NEVADA

MAGAZINE

April 2002

INSIDE: Complete Guide to Events & Shows in Nevada

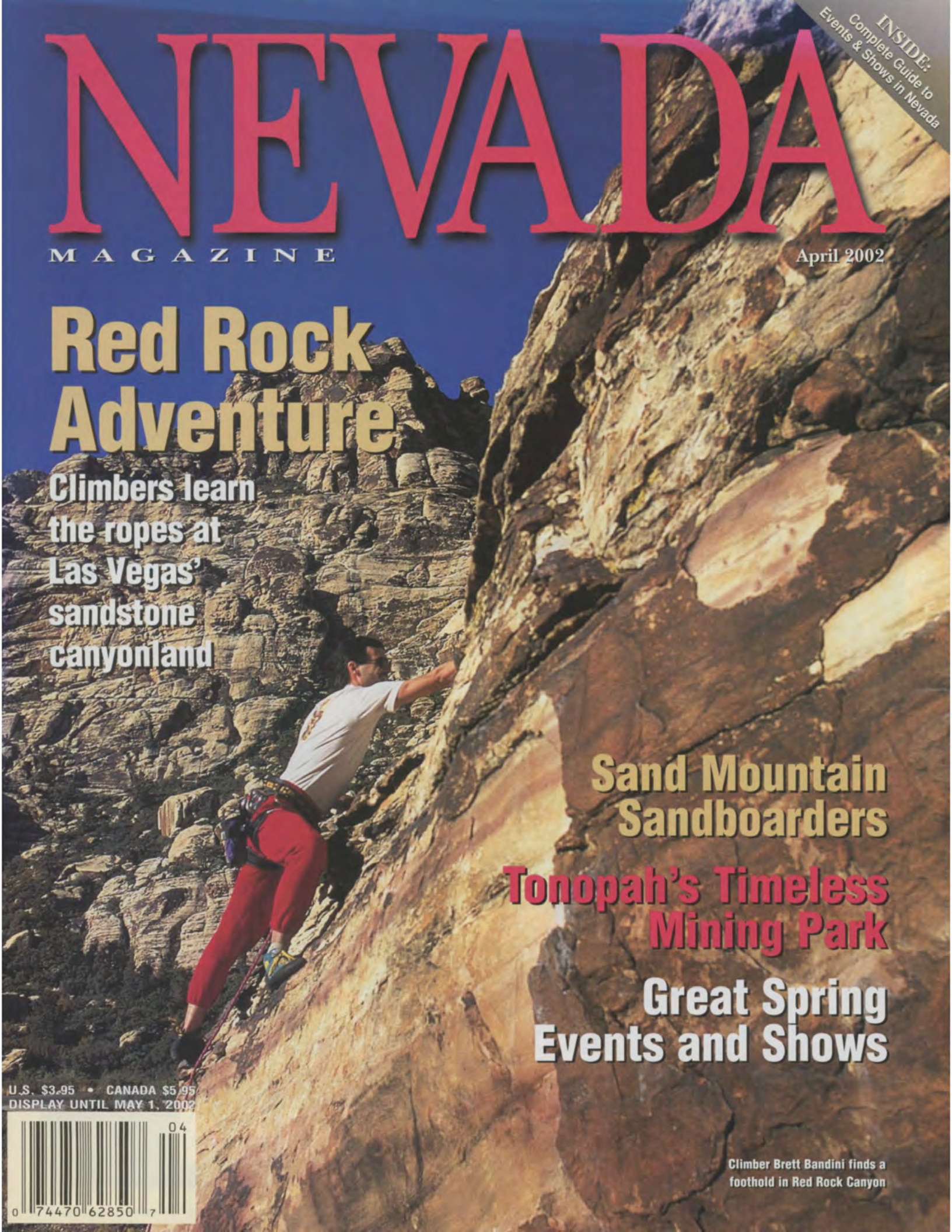
Red Rock Adventure

Climbers learn the ropes at Las Vegas' sandstone canyonland

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Great Spring Events and Shows



Climber Brett Bandini finds a foothold in Red Rock Canyon

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NEVADA

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"Sand is cheap, and it's so plentiful. We think that the snow resorts will end up bringing about four or five hundred tons of sand and put it on the main run and operate year-round."

—Dr. Dune, sandboarding pioneer



On the Cover:
Brett Bandini scales a sandstone wall in Red Rock Canyon near Las Vegas.

Photo by Gail Bandini

Features

12
Rocking Out at Red Rock
A beginner learns the ropes at Las Vegas' rock-climbing backyard.
By Joan Patterson

16
The Cycling Seamstress
Daring bicyclist Lizzie Baymer raced circles around Eureka in 1880.
By Sandra Sorensen

18
Pirates in Paradise
Treasure Island's buccaneers have the kind of job kids dream about.
By Ken Van Vechten



Dune Boogie: Page 20

20
Sand Blast
Sandboarding with Dr. Dune and friends at Sand Mountain.
Story & Photos by Richard Menzies

82
Race to Lye Creek
It seemed a perfect day to ski Granite Peak. Then we were pummeled by graupel.
By Charles Luce

84
Creepy Crawlers
Myths abound about scorpions, tarantulas, rattlesnakes, and black widows.
By David B. Williams



Roadside Beatty: Page 8

Departments

5 **Contributors** Las Vegas writer **Joan Patterson** reaches new heights this issue.

6 **Letters** The Dufurrenas' "Blizzard" and a Howard Hughes mystery.

7 **"Best of Nevada"** Make your vote count in the 2002 *Nevada* readers' poll.

8 **Roadside Attractions** Snowshoe's monument and a Lake Mead eco-tour.

71 **Openings: Frond Memories** Reading the upscale Palms. **By Deke Castleman**

72 **Side Trip: The Mines That Time Forgot** The Tonopah Historic Mining Park is so well preserved it looks as if the miners just got off shift. **By Mark Mallicoat**

74 **Art and Artists: Roy Powers** Renoite returns to his first love, painting.

80 **Gallery: Overton Moods** Moapa musings. **Photos by Carolyn Fox and Larry Angier**

90 **Nevada Almanac** Trivia, the Nevada Spirit, and a New State Symbols contest.

Events & Shows

25 **Spring Fling** Six festivals and fairs celebrate the Silver State's past and present in unique ways this spring. **By Joan Patterson and Susan Elbe**

30 **Nevada Events** A statewide guide to fairs, sporting events, art shows, and theater.

44 **Nevada Showguide** Where the stars and shows are playing in March and April.

54 **Show People: Hip Hopper** Jimmy Hopper and his band, who play in the Bellagio's Fontana Room, go where most lounge acts fear to tread. **By Kathy Espin**

68 **Review: A Fab Show** Is Rain's Beatles tribute a ticket to ride? **By Denise Sloan**



Great Spring Events: Page 25

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Photos: Richard Menzies (top), Richard T. Stephens (middle)

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Rocking and Writing

Scuba diving? Naaah. Jumping out of an airplane? Not on your life. Rock climbing? Well, now, that sounds *very* interesting, says **Joan Patterson**, who usually confines her outdoor activities to an energetic hike.

In this issue's "Rocking Out at Red Rock" Joan writes about a rock-climbing class she took recently in Red Rock Canyon. "I didn't want to be a tourist anymore," explains the former *Las Vegas Review-Journal* staff writer. "I wanted to be the person up there who knew what she was doing and learn about the rocks and appreciate the beauty of that area. Red Rock is a cool place."

Joan moved to Las Vegas in 1993 from Woodland, California, to take a reporting job at the *R-J*. "I still remember the first day, driving down the Strip," she says. "I couldn't believe this is where I was going to be, and sure enough, nine years later I'm still here." She wrote for the newspaper's "Living" and suburban sections for six years before she had Gillian, now two. Freelancing gives her the chance to stay at home with her daughter yet still write, an occupation she has always loved.

Joan and her husband, Mike Weatherford, *R-J* entertainment writer and frequent contributor to *Nevada Magazine*, write freelance travel pieces together. Her own articles have appeared in other regional publications and the *New York Times Magazine*. Joan wrote about "Television City" at the MGM Grand in our Jan/Feb '02 issue and the cover story, "Chefs to Dine For," in Nov/Dec '00. For that story she interviewed several of the top hotel chefs in Las Vegas.

"The joy in my writing is meeting so many different people," Joan says. "And people surprise you. Each story is truly an adventure." While working at a newspaper in Woodland she spent a week with serious juvenile offenders, some of them murderers, for a story. An *R-J* piece a few years later had her following a kindergartner around during the student's first week in school. Another time she interviewed three centenarians. "I was in awe of those ladies," she says.

In her Red Rock class, Joan started out feeling nervous about climbing, but her fears soon melted away. She has high praise for her rock-climbing instructor, Randal Grandstaff, and his crew. "Those guys are so good," she says. "They don't rush you. They are very patient. With rock climbing, you do it at your own pace, when you feel it's right, and you learn by doing."



Joan Patterson and daughter Gillian outdoors.

Joan and Mike try to share their appreciation for the outdoors with their daughter. They recently took Gillian on a hike at Red Rock. "She loved it," Joan said. "She climbed over the rocks in the path, and you could tell she was proud of herself. She cried when we left."

Although Joan claims to steer clear of extreme sports, whitewater rafting is next on the list of activities she'd like to try. "It's good to test yourself," she says. "It's good now and then to remind yourself you can do things you didn't think you could do."

In this issue you'll find the **2002 "Best of Nevada"** ballot. Please turn to the next page and tell us your favorite casinos, parks, restaurants, and other attractions in the Silver State. Be sure to drop your ballot in the mail by March 22. You'll see the "Best of Nevada" results in the July/August issue.—*Joyce Hollister*

Photo: Mike Weatherford

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Letters

Mesquite's mystique and a Howard Hughes mystery.

Photography Flurry

Thank you for "Blizzard," the excerpt from *Fifty Miles From Home* by Linda Dufurrena and her daughter-in-law, Carolyn Dufurrena, in the magazine's Jan/Feb issue. For years I have admired Linda's artistic photography. Now you have shown her with still another great talent, that of relating to the animals in her life. It's a talent she and Carolyn share. I always enjoy stories about Nevadans that depict their way of life, and this story is really outstanding.

Frances C. McDonald
Auburn, CA



Hank Dufurenna carries a leppy—a motherless lamb—in a photo from *Fifty Miles From Home*, the new book by Linda Dufurrena and Carolyn Dufurrena.

Sierra Skier Special

With Heavenly's, Squaw's, and Kirkwood's ski villages, Nevada and Tahoe are truly the skier's paradise. We were reminded of this by John Stearns' words and Tim Dunn's photos in "It Takes a Village" in the Jan/Feb issue. Soft snow, gorgeous scenery, Lake Tahoe—no wonder so many people make these spots their favorite haunts during wintertime. We can already feel the wind in our faces as we imagine skiing in Nevada.

