trees in three themed categories for prize money. Wingfield Park and the Truckee River, Reno, 775-334-2417

• **2-3 Genoa Christmas Faire:** Arts and crafts fair, with Christmas carols and appetizers on Friday. Town Hall and Fire Bay, Genoa, 775-782-TOWN.

• **3 Victorian Home Christmas Tour:** Decorated homes. Historic District, Carson City, 775-882-1565.

• **4 Pioche Christmas Tree Lighting and Santa Visit:** Christmas lighting, bonfire, hot chocolate, Santa arrives with gifts for all the children. Pioche, 775-962-5544.

• **7 Silver and Snowflake Festival of Lights:** Christmas tree-lighting ceremony. State Capitol Building, Carson City, 775-882-1565.

• **8-9 Christmas Indian Market:** Indian arts, crafts, baskets, and Southwestern art. Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, 775-425-3439.

• **9 Old-Fashioned Christmas Celebration:** Historic decor, craft and goodie sale, roving carolers, sing-along. Dinner reservations required. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

• **9 Country Christmas:** Santa visit and tree-lighting. Yerington, 775-463-2245.

• **9 Children's Christmas Parade:** Santa meets and greets children after parade through town. Convention Center, Henderson, 702-565-8951

• **10 Holiday Treat Concert:** The Carson City Symphony presents seasonal favorites with the Carson Chamber Singers. Community Center, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

• **10 Christmas Celebration on Main Street:** Parade, tree-lighting ceremony, and caroling. Yerington, 775-463-2245.

• **16 Christmas Booksigning and Sale:** Local authors autograph books. Tea and cookies, music. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1191

• **24 Christmas Eve Torchlight Parade:** Squaw Valley's ski school lights up the night with a torch-light parade. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6955.

• **31 New Year's Eve Celebrations:** Watch here for more information.

January 2001

• **13-15 Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration:** Events will take place in Las Vegas and Reno/Sparks.



Reno-Tahoe Ski Packages

Each winter hotel-casinos in the Reno-Tahoe area offer ski packages with lift tickets, shuttles, and rooms in an effort to provide the perfect base camp. Here's a sampling of the room-and-ski deals. Restrictions may apply. Prices are per person, double occupancy, and are subject to change. Call for details.



Experts and beginners can jump into hotel ski packages that offer lift tickets to Squaw (above) and other Tahoe ski resorts.

Reno-Sparks Area

Atlantis: From $99 for three days/two nights. Lift ticket to Mount Rose or Squaw Valley, round-trip transportation, $5 food coupon and free cocktail, and use of health club. 800-723-6500, www.atlantiscasino.com.

Boomtown: Nightly rates of $69.95 Sunday through Thursday and $89.95 Friday and Saturday. Includes one lift ticket for Squaw Valley, ski shuttle, casino fun pack, and cocktails at casino bars. 877-726-6686, www.boomtowncasinos.com.

Circus Circus: $79 per night. Lift ticket to your choice of several Tahoe ski resorts, breakfast buffet pass, specialty coffee, and free airport shuttle service. 800-648-5010, www.circusreno.com.

Eldorado: $99 for three days/two nights, Sunday through Thursday. Includes choice of breakfast, lunch, or dinner in the Chef's Buffet and lift ticket for Alpine Meadows, Diamond Peak, Northstar, Squaw Valley, Sugar Bowl, Mount Rose, or Homewood. Also shuttle service to Squaw or Mount Rose. 800-648-5966, www.eldrado.com.

Fitzgeralds: From $54 per night. Lift ticket and transportation to Squaw Valley or Mount Rose. Group packages are available. 800-535-LUCK, www.fitzgeralds.com.

Flamingo Hilton Reno: $76 per night. One lift ticket to Mount Rose or Squaw Valley, transportation, and apres-ski cocktail. 800-648-4882, www.flamingohiltonreno.com.

Harrah's Reno: $89 for three days/two nights. One lift ticket to choice of Heavenly, Northstar, Squaw Valley, or Mount Rose. Includes $10 food credit at Cafe Napa, Sammy's Showroom revue, and transportation. 800-HARRAHS, www.harrahsreno.com.

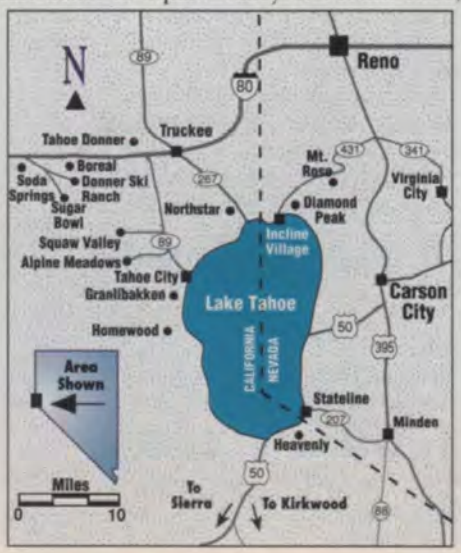
Holiday Inn: $65 per night Sunday through Thursday, $75 per night Friday and Saturday. Package good for Squaw Valley, Alpine Meadows, Mount Rose, or Northstar. One lift ticket per night, breakfast coupons, and $10 in match-play coupons at Diamonds Casino. 775-786-5151 ext. 3023.

John Ascuaga's Nugget: $79 per night. Stay up to three nights, Sunday through Friday, and get the fourth night free. A day of skiing at Alpine Meadows, Diamond Peak, Mount Rose, Northstar, Homewood, Squaw Valley, or Sugar Bowl. Includes Celebrity Showroom tickets and 10 percent off Advantage car rental discount. 800-843-2427, www.janugget.com.

Meadow Wood Courtyard: $66 per night, single or double occupancy. Includes one lift ticket to Mount Rose and one breakfast at Hart's Café. 800-797-RENO, www.super-8.com.

Peppermill: From $109 for three days/two nights. Includes continental breakfast, lift ticket, and transportation to Mount Rose or Squaw Valley. Extended-stay packages and discounts for car rentals and other ski resorts are available. 800-282-2444, www.peppermillcasinos.com.

Ramada Inn/Speakeasy Casino: $69 per night. Lift ticket to Squaw Valley or Mount Rose, full breakfast, round-trip transportation, airport shuttle, and use of sauna-fitness room. 888-RENO-777, www.ramada.com.



Reno Hilton: From $69 for three days/two nights. Lift ticket to Mount Rose, Alpine Meadows, or Squaw Valley and one day admission to the health club. 800-648-5080, www.reno-hilton.net.

Sands Regency: From $85 for three days/two nights. One lift ticket per person and round-trip transportation to Mount Rose or Squaw Valley (Squaw package $10 more per person). Also includes Tony Roma's Rib House and Just for Laughs Comedy Club dinner and show package, apres-ski margarita in the Tequila Bar, $10 in match play, and a souvenir gift. 800-648-3553, www.sandsregency.com.

Silver Legacy: From $89 for three days/two nights. Two lift tickets to Mount Rose or Squaw Valley (one per person; prices slightly higher for Squaw Valley package), transportation to and from Mount Rose or Squaw Valley on Sierra Nevada Gray Line, $5 food credit per person, airport shuttle, and two-for-one admission to Catch a Rising Star comedy club. 800-687-8733, www.silverlegacy.com.

Truckee River Lodge: $111 for three days/two nights. Includes two lift tickets (to Mount Rose and Northstar) per person. 800-635-8950, www.truckeeriverlodge.com.

Carson Area

Carson Valley Inn, Minden: From $65 to $155. The $155 hotel package (Sunday through Wednesday arrivals) for three nights includes two Kirkwood lift tickets per person and two $12 dinner certificates per person. 800-321-6983, www.cvinn.com.

Piñon Plaza and Carson Station, Carson City: $43 and $39 respectively for one night includes discounted lift tickets for Tahoe ski resorts, dinner, breakfast, cocktail, bowling at Piñon Plaza, nickels, and coupons. 800-NEVADA-1 or 877-519-5567.

Incline Village/Crystal Bay

Brat Resort Properties: From $380 for three days/three nights. One-bedroom condo. Three days interchangeable skiing at Diamond Peak, Squaw Valley, Alpine, Northstar, or Mount Rose. 800-869-8308.

Cal-Neva Resort: $139 for three days/two nights. Two lift tickets per person to Alpine Meadows, Northstar, or Diamond Peak and use of fitness facility. Other packages

Photo: Joe McBride/Squaw Valley USA

available. 800-CAL-NEVA, www.calnevaresort.com.

Haus Bavaria Bed and Breakfast: $85 per night. A full breakfast is included with lift tickets to Diamond Peak, Northstar, Mount Rose, Squaw Valley, or Alpine Meadows. 800-731-6222, www.hausbavaria.com.

Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe: $99 per night, three nights. Daily lift ticket to a selection of ski resorts. Daily breakfasts, health club. 800-553-3288, www.hyatt-tahoe.com.

Lake Tahoe Accommodations: $65 per person, with four adults sharing a two-bedroom condominium. One lift ticket to Diamond Peak and complimentary bottle of wine. 800-544-3234, www.tahoeaccommodations.com.

Stateline/South Tahoe

Caesars Tahoe: $150 for two nights. Lift ticket to choice of Heavenly, Kirkwood, Sierra-at-Tahoe, Northstar, or Squaw Valley; breakfast buffet each day; and pass to Caesars Spa each day or a $20 massage credit. Additional nights are $168 each. 800-648-3353, www.caesars.com.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe: From $157 to $350. The $350 package (Sunday and Monday arrivals) for four nights includes three lift tickets to Kirkwood, Sierra-at-Tahoe, Northstar, Squaw Valley, Alpine Meadows, or Heavenly ($10 surcharge for Heavenly); show ticket to the South Shore Room; 250 Harrah's Total Gold points; daily continental breakfast at Club Cappuccino; and welcome gift. 800-HARRAHS, www.harrahstahoe.com.

Harveys: Packages from $80 to $655. The $175 plan for two nights includes one lift ticket at an area ski resort, $25 dining credit at any Harveys restaurant, and a margarita at El Vaquero. 800-HARVEYS, www.harveystahoe.com.

Lake Tahoe Horizon: From $80 per night, with lift ticket to Heavenly, Squaw Valley, Kirkwood, Sierra-at-Tahoe, or Northstar. Includes casino fun sheet, continental breakfast weekdays, ski shuttle, and on-site rentals and storage. Rates are higher on Friday and Saturday. 800-648-3322, www.horizoncasino.com.—*Carol Tanis, Reno News Bureau*

Tahoe Ski Details

For Reno-Tahoe room reservations or a free copy of the latest *Reno-Tahoe Visitor Planner*, call the **Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority**, 800-FOR-RENO, or visit www.renolaketahoe.com. Also, a new Web site, http://ski.renolaketahoe.com, focuses on Tahoe ski resorts, snow conditions, and ski packages. Other winter-sports information sources are the **Lake Tahoe, Incline Village/Crystal Bay VCB**, 800-GO-TAHOE, www.gotahoe.com; the **Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority**, 800-AT-TAHOE, www.virtualtahoe.com; and **Ski Lake Tahoe**, 800-588-SNOW or www.SkiLakeTahoe.com.

Skiing Around the State

A Guide to Nevada and Tahoe Basin Ski Areas.

2000 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	$31/$10	$23/$13
Diamond Peak	www.diamondpeak.com	775-831-3211	8,540	1,840	6	18-46-36	$38/$14	$20/$14
Donner Ski Ranch	www.donnerskiranch.com	530-426-3635	7,751	750	6	25-50-25	$25/$18/$10	$18/$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	27	20-45-35	$54/$44/$25	$25/$12
Homewood Mountain	www.skihomewood.com	530-525-2992	7,880	1,650	8	15-50-35	$38/$25/$9	$23/$13
Kirkwood	www.skikirkwood.com	209-258-6000	9,800	2,000	13	15-50-35	$46/$35/$7	$20/$14
Mount Rose/Ski Tahoe	www.mtrose.com	775-849-0704	9,700	1,440	5	30-35-35	$42/$35/$10	$25/$15
Northstar-at-Tahoe	www.skinorthstar.com	530-562-1010	8,600	2,200	12	25-50-25	$49/$39/$10	$28/$16
Sierra at Tahoe	www.sierratahoe.com	530-659-7453	8,852	2,212	12	25-50-25	$46/$36/$8	$24/$16
Soda Springs	www.skisodasprings.com	530-426-1010	7,352	652	4	30-50-20	$20/$16/$10	$20
Squaw Valley	www.squaw.com	530-583-6955	9,050	2,850	30	25-45-30	$52/$26/$5	$25/$13
Sugar Bowl	www.sugarbowl.com	530-426-9000	8,383	1,500	13	17-43-40	$48/$39/$10	$25/$15
Tahoe Donner	www.tahoedonner.com	530-587-9444	7,350	600	4	40-60-0	$26/$12	$20/$15
AROUND THE STATE								
LV Ski and Snowboard (Mount Charleston)		702-385-2754	9,510	1,000	3	20-60-20	$28/$21	$16
Elko Snobowl		800-428-7143	7,000	650	2	20-60-20	$15/$10	
Ruby Mountains (Elko)	www.helicopterskiing.com	775-753-6867	Ruby Mt. Heli-Skiing offers back country helicopter skiing; $2,600 per person					

2000 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	100	none	$14/$8	$28/$20	√
Kirkwood	www.skikirkwood.com	209-258-7248	80	$16/$12/$5	$16/$10	$36/$30/$20*	√
Lake Tahoe Basin	www.fs.fed.us/r5/ltbmu	530-573-2600	The U.S. Forest Service has brochures on many forest areas.				
Northstar-at-Tahoe	www.skinorthstar.com	530-562-1010	65	$19/$10	$19/$11	$25/$15	√
Royal Gorge	www.royalgorge.com	530-426-3871	330	$21/$8.50	$17.50/$9.50	$20/$12	√
Spooner Lake	www.spoonerlake.com	775-887-8844	91	$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	100	$17/$14/$9	$16/$15/$9	$38/$30*	√
AROUND THE STATE							
LV Ski and Snowboard (Mount Charleston)		702-385-2754	The Ski Chalet offers x-country suggestions				
	www.fs.fed.us/r4/h-t	702-873-8800 (USFS)	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 information				
White Pine (Ely)	www.nv.blm.gov/ely	775-289-1800 (BLM)	Ward Mt. and Loop Trails info. available from the BLM and U.S. Forest Service				
	www.fs.fed.us/r4/h-t	775-289-3031 (USFS)					

* Includes trail pass, equipment, and lessons

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

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, Jerry Lewis will appear at the Orleans in Las Vegas, Louise Mandrell performs at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, and Penn and Teller headline at Harrah's Lake Tahoe in Stateline. 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; the rest of the state is 775.



Let the Good Times Swing

Classic '40s dance steps and big-band music are featured in "Swing, Swing, Swing," the production show running through May at Harrah's Laughlin. The show appears in the Fiesta Showroom of the hotel-casino, which stands next to the Colorado River.

Las Vegas Territory

BOULDER CITY

Hacienda (formerly Gold Strike Inn) • Between Boulder City and Hoover Dam, 293-5000 or 800-245-6380: Entertainment TBA.

HENDERSON

Joker's Wild • 564-8100: Live entertainment Wed.-Sun. at the Henderson casino.

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

Sunset Station • 547-7777: Club Madrid: Paula Poundstone, Feb. 11. B.J. Thomas, Feb. 19. Disco Inferno, 10:30pm-2:30am Fri. and Sat. Sunset Brewing Co.: bands play Tues.-Sat.

JEAN

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

Nevada Landing • 387-5000 or 800-628-6682: Bands appear nightly except Wed.

LAS VEGAS

Arizona Charlie's • 258-5200: Naughty Ladies Saloon: Bands play nightly. Palace Grand Theatre: Entertainment TBA.

Bally's • 739-4567 or 800-237-SHOW: Jubilee Theater: "Jubilee!" (dark Tues.). "Love Him Tender," starring Elvis impressionist Steve Connolly at 2 p.m. (dark Tues.-Wed.).

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

Bellagio • 888-987-6667: Cirque du Soleil's "O," indf. (dark Wed.-Thurs., Dec. 29-30, and Feb. 31-22).

Boulder Station • 432-7777 or 800-683-7777: Railhead Lounge: Diane Schuur, Jan. 21. Fattburger, March 4. Brenda Lee, April 28. Bands play nightly. Karaoke, Fri.-Sat.

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

Caesars Palace • 731-7333 or 800-445-4544: Circus Maximus: Daryl Hall and John Oates, Dec. 31-Jan. 2. Bands play in the Forum, Galleria, and La Piazza lounges, Palace Court and Terrazza restaurants, and Cleopatra's Barge. Piano music in the Galleria Bar. Magicians like Joseph Gabriel and George Tovar perform Tues.-Sat. in the Secret Pagoda and Sultan's Palace theaters at Caesars Magical Empire.

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

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

Desert Inn • 733-4566 or 800-634-6909: Crystal Showroom: Don Rickles, Dec. 29-31. Tony Bennett, Jan. 1-2. Don Rickles, Jan. 27-29.

Excalibur • 597-7600: King Arthur's Arena: "Tournament of Kings," music-dinner show. Court Jesters Stage: Strolling entertainers 10am-10pm. Minstrels Lounge: Live bands and dancing. Music in the Lance-a-Lotta Pasta and Camelot Casual Dining restaurants.

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

Flamingo Hilton • 733-3333 or 800-221-7299: Flamingo Showroom: Robert Goulet, Dec. 31. "The Great Radio City Spectacular" starring the Rockettes (dark Fri.). Big Band Fridays with Buddy Greco and His Swing Band, dancing. Bugsy's Celebrity Theatre: "Forever Plaid," '50s musical revue (dark Mon.).

Four Queens • 385-4011 or 800-634-6045.

Four Seasons • 632-5000: Entertainment nightly in the Lobby Lounge and Club Bar on the ground floor. Four Seasons hotel occupies upper floors at Mandalay Bay.

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: Entertainment TBA. Tropical Splash, Sat. (indf.). Ballroom dancing with disk jockey Larry Taylor Tues. and Sun.

Golden Nugget • 385-7111: Bands play in the lounge nightly except Mon.

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

Harrah's Las Vegas • 369-5222 or 800-392-9002: Spellbound Theater: "Spellbound" (dark Sun.), thru Jan. 1. "Takin' It Uptown" starring Clint Holmes, musical variety show, debuts Jan. 14. (dark Sun.). Improv Comedy Club (dark Mon.). Entertainment nightly in the La Playa Lounge and Range Steakhouse Lounge.

Holiday Inn Boardwalk • 730-3194: Lighthouse Showroom: "The Dream King," starring Trent Carlini (dark Sun.-Mon. and Jan. 1, 7, and 8).

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.). "Houdini Lives Again" at 4pm Wed.-Sun., and 8pm Sun.

