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April 2000

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—Arnold Ginsberg, Spur Cross Ranch



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Photo by Joe Royer

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Photos: Richard Cummins (top), Shannon Montana (middle)



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Publisher: Richard Moreno
Editor: David Moore
Art Director: Denise Evans
Associate Editor: Carolyn Graham
Production Manager: Gary Elam
Production Assistant: Melissa Loomis
Circulation Manager: Debi Frame
Retail Coordinator: Isabel Espinoza
Accountant: Jacqueline Morgan
Editorial Assistant: Shannon Montana
Special Assistance: Nevada State Library and Archives, Nevada Historical Society
Printing, Pre-Press: Banta Publications Group

Events Office
Events Editor: Ann Henderson
555 E. Washington, Suite 5600, Las Vegas, NV 89101
(702) 486-2433, fax (702) 486-2789
e-mail: ann@nevadamagazine.com

Main Advertising Office
Advertising Director: Patty Noll
Advertising Assistant: Susan Wunsch
Advertising Support: Ruth Buechel
401 N. Carson St., Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89701-4291
(775) 687-5888, fax (775) 687-6159

Las Vegas Advertising Office
Advertising/Marketing Rep: Lu Ann Terrell
555 E. Washington, Suite 5600, Las Vegas, NV 89101
(702) 486-2434, fax (702) 486-2789
e-mail: luann@nevadamagazine.com

Kelley-Rose, Inc.
Cynthia Kelley
1105 Terminal Way, Suite 202, Reno, NV 89502
(775) 322-7770, fax (775) 322-1719

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Light Painter

After several years as a lighthouse keeper in Ireland, photographer **Richard Cummins** should know something about lighting. Although he hasn't found many lighthouses in Nevada, he has perfected his technique of "light painting," casting brilliant glows on old buildings, cars, rocks, and plants he finds in the Southern Nevada desert.

"It's a combination of moonlight and starlight and colored gels on lights," Richard says of his photographic technique, which is featured in this issue's "Light Fantastic." He creates the unusual effects by placing colored lights in and near his subjects. Through trial and error, he has learned how long to expose the film. "Different colors need different exposure times," he says. "The greens take longer than the reds."



Richard Cummins poses with his photos.

Richard, 37, leaves his home in Hemet, California, for a couple of extensive photography trips to Southern Nevada each year. He usually trains his lens on the big casinos and other urban attractions since much of his work appears in the *Las Vegas Visitors Guide* and other tourist publications. Richard, a regular *Nevada* contributor, provided the futuristic Las Vegas images that illustrated Deke Castleman's story, "New Age Nevada," in the Nov/Dec issue.

"Las Vegas always has something new to shoot—I wish I had more time there," he says, adding that he also enjoys searching for subjects away from the city. "I prefer the landscapes, but the city scenes pay the bills."

As a lad, Richard honed his photography skills amid duties as a lighthouse keeper in his native Ireland. "Those lighthouses are on remote, small little rocks, so it gave me something to do when I was out there," he says. Technology made the lighthouse profession obsolete, so he and his wife, Catherine, a nurse originally from England, moved to the U.S. in 1989. Richard became a full-time photographer five years ago. He returned to Ireland to develop a photo book about the country for young children, due to be published by the Creative Publishing Company in Minnesota in October. In the meantime, he keeps looking in Nevada for intriguing objects that stand out in the landscape.—*Carolyn Graham*

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Letters

UFO on the calendar and a cover with character.

A Date With an Alien

I have subscribed to *Nevada Magazine* for many years and recently received the 2000 Nevada Historical Calendar. Upon going through the months on the calendar, I was examining the pictures with my magnifying glass.

The month of April caught my eye. Looking down C Street I noticed an object hovering over Virginia City. It appears to me to be a flying saucer. There is no doubt in my mind that it is a flying saucer. So it looks like Virginia City had visitors from outer space in 1920.



UFOlogists wonder: Did a flying saucer appear in this 1920s photo?

David Marsh
Stockton, CA

David, thanks for pointing out the strange object. Here's the photo. Is it a UFO or just a darkroom gnat? Readers can decide for themselves.—Ed.

A Hard-to-Find Outlet

The story regarding Primm's Fashion Outlet of Las Vegas in the Jan/Feb issue tells of a J. Peterman store and describes this outlet as "hard to find." Let me assure you that it truly is hard to find as the chain has been out of business for some time. My travel journal reminds me that I watched the door of J. Peterman at Primm being locked on Friday, April 23, 1999. I personally wiped a tear as the last van pulled away and headed south on I-15 into California. J. Peterman was so unique. I generally enjoy your magazine a great deal. However, I encourage your writers to pay greater attention to detail.

Janet L. Flickinger
Westminster, MD

Janet, you're right—thanks for bringing us up to date.—Ed.

Leave It as It Is

It amuses me how many letters you get just because the format is not exactly as some folks desire. Leave my *Nevada Magazine* as is! My wife and I spend a couple of weeks each year in Nevada, and we do not gamble. Even so, I enjoy the ads in

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the magazine. They are attractive and in good taste.

Roy Bale
Linden, TX

Coins of the Realm

I enjoy every part of *Nevada Magazine* (even the ads). But I am disturbed about the articles "I Dream of Jackpots" by Art Nadler and "Casino Notes" by Elizabeth Baker-Nielsen in the Jan/Feb issue. Both articles say future slot play will be with a ticket voucher and not coins.

Hearing and playing with coins is part of the "magic" of Nevada slots. The Indian casinos in Washington and Oregon use tickets, and believe me, that is not very exciting. Nevada slots are part of why I keep coming five or six times a year back to Nevada. I want to urge the casinos to poll their customers via the players' card. I am sure there are more players who feel as I do and prefer coins to ticket vouchers. Those ticket voucher machines would be a serious mistake for my favorite casinos.

Hazel Gibson
Toppenish, WA



Rio Rita Raves

Just a note to thank you for last issue's marvelous cover photos of Rio Rita (Michelle Mull) by Steve Spatafore and other casino characters by Sue Altenburg. I am a photographer who has been shooting covers and layouts for the last 25 years. The Jan/Feb cover is a grabber and has all the elements that get your attention. It is warm, colorful, interesting, dynamic, and electric. It tells a story before you get to the story.

Charles Adams
Zephyr Cove

Newton and Nevada

When I went to see Wayne Newton at the Las Vegas Hilton in April 1988, I became an instant fan of Wayne's and also of Nevada. I did not want to leave such a beautiful state and wanted to take it home with me.

Then, when I was in the Hilton gift shop, I spotted *Nevada Magazine*, and I knew I could have a little piece of Nevada with me all the time. I bought the magazine, paid my subscription, and have been a member ever since. I have every *Nevada Magazine* from the first issue I received. When I get "Nevada Fever," which is often, I pull out several of my old issues and imagine myself there.

Since 1987 I have made several trips to Nevada and have seen about one-third of the highways and towns. My dream is to travel every road in Nevada. Highway 50 is rightly named the "Loneliest Road in America." I picked it up at Ely and followed it to I-80—a beautiful drive. On other trips when I fly, I always rent a car and see as many new sights as I can. I love Nevada, and I look forward to receiving my new magazines every two months. I only wish they came every month.

Renee Carter
Port Arthur, TX

The Singing Magician

My wife and I have been to Las Vegas many times, and we have seen many acts and performances. On our last trip in December we saw the best show by far. His name is Romero, and he is the "singing magician." He has a matinee show at the Flamingo Hilton. Please go and see his act. He deserves much attention.

Peter Thomsen
Willington, CT

NEVADA MAGAZINE *Presents*

Best of Nevada

2000 Official Ballot

3rd Annual *Nevada Magazine* Readers' Poll

Cast Your Ballot!

Attached to this page is your 2000 *Nevada Magazine* "Best of Nevada" ballot. We want to know what you think are Nevada's best places and attractions—so please fill out the form and mail to Ballot Headquarters before **May 12, 2000**. The results will appear in the July/August issue.



Roadside Attractions

Trails at the fort, first-lady gowns, and a birdwatcher's haven.

River Trail Ranches

SILVER SPRINGS—Visitors to **Fort Churchill State Historic Park**, 43 miles east of Carson City, can hike a new multi-use interpretive trail that covers four miles on the Carson River. The trail, part of a 4,000-acre land purchase, winds alongside historic ranchlands of the De Poali, Ghiglia, and Amerongen families. The trail is open to hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers. Most of the trail is fairly flat but sandy, making it challenging for bikes but ideal for horses and hikers.



Fort Churchill State Historic Park offers new trails through ranchlands near the Carson River.

Abundant birdlife, including eagles, osprey, and pelicans, call this area home, as do beaver, wild horses, and porcupines. The trail parallels portions of the Pony Express Trail.

"Trail users will be hiking through areas that still have corrals, farm buildings, and cattle grazing. Some of the ranchers have leased back the property to continue their family farming operations," says Park Ranger Eric Johnson. This means that trail users have the opportunity to see land that has changed very little since pioneers first settled it.

The easiest trail access is a quarter-mile south of Bucklands Station, a Pony Express home station where horses and riders were changed, just east of the old portion of the park. In the 1860s Bucklands Ranch provided Fort Churchill soldiers with fresh produce and meat. Trail access points, however, are still difficult to find, and rangers suggest stopping by park headquarters for directions and brochures. Eventually, the park will add another mile of trail, connecting Fort Churchill to Lahontan Reservoir.

Park rangers lead a tour of the new trail on June 10 (or by request); horseback tours are planned for May 20 and September 23. Canoeists and kayakers can access the new trail. Float trips from 40 minutes to five hours cover fairly slow-moving water with a few easy rapids and obstacles. Water lovers can take the trip on their own or contact the rangers for guided excursions throughout the summer.

Cost for trail and river use is $3. Motorized vehicles are not permitted on the new trail. Campers can use the undeveloped sites at Scout Camp and Horse Camp at no additional charge. For information contact Eric Johnson or Jim Prida at Fort Churchill State Historic Park, 775-577-2345, or visit the Nevada State Park Web site at www.stparks@govmail.nv.us.—*Shannon Montana*

Glamour Gowns

LAS VEGAS—The inaugural-ball gowns of Nevada's first ladies are out for their first major waltz in years. After appearing last winter at the State Library and Archives in Carson City, the exhibition **"Silver Ladies in Golden Splendor"** will appear April 14 through August at the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society in Las Vegas. The tribute to Nevada's first ladies features 10 gowns (nine inaugural gowns and one wedding dress) worn by the women. The exhibit is on loan from the Nevada State Museum's Marjorie Russell Clothing and Textile Research Center in Carson City.

"This was the most spectacular night of their lives, and they wanted to look spectacular. The importance of that evening is reflected in what they chose to wear," says Jan Loverin, the museum's curator of clothing and textiles.

Every Nevada first lady is featured in the exhibit with a photo and a biographical sketch. The 10 gowns displayed came from the armoires of Julia Scrugham (a 1904 wedding dress), Ida Pittman, Marjorie Russell, Bette Sawyer, Jacalyn Laxalt, Carolyn O'Callaghan, Kathryn List, Bonnie Bryan, Sandy Miller, and Dema Guinn.

Two of the dresses were designed and made by Nevada dressmakers. Las Vegas physician Dr. Parvin Modeber Jacobs designed the ensemble worn by Sandy Miller. The outfit was made by Mia Designs of Las Vegas. The dress is made of blue acetate, and the matching cape has a silver lamé lining. Bette Sawyer's beige and metallic gown, which she wore in 1959, was made by Contessa Originals of Reno.



Dresses worn by Nevada's first ladies are featured at the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society in Las Vegas.

Photos: Fort Churchill State Historic Park (top), Lisa J. Tolda (bottom)



Keith Evans (left) oversees the MGM Grand's Lion Habitat, where visitors can see the cats from many angles.

For a sneak peek, fans of first-lady fashions can catch the display at the Museums, Library, and Arts Foundation fashion show and luncheon at 11:30 a.m., April 8, at Mandalay Bay. Contact the foundation's executive director, Beverly Carlino-Banta, at 702-638-8581 for ticket information. The benefit features replicas from original gowns in the textile center collection. The Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, at Lorenzi Park at 700 Twin Lakes Drive in Las Vegas, is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.—*Mary Beth Hepp-Elam*

King of the Jungle

LAS VEGAS—Keith Evans doesn't act like a lion tamer—there's nothing swashbuckling about him. He has no whips, no chairs, just a firm but soft voice and a manner that makes people—not to mention animals—feel comfortable. Evans, an animal trainer for more than 30 years, now presides over the **Lion Habitat** at MGM Grand. The $9-million habitat, which opened last summer, provides a state-of-the-art showcase for up to five adult lions at a time. Decorated with carved stone, the habitat covers 5,345 square feet with four waterfalls, a pond, overhangs, and acacia trees from Africa, where most of the world's lion population lives.

Window walls 35 feet high and skylights give a feeling of the outdoors and allow visitors great views of the lions as they prowl, play, and relax (lions sleep 18 to 20 hours a day). A windowed walkway tunneling through the habitat offers additional viewing. "This habitat is 10 years ahead of anything I have ever seen," Evans says.

Several of the lions, including Baby, Goldie, and Louis B., are descendants of MGM Studios' famous signature lion, Metro. Since the habitat is surrounded by glass, viewers have little trouble seeing the animals from all angles. Lions prowl beside, behind, above, and below the people looking at them. Their cubs frolic with plastic toys and drink from bottles in the small enclosures nearby.

"Unlike many private breeders, we don't sell any lions," Evans says. "We keep them all, and control their numbers by breeding." Evans, who has been associated with the MGM Grand since the 1980s, says trainers become part of the pride. "The socialization begins the minute they're born. Trainers are with them 24 hours a day. When they're babies, they're bottle fed every two to three hours," says Evans, whose wife, Beverly, takes the night shift. Although the cats retain their instincts, adult lions can be as nice as babies, Evans maintains. "They're not as predatory as you think," he says. "Lions in the wild won't go out of their way to kill people. Humans are simply not a good source of food." At times, there are personality conflicts. "Males come into their prime at two and a half or three years," Evans says. "That's when they decide who they're going to hang out with, and we have to fix it so they're with trainers they like."

Unlike most people, Evans doesn't leave his work behind when he goes home at night. His home is an eight-and-a-half-acre Las Vegas property that he and his wife share with three tigers and two snow leopards in addition to the 18 lions.

Although admission to the MGM's Lion Habitat is free, visitors have a couple of opportunities to spend their money. From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Tuesday, visitors can have their photos taken with a lion cub for $20. The gift shop features an array of lion-themed merchandise. The Lion Habitat is open daily from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., and the gift shop opens at 9 a.m. Call 702-891-7777 or 800-929-1111.

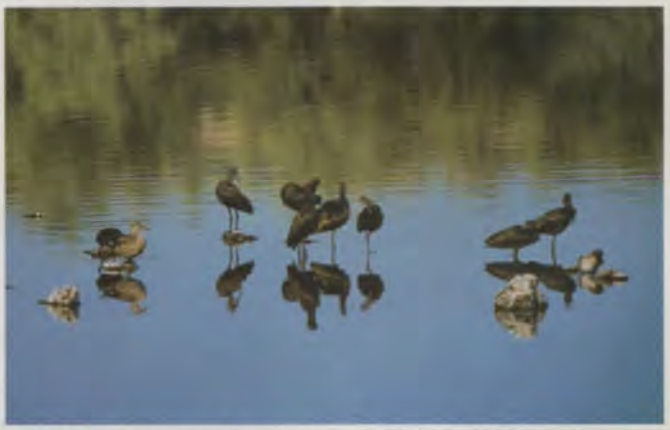
—*Connie Emerson*

Winging It in Henderson

HENDERSON—Birdwatchers have long flocked to Henderson's water-treatment plant to watch the birds that use the ponds to nest, rest, and feed. Then two years ago the city transformed the ponds into the **Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve**, a pleasant sanctuary with trails, park benches, and a visitor center where folks can learn more about the site's inhabitants.

The nine lagoons are lined with bushes and surrounded by vast desert stretches. The preserve, which is overseen by the Henderson Parks and Recreation Department, is visited by more than 200 species of birds, several of which nest at the site. At the visitor center you can pick up a map and bird list and even borrow a pair of binoculars. Volunteers are happy to tell you which birds are visiting which pond on the day of your visit. You can take a short stroll around one pond or visit all nine and cover a couple of miles. Benches are scattered along the trails.

The birds' spring migration begins in March and early April. Scores of shore birds and passerines pass through on their way to northern climes. Birdwatchers can expect to see elegant long-legged stilts and cinnamon avocets stalking the water with long probing beaks. Red-eyed American coots and ruddy ducks swim serenely in clusters. Killdeer, small shore birds with necklace-like rings, do aerial aerobatics and squeal above.



Spring is beak season at the Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve.

The Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, located off Sunset Road at 2400 B Moser Drive, is open daily from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free. Call 702-566-2940 for more information.—*Paulette Licitra*

Photo: Gene Hertzog (right)



PeoplePage

Men on the clock and squeezing Mr. Charmin.

Time Keepers

Bill Hartman and **Lee Carter** of Carson City have time on their hands—and preserving history on their minds. The two retired Navy fliers recently restored one of the capital's historic gems, the unique three-faced clock atop the Old Federal Building, now the Paul Laxalt State Building, on Carson Street. The clock sat motionless for six years in the tower of the former post office, which was renovated two years ago. Hartman and Carter decided to try to get the clock ticking again.

"We're a dying breed," says Carter, 58. "We both like to fix things." Hartman, 59, agrees. "We kept driving by the building and thinking the clock ought to be operating," he says. Although there were no funds available for restoration of the clock, the two men approached the state with a plan.



Lee Carter (left) and Bill Hartman make time for a historic Carson City clock.

"We had the time, and we both have engineering backgrounds, so we felt we had the expertise to get it running," Hartman says. "Of course, it helped that the state liked our low bid of zero—and our free maintenance provision."

Together, the two volunteers have spent more than 200 hours restoring the clock. They say their satisfaction is in hearing it tick.

"This is a priceless piece of Carson's heritage that's looked out over the activities of the city for over a century," Carter says. "Our time is nothing in comparison to the satisfaction we've gotten out of restoring this landmark."

The tower clock was placed on the fifth level of the building, which was constructed in 1891. Over the years it has seen many occupants, including the U.S. District Court, U.S. Post Office, Land Office and Weather Bureau, the Nevada State Library, and currently the Nevada Commission on Tourism and *Nevada Magazine*. The clock was built in Iowa City, Iowa, by Joseph Barborka, a Bohemian immigrant and master clock builder. He is known to have made 17 tower clocks. The Carson City clock was ninth in the series. Two other tower clocks were shipped to post offices in Louisville and Omaha.

The Carson clock has three frosted-glass dials, each five feet in diameter with hand-painted Roman numerals on the face. The inner clock workings consist of a cast-iron frame supporting brass and steel components. A steel cable, which supports a 75-pound cast-iron weight and pulley, is wound on a drum and provides the power that drives the clock. The weight is suspended in a 47-foot vertical shaft.

During the earthquake retrofitting of the building in 1996, a number of metal spikes were driven through the shaft. Fortunately the two men found a quarter-inch "sweet spot" in the shaft where the cable and weight could move freely up and down. "That hitch almost stopped us in our tracks," Hartman recalls.

Over the years, winding the antique clock has become an honor. Every two weeks, NCOT's Nancy Dunn climbs the narrow wooden ladder to the attic above her office and spends a few minutes winding the clock. "I am so grateful to Bill and Lee for restoring it," Dunn says. "The clock has great soul. It is the heartbeat of this building."

Since completing renovations of the tower clock, Hartman and Lee have helped raise $11,000 to purchase a carillon for the clock. They installed the electronic bell chimes free of charge in time to ring out "The Star Spangled Banner" and "Home Means Nevada" while F-18s from the Fallon Naval Air Station flew over last October's Nevada Day Parade. The hours of the day will be announced year-round by chimes, and the carillon will play seasonal songs.—*Shannon Montana*

Charming the Charmin Man

His neighbors in Henderson call him **Dick Wilson**, but most people who meet him on the street would say, "That has to be Mr. Whipple." Especially if he's wearing his spectacles.

The glasses first appeared when he auditioned for the Charmin commercial back in 1964, Wilson says. "The man told me to 'read that sign. 'What sign?' I asked, then took out the half-glasses I used for reading and put them on the end of my nose. Those glasses got me the job."

The job lasted until 1989. By then he had filmed 504 Mr. Whipple commercials. Proctor and Gamble originally dubbed its Charmin character Walter Bannister, Wilson says, but company executives decided the name was too difficult to remember, so they bought the use of "George Whipple"

Photo: Shannon Montana



Henderson resident Dick Wilson, better known as Mr. Whipple, has resumed his paperwork as the Charmin pitchman.

from an ad-agency man by that name.

Wilson, who was born in England and moved to Canada when he was four, began acting as a teenager. "I've never been to acting school in my life. I started on the stage. Went from vaudeville to radio to TV. I was the drunk on *Bewitched* for seven years, Dino Baroni on *McHale's Navy*, Colonel Gruber on *Hogan's Heroes*." Wilson also has been in commercials for everything from cars to cleansers. "At one time," he says, "15 different commercials I made were on TV. Once, during a program break, I was in six out of the seven commercials. That was almost embarrassing."

About 10 years ago, Wilson and his wife, Meg, moved to Henderson (they also have a home in North Hollywood). "I love the Southern Nevada weather," Wilson says. "And if you want to live the quiet life, you can. But when you want things jumping, you can be in the middle of Las Vegas in 10 minutes."

Last April, the 83-year-old Wilson again assumed his Mr. Whipple role. Although each Charmin commercial is only 60 seconds, filming lasts from one to two days. "It takes longer in L.A. than anywhere else. They love detail. Even though you use the first one, they always shoot three or four," Wilson says. The commercials, appearing primarily on network afternoon TV, do not include the "Please don't squeeze the Charmin" line that was part of every Mr. Whipple ad made between 1964 and 1989.

Have people started telling Wilson those Mr. Whipple toilet-paper jokes again? "They've already told me every one," he claims. "I always say, 'I believe in keeping America clean, and I started at the bottom.'" —*Connie Emerson*

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Wild Western

How to celebrate the 21st century?



Take a 19th-century Nevada vacation.

You awake to the aroma of freshly brewed coffee and the sound of sausage sizzling in a cast-iron skillet. The sun peeks over the mountain as horses whinny gently in the corral.

It's the kind of moment you appreciate during a special Nevada getaway—a Western vacation full of vittles, vistas, and vital signs that vast sections of the Silver State remain part of the Old West. After all, what better way is there to celebrate the arrival of the 21st century than to take a 19th-century vacation? Of course, many of Nevada's rustic vacation packages offer gourmet meals and experts to herd the cattle, but the peace and scenery are genuine throwbacks.

The following sampling of Western vacation ideas includes a wide range of retreats on and off the Nevada range. They include dude ranches, cattle roundups, rock-climbing expeditions, trail rides, fishing places, and a rodeo bull-riding school. Indeed, throughout Nevada the Western experience is there for the taking. Just remember to check your cell phone at the door, pardner.

DUDE RANCHES

Cottonwood Ranch: Guests can go horseback riding, do chores, or simply hang out for as many days as they wish at the Cottonwood Ranch, 70 miles north of



Guests find a retreat at the Cottonwood Ranch.

Photos: Ruby Crest Ranch (top), Doug Bruha (bottom)

Vacations

By Shannon Montana



A Ruby Crest Ranch guide leads dudes on a pack trip to the alpine-lake country of the Ruby Mountains southeast of Elko.

Wells, from May through September. Each June, experienced riders help buckaroos move horses from winter range to home pastures during a four-day trip. Such events are part of the Smith family's practice of "holistic resource management" at the Cottonwood Ranch. "This is a very Western experience for the horse enthusiast," says Renie Smith. "You can ride as much as you want and go right along with the cowboys if you have experience. You're expected to put in a long, hard day."

Guests of all riding levels can go horseback riding, work with cattle, hike, or try the fishing in Canyon and Cottonwood creeks. The rate is $150 per day, which includes lodging, meals, and horses. The horse roundup, with lodging, meals, horse, and gear, costs $1,200. The Smiths also offer a six-day pack trip over the Jarbidge Mountains to the town of Jarbidge ($1,500) and trips over High Trail ($1,300 for a five-day outing). (No credit cards.) Call 775-752-3135 or 775-752-3604 or write Cottonwood Ranch, HC 62, Box 1300, O'Neil Route, Wells, NV 89835.

Hidden Canyon Guest Ranch: This retreat, located 13 miles south of Baker on the southeastern edge of Great Basin National Park, offers cabins and teepees from June to September. The full-service package includes lodging, meals, and activities such as ATV tours, hiking, and spirited games of paintball; the nightly price is $124 for adults, $85 for ages five to 11. Lodging only is $48 per unit, which sleeps two. The teepees have electricity and beds. Overnighters share use of the bathhouse.

"We have llamas, goats, and chickens, and we raise horses," says owner Robin Crouch. "In spring and summer we have lots of baby animals." Travelers can reach the guest ranch from Baker by following State Route 487 seven miles south to Garrison, Utah, and proceeding west six miles on Big Wash Road, a good dirt road. Ely is 80 miles to the northwest via U.S. 50. Call 775-234-7267 or write Robin Crouch, Hidden Canyon Guest Ranch, Baker, NV 89311.

Hunewill Guest Ranch: Established in 1880 by the Hunewill family, this working cattle ranch runs more than 1,200 head of cattle on 4,500 acres near Bridgeport. Guests, who stay in cabins, can ride the range, practice roping, or relax. Special four-night Memorial and Labor Day weekend stays cost $521. Other stays require a three-night minimum at $152 per day. Week stays cost $992, with reduced rates for children. (No credit cards.) Winter: Call 775-465-2201 or write 200 Hunewill Lane, Wellington, NV 89444. Summer: Call 760-932-7710 or write Box 368, Bridgeport, CA 93517. Web site www.guestranches.com/hunewill/index.htm.

Rafter 7 Bar M Ranch: This ranch half a mile north of Virginia City offers trail rides, wild-horse watching, Western barbecue dinners, and plenty of photographic moments. Owners John and Carol Tyson claim to have the largest private herd of Texas longhorns in Nevada. Overnighters can stay at the Tysons' new guest house, where omelettes, fruit, waffles, bacon or sausage, juice, and hot coffee are served in the morning.

The ranch is open year-round and offers snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and mountain biking. Guests can bring a horse or rent one at the ranch. Weddings or group parties are welcome. Bed and breakfast rates are $125 to $135; ask about program prices. (MC, Visa.) Call 775-847-7223 or write Box 425, Virginia City, NV 89440. E-mail tyson@alpine.net. Web site www.Nevadaduderanch.com.

Saddle Up Guest Ranch and Resort: The Saddle Up, designed to give Las Vegas visitors a true Western experience, is due to open this spring. The owners plan chuck-wagon BBQs, cowboy entertainment, a 36-room hotel, and a steakhouse and saloon. Call 702-645-6555 for information.

Sandy Valley Ranch: This dude ranch is located in Sandy Valley, 53 miles southwest of the Las Vegas Strip and 23 miles west of Jean, three miles over the border in California. Call the ranch's Las Vegas office, 702-631-0463, for options such as the trail ride ($45), the dinner ride ($100), and an overnight ride that includes two days on the trail, chuck-wagon feasts, and entertainment ($425). Call Reservations Plus in Las Vegas, 800-805-9528, about four- and five-day packages with roundups, horseback riding, meals, awards barbecue, horseshoes, hiking, hay rides, and roping ($1,085 and $1,450). Write Sandy Valley Ranch, 1891 Pago Court, Las Vegas, NV 89117.

Guests at the Hidden Canyon Ranch can stay in teepees or cabins near Great Basin National Park.

Soldier Meadows: Guests stay in the bunkhouse and participate as much, or as little, as they choose at this cattle ranch 60 miles north of Gerlach. The ranch, owned by the Estill family, offers a cattle drive in late May during which experienced riders help buckaroos drive the cows from winter to summer pasture. Cost for the week-long journey is $800 and includes three square meals a day, horse, and gear.