Shari Silva and **Randy Lacey**
Placerville, CA

Howard and Jean

I thoroughly enjoyed reading Wilma LaRocca's "Tales of Three Weddings" in the Jan/Feb '02 issue. The story on Howard Hughes and Jean Peters' Tonopah wedding on January 12, 1957, particularly intrigued me because of all the myth and misinformation surrounding the event. I devoted one of my myth-busting stories posted on the Nevada State Library and Archives Web site, "What Didn't Happen at the Mizpah Hotel," to setting the record straight on the secret nuptials.

Ms. LaRocca certainly did her homework. We disagree on only one point. The sources I consulted characterized the Tonopah wedding at the L&L Motel as a whirlwind affair taking some three hours from start to finish; i.e., from touchdown at the old Army air base outside Tonopah until the small entourage returned to Los Angeles on the TWA Constellation flight. I found nothing that suggested that Hughes and Peters stayed at the L&L for a three-day honeymoon.

Leona David, the owner of the L&L Motel with her brother Leroy, at 95 may be the only person alive who might know the answer. Then again, if the couple honeymooned three days and did not spend all their time in a motel room, someone else at the time might have seen Hughes and Peters around town. But knowing Hughes' secretive nature I doubt there was a Tonopah honeymoon.

Guy Louis Rocha
Nevada State Archivist
Carson City

Guy, we couldn't find an eyewitness to verify that Hughes and Peters stayed in Tonopah for their honeymoon. However, Leona (David) Barbarish did tell Wilma LaRocca, "Yes, I know they stayed over for a few days. I didn't see them



Photo: Linda Dufurrena

because I was out of town, but my brother Leroy told me that they did. And he gave me details of their reception." Wilma notes that Leona's husband, Nick, a mine owner who later sold the Tonopah Mining Company to Hughes and might have verified the honeymoon account, died in 1997. Resident Bob Perchetti remembers that Leroy and Angie David talked about Hughes' stay in Tonopah, but he didn't attend the wedding or see them in town. So the mystique lives on. To see Guy Rocha's "Myth a Month" stories, visit dmla.clan.lib.nv.us/docs/nsla/archives/myth/myth34.htm.—Ed.

Land of Adventure

Hey, just wanted to tell somebody that I enjoy the new adventure-sport ad campaign for Nevada (Jan/Feb '02). I have seen it in the *National Geographic Adventure* mag and, of course, my *Nevada Magazine*. Washington State has a lot of things, but I still miss my favorite mountain-bike trails in Nevada as well as all that space! I can hardly wait to plan my vacation to Jim Butler Days this July 26-28 in Tonopah.

Brooks Groves
Seattle, WA

From Deeth to Smoke Creek

I am a Nevada-born guy and interested in the Hole in the Mountain peak that is located on top of the Ruby Mountains near Deeth. I read about the area in "The Towers of Taindandoi" in the March/April '82 issue of *Nevada Magazine*. The writer, Alvin McLane, said the hole was called "Lizzy's Window" by the locals, and there was a photo of the rock formation.

It would be nice to see a monument established at the exit on Interstate 80 near Deeth. It could be turned into a rest stop so people could get out of their cars and look at the Rubies.

Nevada Magazine on Location

Readers and friends who wish to improve their photo-taking skills will be interested in the "Nevada Magazine on Location" photography workshop scheduled for September 5-8 in Carson City. Sponsored by *Nevada Magazine*, the intensive seminars will be led by Reno photographer Ira Gostin and his team of instructors. There will be room for about 40 students in the workshop, which plans to visit the Great Reno Balloon Race, Virginia City, Lake Tahoe, and historic Carson City. Watch for details in the May/June issue of *Nevada Magazine*, and e-mail ira@gostinphoto.com for further information on the workshop.

Also, I knew the folks in the article "Whistle Stop at Smoke Creek" by Sally Bee Brown in the Nov/Dec issue. My father and mother lived all over the railroad. My dad, Joe P. Moudy, and Gordon Sigmon were fellow track foremen.

Michael D. Moudy
Sacramento, CA

The Mesquite Mystique

You should change the name of *Nevada Magazine* to *Paradise Magazine*, because with Richard Cummins' cover photo of the CasaBlanca Resort, Kelly Kozeliski's story on "The Greening of Mesquite," and the gorgeous scenery of Mesquite in Nov/Dec '01, that's exactly what you have—paradise. Perhaps it's more than paradise. Maybe it's heaven since you have spas and those luscious golf courses. Perhaps that is exactly what the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints found when they colonized Mesquite—heaven on Earth.

Sharon Diane Roberts
Port Orange, FL

Putting Jarbidge on the Map

We have subscribed to *Nevada Magazine* for many years and enjoy it, except for the magnitude of advertising, especially as

(Continued on page 79)

NEVADA MAGAZINE *Presents*

Best of Nevada

2002 Official Ballot

Fifth Annual *Nevada Magazine* Readers' Poll

Cast Your Ballot!

Attached to this page is your 2002 *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 **March 22, 2002**. The results will appear in the July/August issue.



Roadside Attractions

Snowshoe's statue, a new cruise, and a family's special custard.

Boom-and-Bust Beatty

BEATTY—Looking like a red-brick Spanish mission complete with crosses on the roof, the **Beatty Museum** tells the story of the Bullfrog Mining District in Southern Nye Country. Beatty, 116 miles northwest of Las Vegas, is known as the Gateway to Death Valley, and travelers heading that way can stop for an hour or two at the former church and learn about the area's early-20th-century mining history through artifacts and photos. The district includes the long-vanished town of Bullfrog and Rhyolite, a once-bustling metropolis that is now a ghost town.

At one time three railroads chugged through Beatty on the way to Rhyolite, four miles west. The museum displays vintage photos of locomotives and cars, including the first train to come to Beatty, and boom-and-bust photos of the towns. Cookware, oil lamps, furniture, and wagons show what life was like in the desert communities in the early 1900s, says historical society president Mary Revert.

Revert and other board members established the society and museum in 1995 after they decided the district's history was in danger of being lost. Their first museum was located in a small cottage. As more residents donated items, the board purchased the old church on the Death Valley Highway and refurbished it. "People come in and ooh and aah. They think the museum is great," says Revert, who keeps the museum open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily. Call her at 775-553-2967 to arrange special tours, or visit www.beattymuseum.com for more information.—*Joyce Hollister*



Kimberly Hickinbotham made the 19th-century-style clothing she is wearing at the Beatty Museum. The former church displays reminders of the area's history such as the stereoscope that Hickinbotham holds.



A life-size bronze statue of Snowshoe Thompson at Mormon Station State Historic Park honors the Norwegian-born mailman of the Sierra.

Memorial for a Mailman

GENOA—**John A. "Snowshoe" Thompson** never was paid by the U.S. government for carrying the mail over the Sierra Nevada between Genoa and Placerville, but at least he's got a monument to commemorate his tireless efforts. Last summer, a life-sized bronze statue of the Norwegian-born rancher and skier was dedicated at Mormon Station State Historic Park in Genoa. The Snowshoe Thompson Committee of the Greater Genoa Area Business Association raised funds to pay for the statue through the sale of the bricks that form the statue's base. A plaque telling Snowshoe's story is attached to a slab of granite shipped from Norway as a gift from his descendants and friends of the Thompson family.

Thompson was born Jon Torsteinson-Rue in Tinn, Telemark, Norway, in 1827 and emigrated to the U.S. at the age of 10. At 24, he joined the Gold Rush to California. In Placerville, 85 miles west of Genoa, he made a pair of wooden skis, then known as snowshoes. From 1856 to 1876 when the winter snows closed the wagon road over the mountains, he carried mail, medicine, and other important supplies twice a month to Genoa. Thompson made the five-day round trip carrying packs weighing 80 to 100 pounds. He rarely stopped to rest and ate only crackers and dried beef. In 1859, Thompson established a ranch in Diamond Valley south of Genoa. He died at 49, having unsuccessfully sought payment from the U.S. Post Office.

Visitors may learn more about Snowshoe Thompson at the Genoa Courthouse Museum (www.carsonvalleymuseums.com). The museum is open to visitors from May 4 to October 13; hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. Mormon Station is operated by the Nevada Division of State Parks (www.silver.state.nv.us) and is open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily from mid-May to mid-October. Visitors can see the statue at the park and visit Thompson's grave in the Genoa Cemetery any time of the year.—*Joyce Hollister*

Photos: Richard T. Stephens (top), Lisa J. Tolda (bottom)

Eco-Cruising Mead

LAKE MEAD—The **ECO Adventure Tour**, a new cruise offered by Lake Mead Cruises aboard the high-speed *Velocity*, gives visitors spectacular views of canyon walls and a chance to see wildlife. Rather than the calm, slower pace of dinner trips on the *Desert Princess*, *Velocity* zips along at 40 miles per hour during the six-hour tour. Guests listen to the pilot's narration through state-of-the-art headphones.

The excursion begins with a continental breakfast at the Lake Mead Boat Landing, followed by a photo session as passengers board *Velocity* (each passenger receives a souvenir copy). Life jackets are available but not required. After touring Boulder Harbor and Hoover Dam, *Velocity* travels through several canyons. A stop is made at Sandy Point, where you can take a swim, see rock formations and wildlife, and eat a deli-style lunch.

All ECO Adventure Tours are non-smoking. Reservations and prepayment are required. Individual fees are $164.95 for adults and $139.95 for children under the age of 13. No children under five may participate. Private charter and group rates are available. *Velocity* operates daily from March 15 to November 15 and by charter year-round. Call 702-293-6180 or visit www.lakemeadcruises.com for more information or directions to the cruise site.—*Elizabeth Nielsen*



Lake Mead Cruises offers an eco-tour aboard the high-speed *Velocity*.

Starving Artists' Home

RENO—In a building that provided a haven for divorcees 70 years ago, the **Riverside Artist Lofts** is now home to starving artists. The renovated six-story hotel opened in October 2000, providing 35 low-cost living quarters and work spaces. A year later the Sierra Arts Foundation installed its office on the mezzanine level and opened the Sierra Arts Gallery on the main floor. The gallery showcases work by the resident artists and hosts concerts and

Traveler's Advisories

Dam Closed, New Tour

Although tours inside **Hoover Dam** are suspended until further notice for security reasons, guides are conducting a new Discovery Tour at the dam, 31 miles southeast of Las Vegas. Guides give talks inside the visitor center and on the top of the dam as visitors take the self-paced tour. The *Marble*, a boat once used to explore the Colorado River, is displayed inside the visitor center as are maps and vintage photos. A 25-minute film features original footage taken during the dam's construction. The scenic overlook may be reached by stairs or elevator. Outdoors, visitors can see the Winged Figures of the Republic, the Old Exhibit Building, and the Nevada Intake Tower. Guides give talks every half hour from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at specific locations inside the visitor center and on top of the dam. The visitor center is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas. A complete Discovery Tour takes about two hours. Tickets cost $10 for adults, $4 for ages seven to 16, free for under seven, and $8 for seniors. Call 702-294-3524 for tour tickets.