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

Nevada Events & Shows
is a section of
NEVADA
MAGAZINE

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

Las Vegas Hilton • 732-5755 or 800-222-5361: Hilton Theater: Pat Benatar, Dec. 31-Jan. 1. Bob Newhart, Jan. 15. Jamie Foxx, Jan. 28-29. "Buddy," Broadway musical, Feb. 22-March 5. Reba McEntire, March 16-19. Harvey Korman and Tim Conway, April 7-9. Kenny Rogers, April 14-15. The NightClub: Entertainment nightly, Louie Louie, Fri.-Sat.

Luxor: Luxor Live Theatre: Lasting Impressions with Bill Acosta, 7:30pm. "Midnight Fantasy," production show at 10:30pm. Blue Man Group opens in March.

Main Street Station • 387-1896 or 800-713-8933: 777 BrewPub: Shuffleaires, Tues. and Fri.-Sat.

Mandalay Bay • 877-632-7400: Mandalay Bay Theatre: "Chicago," Broadway musical, matinee Sunday, 4pm (dark Mon. and Jan. 2-17). Mandalay Bay Events Center: Bette Midler, Dec. 31-Jan. 1. The Three Tenors: Jose Carreras, Placido Domingo, and Luciano Pavarotti, April 22. House of Blues: Stevie Nicks, Dec. 31. The Pretenders, Feb. 12. Entertainment nightly. Bands play in the Island, Orchid, and Coral Reef lounges.

MGM Grand • 891-7777 or 800-929-1111: Hollywood Theatre: Rodney Dangerfield, Dec. 25-Jan. 1. Grand Theatre: "EFX" starring Tommy Tune (dark Sun.-Mon.). Grand Garden Arena: Barbra Streisand, Dec. 31. ESPN's ESPY Awards, Feb. 14. Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young, Feb. 19. Center Stage Lounge: Catch a Rising Star Comedy Club. Studio 54: Dancing nightly. Live entertainment in the Show Bar Lounge, Brown Derby, Betty Boop Bar, and Gatsby's.

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

Monte Carlo • 730-7000: Lance Burton Theatre: "Lance Burton, Master Magician" (dark Sun.-Mon.). Top 40, disco, country, and classic-rock dance music nightly in the Monte Carlo Pub and Brewery.

New Frontier • 794-8200: Gilley's Saloon: Gilley's All-Star Band.

New York-New York • 740-6969: Broadway Theatre: "Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance" (dark Sun.-Mon.). Bands play in the Empire Bar. The N.Y.P.D. (New York Piano Duos) dueling pianos play 8pm-2:15am nightly in the Bar at Times Square.

The Orleans • 800-ORLEANS: Orleans Showroom: Smothers Brothers, Dec. 29-31. The McGuire Sisters, Jan. 6-9. Jerry Lewis, Jan. 13-16. Smothers Brothers, Jan. 18-22. Everly Brothers, Jan. 25-29. Al Martino, Feb. 4-6. Debbie Reynolds, Feb. 10-13. Neal Sedaka, Feb. 15-20. Mel Tillis, Feb. 25-27. Willie Nelson, March 3-5. BTO, March 9-12. Ray Charles, March 16-19. Roger Whittaker, March 24-26. Bo Diddley, March 30-April 1. Ray Charles, Sept. 27-Oct. 1. Bourbon Street Cabaret: Bands play nightly (dark Mon.).

Palace Station • 367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Trax Nightclub: Headliner TBA. Bands play in Trax and Fri.-Sat. in the Palace Saloon.

Paris Las Vegas • 800-237-SHOW: Le Theatre de Arts: "Notre Dame de Paris" production show opens Jan. 25 Paris Ballroom: TBA. Entertainment in Le Cabaret Show Lounge. Paris Theatre: Entertainment TBA.

Rio Suite • 252-7776 or 800-PLAYRIO (U.S. and Canada): Rod Stewart, Dec. 31. Copacabana Entertainment Complex: David Cassidy opens late Jan. Masquerade Show in the Sky: Carnival-themed parade with exotic floats and costumes above the casino, every two hours beginning at 2pm Sun.-Tues. and 1pm Thurs.-Sat. (dark Wed.). Rio Bamba Cabaret: Earl Turner. Live entertainment in the Ipanema Piano Bar and Voodoo Lounge. Club Rio: Dance-video nightclub Wed.-Sat.

Riviera • 794-9301: Splash Theatre: "Splash," production show. Royale Pavilion: Frankie Avalon, the Tokens, and the Shangri-las, Dec. 30-31. Super Bowl Party, Jan. 30. Air Supply, Feb. 11-12. Bobby Vinton, March 10-11. Tony Orlando, March 31-April 1. La Cage Theatre (third floor): "An Evening at La Cage," celebrity female impersonators revue (dark Tues. and thru Jan. 7). Sylvet and the Salsa Machine, Dec. 31. Maynard Fergusons's Big



Bop, Jan. 25. Mardi Gras Plaza (second level): "Crazy Girls: Sensuality and Passion," adult revue (dark Mon. and thru Jan. 6). "Riviera Comedy Club," comedians appear nightly. Le Bistro Lounge: Spiral Staircase, Dec. 31. "Tribute to Elvis" with Billy Ortiz from 4-7:30pm Sat.-Sun.; Jazz on the Strip, Mon.; Lon Bronson's All-Star Band, Fri. and Sat. at 1am; bands play Tues.-Sun. Top of the Riv: Dom Irrera, Rich Hall, Andy Kindler, and Chuck Cason, Dec. 31. Bobby Slayton and Robert Schimmel, Jan. 1.

Sahara • 737-2515: Congo Showroom: The Platters, Marvelettes, and Billy Guy's Coasters in Concert, Dec. 27-Jan. 2. Bands play in the Casbar Lounge. The NASCAR Cafe and a roller coaster open March 2. Magician Steve Wyrick opens the new Sahara Theatre late March. Bands play in the Casbar lounge.

Sam's Town • 454-8048: Western Dance Hall: Bands play 9pm-3am. Roxy's Saloon: Entertainers 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: TBA. Bon Chance Lounge: Entertainers perform nightly.

Santa Fe • 658-4900: Ice Lounge: Flamingos, Jan. 14-15. Diamonds, Feb. 18-19. Groups perform nightly. Pavilion: Jazz music Wed.-Sat. and Sun., noon-3:30pm, and piano Sun.-Tues.

Showboat • 383-9232 or 800-826-2800: Masquerade Room: Interactive murder mystery dinner theater Thurs.-Sat. Mardi Gras Room: Entertainment nightly.

Silverton • 263-7777 or 800-588-7711: Rattlesnake Rickey's Saloon: Bands play nightly.

Stardust • 732-6111 or 800-824-6033: Wayne Newton Theatre: Wayne Newton, Dec. 31-Jan. 1, and Jan. 24-indf. (dark Fri.). Stardust Ballroom: Guy Lombardo Orchestra, Jan. 1. 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. Entertainment in the Top of the World and Oasis lounges.

Treasure Island • 894-7111: Cirque du Soleil in "Mystère" (dark Mon.-Tues., Jan. 30, and Feb. 13 and 16). Music in Captain Morgan's piano bar.

Tropicana • 739-2411: Tiffany Theatre: "The Best of the Folies Bergere...Sexier Than Ever" (dark Thurs. and New Year's Eve). Branscome Richmond and the Renegade Posse, Dec. 31. "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.

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

Venetian • 733-5000: C2K Showroom: André Philippe-Gagon, impressionist, indf. (dark Mon.). Entertainment daily in the Rialto Bar and La Scena Lounge at the Venetian.

Westward Ho • 731-2900: Westward Ho Lounge: Entertainment nightly.

Wild Wild West Gambling Hall • 736-8988. Loose Trax Sports Lounge: Karaoke, Thurs.-Sat.

World Trade Center • 369-5750: International Showroom: Michael La Rocca Show, indf.



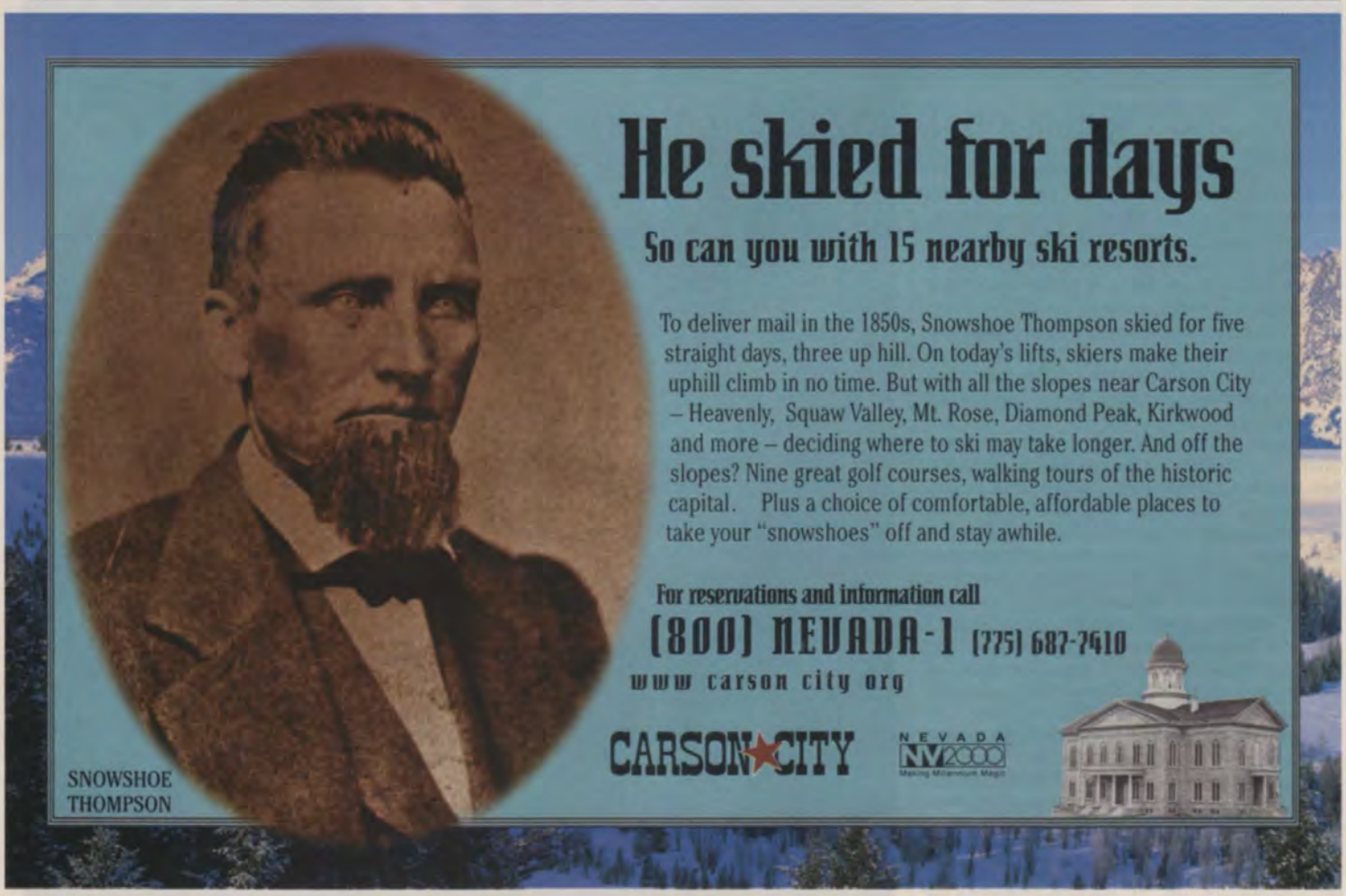
CSN&Y at MGM in Y2K

Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young bring more than 25 years of pioneering rock 'n' roll to the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas on February 19.

LAUGHLIN

Avi • 535-5555: Bands play nightly.

Colorado Belle • 298-4000: "D" Deck: Riverboat Ramblers, strolling musicians. Boiler Room Brew Pub: Bands like



Catch 22 and the Dimes play Fri. and Sat., karaoke, Thurs.

Edgewater • 298-2453: Kokopelli's Lounge: Bands play nightly. Jumpin' Jimes plays swing music Dec. 31-Jan. 1.

Flamingo Hilton Laughlin • 298-5028 or 800-435-8469: Silver Bullet Showroom: "Dancing to the Hitz," musical revue (dark Fri.). Center Stage Experience: Bands play nightly.

Golden Nugget Laughlin • 298-7111 or 800-237-1739: Tarzan's Lounge: Bands like Stinger and Menage play nightly except Mon. and during DJ Week.

Harrah's Laughlin • 298-4600 or 800-447-8700: Fiesta Showroom: "Swing, Swing, Swing," big band musical production show, thru May.

Ramada Express • 298-4200 or 800-243-6846: Pavilion Theater: Entertainment TBA. Back to the 1940s Speakers, Tues. 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: Bands play nightly except Mon. Karaoke Madness, Mon. Swing and Latin dance contests, 5pm daily. Train rides also are available.

River Palms • 298-2242 or 800-835-7904: Crystal Sands Showroom: TBA. DJ music or bands perform nightly in the Bermuda Club Lounge. Karaoke with Don West, Wed. 4-7pm. The Edge appears Dec. 28-Jan. 2.

Riverside Resort • 298-2535 or 800-227-3849 ext. 616: Don's Celebrity Theatre: "Shogun," revue, indf. Debbie Reynolds, Dec. 28-Jan. 1. Carme Pitrello, Dec. 31. Carl Hurley, Jan. 2-9. Osmond Brothers, Jan. 12-16. Bob Goss and His Silver Sizzles Revue, Jan. 18-29. McGuire Sisters, Feb. 1-6. Mel Tillis, Feb. 15-20. Roy Clark, Feb. 22-27. Red Buttons, March 1-5. Roger Whittaker, March 28-April 1.

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: Redd Boot Saloon: Video and live DJ, Fri. and Sat. Sandy Hackett's Comedy Club on Sat. Cabaret Lounge: Bands play nightly.

Virgin River • 346-7777 or 800-346-7721: Bands play in the casino lounge nightly except Mon.

NORTH LAS VEGAS

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

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

Texas Station • 631-1000: South Padre: Entertainment TBA. Armadillo Lounge: Dancing to Sunday Swing with Jerry Tiffe, 4-8pm; bands play nightly except Mon.-Tues.

PRIMM

Buffalo Bill's Resort • 382-1111 or 800-FUN-STOP: Star of the Desert Arena: 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 at the Primm resort.



A Disappearing Trick

Magician Steve Wyrick is moving his bag of illusions from the Lady Luck to the Sahara on the Las Vegas Strip. Wyrick will open the 950-seat Sahara Theatre in late March.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

RENO/SPARKS

Atlantis • 825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Bands play nightly in the Center Stage Cabaret.

Boomtown • 345-6000: Boomtown Cabaret: Entertainers play nightly except Mon.

Cal-Neva Virginian • 323-1046, 877-777-7303.

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

Comstock • 329-1880.

Eldorado • 786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside Nevada) or 800-648-3024 (Canada): Eldorado Showroom: "Spirit of the Dance: The New Millennium," Irish dance production show (dark Mon.). Brew Brothers: Rock, blues, and swing bands play nightly at the microbrewery. Piano



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music in Bistro Roxy in the downtown Reno hotel-casino.

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

Fitzgeralds • 785-3300 or 800-648-5022 (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands play nightly. Joey Carmon performs Dec. 27-Jan. 2.

Flamingo Hilton Reno • 785-7080: Flamingo Showroom: "Carnival of Wonders," magic production (dark Tues.). Bands play in the Show Spot Cabaret. Terry Thompson, Colin Ross, Yil Ozpay, and Al Valdez play at the Top of the Hilton restaurant (dark Tues.).

Harrah's Reno • 788-3773 or 800-HARRAHS: Sammy's Showroom: "Cirque Berserk," revue, 8pm, followed by "Skintight," revue, at 10:30pm with additional show at 12:30am Sat. (dark Thurs.).

John Ascuaga's Nugget • Sparks, 356-3304 or 800-648-1177: Rose Ballroom: David Martin's House Party, Dec. 31. Ray Charles, Jan. 15-16. Celebrity Showroom: Willie Nelson, Dec. 31-Jan. 1. Drifters and Billy Richards' Coasters, Jan.

A Night at the Opera

The Three Tenors—Jose Carreras, Placido Domingo, and Luciano Pavarotti—perform April 22 at Mandalay Bay. Las Vegas is the only West Coast city on this year's tour.

6-19. Mel Tillis, Jan. 20-Feb. 2. Mickey Gilley and John Padon, Feb. 3-16. Louise Mandrell and Mark Schiff, Feb. 17-March 1. Roy Clark with Tony D'Andrea, March 2-15. Rich Little, March 16-29. Bands play nightly in the Casino Cabaret and Trader Dick's restaurant.

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

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

Ramada Inn and Speakeasy Casino • 329-7400: Pretty Boy Floyd's Bar features live entertainment.

Reno Hilton • 789-2285 or 800-648-3568 (U.S. outside Nevada): Hilton Theater: The Miracles, Dec. 31. Hilton Pavilion: John Popper Band of Blues Traveler, Dec. 31. The Garage: Bands play nightly. The Improv Comedy Club: Stand-up comedy nightly except Mon. Aspen Lounge: Mon. night jazz; live music and dancing.

Riverboat • 323-8877.

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

Silver Legacy • 329-4777 or 800-225-BASS (U.S., Canada, and Mexico): Grande Exposition Hall: Entertainment TBA. Comedians perform at the Catch a Rising Star comedy club. Silver Baron Lounge: Piano music.

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

CARSON AREA

Carson Nugget • Carson City, 882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (continental U.S. including Nevada): Nugget Show Bar: Bands play nightly. David Proud and the Motifs appear Dec. 28-Jan. 2.

Carson Station • Carson City, 883-0900: Bands play in the casino lounge nightly. Stew Stewart, Dec. 31.

Carson Valley Inn • Minden, 782-9711 or 800-321-6983: Shannon Ballroom: Comedy Night Live, Jan. 21, Feb. 11, and March 10. "A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac," March 31-April 1. Bands play in the Cabaret Lounge for dancing nightly except DJ night on Mon. The Palmores appear Dec. 28-Jan. 9.

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

Nevada Events & Shows
is a section of
NEVADA MAGAZINE



Mel Plays the State

Country star Mel Tillis sings and plays January 20-February 2 at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, February 15-20 at the Riverside in Laughlin, and February 25-27 at the Orleans in Las Vegas.

Cowboy Country

ELKO

Commercial Hotel • 738-3181: Comedy on Wed. at the Commercial.
Gold Country • 800-621-1332: J.R.'s Lounge: Erni Sites, Jan. 25-29. Entertainment Tues.-Sat.
High Desert Inn • 738-8425: Comedy show, Fri.
Red Lion • 738-2111 or 800-545-0044 (Western U.S. outside Nevada): Club Max Showroom: Shake, Rattle, and Roll, Dec. 28-Jan. 2 and Jan. 4-9. Ian Tyson, Jan. 27-29.
Stockmen's Hotel • 738-5141 or 800-648-2345 (U.S. and Nevada): Michael Martin Murphey, Jan. 27-30. Bands play in the lounge.