Visitors can opt for shorter stays and still



Roundups often include evening campfires. Above, Jay Dalton of Clover Valley entertains buckaroos and guests during the Cottonwood Ranch's June horse drive.

enjoy the area's hot springs and wild-horse viewing in an environment free of faxes, phones, and electricity. Cost for lodging and meals is $70 per day, and another $50 will get you a horse. (AE, MC, Visa.) Soldier Meadows Ranch's main season is April 1 to November 1. The ranch has an airstrip. Call Lani Estill, 530-233-4881, or write Box 67, Likely, CA 96116 (the ranch is located in Nevada). Web site www.soldier-meadows.com.

Spur Cross Ranch: Sixteen miles south of Golconda is a working alfalfa and cattle ranch that boasts neither electricity nor phone. Instead, vacationers spend their days much as ranchers did 100 years ago. Guests can help with cattle drives, perform ranch chores, or just relax.

"Moving the cattle is the funnest part," says co-owner Arnold Ginsberg. "It's quite a thrill to get the cattle moving in the right direction." Nearby are hot springs and a fishing hole with largemouth bass. Cost is $800 per week, with a minimum stay of three days at $100 per night (MC, Visa). Call 480-488-2775 or write Spur Cross Ranch, Box 38, Golconda, NV 89414. E-mail spurcross@aol.com.

ECO-TOURS

dufurrena and dufurrena Adventures: "Low impact camping in our fragile desert environment" has been the motto of this artistically motivated adventure company for the past 12 years. Photographer Linda Dufurrena and her daughter-in-law, geologist and Winnemucca schoolteacher Carolyn Dufurrena, operate d and d Adventures, hosting trips into the Nevada desert each summer.



Nevada's geology is a prime attraction with the Dufurrena group.

On July 20-23 they will offer a four-day, three-night artistic adventure on the Black Rock Desert, but instead of camping guests will stay at Soldier Meadows Ranch each evening. Up to 22 guests will explore creative activities—painting, verse, song, and photography—with the Dufurrenas and their guest hosts, author Linda Hussa, artist Sophie Sheppard, and musician Joyce Vetter. The $525 cost includes meals and lodging. (No credit cards.) Guests can bring their own motorhomes or tents. Call 877-515-4366 toll free or write d and d Adventures, HC 02, Box 397, Winnemucca, NV 89445.

Sky's the Limit: Based near Red Rock Canyon, 12 miles west of Las Vegas, Sky's the Limit offers adventure hiking and rock-climbing trips throughout the year. Hosts Randal Grandstaff and Laura Sanders introduce guests to big-wall climbing at Red Rock with an understanding of the delicate ecosystem of the Southern Nevada desert. Activities range from simple day hikes to 10-day adventure camps. For rock climbers, beginner to advanced skills are covered, including self rescue, top roping, bouldering, introduction to anchor craft, and big-wall and multi-pitch climbing. Cost for a half-day climbing session is $69, weekend $220. Five-, seven-, and 10-day rock-climbing camps are scheduled for April 24-May

Photos: Doug Bruha (top), Linda Dufurrena (bottom)

5, and additional sessions are planned for fall. Cost begins at $620 and includes gear, meals, and camping site. (Major credit cards.) Motel stays are available. Call 702-363-4533 or write Randal Grandstaff or Laura Sanders, HCR 33, Box 1, Calico Basin, Red Rock, NV 89124. E-mail info@skysthelimit.com. Web site www.skysthelimit.com.

Tahoe Trips and Trails: A guided mountain-bike day trip at Lake Tahoe costs $40 per person with a six-person minimum. Hiking and walking tours, road and mountain bike trips, and multi-sport vacations (kayak, bike, hike) for three days or longer range from $690 to $1,300. (Major credit cards.) Call 800-581-HIKE or write Tahoe Trips and Trails, Box 6952, Tahoe City, CA 96145. Web site www.tahoetrips.com.



Some ranches offer bed and breakfast. Above, Carol Tyson relaxes in her Rafter 7 Bar M guest house.

OUTFITTERS

Hidden Lake Outfitters: Henry and Mia Krenka conduct pack trips in the Ruby Mountains. You can pack in on horseback or hike (they'll transport your gear for you) to Hidden Lake, Cold Lake, and Robinson Lake, where elevations of more than 9,000 feet provide great views of the Ruby Valley. The Krenkas often tailor trips around fishing, hiking, stargazing, photography, and other interests. Cost is $125 per day. (No credit cards.) Call 775-779-2268 or write HC 60, Box 514, Ruby Valley, NV 89833.



Elko-area guide services include Hidden Lake Outfitters (above).

Humboldt Outfitters: Wilde Brough leads trips by horseback or foot into the East Humboldt Range south of Wells. Brough tailors trips to guests' needs or shares some of his favorite hiking and fishing spots. "I like to head on up to Steele Lake and spend the day fishing and next day hike on up to the Hole in the Mountain Peak. It's about 11,200 feet, and at that elevation you can often spot bighorn sheep, mountain goats, and Himalayan snow partridge," he says. Cost is $100 per day including horse and gear. (No credit cards.) Call 775-752-3715 or write HC 60 Box 160, Wells, NV 89835. E-mail wilde@rabbitbrush.com.

Nevada High Country Outfitters: Todd and Dina Schwandt are hosts at the Jaz Ranch near Lamoille, 20 miles southeast of Elko. Guests can ride horseback or hike four to eight miles to a secluded campsite in the Rubies, where guides set up camp while you fish, hike, ride, or relax (BYO sleeping bags and fishing poles). Dinner might include steaks and wine. Breakfast means fruit, sausage, and eggs, while lunch combines soup and sandwiches. Trips of three days and two nights are offered during weekends from July to Labor Day.

A similar itinerary for bird watchers is scheduled in late July and early August. The Ruby Mountains and Humboldt Range harbor the only North American population of the Himalayan snow partridge, and birders can view the birds while their chicks are young. The trips cost $420 with meals, horses, and gear provided. (MC, Visa.) Call 775-777-3277 or write Box 281550, Lamoille, NV 89828. Web site www.nevadanews.com.

Ruby Crest Ranch: "I just saw a mountain lion a few weeks ago," says Wes Bennett, a guide at Ruby Crest Ranch. "It's only the second time I've seen one in all my years out here." Although the guides can't guarantee a glimpse of a big cat, they will set up camp, fix meals, and lead you to places for fishing, hunting, photo taking, and horseback riding. The area has bighorn sheep, mountain goats, mule deer, chukar, sage hen, and Himalayan snow

(Continued on page 80)

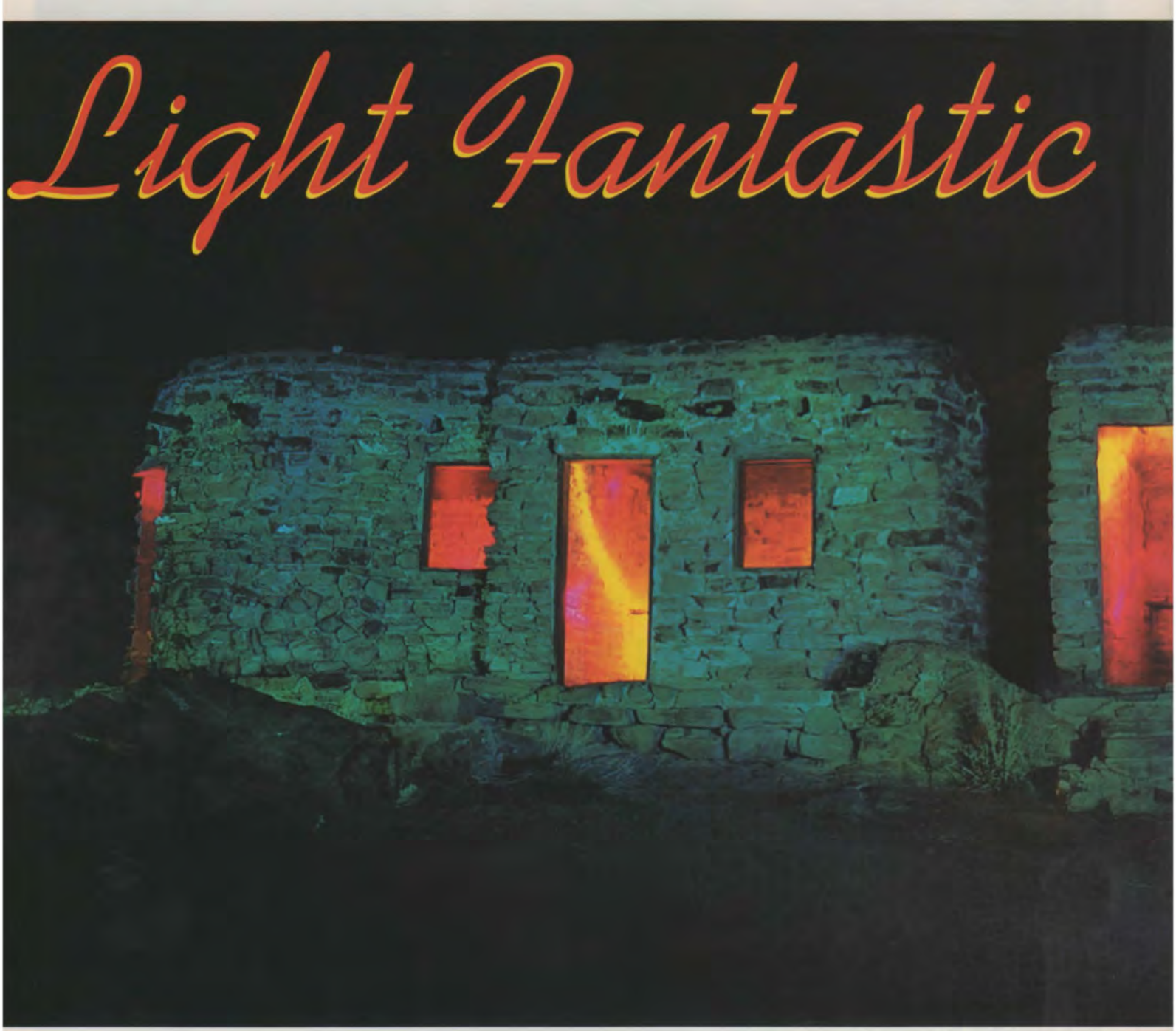
VACATIONER'S TIPS

Nevada's dude ranches, Western outfitters, and vacation companies offer a wide range of getaways. Here are some suggestions on planning a Western vacation in Nevada:

- Don't hesitate to ask proprietors for details about their various packages and rates. Outfits frequently modify programs, change rates, and add new adventures.
- Review what gear is provided. Some outfits provide sleeping bags, others don't. Some reduce the price if you bring your own horse. Fishing gear is often available.
- Ask about credit cards. Checks are often preferred.
- If you're considering a Western bash or plan to exchange vows on matching Arabians, remember that many outfits accommodate or encourage weddings and group parties.

Photo: Shannon Montana (top)

Light Fantastic



When most landscape photographers are packing up for the night, Richard Cummins is just beginning to focus on his subjects. Using long exposures, lights with colored gels, and a flash, Cummins creates what he calls "light paintings." During an outing in Southern Nevada, the full-time photographer from Hemet, California, initially had planned to shoot Elephant Rock in Valley of Fire State Park when he was forced to find another subject. "The light was wrong, and the moon was in the way," he says. So he moved over to the Cabins (above), a group of old sandstone buildings that took on an alien aura after Cummins filled the windows and doorways with colored lights. While on an excursion to Laughlin, Cummins used the same technique with a stand of Joshua trees and yuccas silhouetted against the sunset. Painting a Joshua in red (top right) and yuccas in turquoise (bottom right), Cummins captured the plants in an unearthly glow at dusk.







Boogie Nights

From techno to country, dancers can find their groove at numerous Nevada nightclubs.

Boogie fever is spreading in Nevada. The old lounges with tiny dance floors and recorded music are giving way to huge, glitzy rooms splashed with laser lights and filled with fashionable dancers gyrating to live bands. Naturally, the hotel-casinos are providing some of the most popular places to go dancing by putting a Nevada spin on the Los Angeles and New York trends at places like Baby's at the Hard Rock Hotel in Las Vegas and BuBinga at the Eldorado in Reno. Even if you don't own a metallic miniskirt or have never been allowed to participate in a Hot Buns Contest, you can prowl some of Nevada's most intriguing nightlife at the following clubs, which offer excellent people-watching, music of all varieties, and an irresistible dance beat.



Drink servers and cage dancers can get lost in the mist and Egyptian motif at the Luxor's Ra. At right, dancers find the beat at the Universal Music Hall in Reno.

LAS VEGAS

By Elizabeth Nielsen

Las Vegas nightclubs range from small and intimate to big and brash. The larger state-of-the-art clubs make the blood race a little faster, while the smaller clubs provide a musical nightlife without the hectic atmosphere. Most places offer cigars with libations. Dress codes are similar: no baggy, oversized, or ripped jeans, no tennis shoes, no hats, and no athletic wear. Men must wear collared shirts. Most clubs feature house music, a DJ mix of high-energy tunes with an accent on heavy, booming bass.

The Beach: A place for party animals, this club on Paradise Road across from the convention center resembles a beach house. Disco balls adorn the ceiling above the dance floor along with a shark and a pink convertible. Bikini-clad shot girls roam the premises. The club has eight themed bars, one of which caters to sports fans. The dance floors feature DJ mixes of Top 40 tunes. The scene gets going at 11 p.m., although the club is open 24 hours. The Beach is close to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, so the crowd is heavy on college students. Special events include the Ladies Hot Body Contest on Sunday and the Cash and Drink Frenzy on Tuesday (money is thrown onto the dance floor). There is no cover charge. Call 702-732-6111 or go to www.beachlv.com.

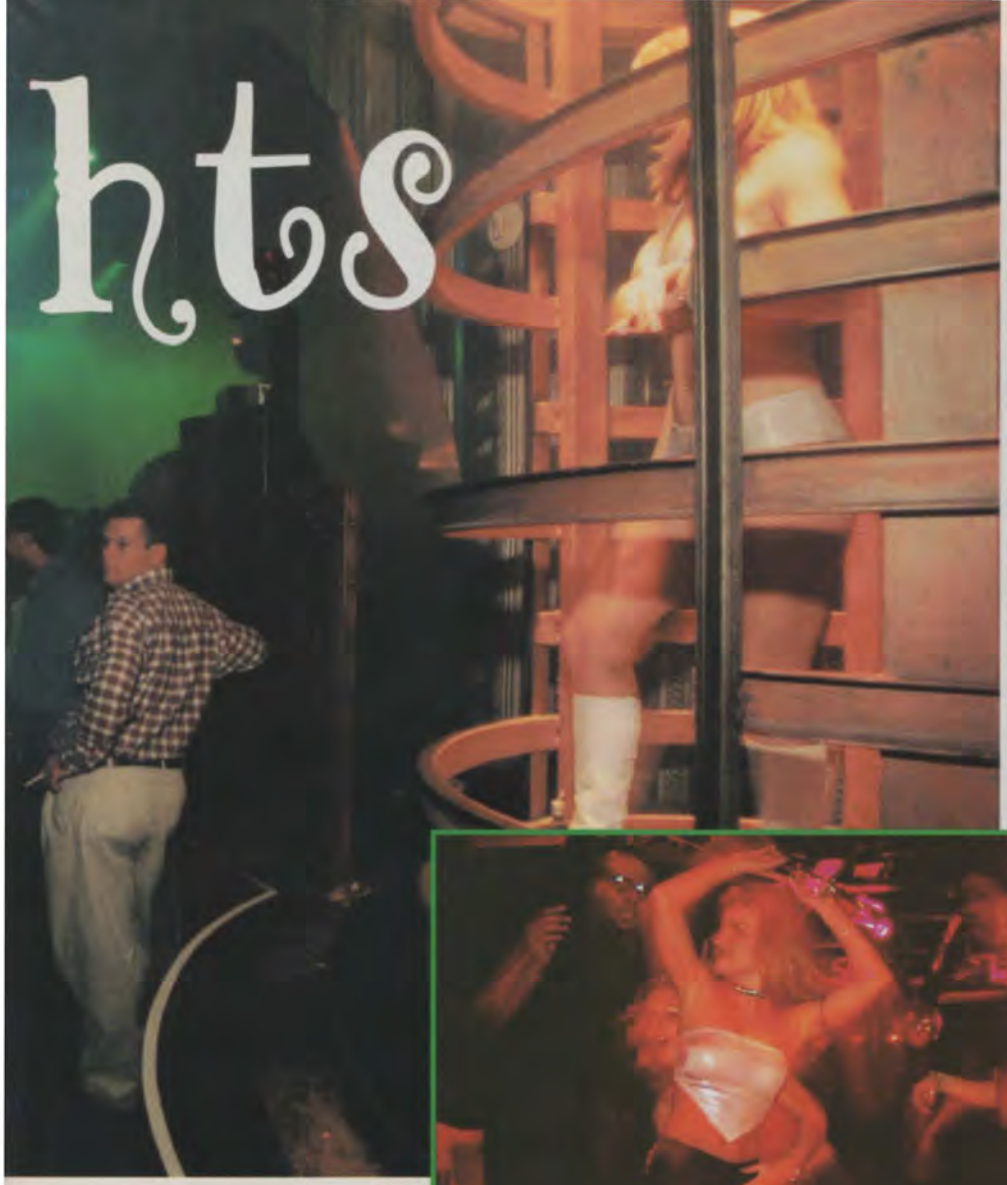
Baby's: Rumor has it that the lighting in Baby's at the Hard Rock Hotel is kept very low to help visiting celebrities remain undetected. Guests descend a black stairwell into the underground club. The dance floor is surrounded by lounging areas, some of which can be rented for an additional cost. Upstairs, a small oxygen bar allows guests to rejuvenate with such oxygen flavors as rosemary, lemon, and peppermint. House music is featured, and doors open at 11 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. Cover charge for men is $15, and women enter free. Call 702-693-5555.

C2K: This club at the Venetian can be a bit imposing, starting with the bouncers, who are more formidable and less friendly than at other clubs. Once inside, you are continually told to move along by men waving small flashlights. As a result, guests are herded into two bar areas at either end of the club. But once inside, you're surrounded by patrons dressed to the hilt and hoping to be seen. A raised cage allows guests to show off their attire and techniques. At times, the lights are turned off. This leaves patrons dancing in the dark, many of them wearing glowing jewelry (on New Year's Eve, one man wore a suit illuminated by light bulbs). Special laser lighting and mist effects make the dancing (mostly to house music) a full sensory experience. C2K opens at 11 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Cover charge is $10 for men and $5 for women. Call 702-948-3007.

Cleopatra's Barge: For night crawlers who want a more intimate nightclub atmosphere, Cleopatra's Lounge inside Caesars Palace is a pleasant hideaway. Cleopatra's is situated atop an Egyptian ship that rocks gently on the water as couples dance to live bands, which range from jazz to Top 40. Dancing begins at 10 p.m.; there is a two-drink minimum. Call 702-731-7110.

Photo: Steve Spatafore (top)

hts





Club Rio: Late at night, the Rio Suite Hotel's Copacabana Showroom is transformed into Club Rio. Energetic, attractive patrons are lured to the video screens that line two entire walls and broadcast images of the dancers, giving guests a chance to be seen by all. Themed nights include Shock Your Mama Night on Wednesday, when the person wearing the most outrageous apparel wins $500. Thursday, "Latin Night," features an eight-piece salsa band backing up DJ music and a Shake Your Bon Bon Contest, with the winner receiving $500. The music usually is DJ or house music, and the doors open at 10:30 p.m. Cover charge is $10 for men and $5 for women. VIP areas can be rented. Call 702-364-8953.

Drink and Eat Too: This nightclub and eatery at the corner of Harmon and Flamingo is a maze of rooms that are transformed into different music areas every Friday and Saturday night, when four or five DJs offer everything from disco to acid rock. Heavy curtains, doors, and windows between rooms keep the sounds separated, but guests are free to wander. Each room is themed, such as the Psychedelic Room, which has disco lights and a metallic dance floor. Dennis Rodman, Michael Jordan, Charles Barkley, and Mike Tyson are said to be patrons, although they might be tough to spot—special areas cater to frequent and VIP guests. Live music is featured on certain nights. Doors open at 10 p.m. on Tuesday and 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday (closed Monday and Wednesday). Cover charge is $10 for men and $5 for women. Call 702-796-5519.

Gilley's: Country-western dance fans can two-step over to Gilley's at the New Frontier. Named after Mickey Gilley and the bar featured in the movie *Urban Cowboy*, Gilley's dance floor resembles a corral where dancers show off their line and country dancing abilities. The featured music is C&W, with live nightly performances by Gilley's All-Star Band. Line dancing lessons are available, or you can simply take in the atmosphere at the barbecue restaurant in the back of the club. Daredevils can try riding the electronic bull. Gilley's opens at 9 p.m., and there is no cover charge. Call 702-794-8200. Cowboys take note: The New Frontier is scheduled to be permanently bucked (that is, imploded) this summer to make way for a San Francisco-themed hotel.

La Playa Lounge: The Harrah's Las Vegas club provides an intimate, beach-like setting. The decor includes multicolored palm tress, rocks intertwined with fiberoptic lighting, and a mural depicting a day at the beach. There's also a video wall and live music. The lounge is open 24 hours a day, with dance music kicking off at 8:30 p.m. Monday and 2:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Call 702-369-5124 or 800-HARRAHS.

Monte Carlo Pub and Brewery: This industrial-themed brewery at the Monte Carlo Hotel on the Strip offers fresh brewskies in addition to nightly live entertainment and dancing. Bands begin at 9:30 p.m. There is no cover charge. Call 702-730-7420.

The Night Club: Located directly off the casino floor of the Las Vegas Hilton, the Night Club provides the same high-energy atmosphere as the big clubs but on a smaller scale. Bands begin at 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. The energetic Louie Louie takes the stage on Friday and Saturday nights with a show that will get your heart pumping and your feet tapping. There is no cover charge. Call 702-732-5111.

Ra: Located deep inside the Luxor pyramid, Ra mixes Egyptian motifs with a mist that thickens the deeper you go into the club. Multicolored and laser lighting effects produce a mystical, magical feel, although the fog hinders easy identification of fellow patrons. Two large screens broadcast images above the dance floor. The tunes are Top 40

(Continued on page 73)

Photo: Candice Towell (bottom right)

DONNER TRAIL DAYS

A former dude remembers small-town Reno and the last of its great guest ranches.

By Katharine Jensen



The year was 1963; I was 28. As the airplane circled Reno, I looked down in horror and wondered how I could survive the six weeks' residency required for a divorce. The stark, sagebrush-covered hills, the blowing tumbleweed, and the brooding darkness of the mountains all looked so alien. I thought I'd died and gone to hell.

Nevada had legalized gambling and liberalized divorce in 1931, and those factors caused notorious riches to swell state coffers. Other states had a way of making divorce difficult and protracted, presumably hoping that people would just give up the whole idea.

Divorce is never a jolly event, so I opted to make mine as painless as possible. Destination: Reno. But where to stay? A neighbor in Connecticut was a friend of the Rockefellers and told me that Mary R. had liked a place called Donner Trail Ranch when she divorced Nelson, then governor of New York. If it was good enough for her, it would be good enough for me. At the small library in Southport I found an old, musty book about Nevada. All I gleaned was that there was no speed limit and that one should always put a water bag on the radiator of one's car.

This was going to be a strange interlude for an East Coast fashion illustrator.

Joan Drackert, the striking blond ranch proprietress, met me at the Reno airport laden with Indian jewelry that Easterners found tacky at the time. Driving her long blue station wagon at breakneck speed down old Highway 40, she took me through Reno and 10 miles farther west to the sleepy town of Verdi (pronounced *Verd-eye*), where we pulled up to Donner Trail Ranch.

The 2,800-acre ranch stood next to the Toiyabe National Forest where Dog Creek flows into the Truckee River. The old three-story, white-frame house had been a stagecoach stop on the road to California. Living room, sun porch, and dining room were pine-paneled and decorated with Indian baskets and arrowheads, old spurs and branding irons. Glassy-eyed trophy deer and Western art lined the walls.

Settled in, I changed for dinner. I was the new dude—it was all so horrible. The cook's husband had recently been released from prison, and the housemaid thought she was Anastasia. The meal was a blur as I tried to sort out the other inmates.

They were a well-heeled, urbane lot, about a dozen in number, and I noticed no one seemed particularly broken up about breaking up. There was a handsome Eastern pediatrician with scars on his bald pate, the result of his wife striking him on the head with the telephone when anxious parents called at night; I guess she wasn't cut out to be a medical missus. A pretty young heiress to a Southern textile fortune had discovered that her husband had become much too friendly with their neighbor. An animated German woman was eager to shed her mate to wed the CEO of a major soft-drinks company; he often jetted in on the company plane. Here I was trapped with all these other morally crippled people with whom I was supposed to whoop it up on horseback, in

Photos: Special Collections, University of Nevada, Reno Library (left, top center, and bottom right), Katharine Jensen Collection (top right)









Donner Trail Ranch was a refuge for six-weekers in Verdi (left). Owners Joan and Harry Drackert (above) offered saddle horses and good company to guests like the author (top right). At right, the author poses with her daughter, Tinsley, and husband, Jackie Jensen, at the ranch.

the Reno casinos, and at the ranch's high-calorie meals. I pictured that in six weeks I'd be morose and fat.

That night I met the proprietor of Donner Trail Ranch, Harry Drackert, a veteran rodeo cowboy from Montana who had ridden in early Western movies with Tom Mix and Hopalong Cassidy. Donner Trail was a working ranch with 200 horses, among them the famed quarter horses Nevada Regards and Washo Queen, which Harry had bred.

I gave Harry apoplexy by riding as if I were on the Pony Express payroll and shooting like Annie Oakley any old time.

Each day after breakfast most of us saddled up and rode off into the Sierra. We moseyed up valleys and through high meadows, carefully herded by a couple of wranglers. I bought a deadly accurate little .22 pistol at the Army-Navy store in Reno for $12. Proudly I won a silver dollar off one of the cowboys who bet me I couldn't shoot the head off a daisy. A few weeks later my horse, a big Morgan called J.P., sunfished into a pine tree and smashed the gun in my saddlebag.

Gradually the sharp scent of sagebrush began to smell good to me. Snowcapped Verdi Peak looked downright gorgeous against the cobalt sky. "Well, this isn't half bad," I thought. I was falling in love.

We six-weekers were so very Eastern, and I didn't like being a sore thumb. Setting out to prove I could ride and shoot with the best, I gave Harry apoplexy by riding as if I were on the Pony Express payroll (never mind gopher holes) and shooting like Annie Oakley any old time. "Gawdammit, Katharine!" he'd yell.

We reveled in the Louis L'Amour atmosphere of the old Verdi Inn, with its mirrored mahogany bar. Having outfitted at the wooden-floored Parker's Western Wear emporium in Reno, we squirmed into tight jeans and high-heeled boots and shot pool to the tunes of Johnny Cash, Loretta Lynn, and Hank Williams.

Entertainers and rodeo stars stayed at the ranch, and Harry was a perennial on the Reno Rodeo Committee. He was a skilled hunter and fisherman and a voracious reader. One afternoon I found him poring over a thick book on Julius Caesar, probably searching for hints on ruling the ranch.

Harry was a tough boss, immune to charm, and took no lip. He carried a .22 slug in his liver from a disagreement on Virginia Street. The ranch was abuzz one morning with the news that Harry had delivered an uppercut to one insubordinate cowboy, leaving him out cold in the petunias.

The wranglers were a mixed lot. (I learned that wranglers work with horses, and cowboys ride horses to work cattle; the generic "cowboy" is used for either job.)

Some stayed for years for their 30 silver dollars a week. Others were drifters. They took great pride in their riding, knowledge of horses, and ability to charm.

On Fridays, the wranglers were kings for a night. Shaggy-haired, they clanked into Reno with their 30 cartwheels stuffed in their jeans. Next day they were neatly barbered, hung over, and broke, but with a smile. We suspected those smiles stemmed from a visit to the famous Mustang Ranch bordello east of Reno.