The top of Hoover Dam and the dam's visitor center can be visited on the new self-paced Discovery Tour.

On the Road in Nevada

Tourists who visit Nevada by car, motorcycle, or RV will find ***Nevada Road Trips*** a helpful guide to the Silver State. The new eight-page color brochure outlines four Nevada trips on Interstate 80 and U.S. 50, 93, and 95. Maps highlight places to stop and stay, and photos depict attractions one will discover when traveling the state. The *Nevada Road Trips* brochure is available through the Nevada Commission on Tourism, 800-NEVADA-8 or www.travelnevada.com.

Toll-Free Deals

Travelers planning a trip to Las Vegas can call a new toll-free number, **877-VISIT-LV**, to make hotel reservations and find information on shows, events, and special promotions. Operators are available from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Pacific time) Sunday through Thursday and from 5 a.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday. The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority recently installed the new service.

Golf Deals

The **Best Western Piñon Plaza** in Carson City has a "Golf in Style" package that offers a one-night stay in the hotel's mini spa suite and a round of golf for two at the Dayton Valley Golf Club. Also included is a full breakfast for two and a bottle of champagne or wine. Cost is $179 per couple. The offer is subject to availability, and guests must be 21 or older. The package is valid daily through March 31. Call 877-519-5567 for information.

This spring players bound for Mesquite can design their own golf holiday with **"Golf Mesquite Custom Packages."** Players can choose from six Mesquite golf courses and two hotels. Three nights accommodations and three rounds of golf range from $342 to $442 for one player and $558 to $752 for two players, depending upon the choice of hotel—CasaBlanca or Oasis—and the course—CasaBlanca, Falcon Ridge, Oasis, Palms, Vistas, or Wolf Creek. Holidays are excluded, and some restrictions apply. Mesquite is located 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas on Interstate 15. Call 866-720-7111 or visit www.golfmesquitenevada.com for package information.

Pavement Comes to Pass

By the end of the year, travel over the west side of **Harrison Pass** in the Ruby Mountains 40 miles southeast of Elko will be easier but a bit less rustic. Plans call for paving a seven-mile stretch of the road beginning in April, with the other half of the road to be paved when funds are available. Harrison Pass, which links Jiggs and the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge, was named for Ruby Valley pioneer Thomas Harrison, and the route was used by 19th-century explorer John C. Fremont.

Surfing Nevada

Online explorers can take a quick visual tour of Nevada by visiting **www.nevadamax.com.** Web master Max Chapman of Reno offers dozens of photos of Nevada cities and rural areas he has taken in the past two years. The site has maps and provides links to many other Nevada sites, such **www.Go-Reno.com**, where you can read the latest entertainment news, and **www.adoptahorse.blm.gov**, where you can make an electronic bid for a wild horse or burro.

Photo: Larry Angier (right)



Reno's recently renovated Riverside Hotel is now home to 35 artists, who live, work, and exhibit their pieces at the 1920s-era hotel.

special exhibits. The color photography of Gabriel Brandt is showing through April 5. Mixed media works by Dianne Lancia will be exhibited from April 15 to May 24. Jazz and blues performers appear each Friday at noon in the gallery.

Located on Virginia Street next to the Truckee River, the Riverside opened in 1927 as an apartment hotel to take advantage of Reno's growing divorce industry. Designed by Reno architect Frederic DeLongchamps, the Riverside was a busy hotel-casino for many years.

The gallery and concerts are free to the public. Gallery hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday. Call 775-329-ARTS or visit www.sierra-arts.org for information on the Sierra Arts Gallery or the Riverside Artist Lofts.—*Susan Elbe*



Greg and Sharon Tiedemann serve creamy frozen custard and sundaes at their Luv-it shop in downtown Las Vegas.

We Luv-it

LAS VEGAS—Since 1973, a humble shack known as **Luv-it Frozen Custard** on the downtown corner of Oakey and Las Vegas Boulevard has been dispensing creamy, handmade desserts. For nearly 30 years the custard has been made fresh every day by the same family; owner Greg Tiedemann bought the business from his grandmother, Dorothy Woods, in 1997 Fresh eggs, cream, and natural extracts are combined in a secret family recipe to create a custard creamier than premium ice cream but lower in fat and sugar, says Tiedemann.

Luv-it is famous for its sundaes, and the "Western" topped with hot fudge, caramel, and salty pecans is deemed the favorite. But you may be hard pressed to decide which one to order when all 16 special sundaes will make your mouth water. A special quality of the Luv-it frozen custard ensures that it melts slowly—so the hot toppings stay hot and the custard stays cold until the last bite.

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Photos: Joyce Hollister (left), Chris Leedham (right)

sometimes even ready before they approach the window," says Sharon Teidemann, Greg's wife and Luv-it co-owner. Luv-it won a Citysearch.com 2001 editorial award as the top frozen custard in Las Vegas and consistently earns first place in local's choice awards, too, Sharon says. "That's wonderful because a lot of love goes into our custard."—*Lola Brown*

Art Lovers Welcome

LAS VEGAS—In his second-floor gallery space, curator-collector George Sturman sits at a table, reading the newspaper and waiting to greet visitors to his art gallery. Located inside the Art Factory in downtown Las Vegas, the new **George Sturman Fine Arts Gallery** features modern works collected from all over the world. A retired art dealer, Sturman says he exhibits his art for the sole purpose of enriching anyone who seeks out his gallery.

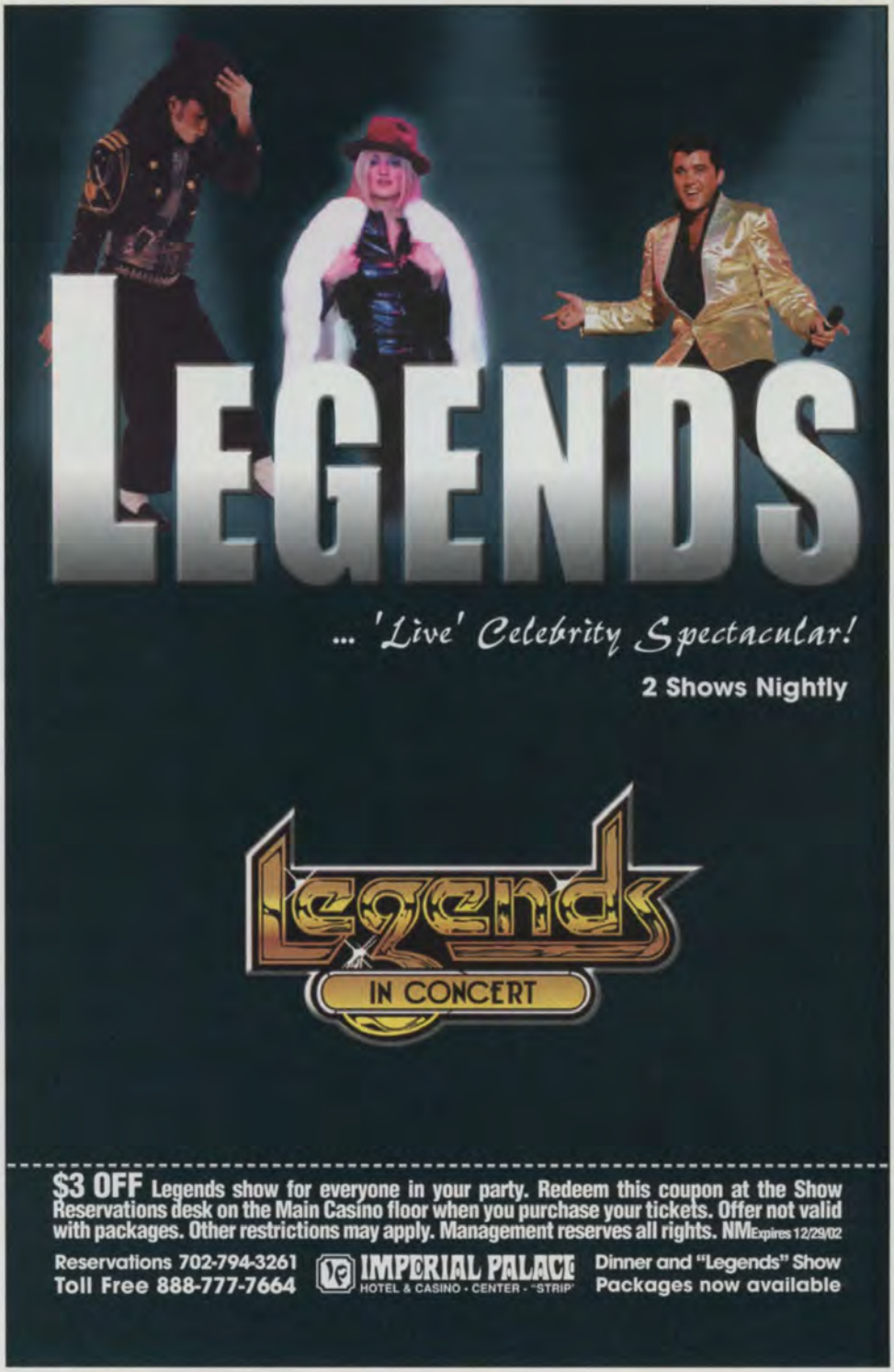
His collection focuses on the 1930s through the 1980s and includes works by Salvador Dali, Andy Warhol, and Alexander Calder. Sturman also has collected African sculpture and Native American art as well as a watercolor by Robert DeNiro Sr. and glass artist Dale Chijuly's paint-spattered UNLV sneakers. Through March 15 Sturman's gallery is featuring the works of Klever, a Russian artist who hid his paintings from the Soviet authorities before fleeing the U.S.S.R.



George Sturman mans the desk at his Las Vegas fine-arts museum and gives tours to visitors.

Sturman and his collection are open to visitors 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Entry is free of charge, but a donation of $5 per person is requested. The Art Factory is located on the corner of East Charleston and Main Street. The entrance is located in the rear west corner. Call 702-384-2615 or fax 702-384-3023 for further information and group bookings.—*Elizabeth Nielsen*

Photo: Gene Hertzog



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Rocking Out at Red Rock

A beginner learns the ropes at Red Rock Canyon, a world-renowned climbing place in her backyard.