JACKPOT

Barton's Club 93 • 755-2341.
Cactus Petes • 800-821-1103: Gala Showroom: Joe Diffie, Dec. 31-Jan. 1.
Horseshu Casino • 755-2321.

MILL CITY

Burns Bros. Casino • 538-7306.

WENDOVER

Peppermill • 664-2255 or 800-648-9660 (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands play nightly.
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.
Model T Hotel • 623-2588.
Holiday Inn Express • 800-HOLIDAY.
Sundance Casino • 623-3336.
Red Lion • 800-633-6435.

Piñon Plaza • Carson City, 885-9000: Sports Book Lounge: Bands play Fri.-Sat. Buddy Balue Band, Dec. 29-Jan. 1. Convention Area: Zella Lehr Show, Dec. 31.
Sharkey's Nugget • Gardnerville, 782-3133: Live music and dancing Fri. and Sat. Also, extensive displays of boxing, circus, and rodeo memorabilia.
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: David Copperfield, Dec. 25-29. Brooks and Dunn, Dec. 30-Jan. 1. George Carlin, Jan 14-15. Jay Leno, Jan. 28-29. Toto, Feb. 18-19. Nero's 2000 nightclub presents live music. Cleo's Bar and Entertainment Lounge: Pianist Arthur Hervey appears indf.
Harrah's Lake Tahoe • 800-HARRAHS: South Shore Room: Mitch Woods and John Carleton orchestras with Rick Michel, Dec. 31. Penn and Teller, Jan. 1. "Imagine," production show, Jan. 14-May 8. Bands play nightly in the Casino Center Stage.
Harveys • 588-2411 or 800-553-1022 ext. 2883: Cabaret: "Passion," production show, thru April. 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: Frank Sinatra Celebrity 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: Regency Ballroom: TBA. Casino Stage Bar: Performers like Vance Shepard play nightly except Mon. Madison Avenue appears Dec. 27-Jan. 1.
Jim Kelley's Tahoe Nugget • Crystal Bay, 831-7157.
Tahoe Biltmore • Crystal Bay, 831-0660: Nevada Room: Bill Haley's Comets, Dec. 31. Bands play in the Aspen 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.
Exchange Club • 553-2368: Weekend entertainment.

HAWTHORNE

El Capitan • 945-3322: Entertainment TBA.
Joe's Tavern • 945-2302.

PAHRUMP

Mountain View Casino and Bowl • 727-7777: Bowling alley.
Saddle West Hotel, Casino, and RV Park • 727-1111 or 800-GEDDY-UP: Casino-lounge entertainment.

TONOPAH

Banc Club • 482-5409: Entertainment TBA.
Mizpah Hotel • 482-6200.
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.

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Shopping!

A guide to Nevada's malls and shopping meccas.

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 155 stores you'd better wear your walking shoes. The mall on Las Vegas Boulevard a couple miles south of the Strip has an adjacent addition with an Off Fifth Saks Fifth Avenue at the south end of the parking lot. Inside stores include Spiegel, Levi's, Reebok, Burlington Brands, and others that carry clothing, home decor items, and casino logo merchandise. Belz also has two food courts, one of which has an old-fashioned carousel. Phone 702-896-5599; www.belz.com.

The **Boulevard Mall** sprawls across 1.25 million square feet with more than 150 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.

Factory Stores of America is an open-air outlet mall south of Vacation Village at the far southern end of the Strip. Shoppers will find 50 stores, including Mikasa and Vanity Fair as well as other clothing and specialty shops. Phone 800-SHOP-USA.

The **Fashion Show Mall** has glitzy anchors such as 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; www.fashionshowmall.com.

The **Forum Shops at Caesars** offers 105 shops and 10 restaurants. The attractions—the "Race for Atlantis" IMAX motion-simulator ride, 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; www.simon.com.

Galleria Mall at Sunset in Henderson, across the street from the Sunset Station Hotel, is one of the Las Vegas area's newest malls. Shoppers will find Dillard's, Robinson May, JC Penney, Mervyn's California, and 130

specialty stores. Phone 702-434-0202; www.galleriaatsunset.com.

Shoppers can peruse the Venetian streetscapes and canals, complete with serenading gondoliers, at the **Grand Canal Shoppes** at the Venetian. Among the 45 upscale and unusual shops are Iceberg (sportswear), Jimmy Choo (Princess Di's preferred shoemaker), and a Houdini's Magic store. Phone 702-414-1000; www.venetian.com.

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 75-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; www.themeadows.com.

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, Bugle Boy, and Levi's. 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.

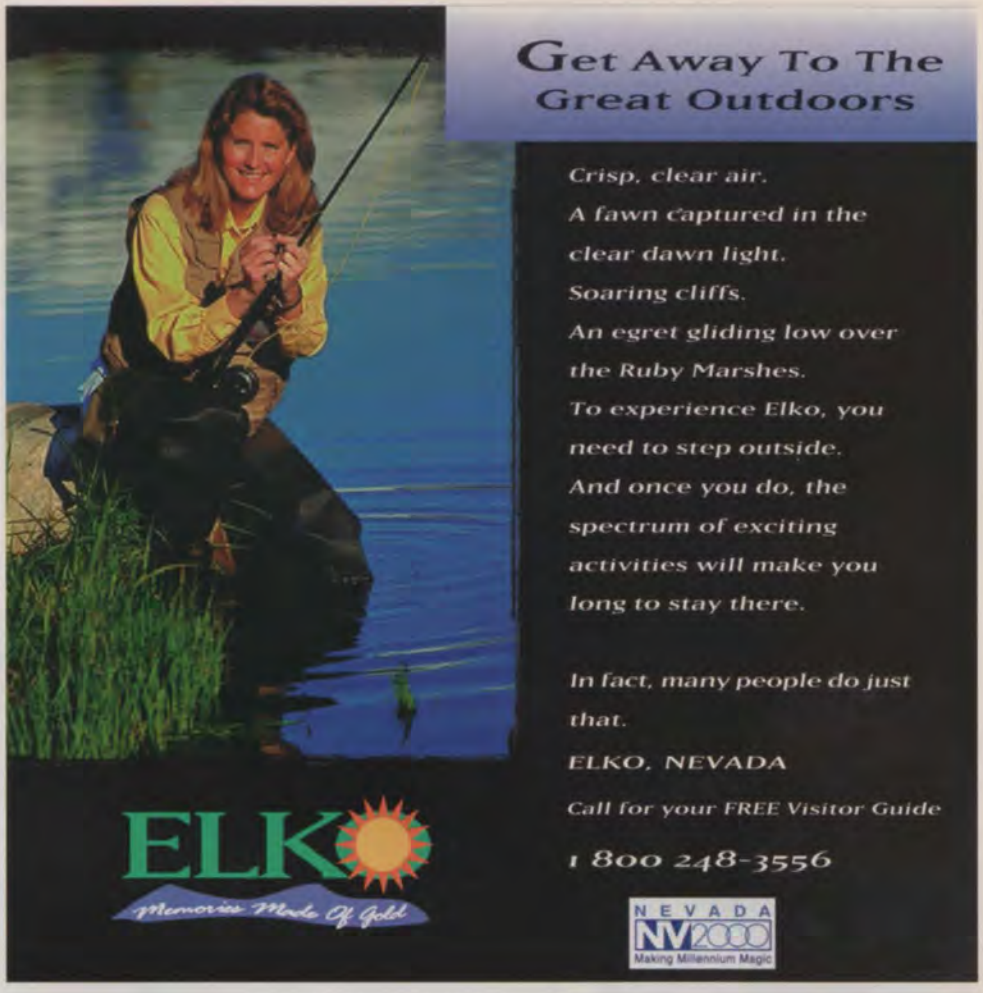
Primm

The **Fashion Outlet of Las Vegas** in Primm, 43 miles south of Las Vegas, has a New York Times Square theme, complete with huge billboards. 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. Phone 702-874-1400; www.fashionoutletlasvegas.com.

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, has a food court, where offerings range from hot-buttered pretzels to fresh-squeezed juices. Macy's Furniture Store stands across Virginia Street. Phone 775-827-8450.

Park Lane Mall at South Virginia and Plumb Lane is anchored by Gottschalks and has 77 stores, including Jay Jacobs, Hot Cats, and Frederick's of Hollywood, as well as a 16-screen movie-theater complex. If you like to exercise while window shopping, Park Lane opens daily at 7 a.m. for walking. Phone 775-825-9452.—*Carolyn Graham*





Holmes Sweet Holmes

Singer Clint Holmes moves uptown to Harrah's Las Vegas.

By Kim Pryor

Clint Holmes values his relationships. With other entertainers. With the audience. With his wife. So it's no surprise that a friendship jump-started the singer's career in 1974. Holmes was making his first appearance at the Harrah's Lake Tahoe lounge when he introduced himself backstage to Bill Cosby and invited the headliner to a tennis match. That first tennis game evolved into a friendship on the court and in the showroom.

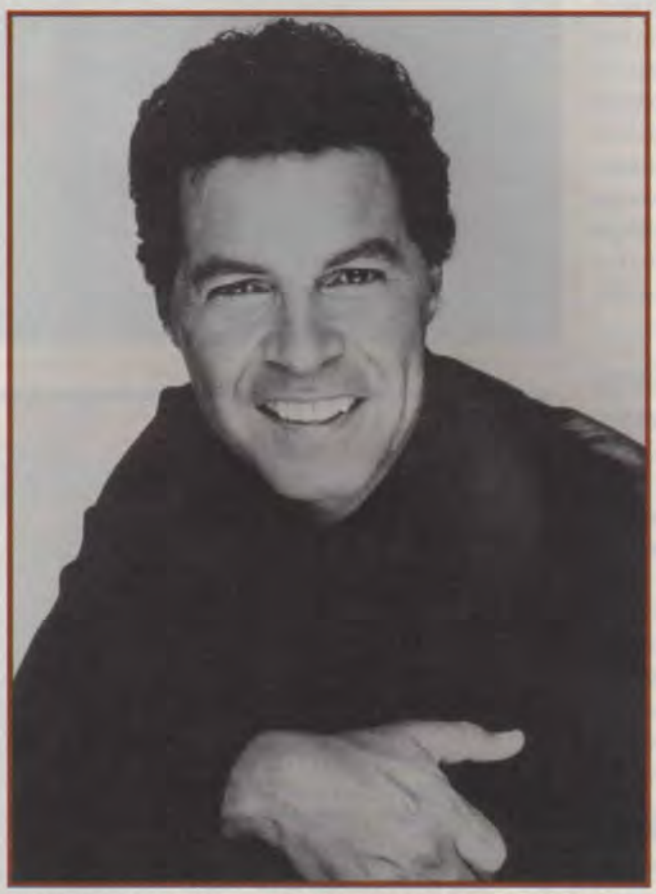
In the 1980s, Holmes opened for Cosby at Caesars Palace. At the time, Holmes was well known in Atlantic City, but he hadn't played Las Vegas as often. Holmes recalls how Cosby generously shared the spotlight, convincing management to let Holmes do a 50-minute set rather than the standard 20 minutes reserved for opening acts.

One night after the audience gave Holmes a standing ovation, Cosby walked on stage, sat among the musicians, and asked the singer to do two encores. Afterwards, Cosby told Holmes' agent, "I'd like to have his things moved out of the small dressing room and put in my dressing room. Move my things into the small dressing room. Mr. Holmes deserves to be treated as a star."

"It was amazing," Holmes says. "Bill Cosby was always so great to me. And not just to me, but also to a lot of other young entertainers."

Audiences can see for themselves why Cosby was so taken with the singer when Holmes replaces the magic production show "Spellbound" at Harrah's Las Vegas on January 14. Before signing a multiyear contract with Harrah's, Holmes had starred in his own show for seven months at the Golden Nugget in downtown Las Vegas, where his high-energy performances drew praise from entertainment critics. Writers and showgoers liked the way Holmes can croon ballads in the old style, jump into a jazz number, and then move to a hot salsa song.

"My mom taught me how to sing correctly, and my dad taught me how to enjoy it," says Holmes of his parents. His father is an African-American jazz musician, and his mother is a classically trained opera singer from Great Britain. Born in England, Holmes grew up in Buffalo, New York.



Clint Holmes opens January 14 at Harrah's Las Vegas, starring in his own variety show, "Takin' It Uptown." The singer appeared at the Golden Nugget in downtown Las Vegas before moving to the Strip.

On the eve of his new Las Vegas engagement, Holmes recently reflected on his Nevada debut 26 years ago at Harrah's Lake Tahoe. The night before he opened, Holmes watched Sweet Louie and the Checkmates perform. They jumped on the tables. They danced. Holmes says, "I thought, 'Oh, my god, the audience is going to hate my little show. I was doing more of a main room-type show."

The next night, when the curtain opened on Holmes, the whole Checkmates band was sitting in the front row. After the third number Sweet Louie jumped up and yelled, "This guy can really sing!"

Holmes is also a songwriter. He once served as Joan Rivers' sidekick and announcer on *The Late Show* and was the host of his own Emmy award-winning talk show, *New York at Night.*

On stage he mixes music with humor and personal observations, a technique he learned from Bill Cosby. "There are a lot of good singers, but what separates an entertainer from everybody else is his or her life," Holmes says. "In my show I like to sing about things that we can all relate to, but it's my particular point of view that makes it different. When you leave the theater that evening you know that you haven't been with anybody else. You've spent an evening with me. We can sing and we can dance and we can do things which are entertaining, but what really makes it special is when we connect with the audience as people. I do a lot of talking in my show for that exact reason, because it connects one on one with the audience."

The relationship Holmes values most, of course, is the one with his wife of 20 years, Brenda. As Holmes chats with an interviewer, Brenda is enjoying a birthday gift from Holmes: a day of pampering at the Desert Inn spa. Together the couple has three children: Brent, 20, and 17-year-old twins, Brittany and Cooper.

"I have a great wife," Holmes says. "She's put up with a lot. And she's quite wonderful. If there's anything we absolutely

connect on, it's how we view raising children, so that's been a great journey."

The stay at Harrah's Las Vegas will be a refreshing break for Holmes, who has often spent weeks away from his family. He admires his wife for all the single parenting she's accomplished in his absence. "But I've always managed to be there for the big decisions even if I had to fly home for a day," he says.

From the beginning, Holmes' family has remained a large part of his life as a performer. When Holmes signed the contract with Harrah's Las Vegas, Brenda reminded the performer of the time he opened for Burt Bacharach at Harrah's Reno in 1979 when Brent was nine days old. A Bacharach fan, Brenda donned an elegant dress—and her son promptly welcomed her to the joys of motherhood by throwing up all over her outfit. When Brenda finally was ready to see the show, she tucked Brent into an open, blanket-covered drawer in the dressing room, and he slept peacefully under the care of a babysitter.

Holmes has moved his family from Los Angeles to Las Vegas, where he feels as if he's in the middle of all the entertainment

"Las Vegas is to nightclubs what Broadway is to musical theater."

action. But when he first announced his plans to his New York friends, Holmes says, they thought he was crazy. The singer had written a Broadway show, and they couldn't believe he'd put that project on the back burner to accept the Vegas job.

"Las Vegas is to nightclubs what Broadway is to musical theater," Holmes explains. "It's from one epitome to the other. It's not a step down to come here. It's kind of a step sideways. We'll be here for a while, and when this has run its course, then I'll go back and do Broadway."

Where he'll likely develop new and lasting relationships.

Show Notes

Clint Holmes stars in "Takin' It Uptown," which opens January 14 in the main showroom of Harrah's Las Vegas. Show times are 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. (dark Monday). Tickets cost $44.95, plus tax. Call 702-369-5000 or 800-HARRAHS.

Kim Pryor is a Lake Tahoe-based writer.



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Las Vegas Territory

BOULDER CITY

Black Canyon River Raft Tours • 293-3776 for information.
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 • Children's Art Museum, artifacts, tours. 100 St. Jude's St., 294-7100.

HENDERSON

City of Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve • Self-guided or guided tours for more than 10 people of the 80-acre preserve. 2400 Moser Street off Sunset, Henderson, 565-4264.
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.
Mountasia Family Fun Center • 2050 Olympic, 898-7777.
Ron Lee's World of Clowns • 330 Carousel Pkwy., 434-1700.

LAS VEGAS

Adventuredome • Adventure park with rides and attractions. Next to Circus Circus, 800-444-CIRCUS.
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.
Bellagio • Art gallery, choreographed fountain shows at the Strip entrance, 693-7111.
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.
Elvis-A-Rama Museum • 3401 Industrial, Las Vegas, 309-7200.
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 Dr. 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.
Guinness World of Records Museum • 2780 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 792-3766.
Harley-Davidson Cafe • Motorcycle memorabilia, Harleys and other items on display. The Las Vegas Strip, 740-4555.
Holy Cow! Casino • Brewery tours, 732-2697.



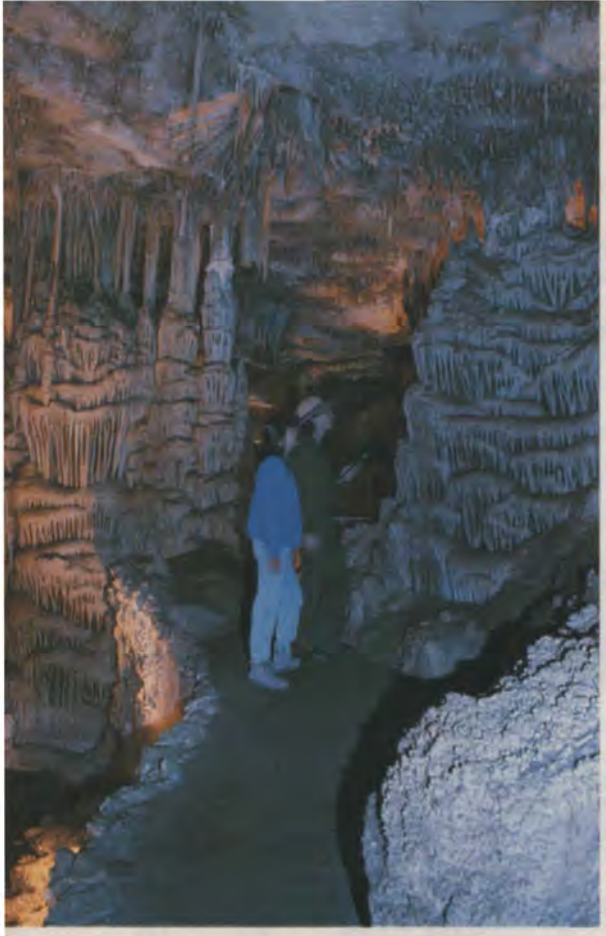
Candy Land

The M&M's Academy is located in the Showcase Mall on the Las Vegas Strip.