One of our number, a droll Canadian millionaire, enjoyed floating the Truckee River while sipping martinis.

Some days we rode our horses over to Bill and Effie's coffee shop in Verdi, where the cups were the thickest I've ever held. When Interstate 80 was built and left the couple marooned on Highway 40, they moved up to the freeway and established Bill and Effie's Boomtown, now a colossal truck stop and hotel.

We swam at the old Laughton's Hot Springs, downriver from the ranch, where the Yori family had built a small resort. One of our number, a droll Canadian millionaire, enjoyed floating the Truckee. He built a shelf across a large inner tube for his martinis. One hot day he chose to go in the buff. The river flowed past a small property near the ranch where the owner just happened to see the naked dude blissfully drifting and sipping. Maybe more from envy than outrage he stormed, "Get the hell off my property!" That gave us a good laugh at dinner.

If we spent the evening at the ranch, Harry would light a roaring fire, and we'd play poker or bridge. Sometimes the cowboys wandered in and played an accordion or guitar and sang. But most nights the lure of the Biggest Little City had us slicked up and painting Reno pink.

Reno was a small, clean, colorful town where cowboys could be seen packing a sidearm, Indians carried babies in cradleboards on their backs, and ranch land and mountains were visible from anywhere in town. Many places were open 24 hours a day, and silver dollars were imbedded in the sidewalks on Virginia Street. The town was wide-open but safe.

We had time to burn, money to spend, and Reno was our oyster. Showtime! There was a special feeling in Reno. The air was crystal pure, and since the town was a small outpost in so vast a desert, it seemed improbable that such stars as Harry Belafonte, Sammy Davis, Pearl Bailey, and Robert Goulet would appear in really grand shows in rather small casinos.

Moving from one casino to the next, we'd take in Bob Crosby and the Bobcats, Ricky Nelson, or the popular Al Bello show at the Mapes. We'd see Petula Clark, Louis Armstrong, or Brenda Lee in the tiny, plush showroom atop Harolds Club. We spread money and glamour in our wake, placing bets with bejeweled hands and sipping free drinks. I danced with the go-go girls on stage with Bello's show and made friends with Cork Proctor, the comedian whose band, the Winners, played the Silver Dollar Lounge at Harolds Club.

It was the end of an era that had *flavor*—the last flicker before gambling was called gaming, before developers discovered Reno, when Reno was still Western with a capital W.

Harolds Club owners Harold Smith Sr. and Jr. both liked shooting and had a gun club on the road to Pyramid Lake. They hosted the Golden West Grand, attended by trap shooters from all over the country, including me. Harold Sr. was right-handed and left-eyed. He had a custom-made shotgun that looked like the stock had melted: The stock shouldered right, meandered across his face, and shot left.

Back at the ranch, Harry arranged elaborate camping trips in the mountains with a wood stove in a large tent. All the food and paraphernalia was trucked and set up ahead of time while we rode horseback to the camp. Fed to the gills and talked out, we'd feel the nights grow cold, the last embers crackling as hobbled horses chomped grass next to the brook. Cozy in our sleeping bags, we were electrified when coyotes began their insane yipping and mournful yowls.

I couldn't bear to think of leaving. When I finally had my brief formality in court, decree in hand and free to go, I wasn't free at all. Nevada had a hold on me.

I rented the old gamekeeper's cottage on the ranch, and my daughter, Tinsley, and I lived there at the foot of Verdi Peak. After a run-in with Harry, the Paiute maid, Daphne Crutcher, came to work for me. Black hair falling around her shoulders, she would rock Tinsley in a hammock and read her Bible stories.

Tinsley had a pet white mouse that escaped in her bedroom, and I asked one of the cowboys to help me corner it. "I ain't no mouse wrangler," he huffed. I think he was scared of mice.

I was resident agent for a mining company, managed a radio station across the state line in Truckee, and did commercial illustrations for Spencer Advertising in Reno. One day I called from the office to ask Daphne what she'd like me to bring home for supper. She declared that she was all set; she'd shot some quail. "But Daphne, they're out of season!" I said. "Not for me," she answered. "I'm an Indian."

Harry, who knew I wanted to hunt, said he had some friends who would take me chukar hunting. Chukar partridge were introduced from Pakistan to Nevada, where they flourish in rough volcanic terrain.

I was to meet Bino Grifantini at the Sparks Nugget for breakfast the next morning at six. I located Bino and his friends and introduced myself. Three shocked faces looked up from their pancakes. They were clearly expecting Harry, not me. I pictured Harry back at the ranch snuffling over his coffee at the prank he'd pulled.

We had a long ride, rich with mutual wariness, north to Tin Canyon and a good day of hunting. The guys were happy I hadn't shot them, and I was grateful to be accepted. Coming back, we stopped for beer and a game of pool at Bruno's Country Club in the small, parched settlement of Gerlach. Later, down the road at tiny Empire, we shot some more pool and quenched some more thirst. Harry had to wait until well into the night to find out how this little duplicity had turned out.

Walking into my bright, clean kitchen with Jack, I was unhappy to find a large snake slithering across the floor.

In 1967, I went to work for KTVN-TV in Reno producing ex-major-league baseball player Jackie Jensen's sports show. Jack was the very picture of a Viking, reflecting his Danish background with a broad-shouldered athletic build, twinkling blue eyes, and blond hair. Having been All-American in baseball and football at the University of California in Berkeley, he played baseball for the New York Yankees, Washington Senators, and Boston Red

(Continued on page 80)

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Liberace and Elvis, who both provided many memorable moments in Nevada entertainment, switched jackets and instruments at the Riviera in 1956.

Center Photo: Las Vegas News Bureau Background: Fleischmann Planetarium

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High Notes

As the Silver State's showrooms enter the 21st century, we look back on **10 important moments** in Nevada entertainment history. **By Kim Pryor**



The extravagant "Lido de Paris," which opened at the Stardust in 1958, was the first production imported from Europe to Las Vegas. "Folies Bergere," which is still playing at the Tropicana, followed in 1960. At right: Sophie Tucker and Elko's Commercial Hotel helped launch big-name Nevada entertainment in the '40s.

Their performances were legendary. The Rat Pack. Elvis Presley. Wayne Newton. But other intriguing people and events also played important roles in shaping Nevada's entertainment scene. According to critics and executives, the following are some of the most memorable 20th-century moments that helped transform the state into today's entertainment mecca.

1 Elko Entertainment: Big-name entertainment in Nevada began in Elko at the Commercial Hotel in 1941. Big-band leader Ted Lewis was the first star lured to the Commercial by owner Newt Crumley. Singer-comedienne Sophie Tucker, known as the "Last of the Red Hot Mamas," appeared in the hotel's "Serenade to Summer" with Carl Ravazza's popular dance band in the early 1940s. Other entertainers who appeared at the Lounge in the Commercial were Chico Marx and Tex Ritter. Dancer Ann-Margret, who went on to star opposite Elvis Presley in the movie *Viva Las Vegas*, played Elko in 1960. Ann-Margret had come to Las Vegas in search of a show-business career, which led to her Elko engagement.

2 Legendary Lounges: The Mary Kaye Trio ushered in Nevada's lounge-entertainment era in 1947 at the Last Frontier's Horn Room in Las Vegas. Throughout the '50s, Louis Prima and Keely Smith performed songs like "Just a Gigolo" and "The



Photos: Las Vegas News Bureau (top), Northeastern Nevada Museum/Elko Independent Collection (bottom right)

Saints Go Marching In" at the Casbar Lounge at the Sahara in Las Vegas. Their success paved the way for hundreds of lounge acts over the last 50 years, from the Characters and Big Tiny Little to Zella Lehr and Cook E. Jarr. Nevada lounges also have launched the careers of big-name stars like Wayne Newton, Kenny Rogers, and Collin Raye.

3 The Topless Look: Audiences were treated to a revealing new glimpse of Nevada entertainment when topless showgirls arrived at the Dunes amid controversy in "Minsky's Goes to Paris" in 1957. On behalf of those who were scandalized by the new show, the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* editorialized, "The people of the State of Nevada may be liberal, but they also have a high standard of morals. If the operators of the Strip hotels, who revel in the indecency of the stage shows, believe that all sense of values among Nevadans is dead, they should look at their cards." The show set attendance records during its run of more than four years.

Topless shows arrived in Nevada amid controversy in 1957 when "Minsky's Goes to Paris" opened at the Dunes.

"Minsky's Goes to Paris" spawned decades of stunning showgirls and elaborate production shows such as "Lido de Paris"; "Folies Bergere," which celebrated its 40th year at the Tropicana; and "Jubilee," now in its 20th year at Bally's. The most risqué of them all, "Passion," premiered at Lake Tahoe's High Sierra (now the Horizon) in 1990 and used lighting and strategically placed hands to camouflage completely nude dancers. The show is making a comeback at Harveys Lake Tahoe as "Passion 2000."

To adapt to a more family-friendly environment, "Splash" at the Riviera offers covered shows during summer when kids are most likely to be in Las Vegas. Other casinos such as Harrah's Reno have a long-standing policy of offering early covered revues and late topless shows.

4 Production Shows: "Lido de Paris," the first big production show brought to the Strip intact from Europe, opened at the Stardust in 1958. Its success led to other spectaculars with casts of more than 100 such as "Folies Bergere" and "Jubilee" in Las Vegas and "Hello, Hollywood Hello," which opened in 1978 at the MGM Grand in Reno (now the Reno Hilton). Computerized special effects and grandiose props have become the norm in shows such as "Jubilee," in which the sinking of the *Titanic* is re-created, and the $92-million production of "O" at the Bellagio with its computer-controlled, shape-changing pool.

5 Breaking the Color Barrier: When African-American entertainers performed in Nevada in the 1950s, they were not allowed in casino's hotels and restaurants. After entertaining at Vegas casinos, performers usually returned to their motels on the city's west side. In a 1997 interview with the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, Harry Belafonte described his role in breaking down the doors of segregation during his 1957 performance at the Riviera. Belafonte became the first African-American entertainer in Las Vegas to negotiate a written contract guaranteeing first-class star treatment, including access to the same suite used by white headliners. "What they really



Dean Martin, Judy Garland, and Frank Sinatra performed on October 3, 1958, for showgoers at the Sands, which was famous for impromptu concerts featuring Las Vegas headliners and visiting celebrities.



Sammy Davis Jr. and hotel mogul Bill Harrah were mutual admirers and good friends. Above, Davis signed a 10-year contract to appear at Harrah's in the early 1970s. Today the Harrah's Reno showroom is named for Davis.

Photo: Las Vegas News Bureau (top)







Broadway musicals blossomed on December 19, 1961, with the opening of "Flower Drum Song" starring Jack Soo at the Thunderbird in Las Vegas (top left). Ann-Margret (top right) performed in the ranching town of Elko before starring with Elvis Presley in *Viva Las Vegas*. Siegfried and Roy showed that magic's success was no illusion in Nevada showrooms (middle left). "Mystère" at Treasure Island (bottom left) and "O" at the Bellagio are Cirque du Soleil productions. "Jubilee" at Bally's (below) in Las Vegas continues the tradition that was established by "Lido de Paris" in Las Vegas and "Hello, Hollywood Hello" in Reno.





Photos: Las Vegas News Bureau, Al Seib (bottom left)

needed to understand was that under no circumstances would I accept being submitted to any racial discrimination whatsoever," he told reporter Mike Weatherford. The hotel executives agreed to Belafonte's demands. Sammy Davis Jr. and his high-profile association with fellow Rat Pack members Frank Sinatra, Peter Lawford, Dean Martin, and Joey Bishop were also instrumental in breaking down barriers.

6 Star Power: When Liberace first performed in Las Vegas in the early '50s at the Last Frontier, he was paid $750 a week. By 1955, following the success of his television show, he was earning $50,000 a week at the Riviera, making him the city's first high-paid performer. Barbra Streisand, who had appeared as Liberace's opening act at the Riviera, reportedly earned $6 million for her two recent New Year's concerts at the MGM Grand.

As the salaries of the stars skyrocketed, many casinos replaced headliners with more economical production shows. Now the trend seems to be reversing itself. Danny Gans' successful run at the Rio last year inspired other Vegas casinos to revive headliner policies, as with Clint Holmes at Harrah's Las Vegas and David Cassidy at the Rio. Gans is moving to the Mirage, and the Blue Man Group opens at the Luxor. The Venetian has imported Canadian Andre Philippe-Gagon, who is a strong contender for Las Vegas' best impressionist. The Stardust dropped its revue, "Enter the Night," and signed the Midnight Idol, Wayne Newton, to a 10-year deal by which he appears 40 weeks a year. The Orleans offers showgoers a packed lineup of stars such as Jerry Lewis, Ray Charles, the Smothers Brothers, and the Righteous Brothers. In Northern Nevada, the Silver Legacy, John Ascuaga's Nugget, and Caesars Tahoe feature headliners. The Peppermill is upping the ante by joining forces with Mandalay Bay; a new contract between the two casinos will allow them to share big-name performers.

7 Back to Broadway: "The Flower Drum Song" at the Thunderbird in the early '60s was the first major Broadway production to appear in Vegas. "Oklahoma" and other Broadway musicals and plays appeared at the Union Plaza. Caesars Palace, the Dunes, and the Riviera in Las Vegas and the Reno Hilton later launched large-scale Broadway productions such as "Sweet Charity," "Mame," and "Cats." Currently, Broadway is experiencing a renewed popularity in Las Vegas. Mandalay Bay's 1,700-seat theater was designed specifically for productions like its current musical offering, "Chicago," the first Broadway play in Vegas to be performed in its entirety. Paris Las Vegas presents the award-winning "Notre Dame de Paris," a 21st-century pop-rock adaptation of Victor Hugo's novel, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. The Las Vegas Hilton is offering "Buddy," a musical about Buddy Holly, through March 5, and Gladys Knight stars in "Smokey Joe's Cafe" March 15-June 11 at Caesars Palace. Mirage Resorts Chairman Steve Wynn announced he is building a new showroom at the Mirage for theatrical productions.



Harry Belafonte pointed the way for African-American entertainers in Las Vegas when he demanded first-class star treatment during a 1957 engagement at the Riviera.

When Liberace first performed in Las Vegas in the early '50s at the Last Frontier, he was paid $750 a week.

8 Making Magic: Siegfried and Roy sparked Las Vegas' love affair with magic when they appeared as a specialty act in the "Folies Bergere" in the '60s and later starred in their own magical production at the Frontier. After the Mirage lured them away in the '80s, their success led to other magic-based production shows such as "Spellbound," which had a long run at Harrah's Las Vegas.

Current magic stars include Lance Burton at the Monte Carlo, Steve Wyrick at the Sahara, and frequent headliners David Copperfield and Penn and Teller.

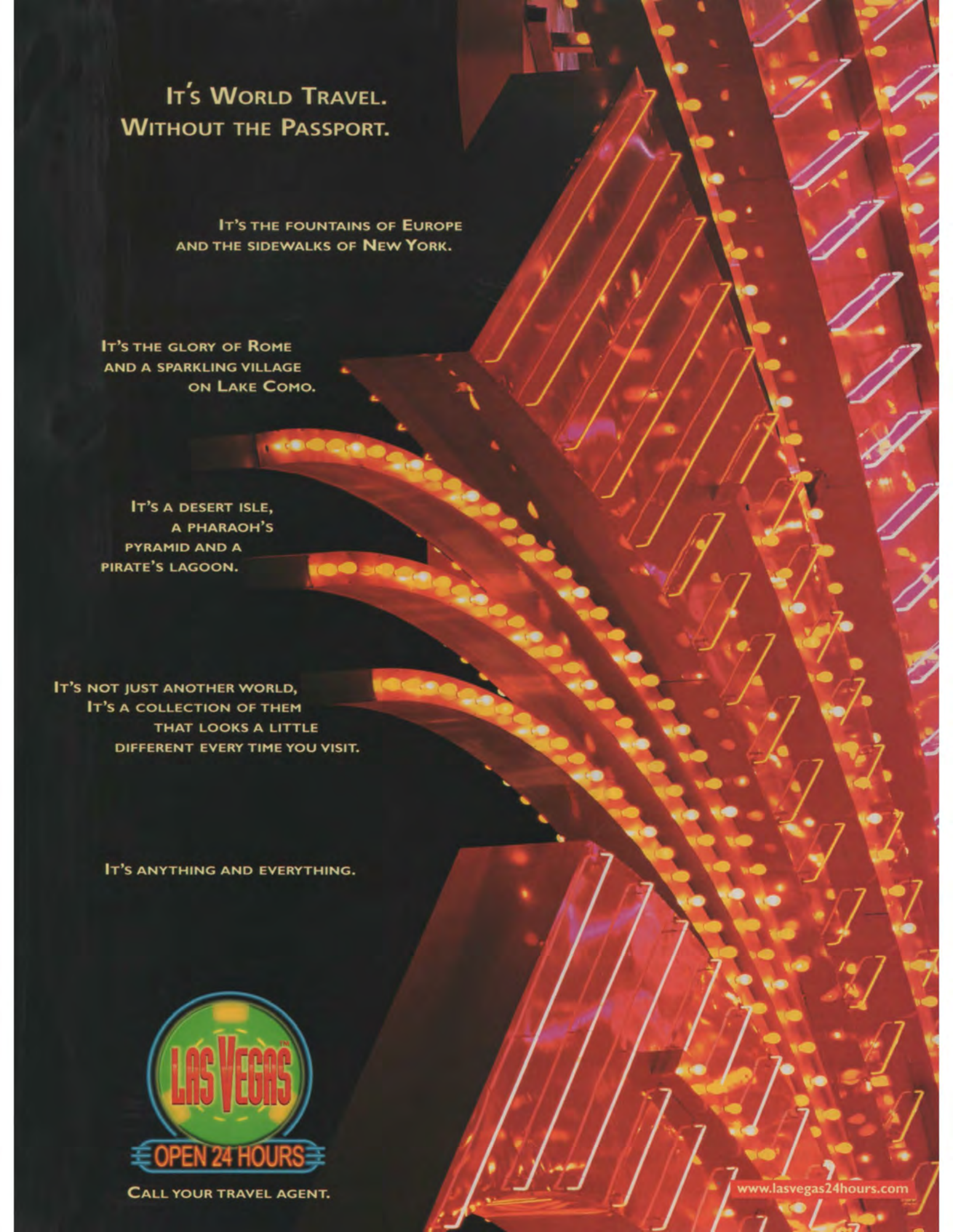
9 Rock 'n' Roll Revival: In the '50s, '60s, and '70s casino showrooms featured, with the exception of Elvis, mostly mainstream entertainment. Then Alice Cooper rocked the Sahara Tahoe (now the Horizon) in 1978. Actor Vincent Price moderated the opening night of Cooper's show, called "Welcome to My Nightmare." Since then Eddie Money, the Moody Blues, Huey Lewis, and many other rock stars have played Nevada showrooms.

Las Vegas had its first taste of the super groups when the Beatles came to town in 1964, but it was years before the Strip broke away from traditional showroom headliners. When the MGM Grand opened its Grand Garden Arena on New Year's Eve 1993, it began a series of high-powered concerts featuring performers such as the Rolling Stones and Elton John. The Reno Hilton's summer outdoor concert series, launched in 1993, has brought rockers such as ZZ Top, Motley Crue, Van Morrison, and Bob Dylan. And recent appearances by the Eagles and Ricky Martin at Mandalay Bay indicate the trend should continue.

10 Country Crooners: Casino executives considered country music too honky-tonkish until Eddy Arnold performed in the main showroom of Harrah's Lake Tahoe in 1971. Arnold's act opened the door for other country stars in Northern Nevada, including Loretta Lynn, Roy Clark, and Clint Black. In Las Vegas, country performers are no longer limited to the two weeks of the National Finals Rodeo in December. Stars like Reba McEntire, Randy Travis, and Willie Nelson appear year-round on Vegas marquees.

Kim Pryor is a Lake Tahoe writer.

Photo: Las Vegas News Bureau


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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. Nevada has welcomed visitors and residents 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.

March 2000

- **Thru March 1 Bart Bash Slot Tournament:** John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427
- **1-July 1 WIBC National Tournament:** Female amateur bowlers compete. National Bowling Stadium, Reno, 800-304-BOWL.
- **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.
- **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 Soroptomist Domestic Violence Luncheon:** Community Center, Lovelock, 775-273-2369.
- **3 Patrick Ball in "O'Carolan's Farewell to Music":** One-person musical theater about the Irish artist. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.
- **3 Concert in the Atrium:** Lunch and music. Airport Gardens, 1325 Airmotive Way, Reno.
- **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 NASCAR on Fremont Street Experience:** Music to kick off race weekend. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 702-678-5600.
- **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 CA/NV Snowmobile Association:** Exhibits and demonstrations. Convention Center, Elko, 775-753-6140.
- **3-5 Craps and Keno Tournaments:** John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427
- **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 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.
- **3-12 "Our Town":** University Theatre. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 702-895-3801
- **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.
- **4-5 "The Velveteen Rabbit":** Musical adaptation of the children's story about a toy rabbitt. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.
- **4 UNLV Men's Basketball:** The Runnin' Rebels play Wyoming. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-895-3900.



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

- Reno-Tahoe Territory
- Cowboy Country
- Pony Express Territory
- Pioneer Territory
- Las Vegas Territory
- Indian Territory

• **4 Sam's Town 300 NASCAR Busch Series Race:** Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 800-644-4444.
• **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
• **5-11 International UFO Congress Convention:** Ninth annual gathering, 25 speakers, film screenings. River Palms Resort, Laughlin, 303-543-9443.
7 Reno Philharmonic Concert: Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-323-6393.
• **8-11 Mountain West Conference Basketball Tournament:** Women's (• 8-11) and men's (• 9-11) 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.
• **9-12 Reno Boat, Sport, and RV Show:** Reno-Sparks Convention Center, Reno, 775-852-SHOW.
• **10 Clandestine:** Celtic music concert. Convention Center, Fallon, 775-423-1440.
• **10-12 Shooting the West XII:** Photography seminar. Winnemucca, 800-962-2638.
• **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. 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 Hidden Cave Tours:** Guided tour to archaeological site. Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 775-423-3677
• **11 Silver Anniversary Breweriana Show:** Collectors swap meet sponsored by Beer Can Collectors of America. Sands Regency, Reno, 775-828-0338.
• **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.
• **12 Giant Pacific Bell Park Pitch:** Fundraiser for Reno Parks and Recreation. Idlewild Park, Reno, 775-333-2441
• **12-15 The Amazing Four Slot Tournament:** MGM Grand, Las Vegas, 800-891-4220.
• **14 Prohibition in Nevada: Drying Up America's Wettest State:** Lecture. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1191
• **15 The Great Race:** Local teams race to benefit the Lake Tahoe Humane Society. Heavenly Ski Resort, Stateline, 775-386-7000.
• **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.
• **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 St. Patrick's Day Feast:** Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 800-321-6983, ext. 611
• **17 Erin Go Belle:** St. Patrick's Day celebration. Colorado Belle, Laughlin, 877-460-0777
• **17 Corned Beef Dinner:** Community Center, Lovelock, 775-273-2356 for information.
• **17-18 Monster Trucks:** Jumps and races on half-mile dirt oval. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-632-8021
• **17-18 Western Regional Collegiate Boxing Championships:** Eldorado Hotel, Reno, 800-648-5966.
• **17-18 St. Patrick's Day Celebration:** Free entertainment. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 702-678-5600.
• **17-19 St. Patrick's Day Celebration:** Food, music, arts, crafts. Fitzgeralds, 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 Reno South Rotary Comedy Show and Auction:** Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-686-6600.
• **18 Lincoln Dinner:** Community Center, Lovelock, 775-273-2631
• **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.
18-20 Mini Slot Tournament: John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427
• **19 Jazz in the Afternoon:** Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211
• **19 Donner Party Snowshoe History Tour:** Donner Memorial State Park Museum, Donner Lake, 530-582-7892.
• **19 Weather-Wise Program:** Cloud formations and weather patterns. Visitors Center, Cathedral Gorge State Park, Panaca, 775-728-4460.
• **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 Colcannon:** Celtic music concert. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.
• **24-25 Spring $15,000 Tri-Game-A-Thon:** Slots, blackjack, and keno. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-7711
• **24-25 "Annie":** Broadway musical. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-686-6600.
• **24-26 Silver Sage Quilters Guild Show:** Convention Center, Elko, 775-753-8422.
• **25 British Rock Symphony:** Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 702-895-3801
• **25 Greek Night:** Traditional food and music. Bristlecone Convention Center, Ely, 775-289-3466.



Professional cowboys compete June 17-25 in the Reno Rodeo, which includes a cattle drive, parade, carnival, and concerts. The parade on Virginia Street brings out Reno's Western roots.

Photo: Carolyn Fox

• **25 Hidden Cave Tour:** Guided tour of the archaeological site. Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 775-423-3677

• **25-26 The Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band:** Fusion band performance. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

• **26 Night of Arts and Oscars:** Gala to benefit Sierra Arts. Peppermill, Reno, 775-329-2787

• **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.

• **31 Khac Chi Ensemble:** Vietnamese music concert. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211 for more event information.

• **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

• **30-April 2 49'er Foundation Celebrity Sports Race:** Football players compete in fun races to benefit the 49'er Foundation. Heavenly Ski Resort, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-4451

• **31-April 2 Big League Weekend:** Pro baseball spring exhibition games featuring the Seattle Mariners, Chicago White Sox, Colorado Rockies, Philadelphia Phillies, Oakland A's. Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 702-386-7200.

• **31-April 2 Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Dinner:** Convention Center, Elko, 775-738-4254.

• **31-April 2 Winner-Take-All Blackjack Tournament:** John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427

• **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.

• **31-April 14 "Grease":** Community Center, Carson City, 775-885-6331

April 2000

• **1 Sierra Sunsplash:** Spring celebration includes pond skimming and music. Sierra-at-Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, 530-659-7453.

• **1 Derby Ditch 50-Mile Endurance Ride:** Horse race covers loop from Fernley to Hazen to Silver Springs and return. Out of Town Park, Fernley, 775-882-65-91

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

• **6-9 National Hot Rod Association Races:** Inaugural national drag racing. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-632-8021

• **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 Keno Shootout:** Comstock, Reno, 800-266-7862, ext. 7231

• **7-9 Desert Quilters:** Show and sale. Henderson Convention Center, 702-437-2766.

• **7-9 Quarter Slot Marathon:** John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427

• **7-9 Terrible's Town 250:** Best in the Desert off-road race. Pahrump, 702-457-5775.

• **7-9 Reno Home and Garden Show:** Reno-Sparks Convention Center, Reno, 775-825-SHOW.

• **7-15 "Annie Get Your Gun":** Starring Lacy J. Dalton. Nevada Festival Ballet, Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-324-4198.

• **7-9 and 14-16 "Icespeak" and "Angels Fight Dirty":** World premieres by playwrights Jeanette Farr and Mark Kenneally. Black Box Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

• **7-16 "Wetlands":** Original play with an ecological theme for children. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-329-6553.