By Joan Patterson

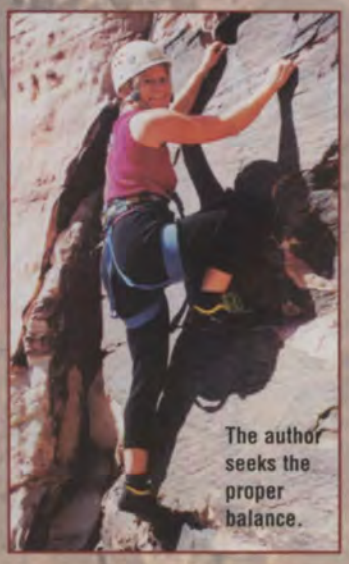
I looked upward, my heart pounding, my hands soggy with sweat, my head throbbing beneath a white plastic safety hat. I was ready to take my first-ever climb up the face of a 120-foot-high sandstone rock named Tonto.

Was I crazy? Yes. Would I get out alive? Probably not. But what a story my daughter would have to tell about the time her mommy braved a treacherous rock and fell to her demise from a panic attack. But let me back up a little.

Tonto is a scenic spot in Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, a 197,000-acre park that one reaches by driving 12 miles west of Las Vegas, past some of the valley's growing suburban sprawl. But as the shopping centers and new homes on West Charleston Boulevard gradually disappear, a different world seeps into the horizon. It is a world of craggy peaks striped with layers of red sandstone and deep-orange boulders that look as if they had gurgled up from the Earth's core.

This particular Mojave Desert landscape, once completely submerged in water, is the result of millions of years of erosion, shifts in the Earth's crust, and haphazard deposits of sand and marine fossils. The deep reds and fiery oranges that color much of the canyon are ancient iron deposits that were laid down in various concentrations throughout that turmoil.

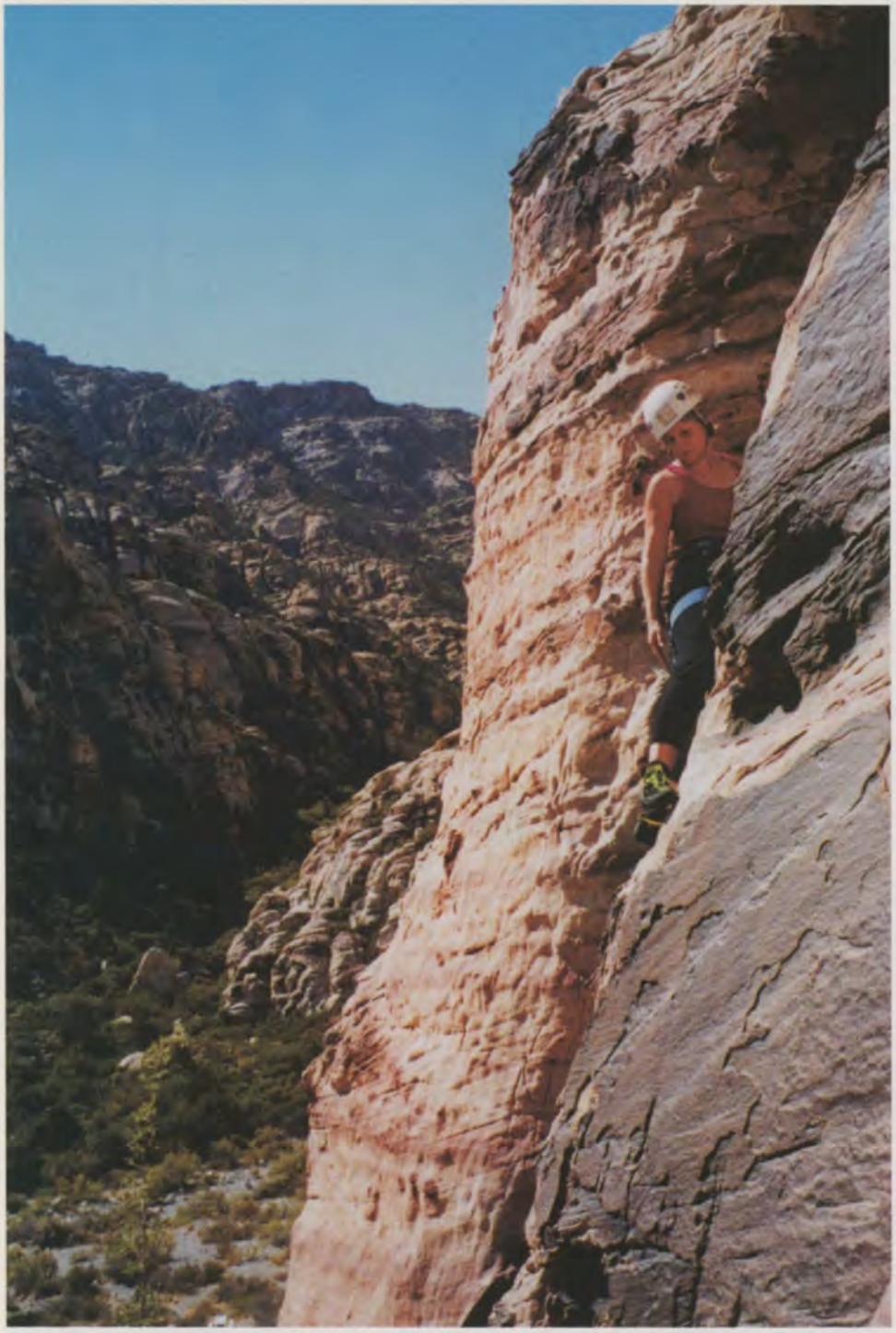
After I moved to Las Vegas nine years ago, Red Rock became one of my favorite weekend escapes. I would hike up the fat boulders and feel as if I had conquered a small piece of the forbidding yet beautiful place. Now and then a gentle clanging would echo in the canyon, and



The author seeks the proper balance.

Brett Bandini of Las Vegas climbs in the Lost Creek area of Red Rock Canyon, 12 miles west of Las Vegas.

Photos: Gail Bandini, Randal Grandstaff (inset)



Red Rock climbers find both challenge and scenery. Here the author negotiates a route called Spider Line.

I would look up to see climbers ascending the rocks, the aluminum anchor rings at their hips knocking together like wind chimes.

The climbers seemed fearless and more interested in being part of their natural surroundings than conquering them. They also appeared, well, a bit crazy. What sane human would climb hundreds of feet with nothing to save him but a rope anchored to some scrawny-looking pine tree at the top of an unforgiving rock? I would remain nestled at the bottom of these rocks, thank you, suffering only a stiff neck from gawking at those intrepid folks.

Perhaps it was because I'm getting older and raising a two-year-old girl, but my sanity just plain went out the window one day, and I decided to try this rock climbing thing. I couldn't forget the climbers or dismiss a nagging belief that I could do it, too.

I got in touch with mountain-climbing guide Randal Grandstaff, owner of Sky's the Limit guide service and a lifelong Las Vegan who has climbed in Red Rock for more than three decades. He explained that climbers salivate over the canyon because of the rock's incredible variations. "The sandstone is very hard and extraordinary for climbing in Red Rock, and it's really exotic rock," he noted. "It has a lot of holds. It's steep. It just has tremendous character."

Climbers depend on hand and foot holds to make their ascents, and in Red Rock the surprisingly stable sandstone is teeming with crevices, tiny notches, and even large holes that allow climbers to "walk" up the rock faces with their fingertips and the slightest edges of their feet, Grandstaff explained. All these characteristics make Red Rock among the top five climbing destinations in the country with nearly 40,000 climbers visiting each year, according to ranger counts.

"The sandstone is very hard and extraordinary for climbing in Red Rock," Grandstaff noted. "It just has tremendous character."

Grandstaff recommended that I take a fairly intense weekend course on basic rock craft. "But," I whined, "I just want to try a quick, easy climb for fun." In other words, I wasn't thinking like the guys in the Mountain Dew commercials who barrel down cliffs on surfboards. Nevertheless, Grandstaff talked me into taking his class. A few weeks later I was picking cactus needles out of my socks and fighting an inner voice that begged me to run for the hills.

There were five other students taking the course: two Las Vegas physicians in their 40s and three Los Angeles police officers in their 20s. The doctors, both men, wanted to learn climbing techniques for a trip to the Grand Canyon. The officers, two women and one man,

Photo: Randal Grandstaff

were into mountain biking and snowboarding, so this was just one more adventure to conquer. Yes, the Mountain Dew crew.

I was the mom with the fanny pack and enough trail mix and peanut butter-and-jelly sandwiches to feed most of the gang.

That first day we practiced stepping into our climbing harnesses. Each harness had two rings of fabric encircling the upper thighs, a belt around the waist, and smaller loops at the midsection. Each of us ran a nylon climbing rope through the small loops and tied off the end with a figure-eight knot.

Crevices in the sandstone allow climbers to "walk" up the rock faces with their fingertips and the slightest edges of their feet.

We watched Grandstaff demonstrate how boulders and small trees with deceivingly deep roots could be used as anchors at the top. Later, we tried on feather-light climbing shoes that looked like high-tech slippers with rubber soles.

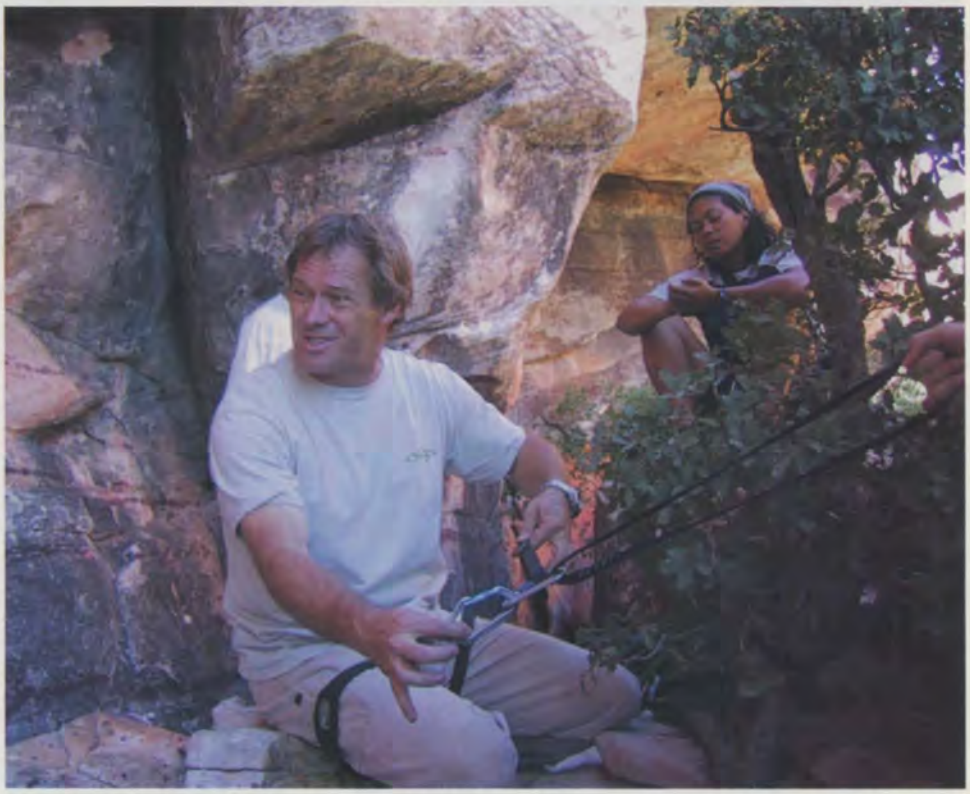
As the day wore on, I was amazed how Grandstaff and George Swiggum, another guide, were able to keep yards and yards of nylon rope from getting entangled. My mouth dropped as I watched them go up the rock with a fluidity that reminded me of a dancer's. Since they were the first to climb and were responsible for anchoring the ropes at the top, they did it at their own peril.