Horseshoe Casino • $1 million on display, 382-1600.
Imperial Palace Auto Collection • Classic and antique vehicles, 794-3174.
Laser Quest • Hide and seek with special effects. 7361 West Lake Mead, Las Vegas, 243-8881.
Las Vegas Art Museum • 9600 W. Sahara Ave., 647-4300.
Las Vegas Club • Sports memorabilia. Downtown, 385-1664.
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.
M&M's World • Collectibles and candy. Showcase Mall, 736-7611.
Mandalay Bay • Coin and paper money museum, 632-7777.
Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History • 4505 Maryland Pkwy., UNLV, 895-3381.
MGM Grand • Lion habitat open daily. 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 • Site of 1855 settlement. 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 Hotel on the Las Vegas Strip, 891-8580.
Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area • 363-1921.
Rio Suite Hotel • Free carnival-themed sky parade, exhibit of artifacts from the *Titanic*, 252-7777.
Sahara Hotel • Virtual reality Indy car racing, 737-2735.
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 • Home of 150 species, from apes to peacocks. 1775 N. Rancho Dr., 648-5955.
Spring Mountain Ranch State Park • Red Rock Canyon, 875-4141.
Star Trek: The Experience • Las Vegas Hilton, 697-8751.
Stratosphere • Roller coaster and Big Shot ride, 380-7777 for information.
Treasure Island • Sea battle every 90 minutes from 4 to 11:30 p.m., 894-7111.
Tropicana • Birds, tiger habitat, and gambling museum, 739-2222.
Venetian Hotel • Madame Tussaud's Celebrity Encounter wax museum, gondola rides. Las Vegas, 733-5000.
Walker African-American Museum and Research Center • Exhibits and records, open by appointment only, 647-2242.
Wet 'n Wild • Water theme park closed for the season, 734-0088.
World of Coca-Cola • Museum. Showcase Mall, 270-5985.

LAUGHLIN

Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area • Nature and water sports, four miles south of Laughlin, 298-1859.
Boiler Room Microbrewery • Colorado Belle, 298-4000.
Colorado River Museum • Arizona Hwy. 95, 520-754-3399.
Del Rio Beach Club • Colorado River sightseeing boat tour, 298-6828.
Davis Dam • Self-guided tours, 298-2214.
Grapevine Canyon • Seven miles west of Laughlin. Inquire about road conditions, 298-2214.
Lake Mohave Resort • 602-754-3245.



Stalagmites 'n Tites

Lehman Caves, the remarkable cavern in Great Basin National Park, 65 miles east of Ely, is open year-round for tours.

Laughlin River Tours • Colorado River, 298-1047.
Ramada Express • WWII museum and multimedia tribute to American war heroes, 298-4200.
Riverside Resort • Classic cars, river tour boat, and bowling center, 298-2535.

MESQUITE

Desert Valley Museum • 346-5705.
Si Redd's Oasis • Gun club, hayrides, ATV and horseback rides, 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, cyber coaster, and Turbo Drop rides at Buffalo Bill's; cars belonging to Bonnie and Clyde and Dutch Schultz and Clyde's bullet-riddled shirt at Whiskey Pete's, 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 • Mills Park, 887-2523.
Children's Museum of Northern Nevada • Museum has educational exhibits. 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, 882-6929.
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.
Sharkey's Nugget • Boxing, rodeo memorabilia. 782-3133.

GENOA

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

LAKE TAHOE

Hard Rock Cafe • Harveys, Stateline, 588-2411.
Heavenly Aerial Tram • Seasonal. Stateline, 586-7000.
Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park • Sand Harbor, 2005 Hwy. 28, Incline Village, 831-0494.
M.S. Dixie II Sternwheeler • Zephyr Cove, 588-3508.
Ponderosa Ranch • Seasonal. Incline Village, 831-0691.
Tahoe Gal Paddlewheeler • Tahoe City, 530-583-0141.
Tahoe Rim Trail • 150-mile system, 588-0686.
Tallac Historic Site • Tours daily Memorial Day through Sept., South Lake Tahoe, 530-544-3029.
U.S. Forest Service Visitors Center • Stream-profile chamber, 530-573-2600.
Vikingsholm • Tours, 530-525-7232.
Zephyr Cove Resort • 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.
Bartley Ranch Regional Park • Hiking, horse arena, and one-room Huffaker schoolhouse. Reno, 828-6612.
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., 688-1190.
Nevada Museum of Art, E.L. Wiegand Gallery • 160 W. Liberty St., 329-3333.
Playland • Rides, picnicking. Idlewild Park, 329-6008.
Raymond I. Smith Truckee River Walk • 334-2077.
Reno Hilton • Water golf, Ultimate Rush thrill ride, putting course, 789-2000.
Reno Tahoe Gaming Academy • Tours. 215 S. Wells Ave., 329-5665.
Sierra Arts Center Gallery • Gallery and offices, 200 Flint St., 329-1324.
Sierra Safari Zoo • 10 mi. north of Reno at Red Rock Rd., 677-1101.
Silver Legacy • Giant mining and laser shows every hour, 325-7396.
Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden • Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-4153.

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Photo: William Carr

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 • Water park closed for winter, miniature golf and raceway open year-round. Off I-80, 359-2927.

VIRGINIA CITY

Assay Office Museum • 847-0777.
The Castle • 847-0275.
Chollar Mine • Tours of workings, 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 • 847-0717.
Mackay Mansion Museum • 847-0173.
Mark Twain Museum of Memories • 847-0454.
Nevada Gambling Museum • 847-9022.
Piper's Opera House • 847-0433.
Ponderosa Mine • Tours, 847-0757.
Territorial Enterprise Mark Twain Museum • 847-0525.
Virginia and Truckee Railroad • 847-0380.
Virginia City Radio Museum • 847-9047.
Virginia City Tours • 786-0866.
Way It Was Museum • 847-0766.
Wild West Museum • South C Street, 847-0400.

VERDI

Boomtown Family Fun Center • Motion theater, Ferris wheel, and miniature golf, 345-8668.

WASHOE VALLEY

Bowers Mansion Park • Seasonal, historic mansion of Comstock millionaires, 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 • Pioneer exhibits, research room, 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 • Lovelock-area history, 273-7213.

WENDOVER

Bonneville Salt Flats • 801-977-4300.

WINNEMUCCA

Buckaroo Hall of Fame • 623-2225.
Humboldt Museum • Winnemucca-area history, 623-2912.

Pony Express Territory

AUSTIN

Hickison Petroglyph Recreation Site • Self-guided tour with interpretive signs, 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 • Tours of Lehman Caves. Baker, 65 miles east of Ely, 234-7331.
McGill Historical Drug Company • Call for tours of an old-fashioned drug store. McGill, 775-235-7082.
Nevada Northern Railway Museum • Train rides on historic locomotives. 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 near Silver Springs, 577-2345.
Sand Mountain • Unusual giant sand dune. 20 miles east of Fallon, 885-6000.
Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge • 15 miles east of Fallon, 423-5128.

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 • Dinosaur fossils, 23 miles east of Gabbs, 964-2440.

HAWTHORNE

Mineral County Historical Museum • 400 10th St., 945-5142.
Walker Lake State Recreation Area • Fishing, camping, and birdwatching, 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 • Main Street, 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 Pioche, seasonal, 728-4460.

ROUND MOUNTAIN

Smoky Valley Museum • 1935 schoolhouse and assay equipment. Open second Wednesday of the month and by appointment, 377-2243.

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. The area code is 702 in the Las Vegas area, and the rest of the state is 775.

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007 Carson City Convention & Visitors Authority
008 Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce
013 White Pine County Fair & Rec. Board/Ely
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016 Fallon Convention & Tourism Authority
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823 Casino News Newsletter
833 Liberty Belle Books
835 Gamblers General Store/Las Vegas
837 Olde West Distributors

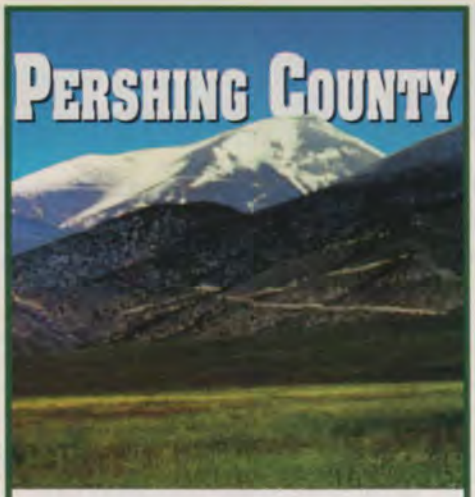
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Casino Notes

News from hotel-casinoland. **By Elizabeth Baker-Nielsen**

Las Vegas Territory

Roller Coaster Milestone: The Desperado roller coaster at Buffalo Bill's in Primm has taken more than two million thrill seekers on its two-minute, 43-second ride, which begins with a 209-foot initial climb and descends 225 feet into an underground tunnel. The Desperado reaches speeds of more than 85 miles per hour. In Las Vegas, roller coasters are located at Circus Circus and New York-New York, and a fourth is due to open by early March at the Sahara.

Laughlin Favored: The Colorado Belle has been named Favorite Laughlin Hotel by readers of *Nevada Senior World*. The riverboat-themed property is located on the Colorado River, an area that attracts large numbers of winter visitors because of its warm climate.

Mr. Sarcastic Signs: Comedian Don Rickles has signed a two-year exclusive contract with the Desert Inn in Las Vegas. Rickles will perform four engagements each year in the Crystal Showroom. Rickles has been a staple in Nevada showrooms for more than 30 years, gaining his comedic reputation with insults and sarcasm.

Flamingo Hilton Swings: Each Friday night band leader Buddy Greco and singer Lezlie Anders bring big-band dances to the Flamingo Hilton in Las Vegas. "Las Vegas Live," which is broadcast on a local radio station, begins at 8 p.m. in the Flamingo Showroom. Tickets are $24.95, plus tax.

Harrah's Honored: Harrah's Las Vegas garnered 10 first place awards in *Casino Player* magazine's "best of gaming" issue. The awards recognized the casino's slots, slot club, slot tournaments, table tournaments, promotions, dealers, hosts, comps, and comedy club and where the players feel the luckiest.

Main Street Changes: The Cascade Cafe at Main Street Station in Las Vegas has been closed permanently to make way for an expanded slot club and gaming area.

Cheers For Beer: The Triple 7 Brew Pub at Main Street Station received a Bronze Medal at the Great American Brew Festival held recently in Denver. The Triple 7's entry was Black Cherry Stout Beer, which competed in the fruit-based beer division.

"Chicago" Goes International: Mandalay Bay offers listening devices that provide scene-by-scene commentary to non-English speaking showgoers at the Broadway musical "Chicago." Showgoers can request a translator headset upon arrival at the theater.

New York Photo Op: "Miss Liberty," the new goodwill ambassador for New York-New York on the Las Vegas Strip, not only will act as the hotel's envoy at special events but also will be available for photo opportunities with visitors.

Hamada Opens: Hamada of Japan has opened a location at the Resort at Summerlin, the new hotel six miles northwest of downtown Las Vegas. The restaurant features indoor and outdoor patios that afford a view of the hotel's gardens, pools, and waterfalls.

"Splash" Revamp: The production show "Splash" at the Riviera in Las Vegas has undergone a $1.2-million renovation. The show's formula will remain the same, but the new version has different opening and closing numbers, costumes, sets, and laser technology.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Boomtown Goes 3D: Boomtown is adding a 3D Iwerks Motion Theater to its fun center. The motion simulators at the hotel, which is located nine miles west of Reno on Interstate 80, present four different films including "Dino Island II 3D: Escape From Dino Island" and "Mad Racers." Single admission is $4 per ride or $13 for an all-day unlimited wristband.

Feast at Caesars: The Broiler Room restaurant at Caesars Tahoe in Stateline has expanded its menu. Among the additional items are a California crab and avocado salad; chicken stuffed with ricotta cheese, pinenuts, and spinach; grilled portabella and vegetable Napoleon; and scampi provencal served with tomatoes, basil, white wine, garlic, and olive oil. The Boiler Room has received *Wine Spectator's* Award of Excellence for nine consecutive years.

Nugget's New Slots: Penny and nickel slot machines have been added to the casino floor at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks. The slot machines accept bills and cash out players with a printed ticket, which is redeemable at a nearby change booth. Featured games include Great White, Ducks in a Row, Polly and Rogers, High Roller Keno, Red Hot 7's, and Two Times Bonus. Players can bet up to 250 coins at one time.

Orchid Dining Awards: The White Orchid restaurant at the Peppermill in Reno has received a Four Diamond rating from AAA and *Wine Spectator's* Award of Excellence. The gourmet restaurant's decor is accented with etched glass murals. The White Orchid now serves Kobe beef from Japan. The cattle are raised on beer and receive frequent massages to make Kobe exceptionally tender beef.

Peppermill's Mark: The new Peppermill marquee has screens that produce television-quality pictures and messages that can be read even in direct sunlight. The sign also has two miles of turquoise and fuchsia neon and computer-driven animation.



This bronze cherub is one of many recovered artifacts displayed in Titanic: The Exhibition at the Rio in Las Vegas.

Good Deals

NASCAR Package: Boulder Station in Las Vegas is offering NASCAR fans a hotel and ticket package for the Busch Grand National Championship Race scheduled for March 3-4 at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. The cost per person is $350 for double occupancy, $500 single, and includes a three-night stay, race tickets, and bus transportation to and from the speedway and the airport.

Winter Packages: The Carson Valley Inn in Minden has winter packages. The "Suite Deal," a one-night stay with dinner certificates for two, costs $99 per couple (Sunday through Thursday arrivals). The "Nevada Getaway" offers a two-night midweek stay and two $12 dinner certificates for $39.95 to $49.95 per person, based on double occupancy.

MGM Value Days: The MGM Grand in Las Vegas holds its "Grand Value Days" January 2-4. Room rates start at $59.95, and the offer includes a 20-percent savings on tickets to "EFX," starring nine-time Tony Award-winner Tommy Tune, and a two-for-one brunch or dinner at the MGM Grand Buffet.

Casino Promotions

2000 Party: The Colorado Belle in Laughlin is celebrating a week-long millennial party January 1-8. Special events include the return of "Rollin' on the River," a game played by rolling giant dice down the hotel's grand staircase.

Slot Play Giveaway: The Tropicana in Las Vegas is giving stuff away. Gamblers can receive $50 in slot play for $20 and get a chance to win $50, $100, or $500 cash jackpots or a selection of prizes.

Lunch Comp: There is such a thing as a free lunch, at least for bar-top machine players at the Wild West Gambling Hall in Las Vegas. For gamblers who play $20 between 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m., lunch is on the house.

Carson Valley

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Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Authority
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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.

Henderson Convention and Visitors Bureau: 200 Water St., Henderson, NV 89015; 702-565-2171.

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.

Carson Valley C of C and Visitors Authority: 1512 Hwy. 395, No. 1, Gardnerville, NV 89410-5283; www.carsonvalley-nv.org; 775-782-8144 or 800-727-7677 in U.S.

Dayton Area C of C: 720 Hwy. 50 E., Dayton, NV 89403; 775-246-7909 (open Tues. and Fri. afternoon).

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.

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 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.elko-nevada.com; 775-738-7135.

Elko Convention and Visitors Authority: 700 Moren Way, Elko, NV 89801; 775-738-4091, 800-248-3556 outside



Snow Ride

Winter enthusiasts seeking a downhill rush in Nevada's snow country often use toboggans, sleds, flying saucers, and cafeteria trays as well as skis and snowboards. Above, a well-bundled snowplayer enjoys a moment of hang time at North Lake Tahoe. Resorts such as Northstar-at-Tahoe and the public areas of Lee Canyon on Mount Charleston offer special snowplay sections.

Photo: Gayland Anderson

Nevada for vacation information on the Elko area.

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 Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism: Box 2468, West Wendover, NV 89883; www.wendover-usa.org; 775-664-3414 or 877-WENDOVER.



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 Inter-Tribal Council 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 Department 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 office, Reno, www.nv.blm.gov, 775-861-6400; Las Vegas, 702-647-5000; Elko, 775-753-0200; Winnemucca, 775-623-1500; Carson City, 775-885-6000; Ely, 775-289-1800; Caliente, 775-726-8100; Battle Mountain, 775-635-4000; Tonopah, 775-482-7800.

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.

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest: www.fs.fed.us/htnf/; 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431; 775-331-6444; 2881 S. Valley View, Suite 16, Las Vegas, NV 89102; 702-873-8800; 2035 Last Chance Rd., Elko, NV 89801; 775-738-5171 for information on national forest activities.

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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

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, roast baron of beef. B, L, D. $, major.

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

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

Ramada Inn and Speedway Casino/The Speedway Cafe—399-3297. B, L, D. $, major.

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

Sahara Hotel/Caravan Coffee Shop—737-2407. Crab legs, New York steak. B, L, D. $, major.

Sahara Hotel/Sahara Buffet—737-2407. Pizza, roast beef, turkey, ham. B, L, D. $, major.

INTERNATIONAL

Riviera Hotel/Mardi Gras Food Court—734-5110. Nine quick-service eateries featuring international cuisine. B, L, D. $, no CC.

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

ITALIAN

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

Riviera Hotel/Ristorante Italiano—794-9363. Lobster Francaise, fresh seafood. D. $-$$$$, major.

ASIAN

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

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

MEXICAN

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

Stratosphere/Fellini's Tower of Pasta—380-7777. Italian cuisine in an Old World setting. L, D. $$, major.



The Steak House at the Carson Nugget.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

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.



Photo: Jinny Anderson

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

Reno-Carson Area

AMERICAN

Atlantis/Purple Parrot—Reno, 825-4700. 24-hour restaurant with steaks, seafood, sandwiches, and salads. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

Atlantis/Toucan Charlie's Buffet—Reno, 825-4700. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

Best Western Piñon Plaza Resort/Whiskey Creek Steak House and Saloon—Carson City, 885-9000. "End of the Trail" 22-ounce porterhouse steak, bacon-wrapped shrimp dinner. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

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 Grill and Rotisserie—883-8400. Baby back ribs, fresh fish specials. L, D. $$, major.

Carson Station/Station Restaurant—883-0900. Homestyle cooking. B, L, D. $, major.

Carson Valley Inn/Fiona's—Minden, 783-6650. Steaks, seafood, and nightly specials. D, $$, major.

Carson Valley Inn/Katie's—Minden, 782-9711. Four-course prime rib dinner, steak and lobster, half-pound burgers, and breakfast specials. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

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

Peppermill/Island Buffet—Reno, 826-2121. Chicken, seafood, prime rib, salads. B, L, D. $, major.

Peppermill/Food Court—Reno, 826-2121. Mexican, Italian, hamburgers, and salad bar. B, L, D. $, major.

Peppermill/Peppermill Restaurant—Reno, 826-2121. Burgers, salads, seafood, chicken. B, L, D. $$, major.

Ramada Inn and Speakeasy Casino/The Gatsby Cafe—Reno, 329-7400. B, L, D. $, major.

Silver Legacy/Legacy Saloon and Deli Exchange—Reno, 329-4777. Roast garlic Rosemary chicken with spinach pizza, chicken. B, L, D. $, major.

Silver Legacy/Victorian Buffet—Reno, 329-4777. Shrimp and crab cioppino, homemade ravioli. B, L, D. $, major.