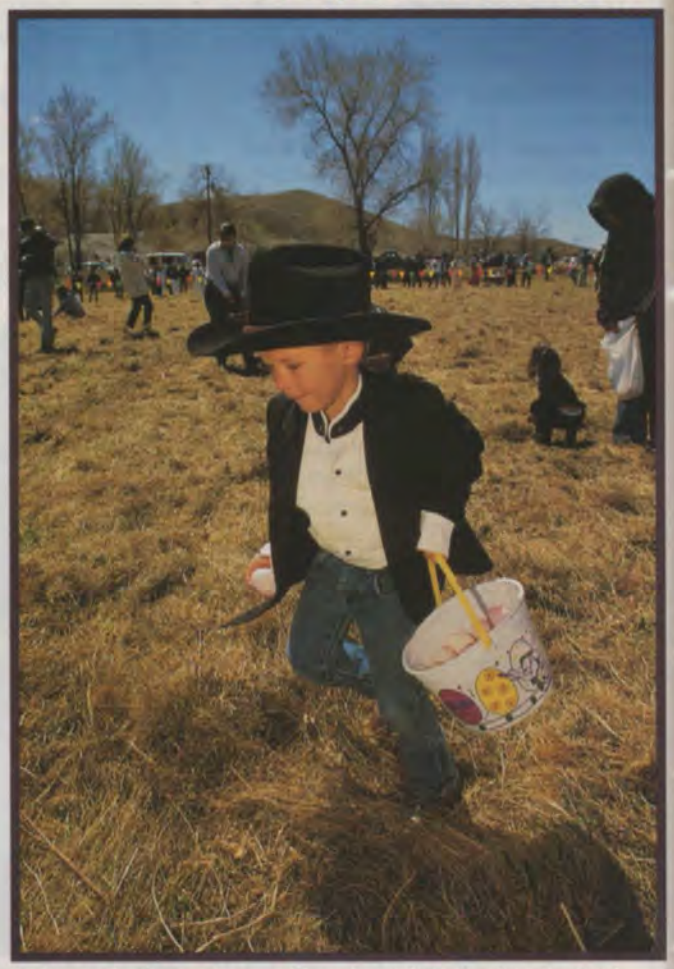
• **7-16 Henderson Heritage Days:** 50th anniversary celebration includes a parade, carnival, talent show, picnic in the park, chili cook-off, car show, dance, barbecue, softball tournament, and beauty pageant. Henderson, 702-565-8951

• 8 Birds of a Feather Program: For beginning and intermediate bird watchers. Visitors Center, Cathedral Gorge State Park, Panaca, 775-728-4460.

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

• **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.



Easter egg hunts, services, and brunches enliven the Nevada social scene on April 23. Above, a young cowboy hunts eggs in Wellington.

Photo: Larry Angier

• **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.

• **8-9 Antique Show and Sale:** Genoa Lakes Golf Club, Genoa, 775-782-4951

• **8-23 Spring Loaded '00:** Spring festival includes cardboard box races, on-snow mountain bike races, pond skimming, reggae, boarderfests. Heavenly Ski Resort, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

• **9 AIDS Walk Las Vegas 2000:** Walk down the Las Vegas Strip to benefit AIDS of Nevada. Walk begins at Fashion Show Mall, Las Vegas, 702-382-2326.

• **10 Concert in the Atrium:** Lunch and music. Airport Gardens, 1325 Airmotive Way, Reno.

ONGOING EVENTS

Nevada's museums, galleries, and other organizations hold long-running events throughout the year. Ongoing activities in 2000 range from the showing of Walt Disney's *Fantasia 2000* at Luxor's IMAX Theatre in Las Vegas to an exhibit of images by pioneer photographers at the Nevada Historical Society in Reno. Information phone numbers are listed.

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, Boulder City Hall, and the Boulder Dam Hotel. Boulder City, 702-293-2138.

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

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

Millennium Gaming: Thru March 16. Exhibit by Reno artist Joan Arrizabalaga, who incorporates gaming themes into her sculptures. Sheppard Fine Arts Gallery, Reno, 775-784-6658.

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

Distinctive Design: Liberace's Costumes and the People Who Made Them: Thru March 31 Exhibit highlights the work of Michael Travis, Anna Nateece, and the other designers who created the pianist's stage wardrobe. Liberace Museum, Las Vegas, 702-798-5595.

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

Okavango: Africa's Last Eden: Thru 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.

Erik Lauritzen: Thru March 31 Photographer presents silver gelatin prints. C.I.T.Y. 2000 Gallery, Reno City Hall, 775-329-2787

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

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

Visions of the West: Thru 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.

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

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

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

Walt Disney's Fantasia 2000 Thru April 30. IMAX Theater, Luxor, Las Vegas, 702-262-4000.

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

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

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

Las Vegas Silver Bandits: Team plays its first International Basketball League season. 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

Reif Erickson: March 5-28. Pastel landscapes. Silver State Gallery, Reno, 775-324-2323.

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.

WIBC National Tournament: March 11-July 1 Female amateur bowlers compete. National Bowling Stadium, Reno, 800-304-BOWL.

The 1930s: Boom or Bust: March 20-Oct. 2. Car exhibit. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

Silver Ladies in Golden Splendor: March 31-Sept. 4. Exhibit of gowns worn by 10 of Nevada's first ladies from 1945 through 1999. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 702-486-5205.

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

Sierra Watercolor Society Exhibit: April 9-May 10. Silver State Gallery, Reno, 775-324-2323.

Kuan Chun-mai: Exhibit of Carved Eggshells: April 28-July 4. 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

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.

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

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.

Minerals Go to War: Aug. 19-Oct. 29. Exhibit of World War II posters and wartime materials. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

Busy Town: Sept. 30-Jan. 7 Interactive math and science exhibit for preschoolers based upon the books of Richard Scarry. Lied Discovery Children's Museum, Las Vegas, 702-382-3445.

Las Vegas History of Entertainment IV: Nov. 4-April 1 Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

Nevada 2001: A Photography Odyssey: Jan. 19-June 15, 2001 Pioneer photographers including James H. Crockwell, Al Smith, E.W. Smith, P.E. Larson, and "Northeast" Johnson. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1191

• **10 NASCAR Weekly Racing Series:** Opening night short-track program. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-632-8422.
• **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
• **13 Reno Jazz Collective:** Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 775-784-6847
• **14 WOFA:** Musicians and dancers from Guinea. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211
• **14 Michael Brecker Quartet:** Jazz concert. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 775-784-6847
• **14 Tears of Joy Theatre:** Puppet theater. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.
• **14-15 Mardi Gras Festival:** Floats and free entertainment. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 702-678-5600.
• **14-15 and 19-22 "Caspian, the Giant Sea Snail":** Bruka Theatre for Children, Reno, 775-323-3221
• **14-16 Las Vegas Gem Club:** Show and sale. Convention Center, Henderson, 702-566-1698.
• **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 Geology Walk:** Evening walk. Cathedral Gorge State Park, Panaca, 775-728-4460.
• **15 Ski Sail Regatta:** Competitors race on the waters of Lake Tahoe and slopes of Squaw Valley. 530-525-SAIL.
• **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 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 Festival Showcase:** Reno Jazz Festival. Lawlor Events Center, Reno, 775-784-6847
• **15-16 Pershing County Shooters Association Steel Shoot:** Flying Saucer Trap Club, Lovelock, 775-273-7728.
• **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.
• **16 Annual Fly Fishing Festival:** Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-265-2626.
• **16-18 Dollar Slot Marathon:** John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427
• **18 UNLV Jazz Combos Concert:** Black Box Theater, UNLV, 702-895-3801
• **18 WOFA of Guinea, West Africa:** Ritual and innovation are blended through dance, drums, and chants. Celebrity Showroom, Cal-Neva Resort, Crystal Bay, 530-546-4602.
• **19-20 Spring Fling:** Free entertainment. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 702-678-5600.
• **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.
• **21-23 Las Vegas Senior Classic:** Senior PGA Tour event played at TPC at Summerlin. Las Vegas, 702-242-3000.
• **22 Leave No Trace Workshop:** Cathdral Gorge State Park, Panaca, 775-728-4460.
• **22 Hidden Cave Tour:** Guided tour to archaeological site. Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 775-423-3677
• **22 Confederate Civil War Memorial Service:** Observance and grave dedication by Nevada Civil War Volunteers. Cemetery, Fallon, 775-423-8797
• **22 Snowboard 2000:** Music festival and snowboard competition. Boreal Ski Resort, North Lake Tahoe, 530-426-3666.
• **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.
• **22-23 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.
• **26 UNLV Community Band Concert:** Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 702-895-3801
• **26 Blues and Brews:** Outdoor festival featuring John Earl and the Boogey Man Band. Colorado Belle, Laughlin, 877-460-0777
• **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 Stag Golf Outing:** Event at the Golf Club at Genoa Lakes and Sierra Nevada Golf Ranch. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 800-321-6983, ext. 625.
• **28 UNLV Chorus:** Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 702-895-3801 for further event information.



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 and millennium travel packages. 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.

• **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
• **28-30 and May 5-7 "Ballad Hunter":** Play about a secret shared by three generations of Appalachian women. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-893-8980.
• **28-30 and May 5-7 "Jake's Women":** Neil Simon comedy. Reno Little Theater, Reno, 775-331-1877
• **28-May 7 "Crazy for You":** University Theatre. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 702-895-3801
• **28-May 7 SpringFest 2000:** Music, dancing, wine and food tasting, bazaars, 5K run, sidewalk sales, art show. Boulder City, 702-293-2034.
• **29 History of Cathedral Gorge:** Lecture includes new discoveries such as prehistoric bison. Cathdral Gorge State Park, Panaca, 775-728-4460.
• **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 Early Bloomers Hike:** Cathedral Gorge State Park, Panaca, 775-728-4460.
• **30 Carson City Symphony:** Concert features Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 Community Center, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

May 2000

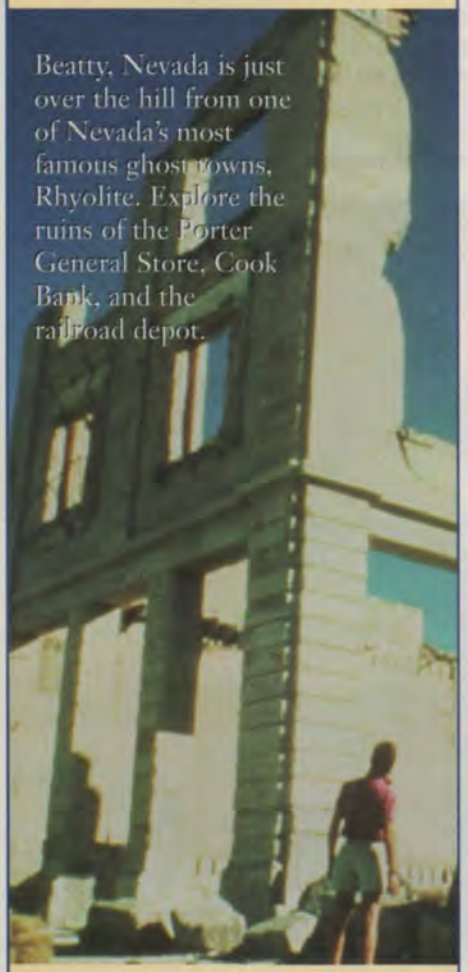
• **1-July 1 WIBC National Tournament:** Female amateur bowlers compete. National Bowling Stadium, Reno, 800-304-BOWL.
• **2 UNLV Chamber Chorale Concert:** Black Box Theater, UNLV, 702-895-3801
• **4 UNLV Wind Orchestra Pops Concert:** Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 702-895-3801
• **4 and 6 "H.M.S. Pinafore":** Nevada Opera presents the story of what happens when good girls turn 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.
• **5-7 Cinco de Mayo Festival:** Eldorado Hotel, Reno, 800-648-5966.
• **5-7 "Jake's Women":** Neil Simon comedy. Reno Little Theater, Reno, 775-331-1877
• **6 EA Sports Supercross Series Finals:** Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas, 888-464-2468.
• **6 Terry Allen and Guy Clark:** Singers perform in song-swap format. Convention Center, Fallon, 775-423-1440.
• **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.
• **7-10 Putting on the Grand Slot Tournament:** MGM Grand, Las Vegas, 800-891-4220.
• **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 Hidden Cave Tours:** Guided tour to an archaeological site. Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 775-423-3677
• **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
• **17-21 RSVP Spring Fun Fair:** Carnival, food, crafts, and entertainment. Mills Park, Carson City, 775-687-4680.
• **18-21 Comstock Historic Preservation Week:** Theatrical presentations, lectures, guided tours, demonstrations, costume ball, fireman's muster, and parade. Virginia City, 775-847-0311
• **19 Cindy Pearson in Concert:** Singer and acoustic guitar. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.
• **19-21 Tonopah 300:** Best in the Desert off-road race. Tonopah, 702-457-5775.
• **19-21 "H.M.S. Pinafore":** Opera performed by



Photographers join seminars on camera techniques at Shooting the West, March 10-12 in Winnemucca.

Photo: Carolyn Fox

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NEVADA NV2000
Making Millennium Magic

Millennium Countdown Calendar

White Pine Community Choir. Centennial Fine Arts Building, Ely, 775-289-2116.

• **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 for more event information.

• **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 for more event information.

• **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 Jamboree:** Blues bands, food. Lorenzi Park, Las Vegas, 702-229-6511

• **22-23 High School Rodeo:** Rodeo Grounds, Lovelock, 775-273-2968.

• **22-25 May Madness:** Dodge diesel pickups, technical seminars, day in the dirt, show and shine. Minden, 775-577-2100.

• **24 Jazz Festival:** Convention Center, Elko, 775-735-7281

• **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.

June 2000

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

• **2 "Clarence Darrow: Crimes, Causes, and the Courtroom":** Eureka County Court House, Eureka, 775-237-6006 for further event information.

• **2 Southern Nevada Sports Hall of Fame 2000 Induction:** Golf tournament and banquet. Inductees include Jim Colbert, Randall Cunningham, Lionel Hollins, Johnny Tocco, and Tom Wiesner. Revere at Anthem and Las Vegas Hilton, Las Vegas, 702-386-7200.

• **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 "Strange Snow":** Comedy-drama about Vietnam survivors and their families. Reno Little Theater, Reno, 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.

• **4-5 Keno Tournament:** Eldorado Hotel, Reno, 800-648-5966.

• **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.

• **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

• **9-11 National Wild Horse and Burro Show:** Wild horse adoption; mustang and burro competition in English, Western, and timed events; demonstra-

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tions; 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 walking 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.

• **11-25 "Scapino":** Outdoor presentation of the comedy by Frank Dunlop and Jim Dale. Rainbow



It's tasty and messy at the Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off on September 1-4 in Sparks.

Library Amphitheater, Las Vegas, 702-873-0191

• **12 Reno Rodeo Cattle Drive:** Participants move 300 cattle across 68 miles of desert. Event kicks off the Reno Rodeo, June 17-25. 775-329-3877

• **14-17 Las Vegas Chautauqua:** Geoffrey Chaucer, Frances Bacon, and W.E.B. DuBois. Hills Park, Las Vegas, 702-229-5430.

• **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, 775-852-7077 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,

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Photo: Lonnie Peck/Reno News Bureau



Fallon

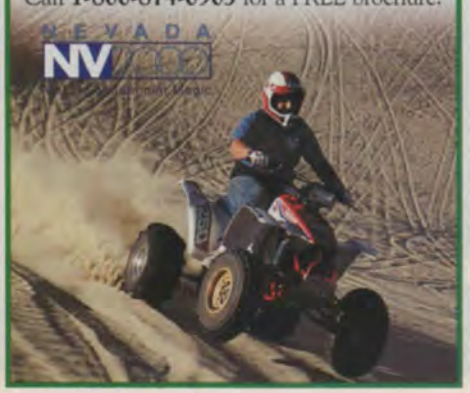
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Fallon's historic side includes: Grimes Point Petroglyphs, Historic Ft. Churchill and the Pony Express Trail.

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

July 2000

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 Trains, Tramps, and Traditions:** Folk music concert. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.
- **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, high-school rodeo competitors 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.

- **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:** The comedy "Tex, Mug, and Something Droll" plays four times daily except Monday. Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-324-4198.
- **2 Sierra Folklife Festival:** Nevada's cultural heritage is celebrated by 60 local groups with entertainment, crafts, food. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-329-2787
- **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 Fireworks:** Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-632-8422.
- **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.
- **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
- **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 exhibits. 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.
- **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 Golf Course, 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.

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

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

• **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, 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.

• **16-19 Road to Riches Slot Tournament:** MGM Grand, Las Vegas, 800-891-4220.

• **21-23 Virginia City Rodeo 2000:** Virginia City,



The Big Easy festival July 8-9 fills downtown Reno with Zydeco music and the aroma of Cajun food.

• **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.

• **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 Roundup 2000:** Sheriff's Posse barbecue, marketplace, exhibits, demonstrations, dinner, dance. Fairgrounds, Gardnerville, 775-782-9937

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

775-847-0311 for further information.

• **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.

• **25-Aug. 27 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.

• **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, barbe-

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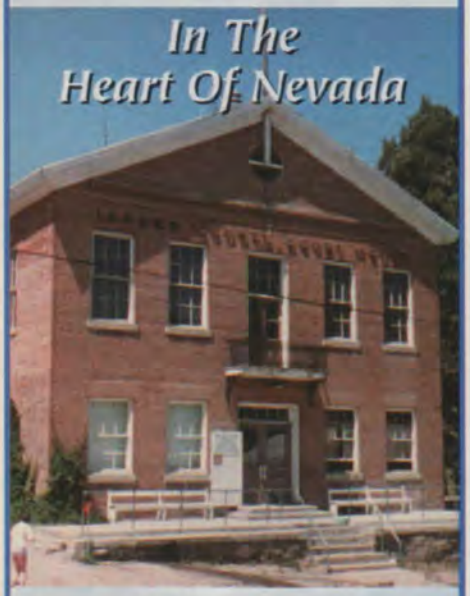
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cue, vendors, arm wrestling, horseshoes, home arts. Court House Park, Lovelock, 775-273-7213.

• **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.



Teams of firemen from around the West test their skill and endurance on old-fashioned equipment during the Fireman's Muster 2000 on July 22-23 in Virginia City.

August 2000

• **1-27 Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival:** The Bard on the beach at Lake Tahoe. Sand Harbor, Incline Village, 800-74-SHOWS.

• **1-Sept. 3 Nevada Shakespeare Festival:** The comedy "Tex, Mugs, and Something Droll" plays four times daily except Monday. "Hamlet" and "Midsummer Night's Dream" will be performed in repertory Aug. 8-20. Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-324-4198.

• **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.

• **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 dogs move cows on specific field course. Lincoln

Photo: Jinny Anderson

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 Claim Jumpers Mountain Bike Festival:** 27-mile cross-country race, barbecue, entertainment, downhill race; novice to expert racers. Austin, 775-964-2200.

• **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.

• **20-23 When Slots Attack Slot Tournament:** MGM Grand, Las Vegas, 800-891-4220.

• **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 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

• **1-3 Nevada Shakespeare Festival:** The comedy "Tex, Mugs, and Something Droll" plays four times daily except Monday. Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-324-4198.

• **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

• **8-10 High Desert Jazz Festival:** Workshops,

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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.
- **15-17 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.
- **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.
- **20-Oct. 1 Snaffle Bit Futurity:** Horses and riders compete for more than $700,000 in prize money. Livestock Events Center, Reno, 775-688-5750.
- **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



The Silver State's largest parade celebrates Nevada Day on October 28 in Carson City.

- **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.
- **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-Oct. 1 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 Snaffle Bit Futurity:** Horses and riders compete for more than $700,000 in prize money. Livestock Events Center, Reno, 775-688-5750.
- **1-31 16th Annual Comstock Art Show:** Virginia City, 775-847-0311

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Photo: Nevada Commission on Tourism

Millennium Countdown Calendar

- **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.
- **8-11 The Perils of Nora Slot Tournament:** MGM Grand, Las Vegas, 800-891-4220.
- **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 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.
- **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 (on Oct. 28), carnival, midway games, entertainment, food booths, arts and crafts, and dance bands. Mills Park, Carson City, 775-687-4680.
- **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.
- **27-29 BF Goodrich Tires Trans-Am Series:** Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-644-4444.
- **28 Nevada Day Parade:** More than 250 entries

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• **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.

• **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.

• **11 Veterans Day Parade:** Virginia Street, Reno, 775-334-2262.

• **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. Lake Mead Marina, 322 Lakeshore Road, off U.S. 93, Boulder City, 702-457-2797

• **2 Sparks Hometowne Christmas:** 14th annual parade with Santa, 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.

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

• **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 USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6955.

• **31 New Year's Eve Celebrations:** Statewide.

January 2001

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

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Nevada Showguide

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



Nary a Word Is Spoken

"Blue Man Group," the off-Broadway percussion theater, opens March 15 at the Luxor. The show, which contains no dialogue, is an interaction of light and sound. The Las Vegas version will be a larger production than the "Blue Man Group" musicals playing in New York, Boston, and Chicago.

Nevada clubs and hotels offer big-name entertainment and production shows. This spring, Gladys Knight will appear in "Smokey Joe's Cafe" at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Lou Rawls performs at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, and Hootie and the Blowfish headline at Caesars 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.

Las Vegas Territory

BOULDER CITY

Hacienda • 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: Taylor Dayne, March 25. Louie Louie, 9pm-12:15am Thurs. Disco Inferno, 10:30pm-2:30am Fri. and Sat. Sunset Amphitheater: The Rippingtons, July 8. Rick Springfield, Sept. 2. Sunset Brewing Co.: Bands play Thurs.-Sat.

JEAN

Gold Strike Hotel • 477-5000 or 800-634-1359: Bands play nightly except Tues.

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

LAS VEGAS

Arizona Charlie's • 258-5200: Naughty Ladies Saloon: Custom Made, thru March 12. Palace Grand Theatre: Entertainment TBA.

Bally's • 739-4567 or 800-237-SHOW: Jubilee Theater: "Jubilee!" (dark Fri.). George Carlin, thru March 1 and April 13-May 1. "Love Him Tender," starring Elvis im-

pressionist Steve Connolly at 2pm (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., March 21, and April 24-27).

Boulder Station • 432-7777 or 800-683-7777: Railhead Lounge: 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: David Copperfield, thru March 2. Chicago, March 3-5 and 10-12. "Smokey Joe's Cafe," starring Gladys Knight, March 15-June 11. Tony Bennett, April 13-16. Huey Lewis and the News, April 20-23. Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme, May 18-21. Chuck Berry and Little Richard, June 13-15 and 17-18. Howie Mandel, Nov. 3-5. Chuck Berry and Little Richard, Nov. 7-9 and 11-12. Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme, Nov. 22 and 24-26. 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 Earl Nelson and Bob Jardine 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: Dennis Miller, March 16-19. Lorna Luft, March 22-26 and 29-April 2. The Golden Boys: Fabian, Frankie Avalon, and Bobby Rydell, April 14-16. Lorna Luft, April 24-28. Don Rickles, April 27-30. The Temptations, June 22-25. Dennis Miller, June 29-July 2. Don Rickles, July 6-9. The Golden Boys: Fabian, Frankie Avalon, and Bobby Rydell, July 14-16. Gladys Knight, July 20-23. Dennis Miller, Sept. 14-17. The Golden Boys: Fabian, Frankie Avalon, and Bobby Rydell, Oct. 13-15. Don Rickles, Oct. 19-22. Gladys Knight, Oct. 26-29. Dennis Miller, Nov. 2-5.

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: "The Great Radio City Spectacular" starring the Rockettes (dark Fri.). Big Band Fridays with Buddy Greco and His Swing Band, dancing. "Voice of Magic," starring Darren Romeo, 1 and 3pm (dark Wed.). Bugsy's Celebrity Theatre: "Forever Plaid," '50s musical revue (dark Mon.).

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

Four Seasons • 632-5000: Piano entertainment during High Tea in the Verandah, 2-5pm daily.

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: "Honky Tonk Angels: Dolly Parton, Reba McEntire, Patsy Cline, and the Judds," impersonator revue, thru March 13 and April 24-May 8 (dark Tues.). "Original Tribute to Patsy Cline and the Jordanaires," March 15-April 3, May 10-May 29, Aug. 30-Sept. 24, Oct. 18-Nov. 12 (dark Tues.). "Country Heroes and Honky Tonk Angels: Tammy Wynette, George Jones, Loretta Lynn, Conway Twitty, Dolly Parton, and Kenny Rogers," impersonator revue, Sept. 27-Oct. 15 and Nov. 15-30 (dark Mon.-Tues).

Nevada Events & Shows
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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: The Joint: Entertainment TBA.

Harrah's Las Vegas • 369-5222 or 800-392-9002: Clint Holmes Theatre: "Takin' It Uptown," starring Clint Holmes, musical variety show (dark Sun.). Improv Showroom: Comedy club nightly except Mon. Mac King Comedy Magic Show, 1 and 3pm, Tues.-Sat. Entertainment nightly in the La Playa Lounge and Range Steakhouse Lounge.

Holiday Inn Boardwalk • 730-3194: Lighthouse Showroom: "The Dream King," starring Elvis impersonator Trent Carlini.

Imperial Palace • 794-3261: Imperial Theatre: "Legends in Concert," celebrity impersonator show, from Elvis to Madonna (dark Sun.).

Jackie Gaughan's Plaza • 386-2110 or 800-634-6575 (U.S. outside Nevada): Plaza Theater: "Kenny Kerr's Boy-lesque," female impersonator revue, 8 and 10pm (dark Sun.-Mon.). "Houdini Lives Again," starring magician Dixie Dooley, 4pm Wed.-Sat. and 8 and 10pm Sun.-Mon.

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

Lady Luck • 477-3000 or 800-523-9582: Lady Luck Theater: Stars of the Strip, comedy impersonators, 2 and 3:30pm Mon.-Fri.

Las Vegas Hilton • 732-5755 or 800-222-5361: Hilton Theater: "Buddy," Broadway musical, thru March 5. Reba McEntire, March 16-19. Harvey Korman and Tim Conway, April 7-9. Kenny Rogers, April 14-15. Jeff Foxworthy, April 28-30. Trisha Yearwood, May 5-6. The NightClub: Entertainment featured nightly.

Luxor • Live Theatre: Blue Man Group, opens March 15. "Lasting Impressions With Bill Acosta," 7:30pm. "Midnight Fantasy," production show at 10pm, also midnight on Sat. (dark Tues.).

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

Mandalay Bay • 877-632-7400: Mandalay Bay Theatre: "Chicago," Broadway musical, 4pm matinee Sunday (dark Mon.). Mandalay Bay Events Center: Bantamweight prizefight between *Ring Magazine* "Fighter of the Year" Paulie Ayala and European champion Johnny Bredahl, March 4. The Three Tenors: Jose Carreras, Placido Domingo, and Luciano Pavarotti, April 22. House of Blues: B.B. King, March 15. Entertainment nightly. Gospel Brunch, 10am and 1pm Sun. Bands play in the Island, Orchid, and Coral Reef lounges.

MGM Grand • 891-7777 or 800-929-1111: Hollywood Theatre: Louie Anderson, thru March 8. Rodney Dangerfield, March 9-15. Grand Theatre: "EFX" starring Tommy Tune (dark Sun.-Mon.). Grand Garden



A Buddy Holly Story

"Buddy," a musical about legendary rock star Buddy Holly, plays through March 5 at the Las Vegas Hilton. The production, which has run for 11 years in London, covers the singer's life and career through his final concert with Ritchie Valens, J.P. (the Big Bopper) Richardson, and Dion in Clear Lake, Iowa, on February 2, 1959.



Photo: Jinny Anderson

Arena: Entertainment TBA. Wheel of Fortune Theatre: Stage version of the TV game show, *Wheel of Fortune.* 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. and June 5-22). 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: Willie Nelson, March 1-5. BTO, March 9-12. Ray Charles, March 15-19. Roger Whittaker, March 24-26. Bo Diddley, March 30-April 1. Righteous Brothers, April 5-16. Jerry Lewis, April 20-23. Roy Clark, April 26-30. Neil Sedaka, May 9-14. Peter, Paul, and Mary, May 19-21. Air Supply, May 26-28. Average White Band, June 2-4, Everly Brothers, June 12-16. Righteous Brothers, June 14-25. Ray Charles, Sept. 27-Oct. 1. Bourbon Street Cabaret: Bands play nightly (dark Mon.).

Palace Station • 367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Trax Nightclub: Norman Brown, March 31. Jonathan Butler, May 20. 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. Paris Ballroom: TBA. Entertainment in Le Cabaret Show Lounge. Paris Theatre: Entertainment TBA.

Rio Suite • 252-7776 or 800-PLAYRIO (U.S. and Canada): Copacabana Entertainment Complex: David Cassidy at the Copa, musical variety show. 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.). RioBamba 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: Bobby Vinton, March 10-11 and Aug. 4-5. Tony Orlando, March 31-April 1. La Cage Theatre (third floor): "An Evening at La Cage," celebrity female impersonators revue (dark Tues.). Mardi Gras Plaza (second level): "Crazy Girls: Sensuality and Passion," adult revue (dark Mon.). "Riviera Comedy Club," comedians appear nightly. Le Bistro Lounge: "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: D.L. Hughley, May 26-28.