The next day it was time for my first climb. Amazingly, as I stepped onto Tonto and felt its sandy surface beneath my hands, my fear melted away. I was too busy searching for tiny ledges to place my feet, too busy rubbing my hands across the surface, like a blind person studying someone's face, to worry about how high I was or whether the rope attached at my waist would save me. I even chuckled at the rock's ocean smell, as if the sea would always be imbedded in the sandstone.

With every step I felt a sense of accomplishment. When the final few feet were within reach, I wanted to propel myself to the top and let out a Tarzan yell. Fireworks were going off in my head, but the surroundings were so still, it would have been sacrilegious to do anything but sit back and enjoy the incredible view and whispers of wind through the canyon.

Finally, we rappelled down, easing the rope out from our harnesses and "stepping" down by keeping our legs at a 90-degree angle to the rock. With the exception of swinging over a ledge too fast





Randal Grandstaff, owner of Sky's the Limit guide service, demonstrates how to rig ropes and harnesses during the class in the Willow Springs area of Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.

Photos: Frank Nemec

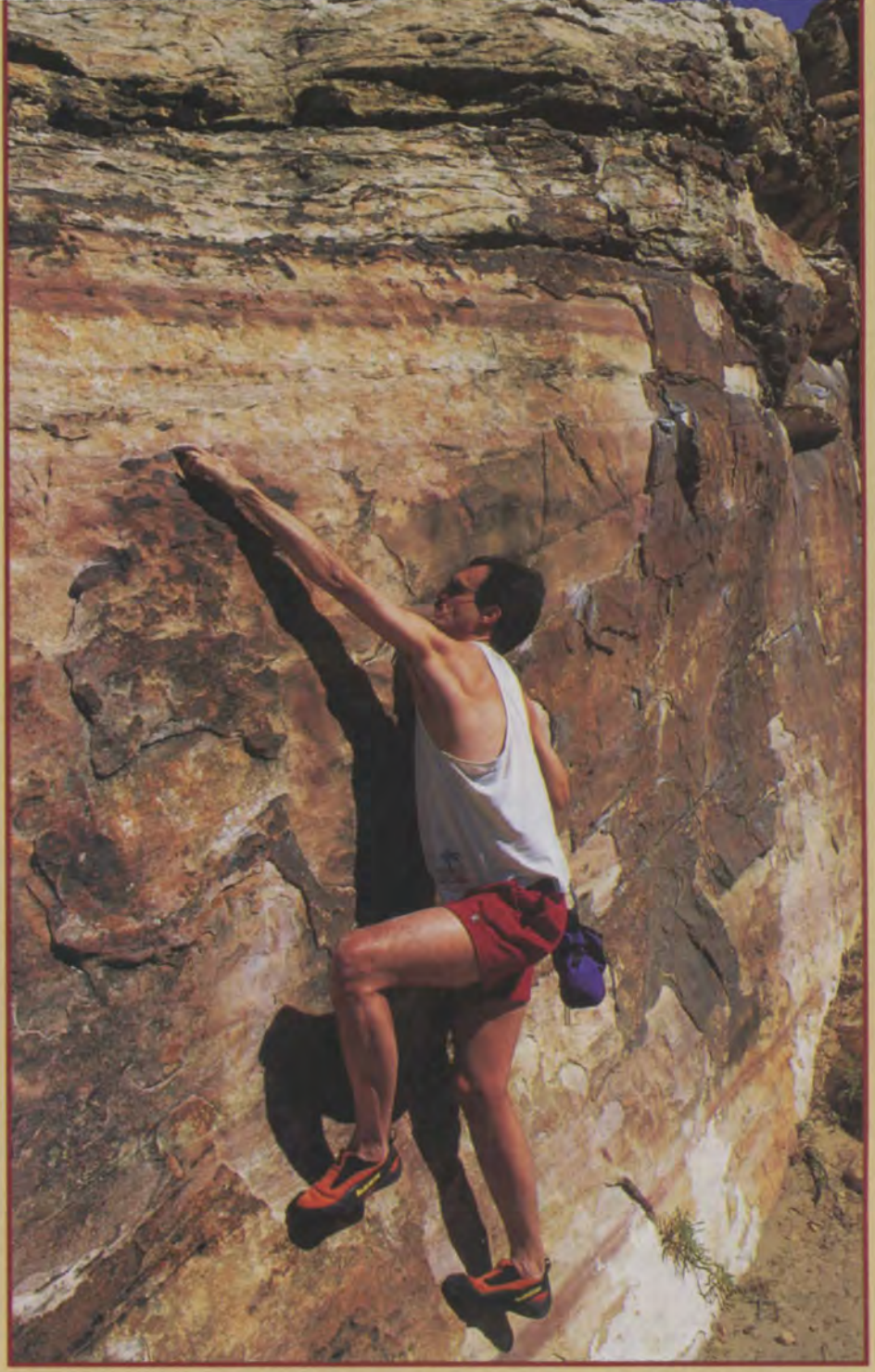
Climbing the Walls

Sky's the Limit, based in Red Rock Canyon 12 miles west of Las Vegas, operates a rock-climbing center with a climbing school and guide service. It offers introductory through advanced climbing instruction, both indoors and out. The center has 14,000 square feet of contoured walls, some reaching 30 feet high. A day pass costs $12, equipment rental $8. Annual adult membership is $440.

A half-day beginner's class, "Discover Climbing" ($189), is offered mornings and afternoons. No previous experience is necessary, and equipment is provided. The class includes a full-pitch climb of at least 60 feet and acquaints climbers with the belay, rappel, and anchoring concepts. It's a good one for those who can slip away from convention halls to enjoy the desert landscape of Red Rock Canyon. The "Basic Rock Craft" class ($260), which the author took, includes an evening session and two full days of instruction. A full-day climb with guide costs $280 for one person, $230 each for two.

Sky's the Limit offers interpretive day hikes, photo-shooting trips, and 10-day adventure camps. Call 800-733-7597 or 702-363-4533, visit skysthelimit.com, or write Randal Grandstaff or Laura Sanders at Sky's the Limit, HCR 33, Box 1, Calico Basin, Red Rock, NV 89124. The Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center can be reached at 702-363-1921.





Climbers from around the world get a grip at Red Rock Canyon. Above: Brett Bandini moves upward.

and then bouncing off the rock like a strung-out yo-yo, this was the most fun.

Later, we made a 90-foot climb up Spider Line, which, like Tonto, is located in the Willow Springs area of Red Rock. This wicked climbing route began with a deep crevice at the base that led to a wall of slick, black rock with tiny cracks for balancing feet and cramming fingertips. Once I made it to the black rock, I could feel a full day of September heat rising from its surface, baking my face and bare arms.

There were points during the seemingly impossible climb when I was grabbing small nubs or wedging my fingertips into crevices and then heaving myself up. Real rock climbing is about finesse, about balancing on the feet and not pulling oneself up in he-man fashion, but at that point I was too darn hot and tired to care.

I slipped off the rock a few times during the climb up Spider Line, which was the best thing that could have happened. It showed me that, because of the anchored ropes, I would not fall; I'd sway in the wind a tiny bit but not fall an inch.

After the climb, a mixture of fatigue and bliss made me want to give everyone a Girl Scout hug. But I didn't. Instead, I enjoyed a sense of quiet exhilaration. Red Rock was no longer a scenic spot to admire from a distance. It was now a place I could wedge my hands and feet into and appreciate through my own sweat, frustration, and fear. I couldn't wait to tell my daughter all about it.

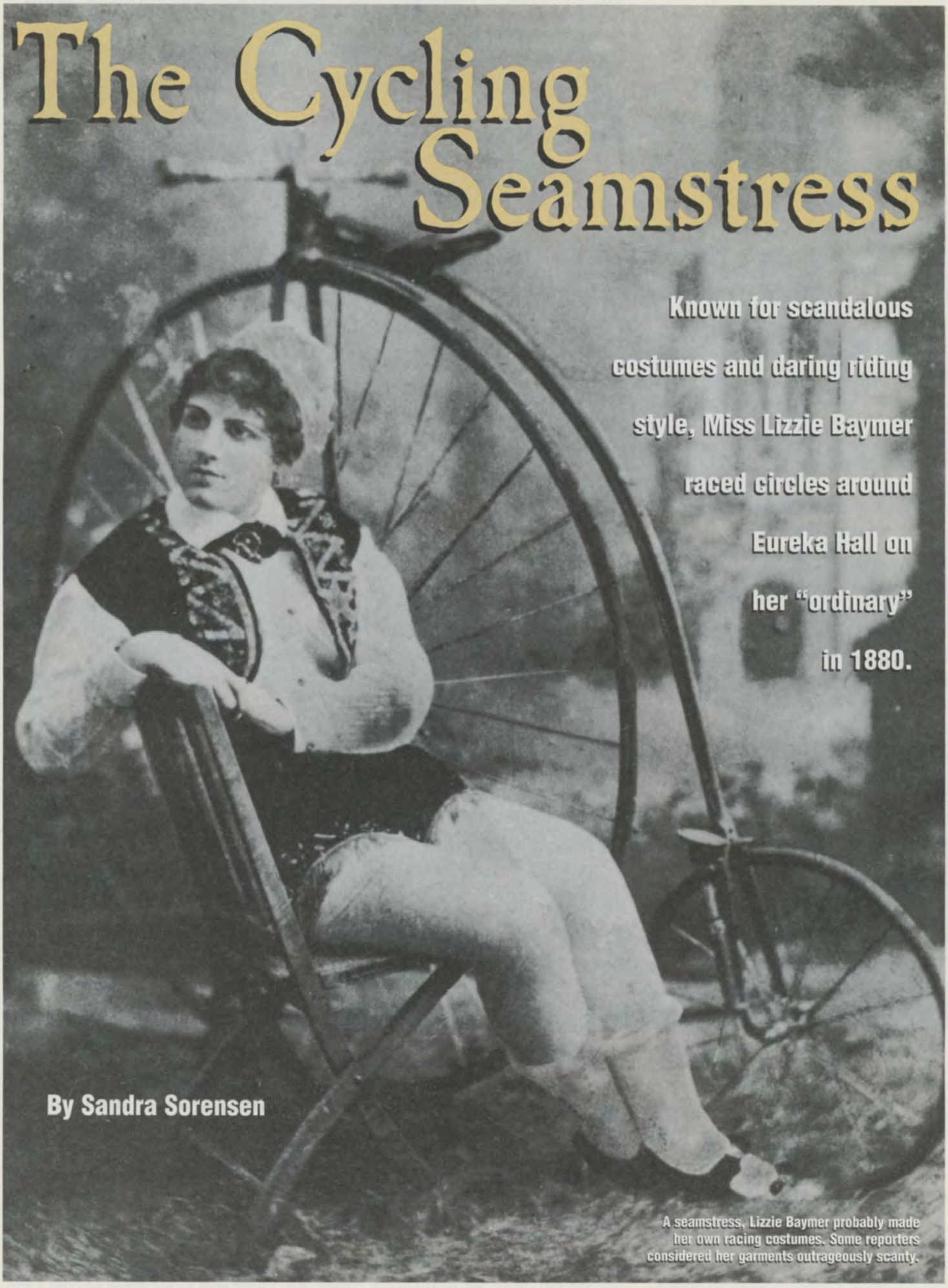
Joan Patterson is a Las Vegas writer.