CONTINENTAL

Peppermill/White Orchid—Reno, 826-2121. Filet mignon, seared ahi, medallions of elk. D. $$$$, major.

ITALIAN

Atlantis/Café Alfresco—Reno, 825-4700. Brick-oven pizzas, pastas. L, D. $, major.

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

INTERNATIONAL

Eldorado/Bistro Roxy—Reno, 786-5700. Gourmet dishes include Chilean sea bass with Yukon gold potatoes and creamed spinach. D. $$, major.

Eldorado/Chefs' Buffet—Reno, 786-5700. USDA prime rib, homemade pastas, Mongolian grill, salad bar, dessert bar. B, L, D. $, major.

Eldorado/Choices—Reno, 786-5700. Deli, espresso bar, bakery, Asian Noodle Kitchen. B, L, D. $, major.

Eldorado/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

Eldorado/Golden Fortune-Ho Fu Li—Reno, 786-5700. Hong Kong-style cuisine. D. $$, major.

Silver Legacy/Sweetwater Cafe—Reno, 329-4777. Baked homemade tortellini, fried shrimp, prime rib, Cantonese pepper steak. B, L, D. $, major.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

Atlantis/Atlantis Seafood Steakhouse—Reno, 825-4700. Flaming coconut prawns, New York pepper steak. D. $, major.

Carson Nugget/Oyster Bar—882-1626. Clam chowder, fish and chips, and pan roasts. L, D. $, major.

Carson Nugget/Steak House—882-1626. Veal scaloppini, scampi in dill sauce, and more. D. $$, major.

Eldorado/The Grill Steakhouse—Reno, 786-5700. Prime rib, seafood, and grilled entrees. D. $$, major.

Peppermill/Steak House—Reno, 826-2121. Steaks, seafood, chicken, salads. 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/The Brew Brothers—Reno, 786-5700. Gourmet pizzas, ribs, barbecue shrimp, sausage sampler. L, D. $, major.

Lake Tahoe

AMERICAN

Caesars Tahoe/Cafe Roma—Stateline, 588-3515. Lamb chops, prime rib. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

Hyatt Regency/Lone Eagle Grille—832-3250. Jumbo shrimp and linguine, filet mignon, steak and lobster. L, D. $$$, major.

ITALIAN

Caesars Tahoe/Primavera—Stateline, 588-3515. Linguini carbonara, tenderloin pizzaiola. D. $$, major.

ASIAN

Caesars Tahoe/Empress Court—Stateline, 588-3515. Szechwan, Mandarin. D. $$, major.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

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

Around the State

JACKPOT: Cactus Petes/Canyon Cove Buffet—821-1103. International buffet nightly with carved prime rib. Friday and Saturday nights include seafood displays. Saturday and Sunday brunch. B, D. $, major.

JACKPOT: Cactus Petes/Canyon Cove Deli Buffet—821-1103. Sandwiches made to order, homemade soups, an array of salads, and desserts. L. $, major.

JACKPOT: Cactus Petes/Coyote Cafe—821-1103. Breakfast and grilled menu selections. B, L, D. $, major.

JACKPOT: Cactus Petes/Gala Showroom—821-1103. Restaurant offers fine dining in a classic Las Vegas-style showroom setting. D. $$, major.

JACKPOT: Cactus Petes/Desert Room—821-1103. American and Chinese cuisine. B, L, D. $, major.

JACKPOT: Cactus Petes/Plateau Room—821-1103. Continental cuisine, elegant desserts, moderately priced regional wines, and good service. D. $$, major.

LOVELOCK: Ramada Inn/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. 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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Ray of Soul

Whether it's country or jazz, Ray Charles does it his way.

By Ann Henderson



Ray Charles as he appeared during a 1979 gig at the Silverbird in Las Vegas.

When Ray Charles performs in a Nevada showroom, his mood of the moment decides what songs his fans will hear. If so moved, the entertainer can play it straight or put a jazz spin on such numbers as Hank Williams' "Hey, Good Lookin' " Or, imagine what a gospel twist could do to Bing Crosby's "You Are My Sunshine." With Ray Charles, anything is possible.

After more than five decades as an entertainer, Charles can draw from an estimated 600 recordings, crossing over from country to jazz, rhythm and blues to pop, and gospel to rock 'n' roll. The 69-year-old Charles may have white hair on the thinning side, but he still punctuates his performances with the growls, howls, leg kicks, and body movements that express how he feels about what he is singing. At a Ray Charles concert, there is no chitchat or time-eating jokes—just music.

When Charles appears January 15-16 over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, he will no doubt be thinking of the years he spent supporting the civil-rights movement. Charles raised money for legal fees and even food for marchers through his concerts.

During a recent performance at the Orleans in Las Vegas, Charles brought his hands down on the piano keys and told a packed house, "I am what I am." Given his senior status in the music business, that means he can do exactly as he pleases. That evening, what pleased Charles was a jazz-flavored concert sprinkled with vintage blues.

After his 17-piece band, led by Al Jackson, played two numbers, the showgoers jumped to their feet to give Charles an ovation as he was led on stage, wearing a loud red-and-white jacket, and was seated at his electric piano. Charles performed a dozen songs during the 75-minute show. Although the concert was shorter than the usual 90 minutes showgoers expect in Las Vegas casinos, Charles clearly gained the audience's rapt attention and often wild applause.

When Charles sang "Busted," he spoke from personal experience. "You hear folks talking about being poor," Charles once told an interviewer about the poverty he knew as a child. "Even compared to other blacks, we were on the bottom of the ladder looking up at everyone else. Nothing below us except the ground."



Charles performs January 15-16 at John Ascuaga's Nugget and March 15-19 at the Orleans.

Showgoers expecting classic Ray Charles may have been surprised at some of his selections. Instead of "Born to Lose" or "I Got a Woman," which was his first hit in 1958, Charles performed "Mississippi Mud," "Till There Was You," and "You Made Me Love You."

Applause overpowered the opening bars of "Georgia," which he made a hit in 1960. Coincidentally, the singer was born in Albany, Georgia, on September 23, 1930, and "Georgia" became the official state song of Georgia in 1979. At the Orleans, Charles gave the song more of a jazz tempo than he does in recordings. Throughout the evening Charles gave solo time to his backup musicians to showcase their talents.

The Rae-lettes, Charles' five backup singers, did not appear on stage until the last set of numbers. They sang "Lean on Me, I'll Be There" and joined Charles in "I Can't Stop Loving You," which had the audience bobbing in time. But it was Charles' finale, the rocking "What'd I Say," that had showgoers bouncing in their seats before jumping up for another standing ovation.

That evening, what pleased Ray Charles pleased everyone else in the joint.

Show Notes

Ray Charles appears in the Rose Ballroom at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks January 15-16. Show time is 8 p.m. Call John Ascuaga's Nugget, 800-843-2427, for reservations. Charles also performs in the Orleans Showroom at the Orleans in Las Vegas March 15-19 and September 27-October 1. For Ray Charles' Orleans show times and ticket prices call 800-ORLEANS.

Ann Henderson is Nevada Magazine's *entertainment and events editor.*

Photo: Las Vegas News Bureau Archives (top)

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SKIMS AND SCAMS



Casino cheaters try everything, from magnets to computers, to beat the house.

By John L. Smith
Illustrations by John Bardwell

Frank Sinatra's Danny Ocean had Sin City wired. Robert DeNiro's Ace Rothstein was the Strip's ultimate insider. To hear Hollywood tell it, Nevada is a wiseguy paradise, its swinging casinos ripe for the taking. Whether from the outside heist as portrayed in *Ocean's Eleven* or the inside skim as detailed in *Casino*, those gambling joints are every bandit's dream.

About the time Benny Siegel was finishing the Flamingo, casino operators relied mostly on experience to catch cheaters. Casino floor personnel, educated in backroom gambling parlors, watched for such moves as card crimping and dice switching. Through the years casinos added "eye-in-the-sky" surveillance windows and sophisticated cameras to improve the odds of catching crooks. But the most effective methods of spotting cheaters have been hiring honest employees and quickly calculating the flow of cash at the tables. Whenever the houses' mathematical advantage suddenly disappears, there's usually a problem with a game.

These days, a person trying to scam a casino is more likely to have a computer-science degree than mob connections. Although the goal of cheating a slot machine or crap game hasn't changed since Siegel's days, the criminals' methods have evolved from merely clever to downright ingenious.

"The two primary mandates of gaming control are to ensure the patron gets an honest game and to ensure the state gets its rightful share of taxes," says Steve DuCharme, chairman of the Nevada Gaming Control Board. "We say our job is to prevent the skim and prevent the scam. We see the whole range from the low-tech to the high-tech criminal, but now we've got guys with hand-held computers corrupting E-proms. We've really come a long way."

Today's scammer is more likely to have a computer-science degree than mob connections.

The conservative guesses of veteran Control Board investigators place the annual loss to casinos from cheating at $50 million, but they admit the figure could be twice that. They base their estimates on a few major cases in which sophisticated slot scammers were caught after winning a series of staggering jackpots.

Take the case of Dennis Nikrasch, who recently changed his legal name to Dennis McAndrew. By any name, he is the king of Nevada slot cheats.

Nikrasch began scamming the slots in the mid-1970s and amassed winnings estimated at $10 million before being arrested, convicted, and sentenced to 15 years in the penitentiary. Paroled in 1991, he didn't learn from the experience.

Unlike unsophisticated cheats who work the machine from the outside by attempting to manipulate the wheels or attaching a piece of fishing line to a coin and "stringing" the acceptor, Nikrasch used his knowledge and contacts to develop a way to open the machine and replace part of the



computer's E-prom memory unit. The machine was then closed and played almost normally.

The difference was that Nikrasch could predict with certainty when it would pay major jackpots. His cheating ring won more than $6 million in fraudulent jackpots, and he had set up machines that would have doubled that figure when surveillance cameras and Gaming Control investigators caught on.

The unhappiest of millionaires, today Nikrasch/McAndrew is back in prison. "The Nikrasch case showed us that the $50-million-a-year estimated loss was low," says Mike Cassell, senior supervisor for the Gaming Control Board. "If he had been paid out on just the jackpots we knew about, he could have made $12 million."

In the baccarat pit, the action is focused on the box that holds eight decks of cards. Known as a shoe, the box is passed between the house and the player. Although players had occasionally used sleight-of-hand tricks to fool a dealer, most baccarat aficionados believed the shoe was impossible to manipulate. They were wrong.

In one case, cheaters were able to read the cards in the box by using a magnet to manipulate the steel roller that holds the decks in place, thereby slightly opening the lid. The identity of the cards was then signaled to co-conspirators at the table. Security at the MGM Grand spotted the suspicious table play and alerted the Control Board. The result was the arrest of an international cheating crew that had already won a fortune from the casino.

In one case, a blackjack cheater positioned a miniature video camera on his belt buckle.

"When organized crime was of a major concern and involved in management and skimming and things of that nature, we didn't see them being involved in high-tech cheating scams," says DuCharme, a former police detective. "Generally, those [scams] have been brought forward by the old-time cross-roaders who over the years have grown in expertise."

Take the case of Leo Weeks, who concentrated his cheating efforts on casinos in Northern Nevada. Using a miniature computer strapped to his body, Weeks beat slot machines by hooking into their logic systems. The computer would search ahead and find winning combinations on a draw-poker video game. Wearing a wireless earpiece, he'd listen as the computer counted down the number of plays until the jackpot presented itself. "We'll never know how much money he made," Cassell admits.

Then there are the producers—not of Hollywood blockbusters, but of videos of games being played. In one case, a cheater positioned a miniature video camera on his belt buckle. As he played blackjack, the camera sent an image to a monitor in a van outside the casino, where an accomplice read the dealer's hole card and relayed an audio message back to the player.

In a New Jersey case, a video cheater shot images of a dealer using a Shufflemaster machine, relayed it to an accomplice using a high-tech production unit, which slowed down the automatic shuffler until he could see the cards as they were laced together. The cheater then knew the cards' exact order.

While the tales are endless, no cheater seems to be able to get away with his or her game for long. Casinos have sophisticated security and surveillance teams and, says Cassell, are responsible for information leading to many major arrests.

Perhaps no one is better at spotting a problem than Nevada's legal bookmakers. They immediately track unusual betting movements in their sports books and report suspicious patterns to the authorities.

Although fixed horse races and college basketball games still occur in parts of the nation, Nevada's bookmakers have provided many of the leads that investigators have used to catch cheaters. A recent example: When a few high-rolling gamblers began dumping thousands on Arizona State basketball games, often betting against the team, it was an obvious sign of trouble. A review of suspicious games revealed evidence of point-shaving. The FBI moved in, and within weeks arrests were made.

Sports books prefer an image that's both exciting and clean. "I would defy any industry from the turn of the century to have so little scandal. I think you have to go back to the Black Sox of 1919," top sports handicapper Michael Roxborough says in *SuperBookie: Inside Las Vegas Sports Gambling* by Art Manteris and Rick Talley. "There are only 10 or 12 convictions for sports tampering or bribery in the century, and every time somebody writes an article on the danger, they rehash the same incidents. Basically I'm convinced it's a clean industry, and most of the problems that have occurred came in college basketball."

Despite long prison sentences and fortunes in fines, casino cheaters are as relentless as their pursuers. They are lured by the scent of easy money but learn the hard way that easy money isn't so easy to hang onto.

With millions at stake, the experts agree the scammers are sure to keep on coming. Adds the Control Board's Cassell, "This is the biggest cat-and-mouse game in the world."

John L. Smith, a Las Vegas Review-Journal *columnist and author of* On the Boulevard *and* The Animal in Hollywood, *swears he never cheats, not even at pinochle.*

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Rural Casino Getaways

Golf, spas, and other keys to the good life can be found in Nevada towns like Laughlin, Mesquite, Minden, Wendover, and Jackpot.

By Sharon Carter

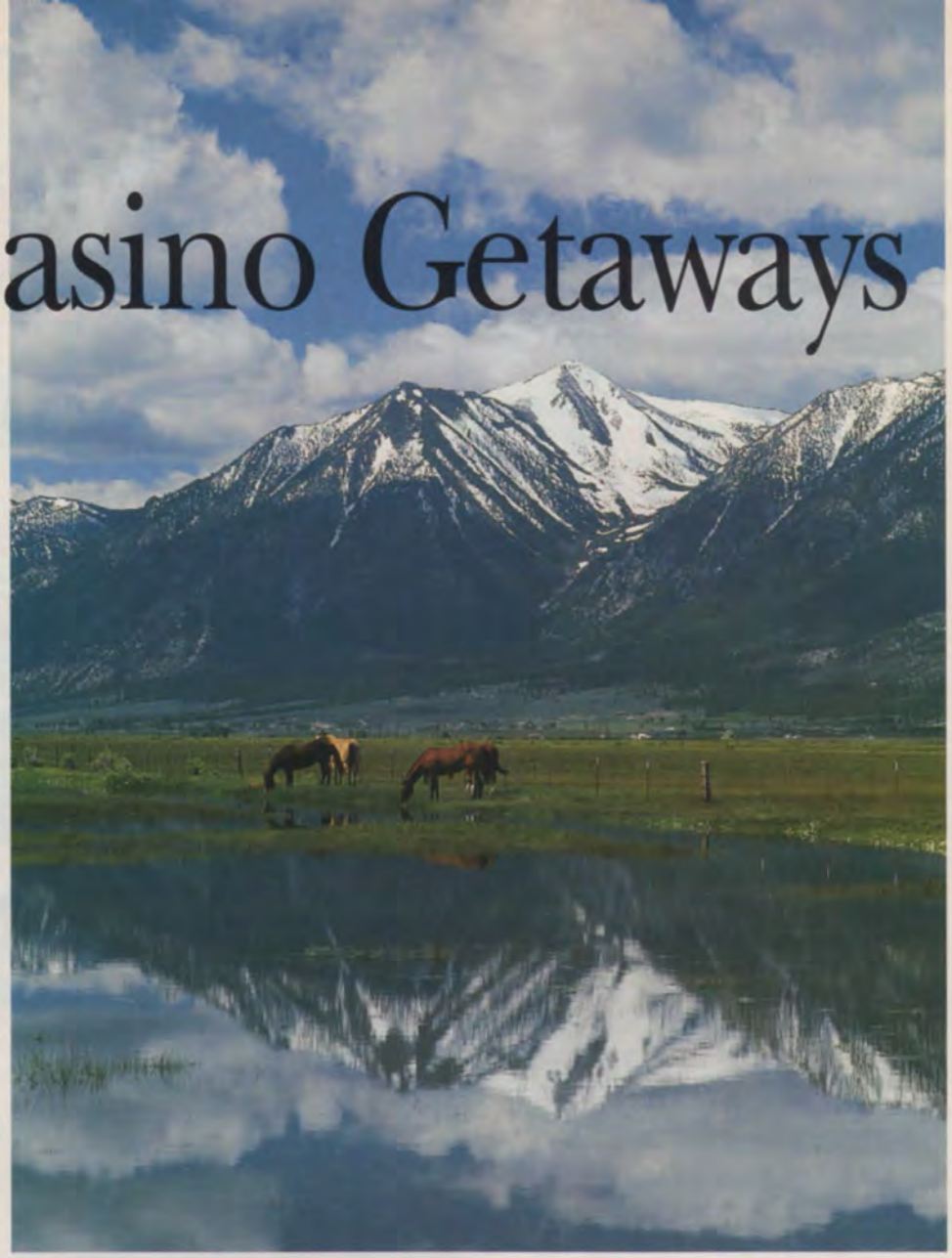
The golf course weaves through canyons and beside the river just as its designer, Arnold Palmer, knew you'd want to play it. The hotel's spa, with saunas and mud baths, meets Roman standards. Your room overlooks the water. The casino's hopping. And one other thing makes it a memorable vacation.

There's no traffic.

Such is the scene in towns like Laughlin, Mesquite, Minden, Wendover, and Jackpot, most of them communities near or on the state line that offer casino getaways in small-town settings. Often it's possible to get bargain rates at rural Nevada hotel-casinos, especially midweek and in winter. You can indulge in outdoor sports such as golf, tennis, horseback riding, and skiing just as if you were staying in Las Vegas and Reno, but instead of city crowds you're surrounded by desert, mountains, and blue skies. From south to north, here is a sampling of rural casino vacation ideas.

Laughlin: Winter Warmth

As you stroll down the river walk in Laughlin on a warm, sunny afternoon in January, it's easy to forget that a few days ago your teeth were chattering as you scraped ice off your windshield. In





Job's Peak overlooks Carson Valley's ranch lands near Minden and Gardnerville (top). With Lake Tahoe 20 miles west, it's possible to go skiing at the lake and golfing in the valley on the same day. Visitors to Primm (bottom) will find a Ferris wheel, roller coaster, and outlet shopping as well as two golf courses.