Sahara • 737-2515: Magician Steve Wyrick opens the new Sahara Theatre in late March. Bands play in the Casbar Lounge. The NASCAR Cafe and a roller coaster open in March.

Sam's Town • 454-8048: Western Dance Hall: Bands play 9pm-3am. Roxy's Saloon: Entertainers play 4pm-6am daily. 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: "Les Trix," starring the Showgirls of Magic. Bon Chance Lounge: Entertainers perform nightly.

Santa Fe • 658-4900: Ice Lounge: Groups perform nightly. Pavilion: Jazz noon-3:30pm Wed.-Sat. and Sun. 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.

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Stardust • 732-6111 or 800-824-6033: Wayne Newton Theatre: Wayne Newton, thru March 30. 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. and April 16-19). Music in Captain Morgan's piano bar.
Tropicana • 739-2411: Tiffany Theatre: "The Best of the Folies Bergere...Sexier Than Ever" (dark Thurs.). "The Magic of Rick Thomas," 2 and 4pm daily except Fri. Comedy Stop Theatre: "The Comedy Stop," stand-up comedy nightly.
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.

LAUGHLIN

Avi • 535-5555: Bands play nightly.
Colorado Belle • 298-4000: "D" Deck: Riverboat Ramblers, strolling musicians. Bands and karaoke with Rockin' Jimmy D play in the Boiler Room Brew Pub.
Edgewater • 298-2453: Kokopelli's Lounge: Bands like Louie Fontaine and the Rockets and Billy Erickson and the Bandits play nightly.
Flamingo Hilton Laughlin • 298-5028 or 800-435-8469: Silver Bullet Showroom: "Dancing to the Hitz," revue (dark Fri.). Bobby Vinton, March 13, 3pm. Sawyer Brown, April 8. Lynyrd Skynyrd, April 28-29. Engelbert Humperdinck, May 13. Righteous Brothers, May 20. Center Stage Experience: Bands play nightly.



Heat of the Night

Pat Benatar performs her sizzling version of the theme song "In the Heat of the Night," March 10-11 at Caesars Tahoe.

Golden Nugget Laughlin • 298-7111 or 800-237-1739: Tarzan's Lounge: Bands play nightly except Mon.
Harrah's Laughlin • 298-4600 or 800-447-8700: Fiesta Showroom: "Swing, Swing, Swing," big-band 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: "Diamonds and Pearls," revue, nightly except Fri., matinee 4pm Sun. DJ music or bands like Sidro's Armada and the Checkmates perform nightly in the Bermuda Club Lounge. Karaoke with Don West, 4-7pm Wed.
Riverside Resort • 298-2535 or 800-227-3849 ext. 616: Don's Celebrity Theatre: "Shogun," revue, indf. Red Buttons, March 1-5. Chubby Checker, March 15-19. David Brenner, March 20-26. Roger Whittaker, March 28-April 1. Chris Ledoux, April 6-8. Gallagher, June 30-July 2.

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: Roxy's Theatre: Headliners





TBA. Pipe organ music 5-10pm except Tues. Bands play nightly in the Cabo Lounge. Festival Buffet: Hot Lava plays 4:30-8:30pm Mon. Gardunos Restaurant: Mariachis play 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.



On the Road Again

Comedian Jerry Lewis returned to Nevada showrooms in January after more than a decade's absence. Fans can see him April 20-23 at the Orleans in Las Vegas.

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 like Gary and Sandy and Marty Davis 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 music in Bistro Roxy.

Eddie's Fabulous '50s • 329-1950: Lounge entertainment. Also DJ music at Reno Live at Eddie's.

Fitzgeralds • 785-3300 or 800-648-5022 (U.S. outside Nevada): St. Patrick's Celebration: The Black Irish Band, March 17. 15th Field Regimented Royal Canadian Artillery and LA Scotts Bagpipe Band, March 17-18. Sky Boat/Duncan MacLean and Nighean Ruadh, March 17-



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19. Bands like Big Tiny Little and X Factor perform nightly.

Flamingo Hilton Reno • 785-7080: Flamingo Showroom: "Carnival of Wonders," magic production (dark Tues.). Bands play in the Show Spot Cabaret. Entertainment at the Top of the Hilton restaurant (dark Tues.).

Harrah's Reno • 788-3773 or 800-HARRAHS: Sammy's Showroom: "Dancin' in the Streets," revue, 7:30pm Sun.-Fri. and 7 and 9pm Sat., followed by "Skintight" at 10pm Sun.-Fri. and 11:30pm Sat. (dark Thurs.).

John Ascuaga's Nugget • Sparks, 356-3304 or 800-648-1177: Rose Ballroom: Jeff Foxworthy, June 16-17. Tom Jones, June 30-July 1. Celebrity Showroom: Louise Mandrell and Mark Schiff, thru March 1. Roy Clark with Tony D'Andrea, March 2-15. Rich Little, March 16-29. Lou Rawls, April 13-26. Tony Orlando/Chris Bliss, May 25-June 7. Glen Campbell/Kelly Monteith, June 8-21. Herb Reed and the Platters, July 6-19. Charo/Sammy King, July 20-Aug. 2. Brenda Lee/Billy Garan, Aug. 3-16. Bands play nightly in the Casino Cabaret and Trader Dick's restaurant.

Peppermill • 826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Convention Showroom: Entertainment TBA. Bands like Sidro's Armada and Backstreet 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 Theatre: "Work That Skirt," musical revue. Joe Satriani, April 13. 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: George Jones, March 3-4. Engelbert Humperdinck, March 31-April 1. Tim Conway/Harvey Korman, April 14-15. Trisha Yearwood, May 20. Johnny Mathis, June 23-24. Comedians perform at the Catch a Rising Star comedy club (dark Sun.-Mon.). 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.

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

Carson Valley Inn • Minden, 782-9711 or 800-321-6983: Shannon Ballroom: Comedy Night Live, March 10. Cornell Gunter's Coasters, March 26. "A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac," March 31-April 1. Bands like Shake, Rattle, and Roll and Whiskey Ridge play in the Cabaret Lounge for dancing nightly except DJ night on Mon.

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

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

Sharkey's Nugget • Gardnerville, 782-3133: Live music and dancing Fri. and Sat. 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: Hootie and the Blowfish, March 3-4. Pat Benatar, March 10-11. Chris Isaak, March 24-25. 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: "Imagine," production show, thru May 8. Bands like Three Times a Lady and Steel Breeze 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 play nightly except Mon.

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

Tahoe Biltmore • Crystal Bay, 831-0660: Nevada Room:



All Wound Up

Contortionist Undarmaa Darihuu can be seen in the renovated "Splash" at the Riviera in Las Vegas. Undarmaa, who began her career with the Mongolian State Circus, can easily touch the top of her head to the small of her back—eliciting groans from showgoers with creaky joints.

Nevada Events & Shows
is a section of
NEVADA
MAGAZINE

Entertainment TBA. Bands play in the Aspen Lounge.

Cowboy Country

ELKO

Commercial Hotel • 738-3181: Comedy on Wed. at the Commercial.
Gold Country • 800-621-1332: J.R.'s Lounge: 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: Entertainment TBA.
Stockmen's Hotel • 738-5141 or 800-648-2345 (U.S. and Nevada): Bands play in the lounge.

JACKPOT

Barton's Club 93 • 755-2341.
Cactus Petes • 800-821-1103: Gala Showroom: Entertainment TBA.
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.

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.

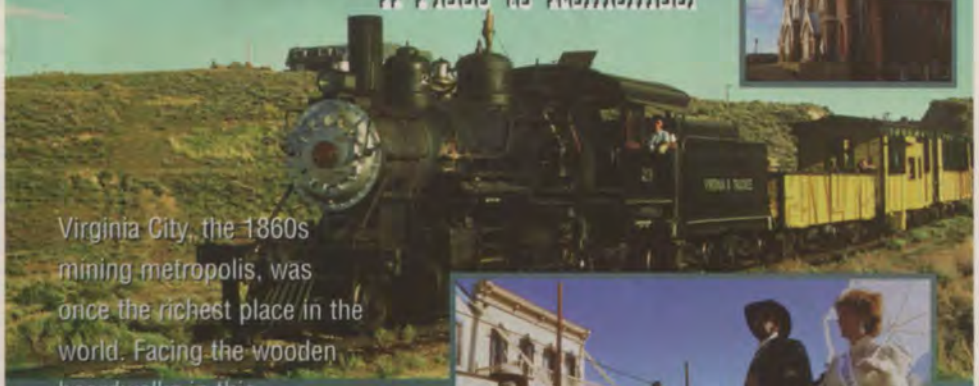
YERINGTON

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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Life of the Party

Earl Turner uses music, humor, and audience participation to keep his Rio show swinging.

By Kathy Espin

Earl Turner is standing, microphone in hand, in the middle of his nightclub act at the Rio Suite Hotel in Las Vegas when an extremely tall blonde walks up and asks him to help find a lost friend.

Turner doesn't skip a beat. The singer immediately finds out that the woman is from Australia, pages her friend over the cabaret sound system, and asks the 200 members of the audience to look under their tables. As the woman turns to walk out of the RioBamba Cabaret, Turner uses his expressive face to display his amazement at the encounter. The audience roars its approval.

"Sometimes the show just takes on a life of its own," says Turner, who last September signed a one-year contract with the Rio. "You just have to deal with [the unexpected] sometimes."

Turner, who has been a part of the Las Vegas entertainment scene for 10 years, says the RioBamba comes close to achieving his dream of having his own showroom. The hotel has customized the lounge and staging so that it lends itself to the highly interactive party atmosphere Turner prefers. The stage has been extended across the bar, allowing Turner to spend part of his 45-minute set talking and singing with the audience. Intrusions, such as the encounter with the tall Australian, are all part of the fun.



Earl Turner takes the stage Wednesday through Sunday in the RioBamba Cabaret at the Rio Suite Hotel in Las Vegas. He sometimes enlists showgoers as backup singers or stars of a comedy skit.

Turner says he is delighted that the Rio has included his show on the hotel's marquee and will give him attention in television ads. Lounge acts typically don't get that kind of support, but Turner is an exception. "I don't think of myself as a 'lounge' act. I think of myself as a night-club entertainer," says Turner, who plays five instruments.

Turner uses special signals so his eight-piece band can follow along as he customizes each show to match the tastes of the audience.

Turner, who grew up in Missouri and has played all over the country, came to Nevada in the late '80s for a gig at the Colorado Belle in Laughlin. Since then he has performed in towns around the state, including Elko. And just how did his Motown/rhythm-and-blues/jazz revue go over in that rural and very Western town?

"Oh, I do country, too," he says. "I put on the cowboy hat and the whole thing. I'm from Missouri, so I grew up with country and western and gospel. We can do big band—just about anything. A lot of times, I just fly by the seat of my pants."

No two of his sets are alike, Turner says. Instead he likes to read the audience and adjust the song list as he goes. Turner uses special signals so his eight-piece band can follow along as he customizes each set to match the tastes of the showgoers.

On this particular Saturday night, the audience is an ethnic mix of mostly over-

40 types. Turner goes into a medley of '60s and '70s Motown hits that the audience knows as well as he does. Soon the set becomes a sing-along with the audience rocking and clapping to "Up on the Roof," "Under the Boardwalk," and "My Girl."

One showgoer seated down front catches Turner's attention. Soon, Fred from Chicago is on stage singing, showing off his Motown moves with the band, and doing rather well at it. Later, Turner swears Fred wasn't planted in the audience. "No, I look for somebody like that every night. There's always one. He was pretty good. They aren't always that good," he says. "I've had people who didn't even speak the language, but they knew the songs."

Turner has seen all sides of Nevada entertainment, from small, dark, out-of-the-way lounges to full-scale production shows. One of his most unusual performances, he says, was for a private party for spouses at a National Association of Broadcasters convention. "They were doing a look-alike show, and I came out and did a number from *Little Shop of Horrors* called 'I'm a Mean, Green Mother from Outer Space.' I had on this wild costume that had a green coat with leaves all over it. They liked it so well that they wanted me to come back next year. So, the next year, I wore the coat and said, 'Remember me?' They loved it."

That kind of audience interaction has helped Turner develop a large following that he keeps in touch with through a mailing list. After each show he shakes hands and chats with audience members. "You have to take the time to make everyone feel important," he says.

Turner knows the importance of good marketing, but, he says, advertising and publicity can't take the place of good entertainment. "Advertising can't make an entertainer popular," he says. "You have to live up to expectations. You have to have energy and fun, or they won't come back."

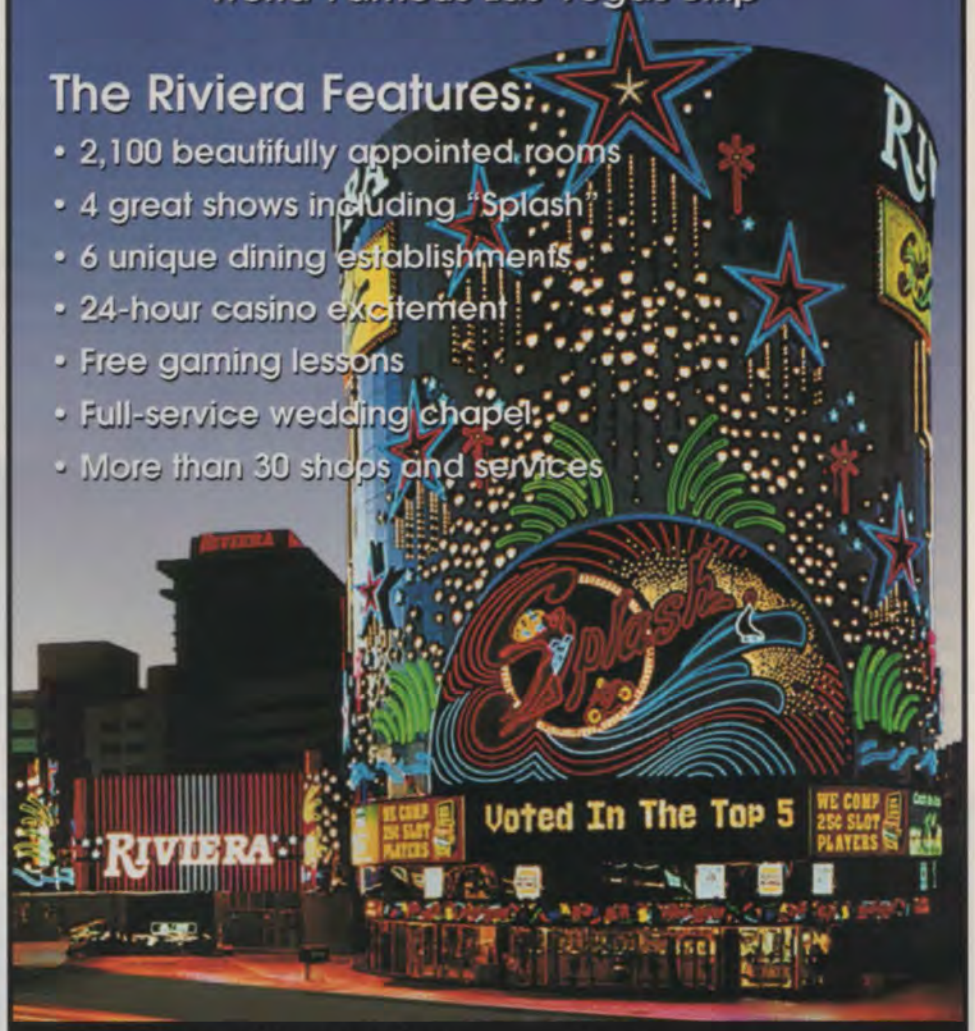
Show Notes

Earl Turner and the Earl Turner Band appear in the RioBamba Cabaret at the Rio Suite Hotel in Las Vegas. Turner plays 45-minute sets from 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Wednesday through Sunday. There is no cover charge or drink minimum. Call the Rio, 800-888-1808 or 702-252-7777, for information.

Kathy Espin is a Las Vegas writer and communications instructor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

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Casino Notes

News from hotel-casinoland. **By Elizabeth Nielsen**

Las Vegas Territory

Tax Time: The cost to see "O," the aquatic production show at Bellagio, has increased. Before, ticket prices included tax. The new prices are $110 ($100 plus $10 tax) for first- and second-level orchestra and $100 ($90 plus $10 tax) for the balcony. Tickets may be purchased 28 days in advance.

Matisse Painting Displayed: "Odalisque," the depiction of a North African harem of women painted by Henri Matisse, has been acquired by the Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art. The painting, estimated to be worth more than $10 million, was stolen by the Nazis during World War II and later recovered and returned to the owner's family.

Laughlin Timeshare: Construction has begun on the Biltmore Vacation Resorts project, a timeshare located across the Colorado River from Laughlin in Bullhead City. Plans include a fitness center and spa, daycare center, restaurant and nightclub, swimming pools, and tennis courts. Negotiations also are under way to develop an 18-hole golf course.

Perks for Seniors: Boulder Station has a program for guests 55 and older that includes weekly dining discounts, bingo bonuses, entertainment, and light exercise sessions. For information on March and April events call 702-432-7777.

Leprechaun's Special: The decor in Fitzgeralds' new buffet, the Irish Castle, reflects Ireland's countryside. Prices at the downtown hotel's all-you-can-eat restaurant are $4.99 for breakfast, $5.99 for lunch, and $7.77 for dinner.

Four Seasons Diamond Award: The Four Seasons Hotel, which is adjacent to Mandalay Bay on the Strip, has received the American Automobile Association (AAA) Five Diamond Award, the tourism industry's version of the Oscars. The Four Seasons is the first hotel in Las Vegas to achieve the rating.

Third Millennium: "Forever Plaid," the off-Broadway show featured at the Flamingo Hilton, recently celebrated its 3,000th performance. The musical comedy about lost dreams has been playing at Bugsy's Celebrity Theatre for four years. Tickets are $21.95, and show times are 7:30 and 10 nightly except Monday.

Magical Afternoon: Entertainer Darren Romeo mixes song and sleight-of-hand during his afternoon show at the Flamingo Hilton. Romeo recently received a World Magic Award as "Best Up-and-Coming Artist." Show times are 1 and 3 p.m. daily except Wednesday.



***Fantasia*, Walt Disney's epic cartoon set to classical music, plays through April 30 in the IMAX Theatre at the Luxor in Las Vegas. The 1940 film has been updated with two new segments.**

Frontier Goes Boom: Plans have been announced to demolish the New Frontier Hotel on the Strip and replace it with a 2,500-room, $700-million, San Francisco-themed resort. The property will be named City by the Bay and will include replicas of the Golden Gate Bridge, Fisherman's Wharf, Chinatown, Coit Tower, Lombard Street, a Napa Valley winery, and an Alcatraz-themed restaurant. The demolition is expected sometime this summer.

Fantastic Fantasy: Walt Disney's *Fantasia 2000* is appearing in the IMAX Theatre at the Luxor through April 30. The new version of the classic film, first released in 1940, has two new segments and celebrity hosts such as Steve Martin, James Earl Jones, and Penn and Teller.

Spinning Wheels: Fans of the TV game show *Wheel of Fortune* will find a live stage version at MGM Grand on the Strip. Audience members are selected to play the game for prizes Tuesday through Sunday. Show tickets are $17.50.

Re-Woked Restaurant: The Studio Cafe at the MGM Grand has been remodeled to include the Grand Wok Restaurant. The decor is reminiscent of the 1920-30s art-deco era. The Grand Wok features a bi-level waterfall and pond. The Studio Cafe offers casual dining and health-smart dishes, while the Grand Wok serves sushi and Asian cuisine.

Rio Sky Show: "Ipanema Beach Party Parade" is the latest sky parade in the Masquerade Village at the Rio Suite Hotel. The beach-themed show plays at 4 and 10 p.m. daily and features floats, live music, singing, dancing, aerialists, and stiltwalkers. The beach party joins the other sky parades, "Street Party," "Disco Swing," and "Carnivale in Venice," which include colorful floats and aerial performers as well as dancers and singers on the casino-level stage.

Treasure Diamond: Treasure Island was recently awarded the American Automobile Association's Four Diamond rating. The announcement may establish Las Vegas as the U.S. city with the highest number of Four Diamond status rooms, surpassing Chicago.

Celebrity Eatery: Wolfgang Puck has opened his fourth Las Vegas restaurant, Postrio, in the Grand Canal Shoppes at the Venetian. The restaurant features San Francisco-style seafood dishes with Mediterranean accents.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Meet the Winemaker: The Carson Valley Inn in Minden offers Meet the Winemaker gourmet dinners on March 6 featuring Gallo of Sonoma Vineyards and April 3 with Sterling Vineyards. The cost is $55, which includes dinner and wines. Winemaker Night hotel packages of $149.95 per couple include two dinners and a hotel room.

New Nightclub: The BuBinga Lounge has opened at the Eldorado for dancing with live music, DJs, a cigar room, and two themed bars. The club's decor is ruby red, moss green, and gold finished with West African Bubinga wood and art-deco under-lit cocktail tables.

Green Beer Day: The Reno Arch turns green March 17-19 during Fitzgeralds' St. Patrick's Celebration in downtown Reno. There will be live music, including performances by the Black Irish Band and the Mollys, a Tex-Mex-Celtic group. The celebration will include contests and corned beef and cabbage, potato leek soup, and, of course, green beer. Other casinos such as the Carson Valley Inn in Minden will celebrate with food specials and promotions.

Go Cafe Moves: The On the Go Cafe at the Flamingo Hilton Reno recently moved to a new and larger location on the hotel's second floor. The eatery's expanded menu now includes veggie wraps, subs, salads, lattes, and cappuccino.

Best Award: The Silver Legacy has been chosen "Best Place to Stay" and "Best Place to Play" by *Casino Player* magazine. The publication also named the hotel's Fairchild's Oyster Bar as the "Best Seafood Restaurant."



Bagpipe bands will gather under the Reno Arch during Fitzgeralds' Millennium St. Patrick's Celebration March 17-19 in downtown Reno.

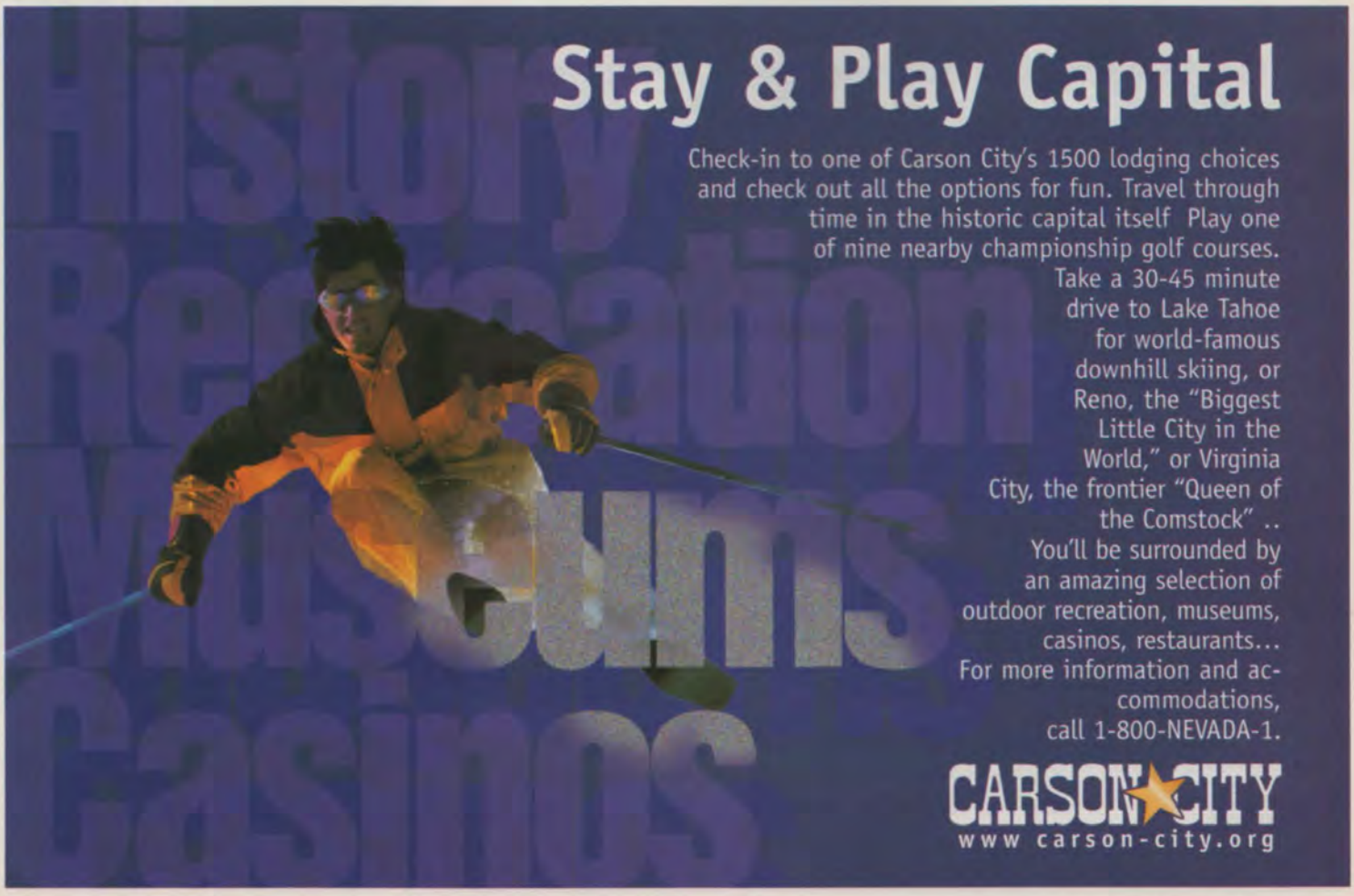
Good Deals

Nugget Cash: Gamblers can earn tickets to qualify for the weekly cash drawings at the Carson Nugget by playing in any gaming area. Guests can win up to $2,500 at each drawing.

Car Giveaway: The Carson Valley Inn in Minden will award a 2000 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo or a 2000 Chevy Blazer on March 15. Players can earn entry tickets for nightly drawings through casino play and by using their Inn Club cards.

Quick Game: The Edgewater in Laughlin has Speed Keno, which offers a chance to win up to $10,000 when playing 10 cents per game or $100,000 for $1 per game. Speed Keno is 100 continuous games in 15 minutes.

Video Bingo: Fitzgeralds in Reno has new nickel bingo video slot machins that allow players to play both games at one time. For every "bingo ball" that appears on the payline, the bingo card is marked. A bingo card earns up to 4,000 bonus coins.





Attractions, Tours & Museums

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

Visitors can explore Nevada's diverse attractions when they visit the Silver State's many museums, hotels, and state and national parks. The area code for Las Vegas Territory is 702, while the remainder of the state is 775.

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.
Las Vegas Motor Speedway • Guided tours. 644-4444.
Sahara Hotel • Roller coaster, NASCAR Cafe, virtual-reality car racing, 737-2735.
St. Jude's Ranch for Children • Children's Art Museum, artifacts, tours. 100 St. Jude's St., 294-7100.
U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds • Tour of demonstration squadron facility, 2pm Tues. and Thurs. Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas, 652-4018.

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, fountain shows, 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 motorcycle-related items on display. The Las Vegas Strip, 740-4555.
Holy Cow! Casino • Brewery tours, 732-2697.
Imperial Palace Auto Collection • Classic and antique vehicles, 794-3174.

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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.
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.