Photo: Gail Bandini

The Cycling Seamstress

Known for scandalous costumes and daring riding style, Miss Lizzie Baymer raced circles around Eureka Hall on her "ordinary" in 1880.

By Sandra Sorensen



A seamstress, Lizzie Baymer probably made her own racing costumes. Some reporters considered her garments outrageously scanty.

Lizzie Baymer, a champion bicycle racer from San Francisco, stepped from the Eureka and Palisade passenger coach late in the evening of May 2, 1880, ready to take on Eureka. Anyone at the train depot might have noticed the cycling seamstress had curly black hair, brown eyes, clear skin, and a full, curvaceous figure. She was only 18, but she carried herself with the self-assurance of an accomplished athlete.

Lizzie took a room at the International Hotel and began preparing for a 10-day series of bicycle exhibitions and races. Her reputation had preceded her. Bay Area reporters had publicized Lizzie's career, some criticizing her racing style and daring costumes. Her Nevada exploits were chronicled in Eureka's *Sentinel* and *Daily Leader*. Someone, probably Lizzie, carefully cut out the news stories and pasted them in a scrapbook, of which there is a photocopy at the Nevada Historical Society in Reno. The scrapbook details her activities from November of 1879 through the summer of 1880.

"Champion Lady Bicyclist of the Pacific Coast! A Great Novelty!" exclaimed the advertisement in the *Eureka Sentinel* of May 4, 1880. The edition advised "every reader of the *Sentinel* who admires the muscular development of the female sex to see Miss Baymer in the coming exhibitions." The first event would be a "grand exhibition of fast and fancy riding to terminate in a race between the Lady and a well known local runner, in which the lady will attempt to accomplish 25 miles to the runner's 15 miles."

Lizzie Baymer was one of thousands of Americans to take up bicycling in the 1870s, when it became a popular sport and form of recreation. The French-designed velocipede, patented in the U.S. in 1866, had evolved into a vehicle whose enlarged front wheel allowed the rider to travel farther with each turn of the pedals. This early bicycle was such a common sight on city streets that it was called the "ordinary." By 1880 there were 30,000 ordinaries in the U.S., and bicycle schools and clubs sprang up across the country.

By her mid-teens Elizabeth Boehmer (pronounced "Baymer") had already competed in walking and running events and possessed the muscular limbs and confidence to master the ordinary. Born in Ohio to German-immigrant parents, Elizabeth, now a single woman, lived in Margaret Prigsley's boardinghouse in San Francisco and made her living as a seamstress. Then she decided to enroll in Fred T. Merrill's Bicycle School. Merrill, an accomplished bicycle rider, taught Lizzie racing techniques and trick-riding stunts such as how to sit backward on the bicycle and how to stand on the seat—both on her feet and on her head.



Surveyor Walter S. Long painted this view of Eureka Hall one day after Lizzie Baymer's last performance.

Elizabeth Boehmer emerged from her training as Miss Lizzie Baymer, lady bicycle rider. Soon she and fellow students were giving trick-riding exhibitions and racing against male and female bicyclists, walkers, runners, even horses—scandalous behavior for a young woman of her time. Equally scandalous were the scanty costumes Lizzie wore for her performances. They consisted of form-fitting tights or long underwear and garments, which, while covering the upper part of her body, stopped at the top of her thigh. Her aggressive racing style—cutting close to opponents as she passed—also was considered most unladylike. Spectators were often vocal in expressing their disapproval of her uncoventional manner of dress and her combative behavior on the track. But she had her admirers, and in November of 1879 a group of fans presented her with a gold medal that proclaimed her a champion for the many contests she had won.

Lizzie presented trick-riding exhibitions and raced against male and female bicyclists, walkers, runners, and horses.

So the sporting crowd in the bustling mining town of Eureka looked forward to Lizzie's visit. Her first event took place Thursday evening, May 6, in Eureka Hall, a new, two-story, red-brick theater on Buel Street one block northeast of the courthouse. A track had been laid out in the hall, and surveyor Nelson Wescoatt certified that "36 times around the same make one mile." Seating was arranged both outside and inside the track, with reserved seating on stage. For 50 cents (or $1 for reserved seating) Eurekans could witness Lizzie's trick riding and watch her race a 16-year-old lad named Patsy Green.

On that small track it was no easy task for Lizzie to maneuver her English-built Coventry ordinary with its 50-inch wheel, but observers reported she rode gracefully, circling the hall at up to 10 miles per hour. However, the *Sentinel* stated, she was "dazzled by large reflectors on the stage; she ran her bicycle first into the wall, and while striving to recover her balance, collided violently with the platform of the stage. Miss Baymer was precipitated over the front of the machine, alighting on her head and was stunned for the moment by the shock." The *Sentinel* of May 7 said that "she received no injury of any importance," but the *Daily Leader* stated that "the lady was quite badly hurt, her lip being cut and her right knee badly bruised."

Lizzie was game, but her bicycle had been badly twisted. William Stowell, the

(Continued on page 78)

Photos: Nevada Historical Society (opposite page), Special Collections, University of Nevada, Reno Library (top)

PIRATES in Paradise

Treasure Island's buccaneers and royal seamen have the kind of job that kids dream about.

By Ken Van Vechten



Craig Dunbar (left) plays the British captain, and J.D. Sweitzer plays Creel, the pirate in Treasure Island's Buccaneer Bay sea battle (top).

"It was about the last day of our outward voyage...we should sight the Treasure Island...everyone was in the bravest spirits, because we were now so near an end of the first part of our adventure."

—Jim Hawkins, *Treasure Island*

J.D. Sweitzer could have played the part of Jim Hawkins, the sailor-hero of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*. Sweitzer is not a lad, but he is youthful. He has a mariner's eye and a stance that would serve him in an angry sea. On this day Sweitzer is Creel, a pirate in the Treasure Island resort's lusty sea battle on the Las Vegas Strip. Given Stevenson's 19th-century sensibilities, that means Sweitzer is on the "wrong" side. If the Scottish author had designed Treasure Island the resort, the British frigate *H.M.S. Britannia* would never settle to the bottom of the lagoon—not once, let alone every time she engaged the pirates' *Hispaniola*—and the buccaneers would be jeered, not cheered. Sweitzer should be thankful that hotel founder Steve Wynn's visionaries revised the adventure tale.

"Inside everybody there's a little kid who wants to come out once in a while," Sweitzer says, proud of his allegiance. "I'm a big kid. I get to come to work and be a pirate. I don't want to grow up."

He's in the perfect place.

Craig Dunbar accepts the fact that the law-and-order British are not the crowd favorites in Treasure Island's sea battle, which takes place several times each evening. He says the captain of the *H.M.S.*

Photos: Chris Leedham (top), Ken Van Vechten (bottom)

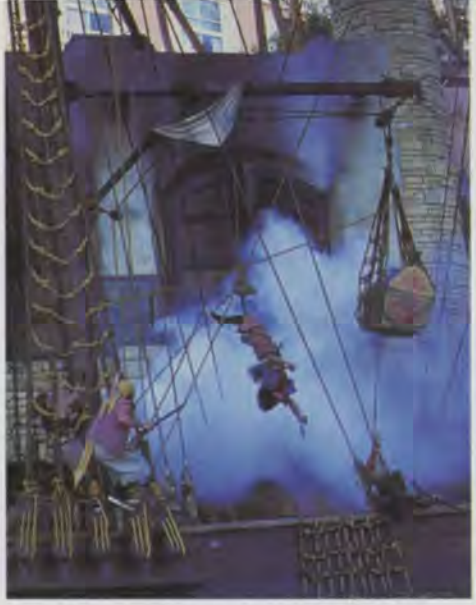
Britannia and his second-in-command, Mr. Smythe—the parts the former actor plays most frequently—are "condescending, Oxfordian, and snooty," while the pirates are "reckless, wild, and free." Look around, he commands. The resort is a testament to raiding and swashbuckling. It is a pirate lair, not Buckingham Palace. Of course the throngs of spectators support the rogues. Yet when he rises from the briny depths to the strains of "Rule Britannia," Dunbar always gets the last cheer and a salute from his foes. It is Las Vegas, after all, and there are no enemies.

Dunbar, Sweitzer, and 28 others comprise the cast and 23 technical folks the behind-the-scenes crew of what could be the world's most spectacular continuously running outdoor stage production. For more than eight years, and four, five, or six times nearly every day, the *Hispaniola* and *H.M.S. Britannia* have met in battle on Buccaneer Bay, the man-made lake that fronts Treasure Island. The show hasn't changed since day one. The British always fire what appear to be several mortal shots, Mr. Smythe is always a prig, Creel always gets snared in the rigging, and the pirates always prevail. Yet people still pack the planked walkways and risers for every show. It is a spectacle, plain and simple. And it's a sure bet—a foreign concept for Las Vegas—that many of the 20 million-plus viewers are repeat customers.