Photos: Jay Aldrich (top), Carolyn Fox (bottom)







Sports are major attractions in rural Nevada. Carson Valley has four 18-hole golf courses, including Genoa Lakes (top). Mesquite visitors can play golf and luxuriate in spas at Si Redd's Oasis or the CasaBlanca (middle). Laughlin's warm weather allows months of water sports on the Colorado River (bottom).

Photos: Jay Aldrich (top), Chris Leedham (bottom)

Nevada's southernmost town, winter daytime highs usually fall in the 60s and 70s, so you can shake out those Bermuda shorts and ride a riverboat while folks up north are dusting snow off their parkas.

Laughlin's hotel-casinos stand on a once-remote stretch of the Colorado River 95 miles south of Las Vegas. Seven of Laughlin's hotels have more than 1,000 rooms, and several boast spas, showroom revues, and headliners like Willie Nelson and Debbie Reynolds. The resorts, from north to south, include the **Riverside** (800-227-3849), **Flamingo Hilton Laughlin** (800-435-8469), **Edgewater** (702-298-2453), **Ramada Express** (800-243-6846), **Colorado Belle** (800-47-RIVER), **Golden Nugget Laughlin** (800-237-1739), **River Palms** (800-835-7904), **Harrah's Laughlin** (800-447-8700), and **Avi** (702-535-5555).

Vacationers with recreational vehicles will find an RV park at the Riverside. Campsites are available at nearby **Davis Camp** and at **Katherine Landing**, located on Lake Mohave in Lake Mead National

Primm's three hotels offer midweek golf packages and other specials throughout the winter.

Recreation Area. Travelers and locals go picnicking and boating at **Big Bend on the Colorado State Recreation Area**, five miles south of the casino area. Summer temperatures can be sizzling, sometimes exceeding 110 degrees, but the area's warm winter weather makes Laughlin a mecca for the migrating retirees known as snowbirds.

Golf and special events are popular here. Laughlin has two 18-hole golf courses, the **Emerald River Country Club** (702-298-0061) and **Mojave Resort Golf Club** (702-535-4653). Events include the **Laughlin Desert Challenge**, a Baja-style off-road race scheduled for January 20-23. The **Laughlin River Stampede PRCA Rodeo** takes place April 5-9, and tens of thousands of Harley motorcyclists will descend on the casino town April 27-30 for the **Laughlin River Run**.

Shoppers can explore the **Horizon Outlet Center** (702-298-3003), across the street from the Flamingo Hilton Laughlin. The center has a food court, a theater with nine screens, and 55 outlet stores with such brands as Polo and Reebok. For fur-

ther vacation information contact the **Laughlin Visitor Center**, 1555 Casino Dr., Laughlin, NV 89029; 800-4LAUGHLIN; www.visitlaughlin.com.

Primm: Border Escape

While late-night ESPN viewers will recognize Primm as the site of the 1997 World's Strongest Man Contest, the resort community on the Nevada-California border also has become a winter haven for golfers, carnival thrill seekers, and now shoppers.

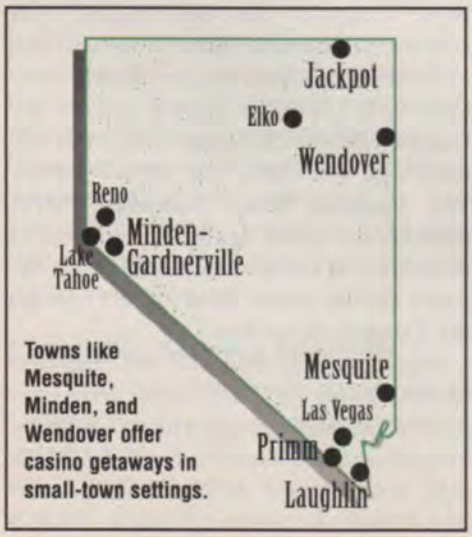
Travelers have seen Primm, 43 miles south of Las Vegas on Interstate 15, grow from a roadside rest into a casino town with three resorts—**Buffalo Bill's** (800-FUN-STOP), **Primm Valley** (800-826-4471), and **Whiskey Pete's** (800-367-7383). Visitors to the MGM-operated hotels can ride a monorail, a Ferris wheel, and the roller coaster **Desperado**. Primm has added yet another stop, the 90-store **Fashion Outlet of Las Vegas** (702-874-1400), which has hard-to-find outlets such as J. Peterman and the Pottery Barn.

The hotels offer midweek golf packages and other specials throughout the winter. The **Primm Valley Golf Club** (800-386-7867) has two 18-hole courses, the Lakes and Desert, and a golf academy. For more information contact Buffalo Bill's Resort, Box 19129, Primm, NV 89019; 800-FUN-STOP; www.primadonna.com.

Mesquite: Spa Capital

A thermal mud bath, massage, and facial can smooth out the kinks left from a day on the links or horseback riding in Mesquite, the spa- and golf-oriented border community 79 miles northeast of Las Vegas on I-15.

Mesquite's two largest resorts offer spa specials. In January, **Si Redd's Oasis** (800-621-0187) can arrange midweek golf and spa mini-vacations and horseback riding-clay shooting packages. The **CasaBlanca** (800-459-7529) also offers luxury spa deals and golf packages Sunday through Thursday. Other resorts include the **Virgin River** (800-346-7721), **Mesquite Star** (702-346-1177), and **Rancho Mesquite** (702-346-4646).





The bright lights of Jackpot and its Vegas-style Cactus Petes signal travelers at the Nevada-Idaho border.

Golfers will find that Si Redd's operates two 18-hole courses, the **Palms** and the Arnold Palmer-designed **Oasis**, as well as the nine-hole **Vista** links and a golf academy (800-621-0187). The **CasaBlanca Golf Club** (888-711-GOLF), designed by Cal Olson, is another challenging layout. For more information on the area contact the **Mesquite Visitor Center**, I-15 Exit 122, 460 Sandhill Blvd., Mesquite, NV 89027; 877-MESQUITE.

Carson Valley: Links and Lifts

Because the snows melt fairly quickly in the Carson Valley on the eastern edge of the Sierra, vacationers in Minden and Gardnerville can have the best of both worlds—skiing one day, golf the next.

The Carson Valley is home to four golf courses that are open all year, weather permitting: **Genoa Lakes** (775-782-4653), designed by Peter Jacobsen and John Harbottle; **Sierra Nevada** (775-782-7700), designed by Johnny Miller and John Harbottle; **Sunridge** (775-267-4448), known for its scenic hillside holes; and **Carson Valley Golf Course** (775-265-3181), located near the Carson River.

Several Lake Tahoe-area ski resorts such as Heavenly, Kirkwood, and Diamond Peak are less than an hour's drive away (see page 50). Cross-country ski trails abound in the nearby Tahoe and Humboldt-Toiyabe national forests. To relax afterward, **David Walley's Resort** (775-782-8155) near Genoa offers muscle-easing mineral baths.

The **Carson Valley Inn** (800-321-6983) in Minden offers both ski and golf packages. It also has an RV park and convenience store as well as hotel rooms, restaurants, and a casino. Area attractions include numerous restaurants, notable rodeo and political-memorabilia collections at **Sharkey's Nugget** (775-782-3133) in Gardnerville, and the historic town of **Genoa**. In spring the Carson and Walker rivers lure fly-fishing enthusiasts. Minden is the home of Sierra Flycasters, which sponsors a major show, including fly-tying and casting clinics, at the Carson Valley Inn each spring.

Minden-Gardnerville is 15 miles south of Carson City, 18 miles east of South Lake Tahoe, and six miles north of the California state line. For more information on the Minden-Gardnerville area contact the **Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Authority**, 1512 U.S. 395, No. 1, Gardnerville, NV 89410; 800-727-7677; www.carsonvalleynv.org.

Wendover: Salt Flats Scenic

West Wendover and its alter ego, Wendover, Utah, are a 10-mile sprint from the **Bonneville Salt Flats**, where jet cars vie for land speed records across the remnants of an ancient lake bed so flat that locals say you can see the curvature of the earth. The salt flats' busiest racing months

Photo: Carolyn Fox

are August (especially), September, and October, depending on the weather.

Wendover's five casinos have become destination resorts for visitors from Salt Lake City as well as rest stops for travelers on Interstate 80. Visitors to the 850-room **State Line** (800-354-3671) are greeted by a huge marquee cowboy known as Wendover Will. Other hotel-casinos include the **Silver Smith** (800-354-3671), **Peppermill** (800-648-9660), **Red Garter** (800-982-2111), and **Rainbow** (800-217-0049).

The town boasts the **Wendover Air Field World War II Museum**, located on the abandoned air base that housed the *Enola Gay*. Golfers can play year-round at **Toana Vista Golf Course** (775-664-4300). Near town, divers use Blue Lakes, a natural warm spring, for scuba practice. Travelers can visit the Wendover chamber's **Welcome Center** for advice on attractions.

"There are plenty of interesting things to see, even though we sometimes seem small and out of the way," says Amber Dehn at the welcome center. "People who come here to gamble find they have the same quality of gambling and good service as the big cities but with less traffic and fewer people." For more information contact the **Wendover Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism**, Box 2468, Wendover, NV 89883; 877-WENDOVER; www.wendover-usa.org.



Wendover Will greets visitors to the State Line Casino. The Bonneville Salt Flats are nearby.

Jackpot: Idaho Passage

The cattle and sheep country of Nevada's northeastern "backdoor" hasn't changed much since pioneers traveled through the area in the 1800s—their wagon-wheel ruts are still visible in some places. Anglers can catch trout on the Little Salmon River, and hunters in the scenic Jarbidge Wilderness Area are still taking trophy deer.

What has changed is Jackpot. When slot machines were outlawed in Idaho in the 1950s, casinos sprouted across the border in Nevada, and the new town was named Jackpot.

Today Jackpot sports five hotels and casinos and two RV parks. The **Jackpot Golf Club** (775-755-2260) is a hilly and challenging 18-hole course designed by Robert Muir Graves.

Cactus Petes (800-821-1103), a 300-room Las Vegas-style high-rise, often books Las Vegas headliners and shows. Jackpot is frequently the site of air shows when amateur plane builder groups fly their experimental aircraft in for show-and-shine get-togethers. Jackpot casinos offer midweek deals on rooms, dining, and entertainment. For more information on Jackpot hotel-casinos and attractions in the area contact Cactus Petes, 1385 U.S. 93, Jackpot, NV 89825; 800-821-1103.

Sharon Carter, a Jacks Valley writer, often visits Nevada's border towns.

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Photo: Carolyn Fox



On a Roll: "In this painting I wanted to show a real winner in the foreground, raking it in during a poker tournament. I did this after I met Susie Isaacs, a two-time ladies' world champion and columnist for *Card Player* magazine. She came to my show in Reno, and we spent a wonderful afternoon talking."

Ann O'Lear



This Reno artist finds human expression, and her favorite subjects, in casino poker rooms.

The turn of a single card can change a poker player's life. For Ann O'Lear, the sight of her first casino poker game 15 years ago changed her life as an artist.

"When I first walked into a poker room, I said, 'This is my Moulin Rouge.' I'm a big fan of Toulouse-Lautrec, and in the poker rooms I'm fascinated by the people's faces, the human emotions, all the characters," O'Lear says. "I love the human face, and the poker rooms are an unending source of subjects."

Soon afterward she discovered a wealth of faces and emotions while attending Amarillo Slim's Super Bowl of Poker, held at what is now the Lake Tahoe Horizon. "It was exciting," says O'Lear, who accompanied her husband, Baba O'Lear, a radio broadcaster and occasional poker player, to the event. "All the greats were there—Doyle Brunson, Amarillo Slim, Puggy Pearson, Jack Strauss, and many others. Doyle Brunson took me under his wing. Because of him I was able to go anywhere, sketch anyone—and I did that for two weeks. It kind of locked me into the subject matter."

O'Lear finds her subjects in poker rooms at the Reno Hilton, Circus Circus, and the Peppermill—"they all have different atmospheres." She sits quietly in a corner and sketches the players. "Then I take the sketches home, and they jump into the paintings."

O'Lear paints in a studio in the Reno home she shares with



Muck: "It was a late-night game, when people are tired and their masks are completely down. This fellow was 'mucking, a term the players use for giving up your hand, or folding. They call the pile of discards the 'muck.'"



The Pot: "This is based on sketches from a ladies' tournament at Circus Circus in 1996. I was 'way across the room. She was playing seven-card stud. I could see she had a wistful look as she eyed the pot. It's that moment of indecision that comes in every game: 'Should I stay in or not? I hate to give up that pot.'"

her husband and their nine-year-old daughter, Casey. O'Lear, who grew up in Victorville, California, received a B.A. in design from Woodbury University in Los Angeles. She and her husband moved from the Santa Cruz area to Reno in 1985. As an artist in residence with the Nevada State Council on the Arts and the Sierra Arts Foundation, O'Lear teaches art in Reno-area elementary schools. At times she conducts artist workshops on a mixed-media technique she calls "undertexture," employing sprinkles of fine charcoal and sweeps of water to leave patterns on paper, over which she paints. She uses alkyd, a fast-drying oil paint, for most of her work.

Currently O'Lear is working on a new show, "Men Without Women: Poker, Pool, and Pugilism." Her painting "Muck," which is an example of the undertexture technique, will appear in the book *The Art of Gambling Through the Ages*, to be published by Huntington Press of Las Vegas. She says she'd also like to sketch Las Vegas pokers scenes and do a Southern Nevada exhibition.

Despite her familiarity with casinos, O'Lear is not an avid gambler. "I don't have the concentration to be a good poker player. I was a shill once, and I was terrible," she says. What about slots? "I don't like machines—I like people." Then she adds, "I do like to bet sports, though, especially boxing. When I have a fighter I like, I'll put my money on the line."—*David Moore*

A Special Nevada Millennium Feature

Great Gaming Moments

Harolds' female dealers, Bugsy's Flamingo, and other milestones in 20th-century Nevada gaming.

By Richard Moreno





Harvey and Llewellyn Gross opened Harvey's and led the postwar casino growth at Lake Tahoe (above). Pappy Smith hired women dealers to help attract new Harolds Club customers (right).

Nevada's gaming industry was born on March 19, 1931, when Governor Fred Balzar signed into law a bill that legalized gambling. Since then, the state's casino business has grown into a $8.5-billion industry that employs more than 180,000 people.

During the past seven decades a number of watershed events have helped to shape the state's major industry. Following are a gambler's dozen of those gaming milestones, large and small, that affected Nevada in the 20th century.

1931 The Pair-O-Dice Club was the first casino to open on U.S. 91, the future Las Vegas Strip. In 1939 the nightclub was purchased by Guy McAfee, a former Los Angeles police captain and vice-squad leader. McAfee renamed it the 91 Club and began referring to U.S. 91 as the "Las Vegas Strip" after the Sunset Strip in Los Angeles. In 1941, the club was sold to Texas theater-chain owner R.E. Griffith, who a year later replaced it with the New Frontier, the second hotel-casino erected on the Strip. (The first was El Rancho Vegas, which opened in 1941.)

1931-35 Hoover Dam, one of America's largest public-works projects, was constructed 30 miles southeast of Las Vegas. At its peak in June 1934 the project employed more than 5,200 men. Most of the workers lived in Boulder City, a planned community developed by the federal government. Because gambling and alcohol were outlawed in Boulder City, dam workers flocked to Las Vegas for their recreational pastimes, providing a major economic boost to the city.

Late 1930s Harolds Club, which opened in 1936 in downtown Reno, introduced female card dealers and became the first Nevada casino to encourage women to patronize casinos. Harold S. Smith, son of Harolds Club founder Raymond I. "Pappy" Smith, recalled in his book, *I Want to Quit Winners*, that "one day as Daddy stood near the doorway, a woman came in, took two or three hesitant steps toward the first game and stopped short. 'There are no women here!' She almost shrieked as she fled. Out of that episode, Daddy got the idea of lady dealers at our tables."

1941 The Nevada Legislature legalized racing wires. That same year, mobsters Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel and Jack Dragma opened an office of the Trans-America Service in Las Vegas to supply horse-racing information to bookies throughout the country. The racing wires evolved into the state's legal sports books.

1944 Harvey and Llewellyn Gross opened the Wagon Wheel, a rustic cafe and service station on the Nevada-California border at Stateline on the south shore of Lake Tahoe. Two years later the

Photos: Harveys (left), Fitzgeralds/Harolds Club Collection (right)



Stardust employees had a blast celebrating the opening of the Las Vegas Strip hotel on July 2, 1958.

Grosses added blackjack tables and slot machines, and the Wagon Wheel became the first major casino at South Tahoe.

1946 Bugsy Siegel opened the Flamingo Hotel, the first modern high-rise resort on the Las Vegas Strip. In his book, *Viva Vegas*, architectural historian Alan Hess noted that the 105-room, four-story resort "broke Las Vegas out of the public relations mold of a western town of modern splendor and set it on its way to being a mirror of the spectrum of American popular culture."

1958 When it opened, the Stardust Hotel boasted the largest sign on the Las Vegas Strip. The 216-foot-long sign launched the era of bigger and brighter hotel-casino marquees. The Stardust opened with 1,065 rooms, which made it the largest hotel in Nevada.

1959 Soon after the Nevada Legislature created the five-member Nevada Gaming Commission to license and regulate all gaming in the state, the commission began compiling its "List of Excluded Persons," also known as the "Black Book." The "Black Book" listed people with undesirable reputations, including those with ties to organized crime, who were not allowed in Nevada's casinos. Any property ignoring the list would lose its gaming license. In 1963, the commission stripped Frank Sinatra of his license at the Cal-Neva Lodge at Lake Tahoe and the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas because he had allowed Chicago crime boss Sam Giancana to stay at the Cal-Neva. Over the years the names of 39 men and one woman have been placed in Nevada's "Black Book."

1966 Eccentric billionaire Howard Hughes arrived at the Desert Inn, which he purchased after the management of the Las Vegas hotel tried to evict him. During the next four years Hughes went on an unprecedented spending spree, buying the Frontier, Silver Slipper, Landmark, Sands, and Castaways in Las Vegas and Harolds Club in Reno as well as two Las Vegas-area airports, Air West Airline, a Las Vegas television station, and hundreds of mining claims around the state. Hughes' presence led the legislature in 1967 to pass the Corporate Gaming Act, which allowed corporate ownership of casinos in the state.

1970 The World Series of Poker was held for the first time at Binion's Horseshoe Club in Las Vegas. Originally hosted by the Riverside Hotel in Reno, the series was taken over by the Horseshoe, which devised special rules to ensure a clear and timely winner—thereby making it an event that was nationally televised. The tournament helped to legitimize the game of poker, which previously was perceived as a less-than-respectable form of gambling.

1986 International Game Technology created Megabucks, an electronically linked network of slot machines that shared a large, progressive jackpot. The next year IGT, which is based in Reno, paid out its first Megabucks jackpot, $4.9 million. Since then Megabucks has produced 250 millionaires and holds the world record for a slot-machine jackpot, $27.5 million, paid on November 15, 1998, at Palace Station in Las Vegas.

1989 The $700-million Mirage, which offered a faux volcano, white-tiger habitat, and domed tropical atrium, opened on the Las Vegas Strip. The 3,000-room resort ushered in the era of fantasy-themed megaresorts—which has continued into the 21st century.