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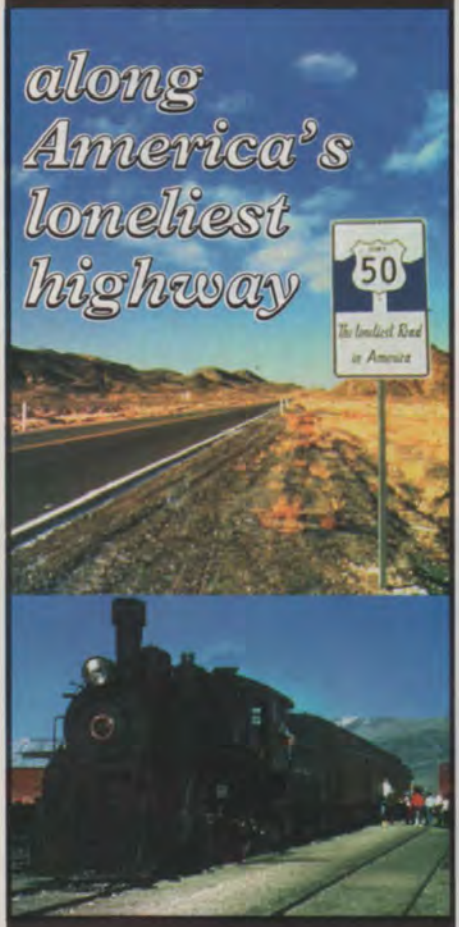
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The Planetarium • Community College of Southern Nevada, 651-5059.

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.

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Silver Legacy • Giant mining and laser shows every hour, 325-7396.
Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden • Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-4153.
Wilbur D. May Great Basin Adventure • Seasonal, Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-4064.
Wilbur D. May Museum • Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-5961.

PYRAMID LAKE

Numana Hatchery Visitors Center • 574-0290.

SPARKS

John Ascuaga's Nugget • Ranchers' brands exhibit, 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.
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Virginia City Tours • 786-0866.
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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 • Birdwatching, windsurfing, fishing, 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 • Hiking, camping, ancient bristlecones, and 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 • Exhibits on the history of the Hawthorne area, 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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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

Photo: William Carr

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 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

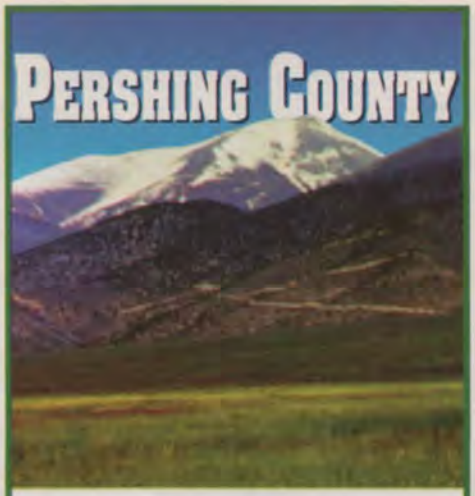
Bicycling in Nevada: Nevada Department of Transportation: 1263 S. Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89712; e-mail: bicycle@dot.state.nv.us; 775-888-RIDE for information on bike paths and other bicycling opportunities.

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/Kady's Coffee Shop—794-9318. $-$$.

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.

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.

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.



Fiona's at the Carson Valley Inn in Minden offers steaks and seafood in a garden setting.

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.

ITALIAN

Caesars Tahoe/Primavera—Stateline, 588-3515. Linguini carbonara, tenderloin pizzaiola. D. $$, major.

ASIAN

Caesars Tahoe/Empress Court—Stateline, 588-3515. Szechwan, Mandarin. D. $$, major.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

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

Around the State

LOVELOCK: 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 credit cards accepted.

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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Singin' in the Streets

The decades spin by winningly with "Dancin' in the Streets" at Harrah's Reno. **By David Moore**

"Dancin' in the Streets," the early-evening revue at Harrah's Reno, takes the audience on a spirited eight-decade march through pop-music history that runs from the Roaring '20s to rap.

Guys and dolls, song and dance, era by era—it's a revue format as traditional as "Disco Inferno" and polyester in a '70s dance scene. But "Dancin'" not only uses the pop-history format to great advantage but also pushes the edge with engaging humor, likable characters, and terrific singing. "Dancin'" is the kind of show you can take the family to and still have the chance to get down to Janet Jackson and Sister Sledge.



The ebullient cast of "Dancin' in the Streets," appearing in Sammy's Showroom at Harrah's Reno, includes featured singers Christine Shelton (kneeling, left) and Darryl Ross (far left).

Like other Harrah's revues, "Dancin'" has the benefit of a good pedigree. The show is yet another creation of producer Greg Thompson and choreographer Mistinguett. The pair have created a long line of successful revues such as "High Voltage," "Broadway Showstoppers," and "Skintight," the hotel's current late show.

The cast, too, is appealing. Lead singer Christine Shelton has a strong voice and stage presence. The five female dancers—Vickie Kropf, Tina Kelly, Leah Peterson, Jamie Karrh, and Christine Jeanblanc-Russo—keep the beat through many costume changes.

A pleasant surprise is the group of five male singers—Cameron Bartl, Jim Pferschy, Paul O'Donnell, and featured singers Darryl Ross and Raymond Jones. It's unusual for so many men to sing as a group in a Harrah's show, and the experiment is clearly successful. Appearing under the collective name Platinum, the kinetic quintet gives "Dancin' in the Streets" great vibes and musical energy.

The guys and Shelton keep "Dancin'" cookin' through more than 40 songs. After the intro, "God Must Have Spent a Little More Time on You," the cast presents song after song, from "Stomp" to "Four Leaf Clover"—and that's in only the first 10 minutes. Dressed in gold-lamé Wacs uniforms, Kropf, Kelly, and Peterson do a right-on version of the Andrews Sisters' "Under the Apple Tree." Purists will notice that because the show runs a tight 70 minutes, many songs last only one verse. One moment Shelton says "Come See About Me," then everyone is "So Happy Together," and suddenly it's "Hey, Hey, Good-bye"—a fact of life in a showroom revue.

The disco sequence is one of the show's best as the women dance in wildly colorful costumes and the guys look sharp in John Travolta-style suits. Then the heat of "We Are Family" and "Boogie Nights" is cooled by a segment based on MTV videos of Janet Jackson, Michael Jackson, and Madonna. The singing and slick dance moves give way to lip syncing and aerobic footwork—a bit surprising after how hard the cast had worked to make the show humorous and intimate. However, Shelton and the gang turn off the TV and get back the spirit as they literally leave the stage smoking in the finale of "Larger Than Life."

Comedian Billy Garan, resembling a gray-haired Jon Lovitz, enlivens the show with rapidly delivered jokes. Garan offers a memorable impression of Bette Davis in *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?* and insights about hair loss and parking lots. "You know how some guy with a new car will take up two parking places?" he implores. "Oh, I hate those people. If you bought a new suit, would you take up two seats in a restaurant?" Maybe not, but "Dancin'" is definitely worth two seats on a Reno night out.

Show Notes

"Dancin' in the Streets" plays nightly except Thursday in Sammy's Showroom at Harrah's Reno. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Sunday through Friday and 7 and 9 p.m. Saturday. "Dancin'," which opened in December, is expected to play for about a year. The adults-only "Skintight" follows "Dancin'" at 10 p.m. Sunday through Friday and 11:30 p.m. Saturday. Tickets for either show are $23.95. "Night on the Town" packages offer a show with dinner at Café Andreotti for $29.50 or Planet Hollywood for $31.50. Call 800-HARRAHS or 775-788-2900 for reservations.

David Moore, Nevada Magazine's editor, is waiting patiently for the first all-disco casino showroom revue.

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Bill Maloy



The Reno saddlemaker uses his skills in both leather and silver. **By Eustacia Endres**







Maloy has made saddles for rodeo champs, actors, and horse-minded casino owners. Top right: The Reno saddlemaker uses a leather stitcher to sew the flank cinch of a saddle. Right: Maloy works on the silver nameplate of a belt for singer George Strait.

Saddlemaker Bill Maloy of Reno is an artist who knows and loves horses. Maloy learned about saddles, art, and riding while growing up on the family pack station near Visalia, California. He made his first saddle from scratch in a high school art class. He recalls, "I was always interested in any kind of art, like drawing, painting, lettering, and pottery."

Maloy, an art major at Fresno State University, quit school to open a saddle shop in Reno at age 22. The first years were tough. "Until you learn how to do it good, you starve, just like any other artist," he says. Shortly after he opened his shop, a freak accident created another obstacle. One day while he was working, a knife blade broke and flew into his right eye. The eye was permanently damaged.

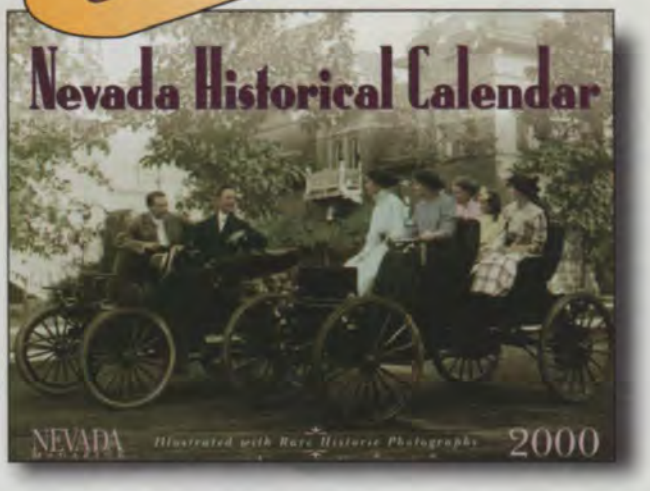
"It was pretty discouraging," says Maloy, who has worn a glass eye ever since. "I lost all my depth perception. You have to learn everything over."

Undaunted, Maloy over the years gained a reputation as one of the West's best saddlemakers. Known for his design and workmanship, Maloy takes advantage of two important skills: He not only decorates saddles with ornate leather tooling, called stamping, but also does the silversmithing.

"Everybody wants somethin' a little different," Maloy says, at work in his weathered shop next door to the stone house in south Reno where he and his wife, Mary, have lived for 30 years. In his shop saddles sit side by side in various stages of construction. "But it's not an assembly line here," he points out. "If I get tired of

Photos: Bill Maloy (left), Shannon Montana (top right and bottom right)

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pounding on leather, I've got silver work."

Maloy takes anywhere from 50 to 200 hours to make a saddle. His signature stamping mixes floral, wild roses, oak leaf and acorns, and other motifs. Over time he has perfected such skills as building the "tree," or frame, to best fit the horse and rider. He knows just how to stretch cowhide and how to angle the seat. His silver work adds crowning touches in the conchas, nameplate, and saddle horn.

Maloy saddles range in price from $2,500 to $10,000. He has made hundreds of trophy saddles. For 19 consecutive years, he has made the champion's trophy

Actor and cowboy Slim Pickens rode on a Maloy saddle in many of his Western movies.

saddle for the Salinas Rodeo, one of California's largest. In 1997 he was honored as a "Hero of Western Art and Craftmanship" at Canada's Cowboy Festival in Calgary, and that year he won "Best Stamped Panel" at the "Saddle Up! Renaissance in Leather" juried exhibit at Elko's Western Folklife Center.

Many of his saddles are acquired by collectors. One customer was Slim Pickens, the late actor who rode on a Maloy saddle in many of his movies. Another is Nevada rancher and casino magnate John Ascuaga. Maloy also has made specialty saddles and unique items for Clark Gable, Conrad Hilton Jr., Nancy Reagan, and other celebrities.

His favorite part of the work? "When a saddle is finished," he jokes. "When you get done with it, you've accomplished something."

Maloy insists he is not taking any more orders. At 62, he wants to make items for his own collection and family. "I've spent too many years of working seven days a week," he says. But he always seems to be making just a few more saddles for customers and friends.

Eustacia (Stacy) Endres of Reno is a freelance writer and former reporter for the Reno Evening Gazette *and* Las Vegas Review-Journal. *A native Texan and longtime Nevadan, she has a strong interest in Western subjects.*

Boogie Nights

(Continued from page 19)

and house music. Ra is open Wednesday through Sunday beginning at 10 p.m. Wednesday is Pleasure Dome Night and features guest DJs while Thursday is Diva Night with free entry for ladies. The cover charge is $10 for men, $5 for women (free for women with Nevada IDs). Call 702-262-4400.

Rumjungle: Giant walls of water and dark granite floors create an exotic atmosphere at this popular club in Mandalay Bay. VIP and "bottle" rooms are available for groups who plan to purchase and share bottles of liquor. Here guests select libations from a special premium liquor and cigar menu. Hosts, with such monikers as Billy the Kid, provide exceptional service and prevent nonsanctioned people from entering the room. The dance floor features a mixture of DJ and live music. The music is World Beat with Latin, salsa, Caribbean, reggae, and African sounds. Rumjungle, a restaurant during the day, transforms into the club at 11 p.m. Cover charge is $15 for both men and women. Call 702-632-7408.



The bartenders heat up the scene at clubs like Ra at Luxor (above).

Studio 54: You might think you danced your way back to the 1970s New York club scene at this MGM hot spot. Celebrity photos from the original Studio 54 in New York grace the walls, including a letter and photo signed by Andy Warhol. The dance floor is multilevel, with enough go-go dancers to please Austin Powers. The multicolored lighting also recalls the disco era. The cocktail waitresses are bikini-clad, and dancers' fashions range from Harris tweed to zoot suits. The music is DJ '70s music, and the club opens at 10 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The cover charge for men is $10 Tuesday through Thursday and $20 Friday and Saturday; women enter free. Call 702-891-7254.

Trax: A more intimate place with the feel and special lighting of a larger nightclub, Trax at Palace Station reflects the look of a Victorian rail car with plush reds throughout. The club features house music for dancing but spices up the atmosphere with performances by Latin bands from 8 p.m. to midnight on Sunday. The club occasionally books headliners. There is no drink minimum or cover charge except during concerts. Call 702-367-2411.

LAUGHLIN

Bermuda Club: This tropically themed dance lounge at the River Palms presents bands nightly from 5:30 to 10:30, with DJ music after the bands retire for the night. Thursday is both Ladies Night and time for the Men's Frozen T-shirt Contest, when warm-blooded guys can try to win $100 by breaking apart a frozen T-shirt and putting it on. There is no cover charge, and women drink free from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Call 702-298-2242 or 800-835-7904.

Losers Lounge: Following the room's theme, the walls at the Riverside Resort club are covered with photos of such losers as Hitler, the *Hindenberg*, and Tammy Faye Bakker. The music is Top 40, and there is no cover charge except during holiday periods. The club's $1 drink specials include the resort's own Riverside Light beer. Top 40 bands play Tuesday through Monday. Thursday-night contests include Best Chest in the West (through March 15) and a Bump and Grind competition (through the first week of May); winners receive $100 and a Riverside Resort jacket. Call 702-298-2535 or 800-227-3849.

Tarzan Nightclub: This club at the Golden Nugget Laughlin is situated across from the atrium, which provides a pleasant tropical atmoshpere. DJ music begins at 9 p.m. and continues until 1 a.m. Karaoke is featured Tuesday from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. The Tarzan Nightclub is closed Monday. Call 702-298-7111.

Western Dance Hall: At the Riverside Resort, country-western dance fans can promenade at the home of the world's largest cowboy hat, which stands about eight feet wide and four feet tall and is prominently displayed above the bar. If you're timid about trying your steps, you can join the evening line dancing classes that are scheduled Wednesday through Sunday at the Western Dance Hall. There is no cover charge except during special events. Call 702-298-2535 or 800-227-3849.

MESQUITE

Redd Boot Saloon: The saloon tucked inside Si Redd's Oasis is decorated in dark wood and burgundy and offers live bands

Dancing the Week Away

Saturday Night Fever can strike any time. Whether you prefer dancing, indulging in exotic fashion, or seeking out the Best Chest in the West, Nevada's nightclubs offer unusual cultural experiences every night of the week.

Monday: If you've ever fantasized about riding the mechanical bull at Gilley's at the New Frontier, the crowd is smaller and probably more forgiving on Monday than, say, a Saturday night during National Finals Rodeo. Monday also is a good time to cash in on nightclub drink specials, such at the $1 You Call It (all drinks a buck) at Nero's 2000 at Caesars Tahoe.

Tuesday: The Western Dance Hall at the Riverside Resort in Laughlin offers line-dancing lessons. You also can find a few bargains. One of the most expensive—and happening—clubs is Studio 54 at the MGM Grand on the Las Vegas Strip. The cover charge drops by half to $10 Tuesday through Thursday.

Wednesday: Bring out the chain-mail bra, platinum wig, and skin-tight silk shirt for Shock Your Mama Night at Club Rio at the Rio Suite Hotel. At Ra at the Luxor, Wednesday is Pleasure Dome Night—guest DJs oversee a cage-dancing contest worth $2,000 in prize money.

Thursday: Nightclubs hoping to lure patrons before the weekend have devised such eye-catching competitions as Mr. Hot Buns (Nero's 2000 at Caesars Tahoe) and Best Chest in the West (Losers Lounge at the Riverside Resort in Laughlin). If you're riding the Latin craze, you can watch for Ricky Martin look-alikes at the Shake Your Bon Bon Contest at Club Rio at the Rio Suite Hotel, which cleverly pairs the contest with its Latin Night.

Friday: If you're into star-gazing, visiting a Las Vegas nightclub such as Drink and Eat Too or Baby's at the Hard Rock Hotel might lead to sightings of the rich and famous. Women can catch "Scarlett," the all-male revue that appears at Kicks inside the National Bowling Stadium in downtown Reno.

Saturday: The frenzy doesn't kick in until after 10 p.m. Try dancing in the dark at the new C2K at the Venetian—just be sure to wear your glow-in-the-dark necklace.

Sunday: At the Beach in Las Vegas, order a piña colada, find a booth near a mural of windswept sand, and watch the Ladies Hot Body Contest.—*Carolyn Graham*

Photo: Steve Spatafore

and DJ music beginning at 9 p.m. every Friday and Saturday night. The cover charge is $3. Call 702-346-5232.

Elizabeth Nielsen is a Las Vegas writer who wishes "Disco Duck" would make a comeback.

RENO-SPARKS

By Candice Towell

The Reno-Tahoe dance club scene has recently gained a number of new hot spots where the action ranges from raver's grooves to hip-hop moves. The Northern Nevada clubs offer specialty and dress-up nights, theme rooms, and a variety of tunes from the past 30 years. Following is a roundup of some of the area's late-night dance spots.

Atlantis Nightclub: Dancers sway in an undersea setting beneath sharks, fish, and a giant octopus that rock to their own beat at the upstairs club in the Atlantis Resort. The club hosts a disco revival on Thursday with prizes for the best '70s garb and dancing duo. Ladies get in free for Friday's Ladies Eighties special from 10 p.m. to midnight. A DJ mixes it up with West Coast house music Wednesday and Saturday nights. Designated drivers receive free juice, coffee, or soft drinks. The cover charge is $5. Call 775-825-4700 or 800-723-6500.

BuBinga Lounge: This classy new club inside the Eldorado is now Reno's poshest—the hotel shelled out $3.4 million to create a cozy, upscale environment with good lighting and comfortable seating. The bar, ceiling, and walls are accented with West African Bubinga wood, a material often used to make grand pianos. Dancers can try a Binger cocktail, an infusion of fruit and alcohol dispensed from a tap at 28 degrees like a draft beer. There's also a separate champagne and wine bar. Panama, a high-energy five-piece band, covers songs from Van Morrison to '90s pop alternative hits and keeps the crowd dancing on the oval dance floor. BuBinga is open from 7:30 p.m. until it unwinds Tuesday through Saturday. Call 775-786-5700.

Paul Revere's Kicks: This '50s diner-turned-dance-club inside the National Bowling Stadium in downtown Reno is a museum in its own right, housing such items as Mick Jagger's jacket and Chuck Berry's guitar. The nostalgia-minded club is owned by Paul Revere, leader of Paul Revere and the Raiders. Dancers boogie to music of three generations, beginning early in the evening with '70s tunes, progressing to '80s favorites, and by 11 p.m. moving to '90s music. Friday from 8 to 11 p.m. is strictly for women with performances by Scarlett, a revue of male dancers, beginning at 9 p.m. (Men of the non-exotic dancer variety can enter at 11 p.m.) Kicks is open from 9 p.m. until it winds down on Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Cover is $5. Call 775-322-0374.

Reno Live: Dancers get more dance floor for their money at Reno's hottest dance club, located inside Eddie's Fabulous '50s Casino. Reno Live features six clubs for a $5 cover charge. Boogiers will find live DJs in every club, ranging from the most popular room, Club 2000, where dancers pump to hip hop and pop in three-inch heels, miniskirts, and sprayed hair, to Fusion, where resident DJ Christophe plays the latest in house, techno, trance, breahs, and funk while dancers catch the vibe in tennis shoes, baggy jeans, and fluorescent jewelry. Club 2000 has a 30-foot waterfall behind the bar, and some dancers choose to bust-a-move in the elevated cage positioned in the middle of the dance floor. On Friday night women drink free cocktails from 9 to 11. Live is open from 9 p.m. till 5 a.m., but the hottest action is from 11:30 p.m. to 3:30 a.m. Dress in layers—you may have to wait outside in line. Call 775-329-1950.

Trader Dick's: Angel fish and exotic tangs lurk inside a freestanding 40-foot aquarium

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in this Polynesian-style lounge and dance spot inside John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks. Friday and Saturday a DJ spins audience-requested music from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Pianists and guest musicians play Monday through Thursday at 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 5 p.m. Pairs of patrons sometimes sip a Navy Grog, a popular concoction for two with spicy rums served in a collectible Polynesian communal drinking bowl. There is no cover charge, and the lounge is part of Trader Dick's restaurant, which is open daily from 5 to 10 p.m. Call 775-356-3300 or 800-648-1177.

Universal Music Hall: Located on the corner of Mount Rose and Lakeside, a mile south of downtown Reno, the former Rodeo Rock Cafe has traded its cowboy boots for a newly remodeled minimalistic, metropolitan-style dance club. There isn't anything frivolous about the place—it is for serious music and dance aficionados who thrive on laser lights. The modern-rock station KRZQ hosts a simulcast club party on Tuesday nights. On Friday and Saturday, a DJ mixes Top 40, house, hip hop, and alternative music. Dancers pay a $5 cover charge to enter the club, which opens at 9 p.m. Call 775-323-1600.

LAKE TAHOE

Lily's: Thatched grass and a wooden bar create a Jamaican theme at this dance club inside the Lake Tahoe Horizon at Stateline. Dancers may come across a Bomb or Virus—specialty drinks consisting of five liquors and tropical juices served in plastic bones. The dance club is open Wednesday through Sunday with a DJ mixing contemporary, techno, and disco music. Sunday-night drink specials run from 9 to 11, and ladies can compete in the Wet T-shirt Contest for a $100 prize. The club opens at 9 p.m.; cover varies. Call 775-588-6211.

Nero's 2000: Lake Tahoe's largest dance club is a glamorous room inside Caesars Tahoe with high-energy music and nightly specials. One of the most popular is Monday night's $1 You Call It, when every drink is a buck. This Romanesque industrial club with leopard-skin couches is far from tame on Thursday nights when ladies get in free to judge the Mr. Hot Buns Contest as the men get wild in their skivvies for a shot at the $250 reward. Also on Thursdays, male go-go dancers get caged up, and prizes such as Heavenly lift tickets are given away. Club hours are 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. daily, and there is a moderate dress code. Call 775-586-2000.

Candice Towell is a Reno writer-photographer who can rave with the best of them.

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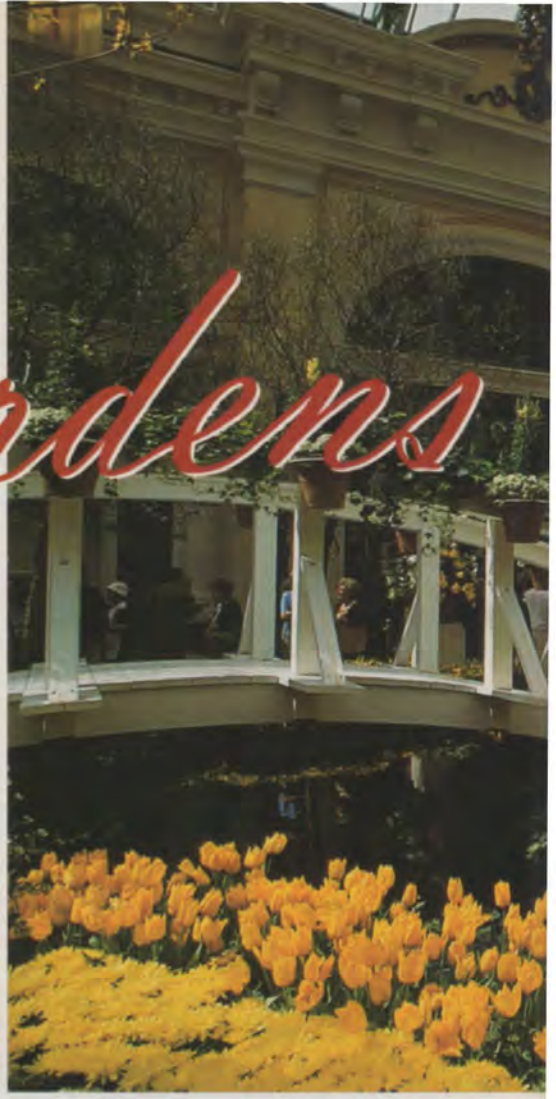
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This spring Nevada's public gardens will be blooming with cacti, roses, and flower enthusiasts.

Great Gardens

By Kimberly Rose Pryor



Nevada is known for the bright colors of neon, but our towns and cities also show off a more natural form of fluorescence—the roses, cacti, and other flowering plants that have blossomed in public gardens. In those gardens, wildflowers dance in the breeze. The fragrance of roses drifts across flower-filled rooms. Saguaro cacti reach for the sky.

The state's public gardens offer a peaceful diversion from the hustle and bustle of the casino scene. Most of the gardens have free admission and are open daily. At first glance their lush greenery may seem out of place in the desert, as if an elegant intruder were crashing a casual party. In fact, several of the gardens specialize in desert plants, and all offer the chance to find a quiet sanctuary, beautiful flowers, and gardening tips.

A major floral attraction, the ***Bellagio's Conservatory and Botanical Gardens*** (702-693-7111), has bloomed on the Las Vegas Strip. Since the Bellagio opened in 1998, guests have gravitated to the conservatory that owner Steve Wynn installed in a large room near the hotel lobby. Enclosed by a glass ceiling, the garden creates a pleasant and often fragrant retreat in the busy hotel-casino.

The conservatory often presents themed displays, arranged by some of the 1,000 gardeners responsible for the Bellagio's grounds and landscaping. Last spring, visitors saw a tribute to Claude Monet's garden at Giverny, which inspired many of the Impressionist's best known paintings. Guests could take in the sweet scent of white apple-tree flowers. Daffodils, irises, tulips, chrysanthemums, snapdragons, hyacinths, and white alyssum added splashes of color. Deeper in the conservatory, a water-lily pond and floating island evoked Monet's own refuge.

Holidays also bring out unusual leaps of horticulture. For the hotel's first Noel, the Bellagio conservatory featured a live, 32-foot Christmas tree decorated by Martha Stewart.

Another Las Vegas retreat teaches visitors the art of desert gardening. The ***Desert Demonstration Gardens*** (702-258-3205), owned by the Southern Nevada Water Authority, offer self-guided tours of 12 themed planting areas, including cacti, Oriental, fruit, and vegetable gardens. The two-and-a-half acre garden showcases more than 1,000 species of trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and vines. Cactus lovers will find red barrel cacti and other succulents. The strawberry hedgehog cactus is particularly striking in spring when it displays iridescent-red flowers.

Visitors can taste history at the Old Mormon Fort's vegetable garden.

Beyond cacti, the demonstration garden has desert plants from around the world. Fairy dusters, members of the pea family from the Sonoran Desert, are named for their pink-puffball flowers. Thirteen varieties of Texas ranger, a velvety-leafed plant native to the Chihuahuan Desert, show off trumpet-shaped flowers after a rainfall—one reason the plant also is called the barometer bush.

"You come by here any day of the year, and you can view several dozen species in bloom," says Pete Duncombe, garden administrator. Through tours and classes, visitors can learn about desert landscaping, plant choices, soil needs, and irrigation systems. The garden is located at 3700 West Alta Drive, three miles west of downtown, near the original Las Vegas Springs; it's open 8 to 5 daily and closed holidays.