The battle and bay derived from the success of the Mirage's neighboring volcano, says Chip Croop, director of entertainment operations for Treasure Island. The Mirage Resorts brain trust wanted a Strip-side attraction that would unquestionably capture the resort's theme and serve as a crowd-stopper. Croop puts it simply when he says the battle "is Treasure Island."

The 28-year-old Sweitzer has been a full-time pirate, and occasional British sailor, since 1997 The onetime sailmaker, surfer, and lifeguard saw a mock-up for the battle during his first trip to Las Vegas in 1993, and he was struck by a thought: "That has to be the coolest job, to be a pirate." A year later he saw the show, and the idea turned to resolve: "I gotta do it." An application followed, then an audition, and soon he was a modern-day Long John Silver, albeit with two legs.

Turnover among the actors is very low, and résumés come in weekly, so Sweitzer was one of the lucky few. His background of athletics with a water orientation is typical of many applicants. Other players arrive via the stage. However they get there, all must be able to swim (good thinking for a mock sea battle). Many of the behind-the-scenes personnel—the pyrotechnic, lighting, audio, and hydraulic experts who keep the action in nonstop, explosive synchronization—hail from theaters and amusement parks. Except for several specialty roles, such as the two captains, Creel, and the highest divers, players are cross-trained for all roles, and the assignments can change daily. New recruits start on the *H.M.S. Britannia* and work their way through all parts, save the captain, before transferring for basic training on the *Hispaniola*. Three women served on the original crew, but they have moved on. Croop says he's not sure why more than a handful haven't applied since then, and no women are in the cast now.



Every stuntman's leap is carefully orchestrated.

> *"I get to come to work and be a pirate. I don't want to grow up."*
> —J.D. Sweitzer

If athletic, performance-oriented people want to make a living in a stable environment, they would be hard pressed to beat the sea battle at Buccaneer Bay. "The job is great, and it's fun to do," says Dunbar, one of 10 holdovers from the first production. "It plays to the child inside us. What child didn't play buccaneer, pirate, cowboy?" He says the opportunity to continue to play, for pay, as an adult "exists nowhere else."

Dunbar's training runs toward live theater. He has performed Shakespeare and in productions as varied as "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and "A Streetcar Named Desire." He's appeared in films, commercials, and Wild West shows.

At 50, Dunbar is the dean of the troupe, and he's not required to climb rigging or make the 36-foot leap from the topmast. He pays his dues, however. As a British officer, he's plunged into water that gets as cold as 42 degrees Fahrenheit. Like Captain Smollett of Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, he approaches his dunking with the requisite stiff upper lip: "It's not something you'd give up lightly." At least until he ruins the effect by adding, "It is so much fun."

As exciting as the show is, it is charted for safety. Every step, dive, and explosion is exact, and two overhead observers and both captains have remote switches to stop the action if anything is amiss. Performers are paired in a buddy system, and each man's first responsibility following any stunt is to determine the whereabouts and condition of his partner. Although injuries occur, they have been minor.

"We've done everything humanly possible to make this as safe and as exciting a show as we can make it," says Dunbar. "It looks spectacular and dangerous, but it is so orchestrated and safer than it looks. But it is still live, and danger is there."

The attraction isn't just about mass entertainment and, ultimately, a means to get people, preferably gamblers, through the front door. Both seamen point with pride to the time the cast spends performing for charities and at children's hospitals. Sweitzer says, "It's the most rewarding part about this job. It keeps you from taking the job for granted." Dunbar is recognized wherever he goes in town as a result of the many school visits. The kids want to be pirates one day, and he tells them, "What you believe you can do, you can do. My life is living proof of that."

Sweitzer's mom also knows something about kids and pirates. She has a picture of J.D., age five, decked out in swashbuckler garb. Another photograph shows J.D. in his late 20s. He's in his work clothes.

Welcome to Las Vegas, where fantasy isn't reserved just for visitors.

Strip Ahoy

The Buccaneer Bay sea battle takes place every 90 minutes from 5:30 to 11:30 p.m. daily (there is no 11:30 p.m. show Sunday to Thursday in winter) at Treasure Island on the Las Vegas Strip, weather permitting. Call 702-894-7111 for details.

Ken Van Vechten is a freelance writer from Riverside, California. He probably would have been a great pirate if not for the fact that he gets seasick watching Flipper *reruns.*

Photo: Gail Bandini



SAND BLAST

What's a day at the beach and a day on the slopes tied into one? Sandboarding at Sand Mountain.

Story and Photos by Richard Menzies

Framed against a cobalt sky, world-class boarder Josh Tenge draws a deep breath and flexes his tawny pectorals. Far below, Pete Pilcic points his radar gun, flashes the high sign, and Tenge is off. Moments later, Pilcic's radar gun clocks Tenge at 50 miles per hour. That's five miles per hour shy of the world's record but much, much faster than anyone ever came off Sand Mountain on a rusty car hood.

"People were riding car hoods out here for many years," explains Lon Beale. "You'd just go screaming down the dune with a bunch of people—and hope you didn't die at the end."

Beale, also known as Dr. Dune, is publisher of the online *Sandboard Magazine* and a relentless promoter of a sport he insists is rapidly gaining adherents throughout the world, from the Gobi Desert to the Great Saskatchewan Sand Hills. Each September Beale and his merry band of International Dune Riders converge on Sand Mountain Recreation Area, 25 miles east of Fallon off U.S. 50, to compete in the annual XWest Huck Fest. Featured events include big-air freestyle jumping and downhill or "drag" racing. October's Sand Mountain Open affords novice riders a chance to try out the sport, provided they first sign an accident-liability waiver.

"Sandboarding is a combination of surfing, snow-, and skateboarding," explains Jack Smith, a shredder from Los Osos, California, who participated in last fall's Sand Mountain Open. Smith, who has twice crossed the country on

"Sandboarding is a combination of surfing, snow-, and skateboarding."



Sandboarding champion Josh Tenge of Reno catches air (opposite page) and speed (above) at Sand Mountain.

a skateboard, fabricated his first sandboard in his high-school woodworking class back in 1973 and now prefers sand dunes to city streets and sidewalks.

Josh Tenge, a resident of Reno, has starred in Xterra commercials and recently set a world-record back flip on television's *Ripley's Believe It or Not*. For the last four winters he has taught snowboarding at Diamond Peak on Lake Tahoe's north shore. Tenge ventures down from the mountaintops each summer, working as a sandboard instructor at Sand Master Park in Florence, Oregon, while searching for new sandhills to conquer.

Sandboarding may look dangerous, but it's relatively safe—so says Dr. Dune. Unlike ski slopes, sand dunes don't have obstacles to crash into; unlike the ocean, there's no undertow nor hungry sharks lurking beneath the surface. And unlike skateboarding, sandboarding isn't strenuous—the hardest part is getting to the top of the run. In lieu of chairlifts, boarders rely on dune buggies and ATVs.

"We ride two different kinds of boards," explains Beale, who is based in California City, California. One is a shorter training board about 105 centimeters long. "Then you see a full-size board that looks just like a snowboard, but the base surface is completely different from snow. If you bring a snowboard out here, usually it won't move at all."

Thanks to base materials developed by Formica and specially formulated waxes, sandboards glide and slide with ease. The wax, according to Beale, is just to help the rider break free of the initial grab of friction. "After about 20 feet the wax is gone, but by that time the board is already moving. Once they get up about 15, 20 miles an hour, they're basically riding on air. They're actually riding on a cushion of air, and when they start riding the air like that, they're moving fast. Essentially they're flying."

Although sandboarders constitute a tiny percentage of the 30,000 recreationists who descend on Sand Mountain each year, Beale sees great promise in the area. At 600 feet, it's the third-tallest sand dune in the country, and its proximity to the Sierra puts it a



Dr. Dune ferries boarders and assistants to the top.



Tyler Kent prepares his board.



Dr. Dune (left) consults with the jump monitors while Josh Tenge flips out.

With the Grain

Sand Mountain, 25 miles east of Fallon and 83 miles east of Reno on U.S. 50, is managed by the Bureau of Land Management and remains open year-round. Visit www.nv.blm.gov/carson/2sandmtn for information on the dune-buggy haven. **Dune Riders International** hosts the **XWest Huck Fest** on September 14 and the **Sand Mountain Open** on October 19. For details visit Dr. Dune's online **Sandboard Magazine,** www.sandboard.com. Cold weather makes for faster runs and smaller crowds, but the best time to try sandboarding on Sand Mountain is in the spring and fall. The dune's amenities include vault toilets and a solar-powered "loneliest telephone in America." No admission or camping fees are charged, and with 4,795 acres there's plenty of room—but bring your own board.



short drive from Lake Tahoe's winter resorts. As the sport grows and sand bunnies multiply, Beale envisions a day when sandboarding will be a featured event in the X-Games and Gravity Games—maybe even the Olympics.

Summer or winter games? Both, predicts Dr. Dune. "Sand is cheap and it's so plentiful. We think that the snow resorts will end up bringing about four or five hundred tons of sand and put it on the main run and operate the year-round. I think once they realize how easy it is to maintain and how cheap it is, that's what you'll see happen. And I think once one resort starts doing it and the others see the potential, I think we'll see all of 'em do it."

Until the day convoys of dump trucks start rolling into Tahoe, however, Sand Mountain will remain the Silver State's premier sandboarding venue. Which is just fine by Dr. Dune, who invites anyone looking for a cheap thrill to come out and play on Churchill County's magnificent quartzite sand pile.

"It's like a day at the beach and a day on the slopes tied into one," he says. "It's the best of both worlds—and it's available year-round. Once you have a board, it's free. You don't have to wait for the surf, you don't wait for the season, you don't have to fight to catch a wave. It's never flat, it's never melted, it's always there—waiting."

Richard Menzies is a globetrotting journalist who reports that climbing Sand Mountain is probably harder than scaling Mount Everest. Today a sizable sitzmark memorializes his failure to reach the big dune's summit.



The sun sets on Sand Mountain, 25 miles east of Fallon, as boarders and support crew gather for a trophy ceremony during October's meet.