Richard Moreno is Nevada's *publisher. He still is awaiting his own great gaming moment.*



Megabucks loomed large at Reno's Comstock Hotel soon after IGT introduced the slot network in 1986.

Photos: Las Vegas News Bureau (top), International Game Technology Archives (bottom)

TOURNAMENTS



Nevada's gaming-tournament concept began with the World Series of Poker, a high-stakes contest that draws the pros to Binion's Horseshoe in Las Vegas.

By Connie Emerson

It's a sunny Saturday afternoon, and the crowd noise is deafening. "Go, go, go!" the fans scream. "Come on, Charlie!" "That's the way to do it!" Multicolored helium balloons bob in the air. The players, continually tapping the spin buttons on their slot machines, are showing signs of finger fatigue. As they hit each winning combination, computerized readouts add up their points and tick away the remaining minutes of play, second by second.

Such is the scene at a big-stakes slot tournament in Las Vegas. As soon as the finals are over, many of the players and their friends will make their way to the machines on the casino floor, coin buckets in hand. Others will get together with new friends or those from tournaments past. The big winner will go home with $40,000. About four dozen other players will win prizes, and for those who don't, there's another tournament next week or next month to look forward to.

During the past 20 years, gaming tournaments have become so popular that they're now standard attractions at most of the Silver State's larger casinos. Tournaments have obvious advantages for the player: If you win, the prize money can help finance your Nevada vacation and then some. If you don't win, you still may earn inexpensive or free lodging, free meals, and invitations to future tournaments. And there are the unexpected perks: good memories, the thrill of competition, and newfound friends.

The gaming-tournament concept originated with two events: the World Series of Poker, which became popular at Binion's Horseshoe in Las Vegas in the 1970s, and the World Championship of Blackjack, which began at the Sahara in Las Vegas in 1979. It wasn't until 1985, when the first slot tournament was held at the Sands in Las Vegas, that casino marketing directors realized that slots and other casino games—video poker, keno, baccarat, and even dice—might work in a tournament format.

Today's tournaments range from free five-minute weekly tournaments to four-day extravaganzas. Prize money in the high-stakes tourneys like the World Series of Poker go as high as a million dollars while weekly players may win a couple of hundred for a few minutes of elbow bending.

The most popular tournament games are slots, video poker, and blackjack. Slots generate the most excitement among players and spectators since the machines are usually programmed to hit big payoffs more often.

Player interaction is an appealing aspect of gaming tournaments—their format promotes camaraderie. "Our keno tournaments are so popular because they're like a homecoming or family reunion," says

Photo: David Lee Waite

OF CHAMPIONS



Players experience reel thrills at casino gaming tournaments.





Contestant Wendeen Eolis (left) gets decked out for the Binion's tournament while Caesar and Cleopatra salute top slot tournament players at Caesars Palace.

Steve Trounday, senior director of marketing at Fitzgeralds Reno.

"Some of our best friends are people we've met at tournaments," says Northern Nevada tournament veteran Bob Leavitt of Los Angeles. "Even our girls like to come along, because these friends are like aunts and uncles to them. And some of them bring their kids, too."

READY, SET...PLAY

Multiday tournaments are favored by out-of-towners, who treat the events like mini-vacations. In Reno and Tahoe most tournaments are three-day, two-night affairs held on weekends. In Las Vegas, the majority last four days and three nights since travel distances often are greater. Entry fees usually cover lodging (or rooms at reduced rates) and some meals or food-and-beverage credits for the entrant and a guest. Entry fees usually fall in the $200 to $600 range, but they can run into the thousands of dollars.

The entry fees usually go back to participants in the form of prizes. "At most tournaments, the casinos give back to participants everything they take in," says Anthony Curtis, publisher of the *Las Vegas Advisor*. "They're very good deals for the consumer. The games are fairly run, and the comps are over and above what's paid by the player."

In both regular tournaments and marathons a large percentage of the field—perhaps 51 out of 200 entrants—receive prize money. Slot tourneys have a tradition that seems curious but is rewarding for players of all skill levels and luck extremes. Sometimes the losers—yes, the two or three players with the measliest point totals—receive the same prizes and acclaim as the winners of the tourney.

Losers in slot tourneys sometimes receive the same prizes and acclaim as the winners.

Blackjack tournaments generally last three rounds, with winners advancing to the semifinals and finals. Often players who have busted out can buy in again for an additional fee.

Ten years ago keno tournaments were held at clubs throughout the state, but they're hard to find these days. An exception is Fitzgeralds Reno, where big keno tournaments are held in July and December. In July, the Reno Arch Challenge incorporates both individual and team play. "All the players are divided into two teams, the Leaping Leprechauns and the Blarney Buckaroos," says Fitzgeralds' Steve Trounday. "The team whose member has the highest tournament score wins."

THEMED EVENTS

Casinos often use themes—Rebel Reels, Monster Mash Slots—to give their tournaments a fresh element.

At the Peppermill in Reno, tournaments are themed to a season or event, such as Slot August Nights and Mardi Gras. The Peppermill plans to hold 14 to 16

Photos: Richard Cummins (top), David Lee Waite (middle left)

tournaments this year, including 10 that are open to anyone who wishes to enter (others are by invitation only).

The Peppermill's new High-Low Slot Tournament in March is a good example of a mid-range tourney. The three-round event will have 150 players and an entry fee of $399. The high scorer will win $10,000 and the low scorer $5,000, with the second highest winning $4,000 and second lowest taking $3,000. Places third through 40th and 111th through 148th will win various amounts above $50, while those who score in the middle spots will receive $50. "That way we will have no losers," says Melissa Free, the Peppermill's marketing director.

Another hotel-casino that puts on themed events is the Silver Club in Sparks. As part of its Carousel of Clowns last September, entrants received clown makeup, noses, and wigs with their registration packets. On the second night the clowns paraded before the judges, who awarded $100 each to 10 winners.

In Las Vegas, the casinos best known for theme parties are the MGM Grand, Golden Nugget, and Las Vegas Hilton. A Hilton tournament, The Phantom, was based on "Phantom of the Opera," and the Barron Awards is an annual high-end tournament honoring the hotel chain's chief, Barron Hilton.

"Most people don't have time to create their own entertainment," says Paulette Poyneer, director of special events at Fitzgeralds Reno. "So we have to keep coming up with new ideas on how to present our tournaments."

A multiday tournament often begins with a welcoming reception and ends with an awards ceremony, usually a festive brunch or dinner with entertainment and decorations. The awards parties are critical, one events coordinator says, because "they're the casinos' last chance to make players feel good—even if they haven't won."

By offering additional rooms at special rates, casino marketers encourage entrants to bring family and friends. And if players don't have their own cheering sections, they'll have lots of free time in which to make new friends or get together with people they have met at previous events.

Some casinos, such as the Mirage and Caesars properties, don't publicize their tournaments because they are for high rollers and special guests. Entry fees range from zero to a few grand, and the complimentary accommodations, food, and beverages are generally the properties' finest. As one high roller says, "They treat me like a king. But after all, my money helped build their kingdoms."

Weekly and Daily

Less formal options are weekly and daily tournaments. At Caesars Tahoe, most tournaments are arranged for invited guests, but the casino holds a public slot tournament each Wednesday for an entry fee of $25 or 25 slot club points. Offering $1,000 guaranteed prize money, the tournament lasts from 6 to 9:30 p.m., and each person gets 15 minutes of machine time.

One of the weekly tournaments is the Thursday video-poker tournament at the Carson Valley Inn in Minden. The entry fee is $10, and the top prize is $200. "Probably 90 percent of the people who come every week are locals," says Danielle Brown, a casino guest services host. "Sign-ups start at 5 p.m., and it's first come, first served."

One of the few hotels that sponsor free weekly tournaments is the Atlantis in Reno. From 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. every Tuesday about 200 people sign up for five minutes' play at one of the Joker's Wild machines near the front desk. A total of $500 in cash and prizes is awarded, with $100 going to the first-place winner.

Whatever the tournament's format, the casinos make money in the long run in a number of ways. First, at each round's end, most players hurry to the casino floor to play more—this time, with their own money. Second, tournament players are good for business since they're having a good time, and their spirit is contagious. Third, tournaments promote customer loyalty and return business. In fact, most players enter tournaments at only one property.

The loyalty often is multigenerational. "I only play in tournaments at the Nugget, and I always bring at least one of my daughters or grandchildren along," says Elaine Marten of Madras, Oregon, who recently played in a $1 slot marathon at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks with her granddaughter Teresa Kaysner of Vancouver, Washington. In Laughlin, the Mercer family has held a reunion at the Colorado Belle's September slot tournament for the past four years. In 1999, 16 family members from as far away as New Hampshire attended.

Of course, there are exceptions to the rule, like the two dozen players on the blackjack circuit, some of them professional gamblers, who show up at blackjack



The Mercer family celebrates a family reunion and a big win at a Colorado Belle slot tournament.

Tourney Tips

Gaming-tournament customs vary widely at Nevada's casinos, so don't hesitate to ask questions before signing up. Following are some tips on enjoying casino tournaments.

♦ Beware of unlimited buy-ins if you're on a budget. You can spend a lot more money than you planned, especially in a multi-hour tournament.

♠ Beginners might start with a no-buy-in tournament. At such events slot and video-poker competitors play on metered machines, poker and blackjack tournament players get a certain number of chips each session, and keno players get script that can be exchanged for keno tickets. Such tournaments confine a player's expenditures to the entry fee unless, of course, he or she chooses to gamble after the tournament.

♥ Slot tournaments can be boisterous affairs, so be sure to bring earplugs if you're sensitive to noise. Blocking out the groans, comments, and shrieks of your competitors and their cheering sections might help you concentrate on the task at hand.

♣ When playing in a slot marathon that requires you to spend your own money, follow the advice of Marjorie Ray of Alameda, California, who recently participated in a $1 slot marathon at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks: "I always set a limit of how much I will spend in a tournament—and stick to it."

♦ Dollar machines are almost always used for slot and video-poker tournament play. However, don't expect the machines on the casino floor to hit winning combinations as often as metered tournament machines.

♠ When competing in a video-poker or blackjack tournament, imbibe soft drinks and bottled water rather than the complimentary alcoholic beverages. While slots and keno are truly games of chance, video poker and blackjack depend on both luck and skill.

—Connie Emerson

events. But you will find that most tournament entrants are first-timers or have played in previous tournaments. They usually go home with more memories than prizes and come back vowing to be winners next time.

Connie Emerson, a Reno writer and author of The Cheapskate's Guide to Las Vegas, *remembers the daily blackjack tournaments at the Riviera as one of the all-time greats in free entertainment.*



A Guide to the Tourneys

By Elizabeth Baker-Nielsen

Tournament enthusiasts will find a wide range of gaming competitions at casinos throughout the state. The following guide to slot, video poker, blackjack, poker, and keno tournaments includes casinos that responded to a survey and have confirmed tournaments during 2000. Cash prizes are based on the number of entrants. Be sure to call ahead to double-check dates and other details.

SOUTHERN NEVADA
LAS VEGAS AREA

Arizona Charlie's, 702-258-5100: *Video Poker,* two weekly tourneys at 6 p.m. Mon. and 10 a.m. Tues. Buy-ins are $10 and re-entries are $5. Buy-ins for the 15-minute sessions include two-for-one buffet tickets. Credit cards and slot club points accepted.

Binion's Horseshoe, 800-622-6468: *World Series of Poker,* dates TBA. Amateur and professional gamblers vie for $12 million in prize money, including at least $1 million for first place. Buy-in is $10,000.

Caesars Palace, 888-927-CPLV: *Field of Slots Slot Tournament,* March 26-29. Entry fee of $1,000 includes three nights' room, $150 dining credit, welcome reception, and awards gala. Additional entries for guests sharing a room is $850. If paid by Feb. 13, entrants qualify for early-bird drawing. Entrants play four 30-minute sessions. First-place winners from each round receive $12,000, with cash prizes paid through 50th place.

Fiesta, 800-731-7333: Weekly video-poker tournaments include *Deuces Wild Elimination* on Mon. and *Draw Poker* on Wed. Seven rounds of play with an entry fee to each round of $5. Sessions last 20 minutes. The 15 highest scorers go to the finals.

Fremont, 800-634-6460: *Twice as Nice Twin Stakes Slot Tournaments,* April 3-5 and Sept. 11-13. Entry fee of $395 includes room, breakfast and lunch each day, and three banquets. Total prize money per day is $20,000. Entrants must be slot club members and receive invitations through the slot club.

Imperial Palace, 800-351-7400, ext. 1: *Valentine Victory Slot Tournament,* Feb. 6-8. Entry fee of $400 includes three nights' room, gift, cocktail reception, two brunches, one dinner buffet, and awards banquet for entrant and guest. The duo entry fee is $725. First place is $20,000 with cash prizes awarded through 100th place. Other slot tournaments with details TBA are scheduled for May 4-5, June 25-27, Aug. 6-8, and Sept. 17-19.

Lady Luck, 800-523-9582: Buy-ins of $159 to the following events include room for four nights, tournament play for two, and an awards party: *Millennium Madness Slot Tournament,* Jan. 9-13; *Chinese New Year Slot and Blackjack Tournament,* Feb. 6-10; *Be My Valentine Slot Tournament,* Feb. 13-17; *February Frenzy Slot Tournament,* Feb. 27-March 2; *Bring a Player Triathlon Tournament* (slots, blackjack, and video poker), Jan. 23-27 (buy-in is $129).

Las Vegas Hilton, 800-457-3307: *Tidal Treasures Slot Tournament,* Jan. 13-16. Entry fee of $600 includes three nights' room, $75 food and beverage credit, welcome reception, free gift, three rounds of tournament play, and awards banquet. First place pays $25,000, second place $5,000, and third $2,000 with cash prizes awarded through 300th place. Credit cards are accepted for entry fees. Participants must be members of Barron's Club.

Palace Station, 702-367-2411: *Graveyard Pai Gow Poker Challenge Tournament,* 3:30 a.m. Fri. Buy-in is $50, and play is limited to 36 entrants. First-place prize is $1,000. The top three players advance to the championship session.

Riviera, 800-437-7951: *Mardi Gras Slot Tournament,* Feb. 27-March 2; *Spring Fest Slot Tournament,* April 23-27; *Fall Fest Slot Tournament,* Oct. 15-19: Buy-ins for these events are $595 and include room for four nights, gift, tournament play, food credits, and an awards banquet. *Spin for the Gold Million Dollar Slot Tournament,* June 16-20: Buy-in of $1,499 (second guest entry is $1,099) includes room for four nights, gift, tournament play, $100 food credit, unlimited drinks at casino bars, and an awards banquet. Top prize is $1 million. *Winter Afternoon Madness Blackjack,* Feb. 9; *Beat the Heat Afternoon Madness Blackjack,* Aug. 16; *Spooky Madness Blackjack,* Oct. 25; *Holiday Afternoon Madness Blackjack,* Dec. 13. Buy-ins are $200.

Sahara, 888-696-2121: *Spring Fling Slot Tournament,* March 24-26. Buy-in of $250 includes a discounted room rate, gift, cocktail reception, tournament play, and awards banquet. First place pays $10,000, second place $7,000, and third $3,000 with cash prizes awarded through 200th place.

Tropicana, 702-739-2222: *Millennium Slots: January Slot Tournament of Champions,* Jan. 3-5. Entry fee of $99 includes welcome banquet and awards breakfast; first place pays $10,000, second $2,000, and third $1,000 with prizes awarded through 280th place. *Shecky Greene/Comedy Slot Tournament,* Jan. 13-15. Entry fee of $1,000 includes three nights' room, a performance by Shecky Greene on Jan. 13 at the welcome reception, two breakfasts, and an awards dinner; first place pays $40,000, second place $10,000 and third $5,000 with prizes awarded through 100th place. Also, *Sweetheart Slot Tournament,* Feb. 14-16. Entry fee of $1,000. *Salute to Swing: February Slot Tournament of Champions,* Feb. 22-24. Entry fee of $99. *$100K Blackjack Tournament,* Feb. 25-27. Entry fee is $1,000. *St. Patrick's Slot Tournament,* March 16-18. Entry fee of $1,000. *March Slot Tournament of Champions,* March 26-28. Entry fee of $99.

LAUGHLIN

Colorado Belle, 800-572-3553: *Slot tournaments* with details TBA will be held in March, June, September, November, and December. Credit cards accepted for entry fees, which cover a reception, gift, tournament play, room for the player and a guest, food and beverage vouchers, and awards dinner. *Weekly Poker Tournaments:* Omaha Hi-Lo at 7 p.m. on Mon., Thurs., and Fri.; Texas Hold-Em at 7 p.m. on Wed. Buy-ins are $20, re-buys are $10.

Pioneer, 800-634-3469 or 775-298-2442: *Sassy Sue's Video Poker Tournament,* Feb. 15, April 17, Aug. 16, Oct. 20, and Dec. 18. Entry fee of $50 includes four buffet coupons for two and three



Players earn the chance to clown around during the themed tournaments at the Silver Club in Sparks.

Photo: Geets Vincent

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30-minute tournament sessions; first place plays $1,500, second place $800, and third $375 with prizes awarded through 50th place. *River Rick's Video Poker Tournament*, Jan. 14-16 and July 14-16. Entry fee of $100 includes a welcome dinner, four buffet tickets, and awards banquet. Entrants play three 30-minute sessions, and first place pays $3,000, second place $2,000, and third $1,000. Also, *Big Bucks Slot Tournament*, March 11-14. Entry fee of $600. *Bucks and Sense Slot Tournaments*, Sept. 14-17 and Dec. 7-10. Entry fee of $400.

Ramada Express, 800-243-6846: *Spin and Win Slot Tournament*, Feb. 1-3; *Blue Moon $150,000 Slot Tournament*, Feb. 25-27; *March Madness Video Poker Tournament*, March 21-23; *March Madness Slot Tournament*, March 26-28.

River Palms, 888-298-2242: *Poker tournaments* include: Daily Texas Hold 'Em Free Roll, noon; Mon. Omaha Hi/Lo at 7 p.m. with a $15 buy-in and a $10 re-buy; Tues. Hold 'Em at 7 p.m. with a $20 buy-in, a $10 re-buy, and a $300 add-on; Wed. Omaha Hi/Lo at 7 p.m. with a $20 buy-in, a $10 re-buy, and a $300 add-on; Fri. 7-Card Stud at 7 p.m. with a $15 buy-in and a $10 re-buy; Sat. Crazy Pineapple Hi/Lo Split at 7 p.m. with a $20 buy-in, $10 re-buy, and a $200 add-on. *TGIF Blackjack Tournament*, 6 p.m. Fri., $25 entry fee and a guaranteed $1,000 first prize. *Lucky Hands Blackjack Tournament*, 5 p.m. Wed. with a $15 entry fee. All buy-ins include a buffet.