The ***Xeric Garden*** (702-895-0952) at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas is named for the word "xeriscape," meaning dry landscape. The garden displays more than 100 plant species from the four North American deserts—the Mojave, Great Basin, Sonoran, and Chihuahuan—as well as South American, Australian, and Mediterranean varieties. The two-acre garden is located outside the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History at the center of the UNLV campus. It's open daily; there's no admission.

One of the Xeric Garden's most attention-getting plants is the matalija poppy from Baja California. In the spring, usually



Tulips enjoy sunny surroundings in the Bellagio Conservatory on the Strip (above). Prickly pears bloom at the Ethel M Cactus Garden in Henderson, where a ground squirrel munches on desert mallow (lower left and right). The Xeric Garden at UNLV showcases American desert plants (middle right).

between mid-April and mid-May, the poppy develops white flowers six to eight inches wide, and a huge yellow ball sits in the center of the blossoms. "It looks like a fried egg, sunny side up," says Dennis Swartzell, UNLV's director of landscape, grounds, and arboretum. "That's why we call it 'the fried egg plant.'"

Visitors in mid-March may see the blooming Texas mountain laurel, a small tree with bright green foliage and clusters of blue flowers. Swartzell points out, "The flowers look like big clusters of grapes and smell like grape bubble gum."

Recently, UNLV opened its half-acre AIDS Memorial Garden. Flowering grasses play a prominent role in the garden. One is deer grass, a lime-green, knee-high plant that sprouts a reddish-purple flower in the fall. The AIDS Memorial Garden is located next to UNLV's Bigelow Health Science Building.

Visitors can literally get a taste of history at the ***Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park*** (702-486-3511). Park visitors can take home samples of "heirloom" vegetables—old-time, nonhybrid varieties—grown in the garden at the historic ranch site just north of downtown Las Vegas. Crops include tomatoes, coyote squash, Indian and pioneer corn, sweet potatoes, and yams. In March and April the park rangers harvest cabbage, lettuce, beets, and turnips. The garden also produces cotton, wheat, rye, and oats.







"They're heirloom vegetables, so they're not the hybrid vegetables that people will grow today," says park ranger Julie Thorn. She adds, "It's hard to come by heirloom seeds because they've genetically altered most of the vegetables around today. But the large majority of the vegetables in our garden are unaltered vegetables."

Grown organically, the vegetables represent three of the Old Mormon Fort's historical periods. The first began in 1855, when Mormon pioneers built the original adobe fort; the remnant in the park is said to be the oldest building in Las Vegas. The second chapter was the occupation by rancher O.D. Gass in the 1860s. Third was the Stewart Ranch period. In the late 1800s, Helen Stewart owned 1,840 acres of ranch land, including the park site. Later she sold her land to the railroad, a deal that led to the establishment of the Las Vegas town site in 1905.

The park's eight-year-old vegetable

Photos: Richard Cummins (top), Larry Angier (bottom left), Chris Leedham (middle right), Craig Malburg (bottom right)

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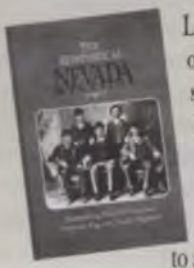
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garden is maintained by Thorn and maintenance supervisor Raymond Richardson. They often try new plants, such as the grape vines they have grown from cuttings that came to the area in the 1880s. The rangers often give tours to schoolchildren.

The garden and the state park are open from 8 to 4:30 daily at 500 East Washington, at the corner of Las Vegas Boulevard, near Cashman Stadium. Admission is $2 for adults and $1 for ages six to 12.

Spring is a great time to see blooming cacti at the ***Ethel M Cactus Garden*** (702-433-2500), the Henderson attraction where visitors can combine a nature walk with a stop at the Ethel M Chocolate Factory.

In April and May, many of the garden's 300 species of cacti, succulents, trees, and shrubs burst into a floral collage. White flowers, pollinated at night by bats, appear on giant saguaros from Arizona and Mexico. The ocotillo tree sports clusters of fiery red flowers. Clumping hedgehogs show pink and violet blossoms.

Wildflowers such as the Australian Sturtis desert pea, with large, deep-red flowers, bloom until summer's end. The fishhook barrel sprouts dainty orange blossoms in August or September. In December and early January, 200,000 lights decorate the cacti. And all year long, resident ground squirrels pose for snapshots and beg for food.

Ethel M Chocolates founder Forrest Mars decided to build the garden near his factory after visiting the Huntington Gardens in Pasadena. In 1981, Mars hired the Huntington Gardens curator, Gary Lyons, to design the Henderson layout. Recently, Lyons helped expand it from three and a half to four acres.

Visitors can take free, self-guided tours of the Ethel M Cactus Garden, at 2 Cactus Center Drive in Henderson, from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day except Christmas.

Flower fans exploring rural Nevada can stop to admire the ***Hawthorne Memorial Rose Garden*** (775-945-5805). The garden in Hawthorne, 133 miles southeast of Reno on U.S. 95, boasts nearly 800 plants.

"It's such a sight for someone to see," says Wanda Noland, who volunteers to maintain the garden. "We've had a lot of people comment on the rose garden, saying that it's one of the prettiest ones they've ever seen. There are so many roses, and when it's in full bloom in the early spring, it's just absolutely outstanding."

Weather permitting, the garden's bloom starts slowly in April, and after Memorial Day everything's coming up roses. By July, the flowers rest until the intense heat of the summer season passes. In August and

September, the roses flower again.

Noland, who owns TLC Nursery in Hawthorne, began tending the roses 10 years ago after discovering that the garden club that had maintained the flowers had disbanded. "The more I thought about it, the more I thought we can't let those poor little roses just sit there and not have any care," Noland recalls. "And I've been taking care of the garden ever since."

The Hawthorne Memorial Rose Garden stands near the Mount Grant General Hospital and Mineral County Public Library. From the El Capitan go south on State Route 359 and take a right on First Street to A Street to reach the rose garden.







Evening primrose open at the Desert Demonstration Gardens in Las Vegas (left). The Old Mormon Fort's heirloom vegetables relate to pioneer varieties (top right). Hawthorne's rose garden blooms below Mount Grant (lower right).

The Lake Tahoe landscape has a personality all its own. To see wildflowers and other natives of the Sierra Nevada, visit the ***North Lake Tahoe Demonstration Garden*** (775-831-1314 in Nevada or 800-332-8666 outside Nevada) on the Sierra Nevada College campus in Incline Village. Twenty-six varieties of wildflowers, including lupine, orange and yellow poppies, alpine asters, and coreoposis, bloom at the entrance from May through early summer. Mountain ash, aspen, mountain maple, and a circle of tall Jeffrey pines shade low-growing plants like native thimbleberry and alpine currant.

To find the garden, take State Route 28 to Village Boulevard in Incline Village. Turn right (up the hill) and follow the road to College Drive. Turn left. The garden is on your left and marked with a sign across from the Administration Building. It's best to wait for the snow to melt before visiting the garden.

A rose by any other name smells just as sweet, as visitors to the ***Reno Municipal Rose Garden*** (775-334-2270) at Idlewild Park have observed. Fred Gallaway founded the garden in 1958 when he was the City of Reno's horticulturist. Gallaway died in 1998, but his creation still thrives with 450 varieties of roses planted in a nationally accredited garden. Splashes of color dot the lawn, from the rich-red Crimson Bouquet to the peachy-orange Livin' Easy and the pink blush of Sexy Rexy. In summer, many couples say "I do" in the garden.

Jim Quinby, the city horticulturist, considers the multicolored Broadway rose a standout. "Broadway is one of my favorites," he says. "The colors of its flowers remind me of rainbow sherbet."

The Reno Municipal Rose Garden is tucked in the western corner of Idlewild Park, next to the Truckee River, a half-mile west of Reno. Permits are required for weddings. The garden is open daily.

Another Reno garden has an impressive view of the city. Located on a knoll between the Desert Research Institute and Truckee Meadows Community College off U.S. 395 North, the ***Countess Angela Dandini Garden*** (775-673-7313) has more than 200 species of plants. They include roses, bearded irises, Western columbines, black-eyed Susans, mule's ears, and currant bushes. Fountains gurgle amid the plants. Birds sip from the new terraced pond with its miniature waterfall. Bristlecone pines and desert peach trees shade picnic tables that overlook Reno.

Countess Dandini dedicated the two-acre garden to her late husband, Count Alessandro Dandini, inventor of the three-way electric light bulb, and her mother, Cleonice di Fiore-Desideri.

A statue of Hebe, the goddess of youth, and a wishing well imported from Italy help create a formal villa garden where foreign plants mingle with natives. Open to the public during daylight hours, the garden is located on the Truckee Meadows Community College campus off Raggio Parkway. Take the Dandini Boulevard exit on U.S. 395 North and follow the signs to the parking area.

A "serene, bird-filled natural retreat surrounded by city" is how Douglas Davidson, a horticultural specialist with Washoe County Parks, describes the ***Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Gardens*** (775-785-4153) in Reno. The gardens, located in Rancho San Rafael Regional Park just west of the University of Nevada, boast 4,000 plant species on 30 acres. There, rock gardens resplendent with Great Basin and Sierra Nevada plant life partner with water-thrifty xeriscape plots. A rose garden and beds of annuals and perennials add variety. Trees include native pines, aspens, willows, and cottonwoods as well as colorful lindens, sycamores, maples, dogwoods, and oaks.

The gardens are open from 8 a.m. to about sunset all year. Admission is free. Nearby attractions include the Wilbur D. May Museum and a children's park with a petting zoo. At the gardens, tours and nature walks are scheduled at times.

"We also have a formal English garden that's a favorite for weddings and other special occasions, and the rental cost is minimal, usually under $200," Davidson says. "In the fall the different trees' colors remind you of New England."

Kimberly Rose Pryor is a Lake Tahoe writer. Her middle name represents both her grandmother's name and her favorite flower.

Photos: Carolyn Fox (left), Tony Hughes (bottom right)

DONNER TRAIL DAYS

(Continued from page 22)

Sox. He later coached the baseball team at the University of Nevada in Reno.

We made a quick trip to San Francisco, where I had to get an advertising contract signed and he was to tape an interview with O.J. Simpson. ("What a nice guy!" said Jack.) When Jack dropped me off at the ranch, I offered him one for the road. Walking into my bright, clean kitchen I was unhappy to find a large snake slithering across the floor. Without thinking I snatched the intruder by the tail and gave it a snap like a bullwhip, broke its neck, and flung it outside. "What would you like?" I asked Jack, who was standing there, mouth agape.

I think that's why he married me.

We were wed on a cold, rainy Monday by the unlit fireplace in the big house with "Anastasia" and Joan Drackert as witnesses. A Paiute Indian wedding ceremony was read by Verdi Justice of the Peace Hank Mosconi, who had lost his left arm by hanging it out of his truck window and being sideswiped. In spite of this, he drove the Verdi school bus.

I've always said it's not the wedding but the marriage that counts. And we had a great one.

In 1971, Governor Mike O'Callaghan appointed Jack deputy director of the Department of Economic Development in Carson City. So I had to leave Donner Trail and, eventually, Nevada, when Jack accepted the position of head baseball coach at Cal Berkeley.

Going back to Reno when I could, over the years I saw beautiful ranches near town become thick with condos. A few years ago, when I was visiting Quilici Ranch across the river from Donner Trail, the Quilicis drove me over to see it.

Nevada has a way of plowing under its history, only to regret it later.

I wept to see houses where I'd galloped my horse. It tore my heart out to see the big house standing still and dark, windows broken, open to the wind and snow. Later the house was torn down. Vanished. Only the horse barn and tack room remain.

If ever on some moonlit night a ghost is seen there among the shadows, it will be me.

Good-bye, Donner Trail.

Katharine Jensen is a tree farmer in central Virginia and has served on the State Board of Forestry. She returns yearly to Nevada for treks in the desert.

Great Western Vacations

(Continued from page 15)

partridges. Cost is $150 per day. (No credit cards.) Call Bill Gibson, 775-744-2277, or write HC 30, Box 197-13, Elko, NV 89801. Web site Cattle-log.com/rcranch/htm.

Mustang Outfitters: On this trip you can see wild horses and ride them, too. Karen and Jim Stahl adopt and train BLM mustangs to carry guests into the Big Smoky Valley south of Austin (*Nevada*, July/Aug '99). Note: The "wild" horses are gentle enough for inexperienced riders. Rates range from $50 for a half-day ride to $150 per night for pack trips. Mustang Outfitters is located 35 miles north of Round Mountain on State Route 376. Call or fax 775-964-2145 or write Karen and Jim Stahl, Mustang Outfitters, Box 1149, Round Mountain, NV 89045.

Jarbidge Wilderness Guide and Packing: Lowell Prunty leads horseback tours for fishing and photography in the Jarbidge Wilderness from June to September. Cost is $1,350 per person, with horses, tents, and food provided; backpackers can be accommodated. Call 208-857-2270 or write Lowell Prunty, Murphy's Hot Spring, Rogerson, ID 83302.

Tin Cup Adventures: Riders can explore the Black Rock Desert by moonlight with Dennis and Mike Tristram each summer. The husband-and-wife team also lead guided pack trips into such areas as the Mount Rose Wilderness. Cost is $75 for a day trip and $484 for a five-day camping trip. Discounts for kids 15 and under and riders who bring their own horses. (No credit cards.) Call 775-849-0570 or write 220 Wayne Road, Carson City, NV 89704. E-mail mdtristram@webtv.net.

FISHING

Smith Creek Ranch: "Our guests generally fish from sunup to sundown," says Mont Adams of the Smith Creek Ranch. This cattle ranch and bed-and-breakfast, located between Middlegate and Austin on State Route 722 (old U.S. 50), offers fly fishing on a private pond and creek from early spring through early winter. "As soon as the ice is thawed, we are ready to fish," says Adams. The main pond has native German brown trout and is stocked with rainbows. Only six guests at a time can stay at the ranch, allowing plenty of room for casting. Fishing is limited to float tube or wading, catch and release.

Guests stay in a 1940s ranch house. There's no electricity, so a generator provides power to the ranch. Anglers often fish until 10 at night in the summer, but some enjoy tying flies and swapping fish stories on the porch after dinner.

Guests can reach the Smith Creek Ranch, about 150 miles east of Reno, by car via U.S. 50 and State Route 722. Small aircraft can land at the Austin airport, 30 miles away, with transportation provided to the ranch. Reservations are required. The cost of $125 per day of fishing includes lunch; an overnight stay with dinner and breakfast is an additional $60. Fishing equipment and casting instruction, at no charge, are available when requested in advance. (MC, Visa.) Call Diane Hunter, 800-330-2248, or write 570 North Downs Lane, Fallon, NV 89406. Web site www.wncc.nevada.edu/~sinnett.

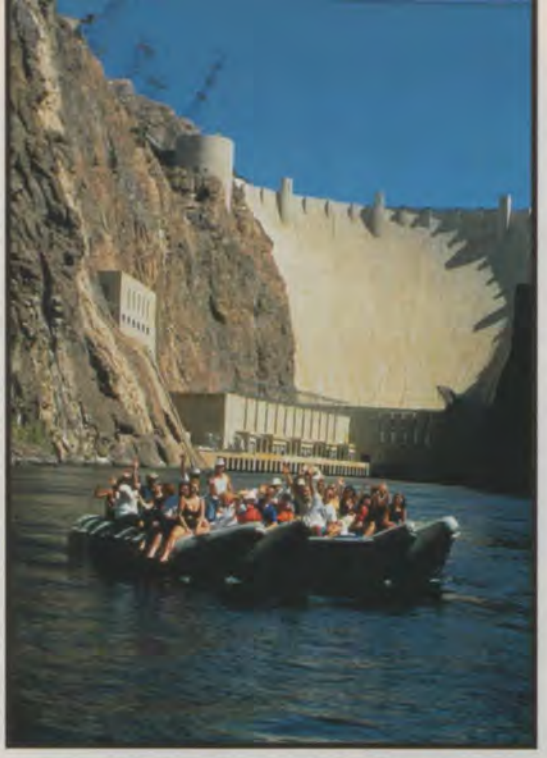
Walker River Resort: Leia and Stan Simmons are your hosts at this private resort on the banks of the Walker River in Smith Valley, 75 miles south of Reno. Anglers can practice catch-and-release fly fishing for native and stocked trout with a guide or on their own. The resort is situated on private waters that, after 20 years, are newly reopened for fishing. Horseback clinics are offered on team roping techniques. Horse rentals and boarding are available, as are sporting clays.

Cost of fishing with a guide is $100 per day including equipment and lunch. Weekend price is $400 and includes fishing, lodging (cottages sleep up to six), equipment, two rounds at the sporting clays course, and lunches. (AE, Disc, MC, Visa.) Take State Route 208 through Smith and watch for the sign; a two-mile mile dirt road leads to the resort. Call 800-446-2573 or write Box 90, Smith, NV 89430. E-mail h2ies@aol.com. Web site www.walkerriver-resort.com.

DAY TRIPS

Adventure Photo Tours: Photograph Southern Nevada on full- or half-day trips to Hoover Dam, Red Rock Canyon, and the Calico Hills. Half-day trips cost $75, full-day $150, with hotel pickup. (All major credit cards.) Call 702-889-8687 or write Adventure Photo Tours, 3111 South Valley View Blvd., X-106, Las Vegas, NV 89102. Web www.adventurephototours.com.

Black Canyon Raft Tours: Full-day float trips on the Colorado River year-round. Cost of $64.95 includes lunch. (Disc, MC, Visa.) Call 800-696-7238 or 702-293-3776



Black Canyon Raft Tours operates below Hoover Dam.

or write Black Canyon Raft Tours, Expedition Center, 1297 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005. Web site www.rafts.com.

Corley Ranch: This working cattle ranch one mile south of Gardnerville offers a Carson Valley setting for special daytime events such as weddings, company parties, family reunions, conferences, horse and dog shows—"anything outside with a Western atmosphere," says Paula Corley, who with her husband, Jon, owns the ranch. The Corleys handle groups ranging from 25 to 500 people. Activities can include wagon rides, cowboy poetry, and horse events. Call 775-265-2760 or -3045 or write the Corley Ranch, 1047 Kerry Lane, Gardnerville, NV 89410.

Oasis Gun Club: This ranch and gun club is affiliated with Si Redd's Oasis Resort in Mesquite, 79 miles northeast of Las Vegas. For more information call 702-346-5232 or 800-621-0187 ext. 3729 or write Oasis Gun Club, Si Redd's Oasis Resort, Box 360, Mesquite, NV 89024.

Ponderosa Ranch: At Lake Tahoe, the *Bonanza* legend lives on in this Western theme park with a replica of the Cartwrights' log house, old-fashioned shops, saloon, and petting zoo. The ranch is open May to October. Call 775-831-0691 or write 100 Ponderosa Ranch Road, Incline Village, NV 89450.

Rocky Trails: Geologists and other nature professionals lead guided walks in Southern Nevada. Day trips to Valley of Fire ($118) and Red Rock Canyon ($110) include lunch and hotel pickup. (All major credit cards.) Call 888-867-6259 or 702-869-9991 or write Ed Price, Rocky Trails, Box 371324, Las Vegas, NV 89137. E-mail and Web site tours@rockytrails.com.

Southern Nevada Zoological-Botanical Park: Gemstone collecting and historic mining camp tours by Jeep are $129. Destination Pioche and Groom Lake (Area 51) tours are $179 for a full day with lunch. (AE, MC, Visa.) Hotel pickup. Call 702-647-4685 or write Southern Nevada Zoological Botanical Park, 1775 N. Rancho Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89106. E-mail nvzoolv@aol.com. Web www.lvrj.com/communitylink/zoo.

Stables: The Las Vegas area has several horse-riding stables. **Cowboy Trail Rides** has stables in Red Rock Canyon and near scenic Mount Charleston; call 702-387-2457 **Red Rock Riding Stables** are located near Bonnie Springs/Old Nevada's petting zoo, shops, and restaurant; call 702-875-4191. The Reno-Tahoe area's stables include **Verdi Trails West** in Verdi, 10 miles west of Reno; call 775-345-1027. **High Sierra Stables** is located in Golden Valley, north of Reno via U.S. 395; call 775-972-1345. **Zephyr Cove Stables** stand on the east shore of Lake Tahoe four miles north of the Stateline casino area; call 775-588-5664.

Tahoe Rim Trail: Work parties help maintain the round-the-lake loop from June to October. Call 775-588-0686 or write Tahoe Rim Trail, Box 4647, 298 Kingsbury Grade, Stateline, NV 89449. E-mail tahoerimtrail@aol.com. Web site www.tahoerimtrail.org. Volunteers can sign up on-line.

SPECIAL ADVENTURES

Ruby Mountain Heli-Skiing: The helicopter-skiing season usually runs through spring in the Rubies south of Elko. Powder enthusiasts are transported by helicopter to 11,000-foot peaks, where they can look down on 500 square miles of wilderness skiing and runs ranging from 1,500 to 2,500 vertical feet. Headquarters is Red's Ranch, a log lodge with 10 bedrooms and private baths in Lamoille. After a full day's skiing, guests can relax by the stone fireplace or play billiards. All meals are prepared in the ranch-house kitchen. Cost is $2,600 for a three-day package with a guarantee of 3,900 vertical feet of skiing, meals, lodging, guide service, ski rental, and helicopter shuttles. Call 775-753-6867 or write Ruby Mountain Helicopter Skiing, Box 281192, Lamoille, NV 89528. E-mail rubymtn@helicopterskiing.com. Web site www.helicopterskiing.com for information.



Skiers meet powder near Elko with Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski.

Laz Tech Bull Riding School: Want to ride like a rodeo star? At this instructional school in Blue Diamond, 20 miles south of Las Vegas, owners Brett and Gary Leffew and Rob Harte train riders of all ages in the finer aspects of bull riding and mutton busting. Sessions are held in March and October. Cost is $225 for a two-day school. (AE, MC, Visa.) Call 702-456-0506 or 702-875-4394 or write 244 Potosi, Henderson, NV 89014. E-mail rdh@gty.ci.henderson.nv.us.

Shannon Montana is an editorial assistant at Nevada Magazine. *She hopes to vacation at a dude ranch this summer if she can find one with a feather bed.*

Photo: Joe Royer (right)

LANDSCAPE O

A TOUR LIKE NO OTHER: FROM THE BRIGHT LIGHTS OF LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD TO THE "CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE FOR ALL THAT FLIES."

Story and Photos by Richard Menzies



"Welcome aboard. Today we'll be visiting a place that you're not allowed to go." Thus spake tour leader Matt Coolidge as our motor coach pulled away from the Luxor, a pyramidal structure on the Las Vegas Strip inscribed with hieroglyphics that have puzzled Egyptologists since 1993. Ahead lay an even bigger enigma: 5,000 square miles of *terra incognita* that Coolidge described as "a big hole in the fabric of America."

Also known as the Nellis Range Complex, the mysterious "big hole" encompasses the Nevada Test Site, the Tonopah Test Range, and Area 51. The area holds particular fascination for Coolidge—who, from a corner of the Museum of Jurassic Technology building in Culver City, California, helps run the Center for Land Use Interpretation. The nonprofit CLUI is dedicated "to the increase and diffusion of information about how the world's lands are apportioned, utilized, and perceived." Among other things, the center sponsors interpretive displays in remote locations, maintains an exhibition hall inside Wendover's decommissioned World War II air base, and organizes guided tours of such things as open-pit mines, nuclear-waste dumps, and mothballed missile sites.

Why was I on the tour? Because I really dig the sort of creepy, otherworldly enterprises that, like the Death Valley pupfish, flourish only in remote corners of the American Southwest. Who were the other folks on the tour? In the words of Doug Harvey, who covered the event for *LA Weekly*, ours was "a patchwork of paranoids from the diverse worlds of art, politics, military science, extraterrestrial studies, and journalism."

Unfortunately, the Air Force wasn't about to let a patchwork of paranoids go snooping around inside the largest and most secretive restricted space in the United States. Undaunted, Coolidge and his cohorts at CLUI had simply reconfigured the itinerary. Instead of venturing *onto* the range, we'd circle all the way around it. By doing so, it was hoped that we'd come away with a clearer sense of what it's like where we hadn't been.

Glitter quickly gave way to greasewood as we left Las Vegas and proceeded northwest on U.S. 95. Off to the right we saw a cluster of buildings and target ranges that comprise the USAF Security Police Desert Warfare Training Center. Also known as "Terrortown," it's where local law-enforcement officers and security forces from all branches of the military learn how to repel intruders. From the looks of things, I gather they generally shoot first and ask questions later.

We passed numerous control towers and firing ranges, including Range 63, where several times a year live fire demonstrations are staged for military brass and selected guests, complete with orchestral accompaniment—Wagnerian, I presume. A few minutes later we passed Indian Springs Auxiliary Airfield, one of three large air bases on the Nellis Range. Indian Springs is home of the Thunderbirds and the nation's only active Unmanned Aerial Vehicle squadron.

Our first stop was not a military installation but rather a ragtag encampment of

F CONJECTURE





Tour guide Matt Coolidge led the busload of Nellis explorers. At left, the gang poses near the main entrance to Area 51, with "Photography Prohibited" sign and camou dude in the background.

tents and Volkswagen minivans just outside the entrance to the Nevada Test Site. There we were lectured eloquently on the evils of radioactivity by Corbin Harney, a Western Shoshone spiritual leader and environmental activist. Harney's perspective on the Test Site was exactly 180 degrees opposite that of DOE spokeswoman Nancy Harkess, who hastened to assure us radiation levels at Frenchman Flat are no higher than they are at, say, Las Vegas.

Harkess had taken over as guide as our bus was now creeping across a dry lake bed pocked with craters and dotted with strange and wonderful artifacts of the Atomic Age. Over the years, some 928 nuclear devices have been detonated at the Nevada Test Site. At ground zero where a 37-kiloton airblast code-named "Priscilla" was touched off in 1957, we gazed upon a nuclear sculpture garden consisting of reinforced-concrete bomb shelters, a collapsed underground parking garage, the warped and twisted steel skeleton of a railroad overpass. We even saw a battered, but still intact, bank vault. Later, we drove around Mercury, a '50s-era boom town whose street signs bear the names of various atomic tests. Once home to thousands of soldiers, civilian scientists, and support personnel, today her cinder-block dormitories and laboratories stand eerily vacant. Indeed, if not for the fact that photography isn't permitted, Mercury would make an ideal setting for a science-fiction movie.

Mercury and its environs are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Energy, which has renamed the Rhode Island-sized parcel "a national environmental research park." Visitors—even busloads of paranoids—are welcome to visit, but you'll have to make an advance reservation—and don't forget to bring along proof of citizenship. Even so, you won't be permitted to take pictures or touch anything. Think "The Liberace Museum," only not as sparkly.

Around noontime we paused for a leisurely box luncheon amid the ruins of Rhyolite. There we had a chance to compare notes on what we'd seen—or not seen—and to chat informally with two distinguished fellow travelers. Phil Patton is a *New York Times* columnist, technology buff, and author whose book *Dreamland: Travels Inside the Secret World of Roswell and Area 51* has been hailed as "a mind-opening tale of trespass and revelation." Mark Farmer, better known in Interceptor circles as Agent X, is a freelance Blackworld sleuth whose innumerable nocturnal forays into what he calls "the center of the universe for all that flies" have made him something of a folk hero and a familiar shape on military night-vision scopes. It was Farmer who coined the term "LeBaronable"—used to describe a dirt road or cow path impassable except by rented Chrysler. Within the hour, Agent X would be adding another unusual adjective to his vocabulary: "unbusable."

The word described conditions just inside the heavily guarded entrance gate of the Tolicha Peak Electronic Combat Range—where, in the course of making a U-turn, our bus ran aground. As a result, we spent more time than anticipated on restricted terrain. While some members of the entourage scurried to collect rocks



Videos on atomic bombs and Area 51 aired continuously.



Agent X futurizes at the Area 51 Information Center in Rachel.