MESQUITE

CasaBlanca, 800-459-PLAY: *Mini-slot tournament* 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sun. Entry fee of $10 includes a lunch buffet; re-buys are $5, with $1,200 in cash prizes awarded up to seventh place. *Blackjack tournaments* 11 a.m. Thurs. Entry fee of $10 includes a lunch buffet; $1,500 in cash prizes awarded up to eighth place.

Holiday Inn Rancho Mesquite, 702-346-4600, ext. 1564: *Daily slot tournaments*, $200 awarded in prizes. *Video-poker tournaments* on Mon., buy-ins are $10, re-buys $5; $100 awarded, as well as other prizes.

Si Redd's Oasis, 888-346-4055: *Weekly tournaments* include blackjack, 11 a.m. Mon., with a $10 buy-in and $10 re-buys (buffets are given for each buy-in or re-buy); free video-poker tournaments, 11 a.m. Tues. and 4 p.m. Wed., first place pays $150, second place $100, and third $70 with cash prizes awarded through 30th place; free slot tournaments, 11 a.m. Wed.; free video-keno tournament, 4 p.m. Thurs., first place pays $150, second $100, and third $70 with cash prizes awarded through 30th place. (Free slot and video-poker entrants must join Club Oasis.) Free blackjack tournament, 11 a.m. Fri., first buy-in free, re-buys $10 (free buffet for each re-buy).

Virgin River, 800-346-7721, ext. 1031: *Mother's Day Slot Tournament*, May. Entry fee is $199 without a room and $249 with a room and includes food and beverage for entrant and guest; first place pays $10,000, second $5,000, and third $2,000 with prizes awarded through fifth place. *Annual Spooktacular Slot Tournament*, Oct. 2000. Entry fee is $199 without a room and $249 with a room and includes food and beverage for entrant and one guest; first place pays $10,000, second $5,000, and third $2,000 with prizes awarded through fifth place. *Mini-slot tournaments*, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tues. Entry fee of $10 includes a lunch buffet, re-buys of $5; $1,200 in cash prizes awarded up to seventh place. *Blackjack tournaments*, 11 a.m. Fri. Entry fee of $10 includes a lunch buffet; $1,500 in cash prizes awarded up to eighth place.

PAHRUMP

Saddle West, 800-GEDDY-UP: *Eye Opener Slot Tournament*, daily Mon.-Fri. Entry is free.

NORTHERN NEVADA
CARSON AREA

Carson Valley Inn (Minden), 877-783-7711: *$20,000 Tri-Game-A-Thon,* March 24-25 and Oct. 27-28. Play both slots and blackjack, and keno tournament is free. All entry fees returned in prize money. *Weekly Video Poker,* Thurs. Buy-in of $10. *Monthly Blackjack,* last Tues. Entry fee of $25.

Piñon Plaza (Carson City), 775-885-9000: *Free Video Poker,* 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mon.; first place pays $125, second $75, third $50.

LAKE TAHOE

Harrah's Lake Tahoe (Stateline), 775-588-6611: *Millionaire Maker Annual Slot Tournaments,* Aug. 27-28 and Sept. 29-Oct. 1.

Hyatt Regency (Incline Village), 775-832-1234: *Blackjack,* 6 p.m. Wed. Entry fee is $25, two rounds are played, and the top six players advance to an elimination third round; prize money is paid through sixth place. *Video Poker,* 6:30 p.m. Fri. Buy-ins are $25; tournament has a minimum of one round and a maximum of five. The top three hands with maximum coins bet receive the three cash awards. First place pays $500, second $200, and third $100.

Tahoe Biltmore (Crystal Bay), 775-831-0660: *$500 Minimum Guarantee Bonus Blackjack Tournaments,* 6 p.m. Sat.: Buy-in of $25 includes $10 in match play. Tournament features a "wild card" seat bonus in which everyone receives a chance to get into the championship. Each participant plays one round of 25 hands with a $5 minimum bet and no limit maximum bet. *Free $500 Guaranteed Keno Tournament,* 7 p.m. Fri.

RENO-SPARKS

Atlantis, 888-551-7007: *Free Slot Tournament,* 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Tues. Also, *Pot o' Gold Slots,* March 12-13, $249 entry fee; *Dollar Slot Marathon,* April 7-8, $199 entry fee; *Mother's Day Slot Tournament,* May 14-15 (details TBA); *Slot Tournament,* June 19-22, $499 entry fee; *Dollar Slot Marathon,* Aug. 13-14, $199 entry fee; *Autumn Classic Slots,* Sept. 10-11, $249 entry fee; *King of the Hill Blackjack Tournament,* $1,000 entry fee, winner takes all.

Baldini's Sports Casino (Sparks), 775-358-0116: *Free Video Poker Tournament,* 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mon.-Thurs. Prize is $200 for first and restaurant comps for second and third.

Comstock, 800-266-7862, ext. 7231: *Video Poker,* Jan. 7-9; *Quick Strike Keno,* Feb. 4-6; *Mini-Slots,* Feb. 11-13; *Super Slots,* Feb. 18-20; *Krazy Keno,* March 3-5; *Blackjack,* March 10-13; *Keno Shootout,* April 7-9; *Super Slots,* April 28-30.

Eldorado, 800-777-5325: *Golden Dollar Marathons,* April 9-10, June 18-19, Aug. 6-7, and Oct. 22-23.

Fitzgeralds Reno, 800-648-5022: *Daily Slot Tournaments,* 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Entry fee of $25. Daily slot tournament players receive a free automatic entry into the *Grand Champion Slot Tournament,* Dec. 1-22; first place pays $12,500, second $5,000, and third $3,750. *Slot Millennium Magic,* Jan. 7-9; *Slot Tournament,* Jan. 17-19; *Slot Tournament,* Dec. 8-10. Buy-ins are $375; first place pays $5,000, second $1,250, and third $1,000, with cash prizes awarded through 25th place. *St. Patrick's Day Slot Tournament,* March 17-19 (players must be Emerald Level Fitzgeralds Club card holders). Entry fee is $500; first place pays $10,000, second $5,000, and third $2,500, with cash awarded through 50th place. Also, *O' Lucky's Angels Slot Tournament,* April 14-16; *'50s Themed Slot Tournament,* Aug. 7-9. Entry fees are $375. *Slot Marathon,* June 23-25, Nov. 3-5. Entry fee is $250. *Blackjack Tournaments/Derbies,* May 5-7, Oct. 6-8. Entry fee is $399. *Keno Tournament,* July and December (dates TBA). Entry fee is $120.

John Ascuaga's Nugget (Sparks), 800-843-2427: Tournament schedule TBA.

Peppermill, 800-648-5555: *Psychic Slot Tournament,* Jan. 7-8: Buy-in of $199 includes $39 room rate, three rounds of play, restaurant credits, free cocktails at all casino bars, welcome reception, and awards dinner. Total prize money is $30,000 with first place paying $10,000. *Blackjack,* March 5-7; *Keno,* March 26-27; *Slots,* April 16-18.

Reno Hilton, 775-789-2313: Poker and other tournaments TBA.

Silver Club (Sparks), 800-905-7774: *Super Bowl of Slots Tournament,* Jan. 28-30. Entry fee of $129 includes two nights' room, registration party and buffet, two continental breakfasts, $7 food credit coupon, awards presentation, and three 15-minute rounds of tournament play. Second person tournament entry is $59. First place pays $3,000, second place $1,500, and third $1,000 with prizes awarded through 45th place and to last place. Upcoming tournaments (details TBA) will be held March 17-19, April 12-14, May 12-14, July 5-7, Aug. 25-27, Oct. 27-29, and Nov. 17-19.

A few hotels, such as the Atlantis in Reno, offer free weekly tournaments.

Silver Legacy, 800-687-7733: *Slot tournaments* are scheduled Jan. 9-10, Feb. 27-28, March 19-20, April 9-10, May 14-15, and June 4-5 during 2000.

Sundowner, 800-648-5490, ext. 424: *Triple Tournaments,* March 17-19, May 19-21, July 21-23, Oct. 6-8, and Dec. 8-10. Entrants can play keno, slots, live 21, or all three. Buy-ins are: keno $400; live 21 $150; slots $250; keno plus live 21 $500; keno plus slots $600; slots plus live 21 $350; keno, slots, and live 21 $700. The fee includes two nights' room, banquet, and tournament play.

RURAL NEVADA
JACKPOT

Cactus Petes, 800-821-1103: *Video Poker,* Feb. 11-13 and April 7-9; *Blackjack,* March 17-19 and May 19-21; *Keno,* March 3-5; *Senior Slot Tournament,* March 10-12.

WENDOVER

Peppermill, 800-648-9660, ext. 521: *Slots,* April 16-18 and Nov. 12-14. Entry fee of $300 includes two nights' room; *Blackjack,* March 5-7 and Oct. 1-3. Entry fee of $250 includes two nights' room; *Keno,* March 26-27 and Aug. 27-28. Entry fee of $175 includes room for one night. All entry fees inlcude includes a welcome social and free food and beverages for entrant and a guest.

Red Garter, 800-982-2111: *Free slot tournaments,* 11 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Sun. and 7:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m. Fri. Sign-ups are first come, first served. Sessions last five minutes each. More than $500 is awarded.

Silver Smith and State Line Casinos, 800-354-3665: *Slots,* Jan. 16-18. Entry fee of $350 includes two nights at the State Line or Silver Smith, welcome party, gourmet brunch, awards party, and tournament T-shirt. Sessions last 20 minutes. First pays $10,000, second $3,500, and third $2,500 with prizes awarded through 40th place.

Elizabeth Baker-Nielsen is a Las Vegas writer.

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Elko's Friendly Skies

A casino-based airline has made it easier for visitors to fly into—and out of—Northeastern Nevada.

By Lin Anderson



The Red Lion Inn's Casino Express flies passengers into and out of Elko aboard its fleet of five Boeing 737s. The most recent addition roared into the airport with a lion on its tail (right).

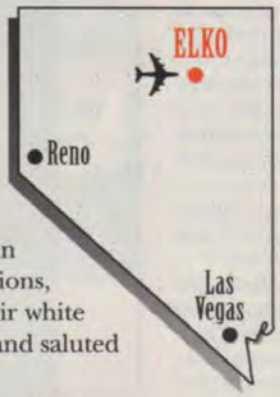
Three little words that seldom pop into anyone's mind while considering the many and varied attributes of rural Nevada are "convenient air service." Nevada RFD is, after all, still a place where you can go an awfully long time without seeing an aircraft up close, and those you do see usually are spraying fire retardant or making crop circles.

Elko is that rare animal, a Nevada outback community where the lure of the sky has been a longstanding tradition. This Northeastern Nevada city was, in fact, the destination of the first airmail flight back in 1918, and it's been a destination ever since.

These days, most people flying into Elko take wing on Casino Express Airlines, an enterprise born in the mid-1980s as a clever if elaborate method to airlift tourists to Elko's Red Lion Inn and Casino for a little Nevada-style entertainment. The airline shuttles gaming enthusiasts from 96 cities throughout the Western, Midwestern, and Southern United States and recently expanded its fleet from three to five 124-passenger Boeing 737 aircraft.

But while jetting into Elko is pretty easy to do, jetting out has been a bit of a limited prospect for us Elkoans. The list of nonstop destinations out of Elko has been rather brief. Reno, of course, and Salt Lake City... and did we mention Reno?

It's been pretty much a matter of flying to somewhere (Reno or Salt Lake City leap immediately to mind) on a commuter flight to catch a real, live airliner to fly to somewhere else. Commuter service is for the most part on time and certainly friendly—a small plane fosters a wonderful "we're all in this together" spirit, particularly during violent thunderstorms. It's like being on one of those bus trips in a 1930s movie in which everyone is singing some popular song—except that on a commuter flight buffeted by wind and lit by lightning, the selection is usually "Nearer My God to Thee."



So when Casino Express announced it would be flying nonstops out of Elko in roomy jets to big-city destinations, local aviation fans raised their white knuckles to their foreheads and saluted as one.

"We run 'em up to Seattle and down to Burbank and as many places as we can to give Elko people an opportunity to get away from here for a bit," says Casino Express CEO George Warde.

An eminently likable, snow-haired fellow whose long aviation career includes the presidency of American Airlines back in flying's glory days of the late '60s and early '70s—when *Airport* was as big a franchise as the Yankees—it's Warde's job to coordinate the airline's complex and ever-expanding schedule. Casino Express recently branched out to offer twice-weekly service between Reno and the Great Northwest for Express Vacations of Reno, bringing Seattle and Bellingham residents to Nevada on three- and four-night package trips.

Casino Express also has chartered its aircraft to organizations as diverse as the U.S. Marshals and college football teams. The latter are more likely to charter Casino Express these days since not all the airline's planes sport gaming graphics, as they once did.

All this, and Elko outbound. "It takes a lot of hours in the day to do it," Warde says. "But we've got a good group of people who are dedicated and work hard. I think we're on a good roll."

Elkoans in droves have been taking advantage of Casino Express's invitation to get out of town on urban excursions, brief idylls similar to those old episodes of *Green Acres* in which Oliver and Lisa would visit New York. The price, certainly, is right. With round-trip airfare priced at about $100, leaving town for the weekend can be lots cheaper than staying home—particularly if staying home includes blackjack, as it often does.

This may not seem like much to the jaded big-city readers, spoiled as they are by the ability to just hop a jet and go

Photos: Lin Anderson

wherever and whenever they like. But in the wide-open spaces where getting there from here often is a dicey prospect at best, it's is as exciting as, well, time travel or being stuck in an elevator on New Year's Eve with Jennifer Lopez. Perhaps best of all, Elkoans now can join air travelers nationwide in gawking at Denver's airport and wondering just what the heck kind of air the architects were breathing.

We homefolks are just feeling a lot more worldly these days, ever since Casino Express made us a part of the schedule. Warde is enthusiastic about the arrangement, as well. "As I say, the more of these we can do and make them productive—that's what our goal is."

All this aerial activity has made operating Casino Express much more of a hands-on experience for Warde than heading up American was in the glory days. "I could delegate a lot more then," he recalls a bit wistfully. "Now, it's a matter of my trying to keep all the balls in the air."

The balls, out-of-state travelers, and Elkoans, one hastens to add.

Lin Anderson is an Elko writer and former white-knuckle flier.

Express Yourself

Casino Express is equipped with five Boeing 737s, two of which are decked out in a card motif and have been christened the *King of Diamonds* and the *Queen of Hearts*. The newest plane in the Elko-based fleet is emblazoned with the Red Lion Inn logo.

Casino Express flies to more than 90 U.S. cities, from St. Louis and Green Bay to San Antonio and San Jose. Fares range from $39 to $170 for two- or three-night packages, which include round-trip airfare, transportation from the airport, and a room at the Red Lion Inn, Gold Country Motor Inn, or Holiday Inn. Flight attendants offer free snacks and champagne. Passengers are required to bring $350 in "show money" with intent to gamble, although they are not required to spend it.

If you're outbound from Elko, Casino Express offers two weekly flights to two cities. Flights leave Thursday evening and return Sunday evening. The fare is $104.50, round-trip. The flights change from week to week and include Albuquerque, Boise, Burbank, Denver, Jackson Hole, Missoula, Phoenix, Portland, San Jose, Seattle, and Spokane. For more information call Casino Express, 800-258-8800 or 775-738-1826, or log on at www.redlioncasino.com.

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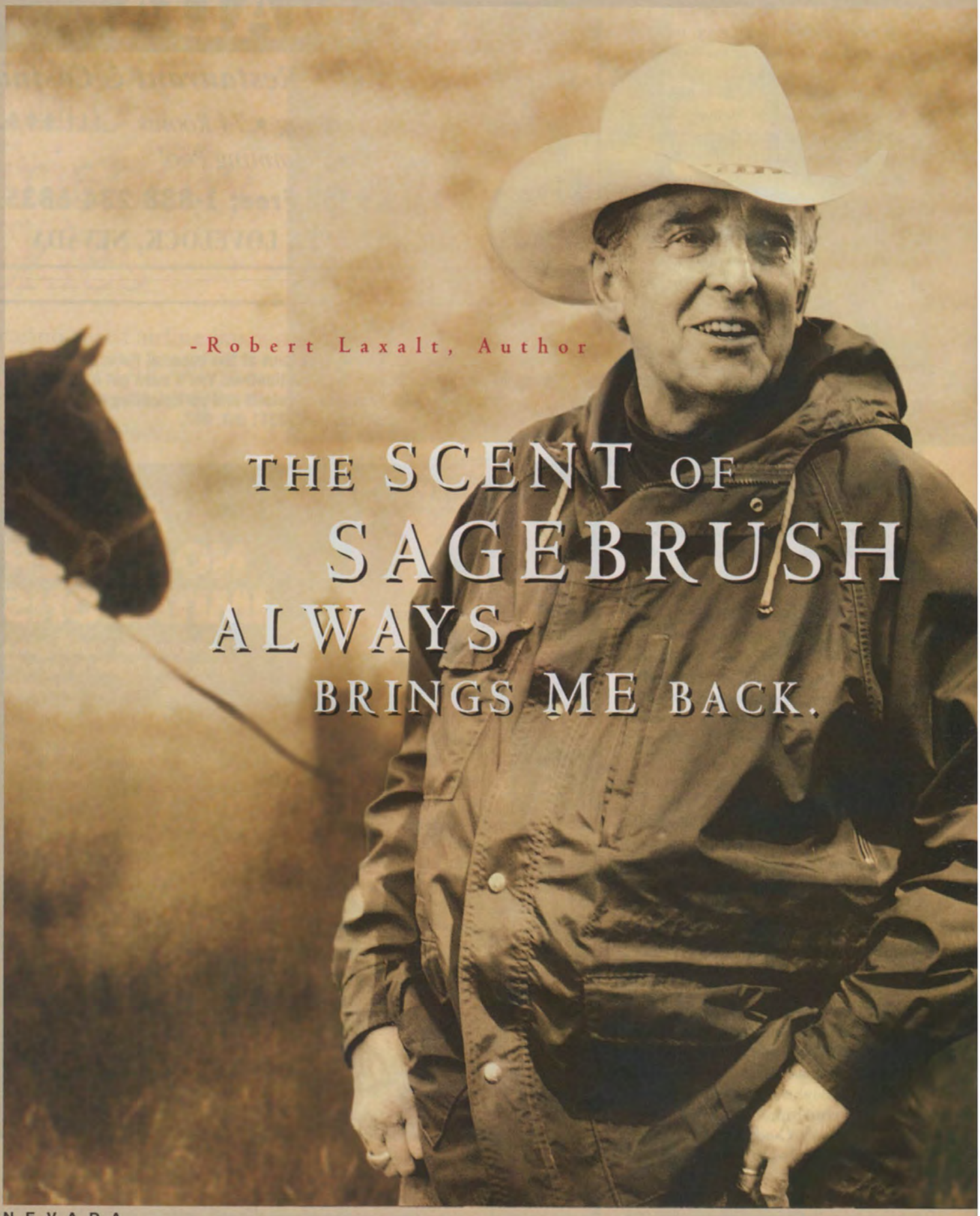
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