Photographers focus on an old B-24 hangar at the Tonopah airport.

and brush to place underneath the motor coach's drive wheels, others gathered to watch a tarantula ambling leisurely in the direction of Amargosa. Still others jotted notes as Agent X expounded on the nature of electronic warfare. Farmer explained that aerial combat has changed greatly in recent years, as has the way pilots are trained. Military aviators today must undergo hundreds of hours of simulated combat. Scenarios replicating conflicts likely to occur in various geopolitical "theaters" are played and replayed at Nellis, often using aircraft and radar defense systems surreptitiously "acquired" from the air forces of would-be enemies.

Information, not nuclear bombs, will be the primary weapon of the future, Agent X said. "Command and control will stay home. Electronic technicians and computer programmers will be the warriors of the future. Future threats will be faceless, rapidly moving, and hard to identify."

By this time, security personnel had determined that our high-centered bus was not one of those rapidly moving threats. A burly but genial ex-marine wearing camouflaged fatigues and a pistol on his hip invited us into the guard shack for hot coffee, apologizing for the shortage of cups. A second guard radioed for help on his walkie-talkie. Presently an Air Force tractor truck appeared, and in no time at all we were on our merry way.

During the long ride into Goldfield, passengers were treated to an on-board movie. *Vanishing Point*, a 1971 car-chase film, stars Barry Newman as a disaffected stock-car driver named Kowalski who speeds across the hinterlands of Nevada in a supercharged Dodge Challenger. Along the way he encounters an enclave of hillbilly snake worshipers, a high-fashion female filling-station attendant, Nevada state troopers evidently on loan from Hazzard County, and finally a jive-talking soul-brother disc jockey (Cleavon Little) who alone understands what makes Kowalski run.

Clearly, Matt Coolidge is onto something when he characterizes the wide-open spaces of Nye County as a geographical blank slate upon which are inscribed "the projections of whoever chooses to contemplate it." Indeed, "Landscape of Conjecture" would seem a fitting subtitle for the fanciful Hollywood road movie.

The following morning we woke up in Tonopah and set out on U.S. 6, pausing along the way to chat with longtime Tonopah airport manager Mark Peterson. Home to a handful of single-engine Cessnas today, the airport in 1940 was a training base for P-39 fighter pilots, including World War II ace Chuck Yeager. By 1943 it had evolved into a bomber base, with a fleet of a hundred B-24s and housing sufficient to accommodate 12,000 people.

"It's a shame that the county salvaged everything out," lamented Peterson as he pointed out the three remaining aircraft hangars, row upon row of concrete foundations, and a lonely clump of Joshua trees where the officer's club had once stood.

Years after the old Tonopah air base was torn down, another one sprang up—only this time no one could say just how many people were stationed there or what sort of aircraft they were working on. Not until after the Gulf War did the public get its first close-up look at the F-117, the radar-evading Stealth warplane developed and tested at Tonopah Test Range.

Although not as busy as it was during the '70s and '80s, TTR remains an active airfield. From outside the fence looking in, all we could make out was a mountaintop radome or two, plus a faraway row of buff-colored buildings that looked like utility sheds but could be hangars the size of football fields. In the desert, distance is often the best camouflage.

TAKING THE FORBIDDEN TOUR

For the record, my tour circling the Nellis Range Complex cost $55, plus meals and an overnight stay at the Station House in Tonopah. Future trips are not scheduled at this time. For information regarding close encounters with out-of-the-way places, contact the Center for Land Use Interpretation, 9331 Venice Boulevard, Culver City, CA 90232. Phone 310-839-5722, fax 310-839-6678, or e-mail clui@clui.org. Feel free to visit the center's Web site, www.clui.org, or see if you can find your way to CLUI's exhibition hall, stealthily concealed in a nondescript WWII-era barracks (Building No. 2514) at the old Wendover air base.—*Richard Menzies*



A soothing natural phenomenon was identified at Warm Springs.



Agent X tries to dig out the motor coach in another "no photo" zone.



Dreamland author Phil Patton checks out the Little A 'Le' Inn.



The circumnavigation of the Nellis Range Complex took the group, comprised mostly of Southern Californians, on a top-secret vacation through Mercury, Beatty, Goldfield, Tonopah, and Rachel.

With the unveiling of the F-117, the SR-71 Blackbird, the U-2, and the B-2, many questions as to what goes on behind locked security gates at Nellis have been answered. Still, many portions of the range remain shrouded in clouds of conjecture—and nowhere are those clouds thicker than about the fringes of Area 51. Also known as the Box, the Ranch, Elvis' House, and the Remote Location, America's most secret air base doesn't appear on the Nevada state road map, but as soon as we turned off U.S. 6 at Warm Springs onto State Route 375—better known as the Extraterrestrial Highway—we sensed we were getting closer. Eagerly, we scanned the skies for UFOs, the brush for mutilated bovines.

"People come here with a heightened sensitivity," explained Matt Coolidge. "Those who believe in the possibility of alien abduction, this is the place where it's considered most likely to happen."

Alien space ships, alas, did not appear. All we saw were range cows, wild horses, and one solitary pronghorn antelope. Not until after we arrived at a little green spot in the desert named Rachel did we finally observe a flying saucer—when Phil Patton launched a polystyrene dinner plate in the parking lot of the Little A 'Le' Inn.

In addition to aerodynamic dinnerware, the Inn provides a forum for UFO enthusiasts and New World Order conspiracy buffs. It also does a lively business in extraterrestrial souvenirs, as do the other two business establishments in town: the Area 51 Information Center and the Quick Pik gas station and convenience store.

An hour later, our bellies full of pasta and our backpacks stuffed with T-shirts, posters, pamphlets, bogus security passes, bumper stickers, glow-in-the-dark saucers, and inflatable ETs, we reboarded the bus and continued southeast on SR 375, cresting Coyote Summit and descending into the vast emptiness of Tikaboo Valley. At the southwest edge of the valley stand the Jumbled Hills. Beyond the Jumbled Hills lies Area 51, technological Brigadoon.

The main road into the super-secret base is unpaved and unmarked, but by and by we came upon a large "No Trespassing" sign. On a hilltop to our left stood some sort of electronic-surveillance device. On the hilltop opposite was parked a white Jeep Cherokee, beside which a man dressed in full camouflage stood watching through powerful binoculars. Although it was my first trip to the main entrance of Area 51, I recognized the scene immediately. Documentary film crews have been flocking to the spot for years to be arrested and have their cameras confiscated.

Before letting us out of the bus, Matt Coolidge issued a caution to those who were packing Kodaks. "It would go against my religion to say that you *can't* take pictures," he advised. "Just bear in mind the possible consequences, and make sure before you do that you have the support of the entire group."

Looking around, I doubted I could count on much in the way of group support, for after two days on the road, I had failed to make any new friends. And why was the seat next to mine vacant? Clearly, word was out that I must be an undercover government informant. "Or am I just being paranoid?" I wondered aloud. "And when did I start talking to myself?"

It turns out my anxiety was unfounded, for no sooner had we alighted from the motor coach than an orgy of spontaneous snapshooting broke out. Unified at last, the gang even posed for a group picture directly in front of the "Photography Prohibited" sign. Several members of the group shouted, "Cheese!"

Others glanced nervously in the direction of the camou dude on the hill, who by now had put down his binoculars and taken up his bullhorn:

"I hope you didn't spend too much on that tour!"

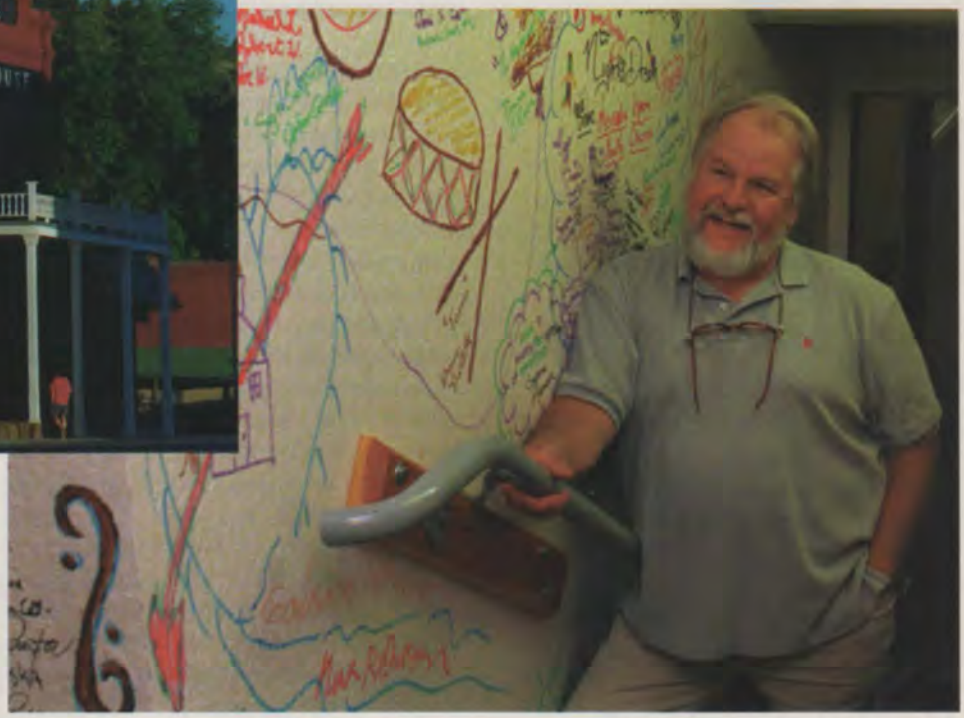
The camou dude's amplified remark brought a smile to everyone's face, including that of Agent X, who declared afterward it was the closest thing to a friendly conversation he'd ever had with an Area 51 security guard. Could it be a sign that a new era of openness is upon us? Are the folks inside Area 51 eager to make contact? Wish I could say—unfortunately, no one in our party had thought to bring along a bullhorn.

Richard Menzies is a Salt Lake City-based writer and photographer.

Wally's World

Eureka Opera House director Wally Cuchine nurtures culture in Central Nevada. **By Richard Moreno**





Cuchine inspects the artwork and signatures left by performers at the Eureka Opera House, where he books bands and plays throughout the year. The opera house (at right in upper left photo) first opened in 1880.

You can always tell when Wally Cuchine is home—just look for the only single-wide trailer on the hillside west of Eureka that has a neon pink flamingo in the window.

Since 1993, Cuchine has served as executive director of the Eureka Opera House, sharing a bit of highbrow culture—and his lowbrow flamingo—with Central Nevada. In fact, Cuchine jokes that his neighbor, Eureka County Sheriff Ken Jones, dislikes the flamingo so much that he has told him, "Don't bother filing a crime report if it's ever stolen."

Cuchine's goal since becoming head of the opera house has been to offer a diverse menu of entertainers ranging from Celtic pipers to cowboy poets. "It has been my opinion that you should have an eclectic mix of performers," he says.

Eclectic is certainly the way to describe the bearded Cuchine. He earned a degree in environmental science from Sierra Nevada College and worked for more than 20 years in a variety of jobs including department store clerk, community planner, field archaeologist, visiting humanities scholar, tour guide, and convention-center director. He has lived in communities throughout the state, including Pioche, Lovelock, Ely, and Las Vegas.

His resume, however, doesn't begin to do justice to his personality. When speaking of Cuchine (pronounced "Kuh-shane") his friends frequently mention his boundless energy and wry sense of humor. A conversation with him might bounce from a discussion on the state of historic preservation in Reno to the type of sculpture he's planning someday to have placed on his grave.

"His humor and his personality are as rotund as his body," laughs Elko sculptor Sarah Sweetwater, a close friend. In fact, Sweetwater, who teaches sculpture at Elko's Great Basin College, is the artist Cuchine has asked to create his graveside sculpture. "He wants me to do a sculpture of him standing in the nude, but I think I'd rather do something like what Rodin did of Balzac [with] a stout, kind of powerful body. To me, Wally has that kind of stout, solid, dramatic figure," she adds. "In my mind I see the sculpture expressing his personality as well as the person."

Sweetwater, who often drives two hours to attend events at the Eureka Opera House, says she is impressed by what Cuchine has accomplished. "If it weren't for people like Wally, we in rural Nevada would be starved culturally," she says.

Originally from East Helena, Montana, Cuchine, 52, has been a Nevada resident for nearly three decades. He discovered Eureka, the historic mining town located 242 miles east of Reno, in the early 1980s

Photos: Jean Dixon/Reno Gazette-Journal

when he was hired to measure air quality in the region.

"While I was here, I fell in love with Eureka," he recalls. "I always knew I could come back here someday." His chance to return came in 1993, when he was tapped to run the opera house after two successful years as executive director of the Bristlecone Convention Center in Ely.

Built in 1880, the Eureka Opera House originally served as a miner's union hall and later as a movie house. By the late 1980s, however, it was in need of restoration. The opera house was acquired by Eureka County, which spent $2.5 million, mostly from taxes generated from the county's gold mines, to renovate the two-story, red-brick building and turn it into a convention center and performing arts theater. When he was hired, Cuchine says, the Eureka County commissioners provided him with a generous budget and told him to bring in performers he thought the community would like to see.

He recently invited a dozen Nevada visual artists to spend a weekend in Eureka to record their impressions of the community.

"The opera house has been my vision," he says. "We've been able to partner with local schools so that when we bring in a performer, he or she must do a special performance for the schools."

During the last six years, the opera house has hosted country-rock performers like Eddie Rabbitt (who was the first performer to appear in the revamped opera house), Western singers such as Don Edwards, Celtic bands, jazz groups, contemporary poetry readings, mystery theater, local school plays, and visiting children's theater workshops.

Cuchine requests that anyone who performs in the opera house, including members of children's groups, sign his or her name on one of the backstage walls. "My dream is someday these kids who do sign the wall will bring their kids to see where they signed," he says.

One of Cuchine's passions is Western art. His home is jammed with paintings, posters, statues, and prints depicting Western themes and Nevada landscapes. He recently invited a dozen Nevada visual artists to spend a weekend in Eureka to record their impressions of the community and the region in some type of artwork. His plan is to have their work become the beginning of a permanent art collection for the opera house.

Cuchine also collects books about Nevada. An entire room in his home is lined with tall bookshelves stuffed with books about the state's history, geography, people, flora, and fauna. Cuchine jokes that he can't ever leave Eureka because he's been told he has so many books in his trailer that "it'll break in two if I ever try to move it."

Anyone who spends any time with Cuchine at the opera house can see that he enjoys his job. He is a hands-on manager, involved in nearly every aspect of the building's operations. It's not unusual to see him run to the control booth in the balcony to show a member of a local theater group how to operate the stage lights and then pop into the opera house's shiny, modern kitchen to check on the arrangements for a spaghetti feed later that week. "This is the last job I'll ever have," he says. "I'll retire here."

Not surprisingly, Cuchine is proud of the opera house that he's helped to nurture. "This is a wonderful, intimate place to see a performance. I like to tell people that we're the center of everywhere [in Nevada] and everyone should come here to enjoy a performance," he says.

And, of course, don't forget to look for his pink flamingo.

Richard Moreno is Nevada Magazine's *publisher. He once owned a plastic pink flamingo, but it died.*

Nights at the Opera

The Eureka Opera House hosts a number of cultural events each year. Located on U.S. 50, the historic town of Eureka is 242 miles east of Reno and 77 miles west of Ely. Here are some of the programs scheduled for 2000 at the Eureka Opera House. All shows start at 7 p.m. Call 775-237-6006 for more information.

Colcannon: New acoustic Celtic folk music, March 24.

Tears of Joy: Puppet theater, April 14.

Cindy Pearson: Original folk music, May 19.

"Clarence Darrow: Crimes, Causes, and the Courtroom": The play about the famous trial attorney takes place across the street at the Eureka County Courthouse's courtroom, June 2.

Trains, Tramps, and Traditions: Railroading folk music, June 30.

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Honeymoon Hotel

The Cal-Neva Resort lures marriage-minded couples with Tahoe views and a colorful celebrity past. **By Annie Blachley**

Couples getting married at the Cal-Neva Resort sometimes face a special set of matrimonial logistics. The Cal-Neva, perched above Lake Tahoe's north shore, straddles the Nevada-California state line. If the bride and groom have a California license and are married on the Nevada side of the resort, they walk over to the Golden State portion for a second "I now pronounce you..." The same shuffle is required if they have a Nevada license but are wed on the California side.

There also is a bistate twist to ceremonies in the Indian Room, where the state line is marked on the room's huge granite fireplace. By custom, the bride stands on the left (California) and the groom on the right (Nevada). Afterwards the newlyweds likely will stay in just one state, perhaps in the Marilyn Monroe Cabin or in the chalet that Frank Sinatra preferred when he owned the club.



The Indian Room's two-state fireplace forms a backdrop for weddings and romantic toasts.

The Cal-Neva is unusual in that gambling takes a back seat to weddings and romantic celebrations. That strategy was set by Charles P. Bluth, a California real-estate developer, after he bought the Tahoe resort in the 1980s. Bluth gave the place a $10-million restoration, eliminated a third of the casino games, and created a niche market for the wedding business. Today the Cal-Neva hosts 600 weddings each year, and honeymooners represent the resort's fastest-growing clientele.

The Cal-Neva's quirky and colorful past adds to its sense of romance. The resort originated in 1926 as a large log cabin built by Robert P. Sherman, a wealthy San Franciscan who used the lodge to entertain friends and real-estate clients. In 1928 the property was deeded to Norman Biltz, who would become a Reno real-estate tycoon and Nevada political boss (*Nevada*, Nov/Dec '81). A casino was installed after Nevada legalized gambling in 1931. The lodge burned down in May 1937, but crews working 'round the clock rebuilt it in 31 days. (The Indian Room, Circle Bar, and casino remain from the 1937 reconstruction.) Over the years the Cal-Neva hosted actors Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford as well as boxer Jack Dempsey. At one time the club was run by Bill Graham and Jim McKay, the notorious Reno club operators and con men. The lodge changed owners several times until it passed to the management of Bert "Wingy" Grober.

In 1960 the Cal-Neva was bought by a friend of Grober's—Frank Sinatra. The singer built the Celebrity Showroom and enticed pals like Dean Martin and Juliet Prowse to perform there. When the cast of *The Misfits* celebrated at the lodge, Sinatra sang to Monroe at her ringside table. Old-timers remember how Sinatra would finish a show and leave by a secret tunnel to avoid being seen as he went to his cabin—or the cabins of other guests.

Old-timers remember how Sinatra would finish a show and leave by a secret tunnel that went to his cabin.

However, tunnels could not hide the presence of Chicago mobster Sam Giancana in 1963. Giancana was listed in Nevada's "Black Book," the directory of people banned from the state's casinos as undesirables. When word leaked that Giancana had visited the Cal-Neva and had

Photo: Jay Aldrich





Bert "Wingy" Grober hovers over Marilyn Monroe and Frank Sinatra, who had to give up his piece of the Cal-Neva in 1963 after Chicago mob boss Sam Giancana was discovered staying at the resort. Right: Wedding-party members can gaze upon the bride, groom, and north end of Lake Tahoe from the Gazebo.

been involved in a bizarre fistfight, a showdown ensued between Sinatra and the Nevada Gaming Control Board. As a result, Sinatra had to sell his share of the resort, and the Cal-Neva endured many ups and downs until Bluth's purchase.

Today, the Cal-Neva plays up its history. The Indian Room displays artifacts celebrating the heritage of the Washoe Indians, the original inhabitants of Crystal Bay. Monroe's and Sinatra's former quarters are available for rent, and tours of Sinatra's secret tunnels are conducted upon request. The resort also hosts plays, musicals, and concerts.

But the main emphasis is on romance. "We have young people, senior couples, and people planning wedding number seven," says Rossana Roach, the hotel's special event coordinator. "We're a full-service wedding facility." Up to 350 guests can be accommodated. The Lakeview Chapel is used year-round, as are the Indian Room and the State Room. The most popular summer setting is the Gazebo, where couples often free white doves into the sky above Crystal Bay. During outdoor ceremonies, guests are given jars for blowing bubbles rather than rice for tossing to avoid harming local wildlife.

The hotel's wedding coordinators help plan the ceremonies. The coordinators arrange tuxedo rentals, flowers, minister, music, banquets, wedding cakes, photography, reception rooms, and limousines. Roach says, "The only two things we don't provide are the bride's gown and the wedding favors." Last fall the hotel began broadcasting weddings live on the Internet.

Couples also will be assured of unique photo opportunities. If the Indian Room is busy, they still can have their picture taken in two states at the same time—at the Cal-Neva's swimming pool, which has the Nevada-California border line painted right down the middle.

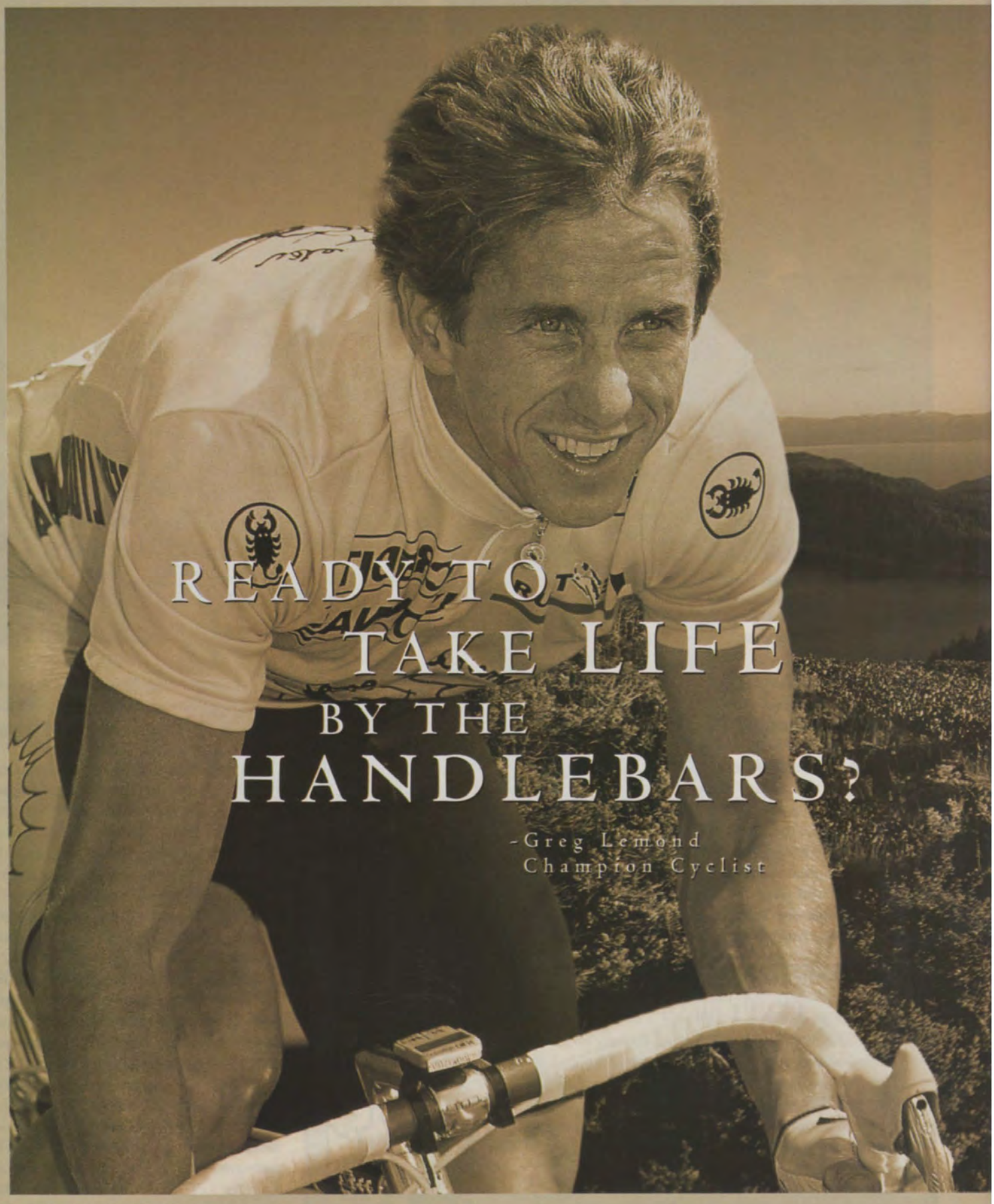
Resort Notes

The Cal-Neva Resort, Spa, and Casino is located on Lake Tahoe's north shore in Crystal Bay, 35 miles southwest of Reno. The Cal-Neva has four cabins, seven chalets, eight terrace rooms, and 179 tower rooms overlooking the lake. The Cal-Neva offers packages for weddings, honeymoons, and anniversaries. For details write the Cal-Neva Resort, Box 368, Crystal Bay, NV 89402; phone 775-832-4000 or 800-CAL-NEVA; e-mail cal.neva.resort@worldnet.att.net; Web site www.calnevaresort.com.



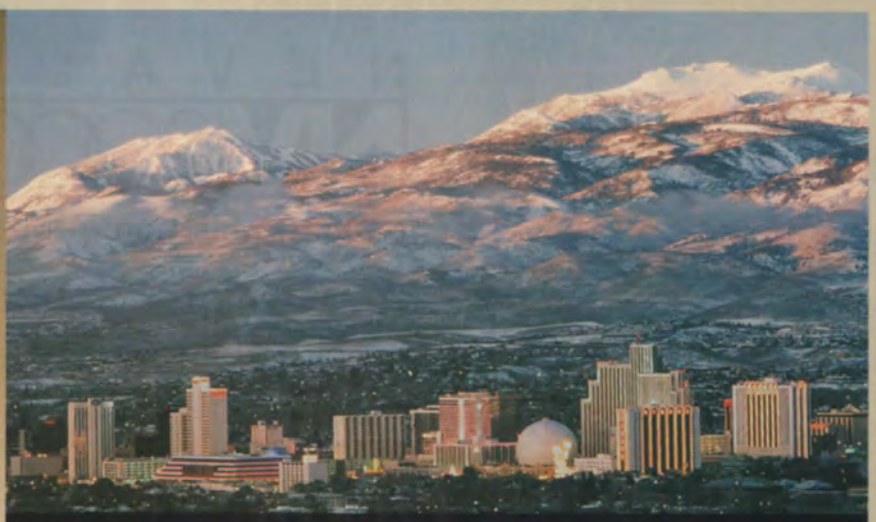
Annie Blachley is a Reno writer who has covered arts and entertainment for the Los Angeles Times, Sacramento Bee, Comstock's Business, *and other publications. She and her husband Peter were married in Manhattan years ago and rode the subway home because they couldn't find a cab.*

Photos: Don Dondero (top left), Peter Spain (top right) Map: NDOT/Nevada Magazine



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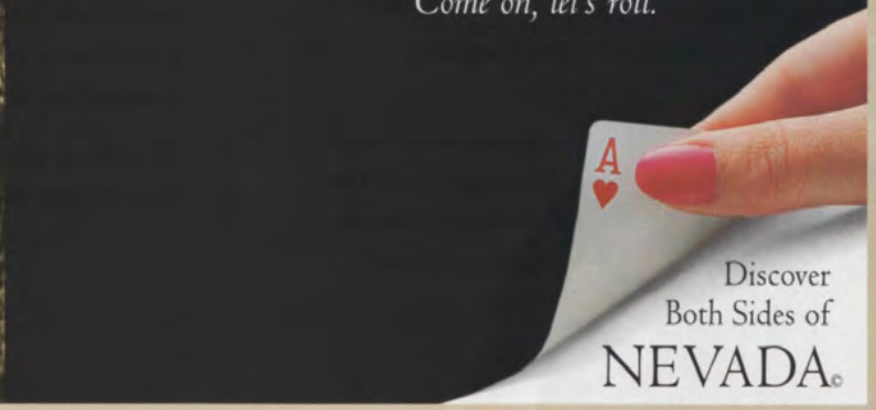
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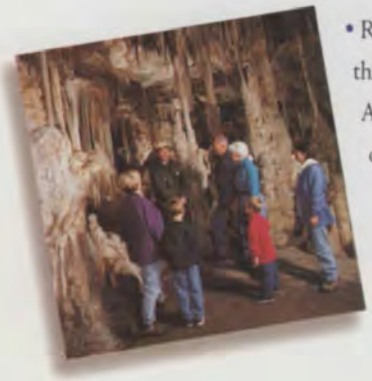
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