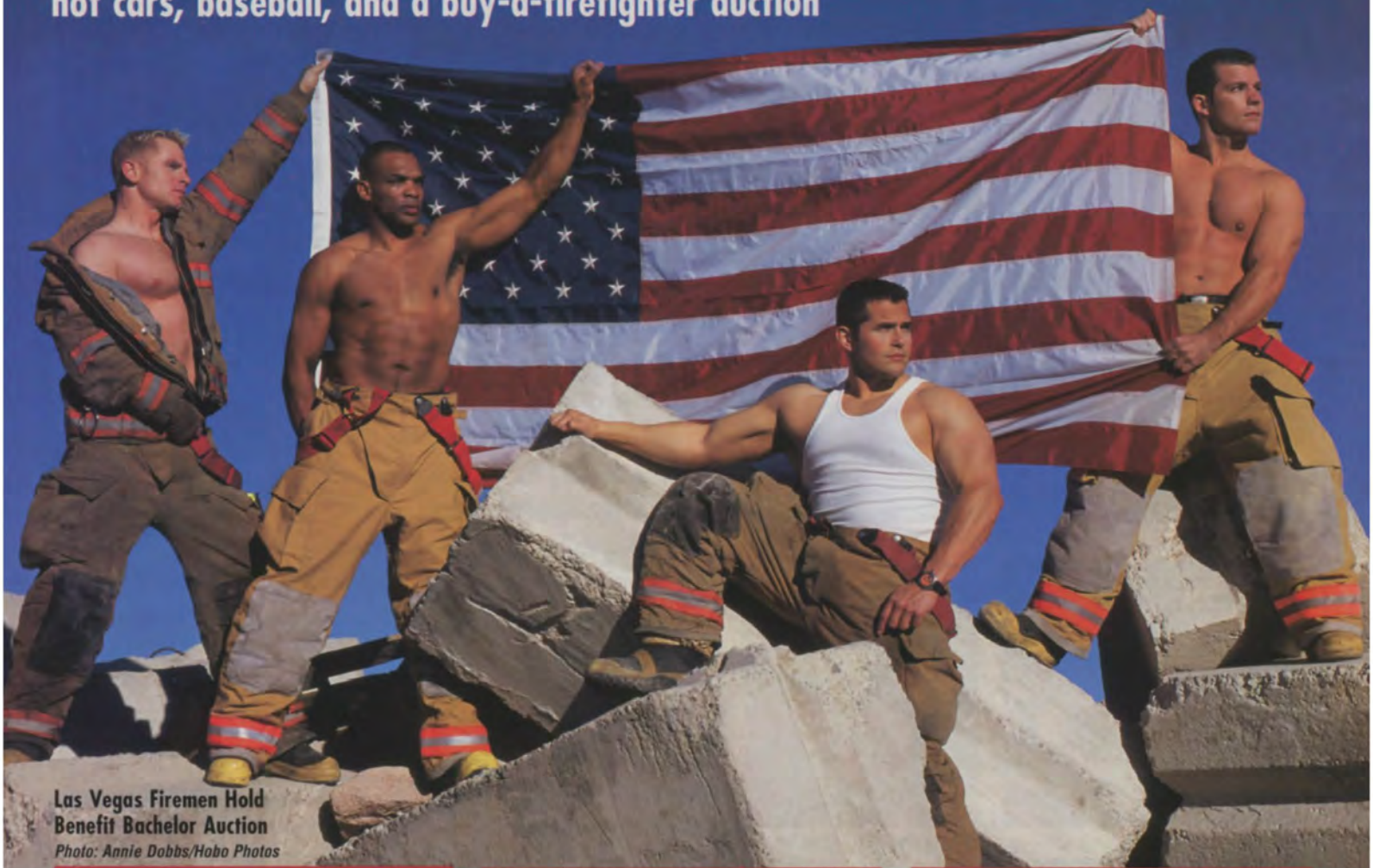
NEVADA Events & Shows

Nevada Magazine's Guide to Entertainment and Attractions in the Silver State

March/April 2002

A Banner Spring

Nevada celebrates the season with festivals, hot cars, baseball, and a buy-a-firefighter auction



Las Vegas Firemen Hold Benefit Bachelor Auction
Photo: Annie Dobbs/Hobo Photos



Rodeo Royalty at the Clark County Fair



NASCAR Winston Cup Racing



Invitational Native American Arts Festival

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Spring Fling

A parade, talent show, chili cook-off, and antique-auto show draw crowds to Henderson Heritage Days, April 19-28.

By Joan Patterson and Susan Elbe

Six Nevada festivals celebrate the Silver State's past and present this spring.

Todd Robison, executive director of the Clark County Fair, received an e-mail a few months ago from a woman in England wanting to plan her Las Vegas vacation around the Clark County Fair. And it's no wonder. The fair, which takes place April 11-14 in Logandale, a farming community 60 miles northeast of Las Vegas, offers an intriguing glimpse of rural Nevada life. The event includes a continuous round of pro rodeo, carnival action, entertainment, food, and farm and home displays.

The Clark County Fair is one of many spring festivals that celebrate Nevada's cowboy life, farming roots, and Native American culture. Others recognize military traditions, St. Patrick's Day, winter at Lake Tahoe, and the revival of a ghost town. And what would spring be without baseball? Here are six events, beginning with those in the Southern Nevada area.

A Fair Day: Highlighting the Clark County Fair in Logandale is the three-day rodeo. Contestants in the professionally sanctioned rodeo compete in seven major events—barrel racing, steer wresting, calf and team roping, and bareback, bull, and saddle-bronc riding—for $150,000 in cash prizes.

"We not only get contestants from all over the country, the spectators come from all over the country to see it," Robison says. "There are 850 rodeos nationwide, and we're in the top 50. In the beginning we struggled to get 75 contestants. Now they have to pre-qualify. We, for instance, only take the top 60 bull riders in the nation."

In addition to the rodeo, exhibitors will show prize-winning sheep, swine, and steers. The area's top homemakers and crafters will display handmade items and baked goods in the

Photo: Jeffrey Cowen



Kids enjoy carnival rides April 11-14 at the Clark County Fair, which also has a pro rodeo, music, and barbecue.

fairgrounds' exhibition halls in Logandale.

Since this is Nevada, entertainment is essential. The fair's three stages in the past have hosted a Beatles tribute band, hypnotists, and dance troupes. Robison says, "Every hour we have a new act on, and we try to hit every segment of society, young and old."

The carnival includes more than 40 major rides and food vendors of every kind. Visitors wanting a real down-home look (and taste) can enjoy live bluegrass music in the barbecue tent while eating Dutch-oven potatoes, cobbler, and deep-pit barbecued pork and beef.

Tickets purchased at the gate are $7 for adults, $5 for seniors, and $4 for children. Tickets purchased prior to the fair's opening date are $4 for all ages. Call 888-876-FAIR or log on to www.ccfair.com for more information about the fair.

Hot Dogs and Apple Pie: The Las Vegas 51s, the city's AAA baseball team, has garnered much interest because of its new name and logo. The 51s, formerly known as the Stars, are topping the charts when it comes to sales of merchandise to collectors around the country. But there are other reasons to go to the 8,000-seat Cashman Field besides the curiosity of a team named after the elusive Area 51, a patch of Southern Nevada desert that has been linked to everything from UFO sightings to top-secret military activity.

This spring, the Los Angeles Dodgers' farm team will be beaming down a hot prospect named Chin-Feng Chen, a 24-year-old hitter from Korea. Chen was named 1999 national player of the year while playing single-A ball in California, and last year he hit .313 with 17 home runs for the Dodgers' AA team in Jacksonville, Florida. "He's real fast, and he hits for power," notes team spokesman Aaron Artman.

The 51s compete in the Pacific Coast League, playing farm teams such as the Tacoma Rainiers (Seattle Mariners), Salt Lake Stingers (Anaheim Angels), Fresno Grizzlies (San Francisco Giants), Tuscon Sidewinders (Arizona Diamondbacks), and New Orleans Zephyrs (Houston Astros). What makes AAA ball so much fun is the players' passion as well as the chance to see games up close, Artman notes.

"It's baseball the way it's supposed to be. You have young guys out there hustling," he says. "We also stress family entertainment. I think that's what baseball is all about." In fact, if the players' talent isn't enough of a draw, there are always the post-game fireworks displays, which are planned for six games this year, and various entertainment acts including the ZOOperstars, or "inflatable mascots that eat, dance, and do flips," according to Artman. The team offers a seven-game plan for $35. Tickets are normally $7 each. Call 702-386-7200 or visit www.lv51.com for information.

And, of course, there is Cosmo the mascot, "a seven-foot-tall, gray, furry alien with eyes that stick out on top of his head and a round, chubby belly," says Artman. Hey, he may sound strange, but the guy can sell merchandise.

Native American Culture: In the 1980s Australian photographer Andrew Hogarth traveled 135,000 miles across the Southwest and Great Plains to capture the mysterious beauty of the Native American powwow. The resulting photos will be on display at the 13th Invitational Native American Arts Festival at the Clark County Museum in Henderson, April 5-7 The arts festival is a celebration of Native American culture through artwork, crafts, dance, food, and education, according to Christie Leavitt, the museum's curator of education.

> The festival includes demonstrations by Native American artists.

A highlight of this year's event will be Hogarth's exhibit, "Powwow: Native American Celebration." His work has received rave reviews in Australia, and the Las Vegas show marks the exhibit's inaugural tour of the United States.

The presentation offers 54 portraits of powwow participants dressed in colorful regalia. The accompanying text sheds further light on the subjects and the intent of powwows, which were once staged during tribal councils as both a celebration and a



Outfielder Tony Mota of the Las Vegas 51s waits for the pitch. The AAA team is named for the secret base of UFO fame.



Dancers perform at the Invitational Native American Arts Festival April 5-7 at the Clark County Museum.

gesture of goodwill. Today powwows serve as social gatherings and dance competitions.

The festival includes demonstrations by Native American artists. Tribes from around the Southwest, including Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and California are represented. Past artisans have included basket weavers, painters, bead workers, and doll makers. About 50 vendors will sell handmade items such as Navajo rugs, belts, silver work, pottery, clothing, sculptures, and paintings. Tribal members will perform traditional dances such as the jingle dress and shawl dances. Food such as fry bread and Navajo tacos will be sold to the 10,000 visitors attending the festival.

"I think it's an opportunity for people from different cultures to meet each other one-on-one, and for collectors to buy directly from the artists. And it's just a lot of fun," Leavitt says. Tickets for the Invitational Native American Arts Festival are $3 for adults, $2 for children and seniors. Call 702-455-7955 for information.

Salute to Our Roots: The city of Henderson (population 202,424) has been breaking records as the nation's fastest-growing city since 1994 and shows no signs of slowing down. Like the city itself, Henderson Heritage Days has blossomed into a vigorous celebration of family and community life while retaining a small-town atmosphere.

The annual nine-day festival, which starts April 19, offers a major antique-auto show with hundreds of vintage vehicles to peruse. The vehicles are owned by car lovers from around the country. The auto show is combined with a chili cook-off during which dozens of recipes are judged. Unique entries have included venison, turkey, buffalo, and bear-meat chili. Other events will be a 5K run, concert-in-the-park, and talent show for performers of all ages.

"We've had a little bit of everything over the years. It's a lot of fun," notes Gayle Rogers, Henderson Chamber of Commerce executive assistant. The inaugural festival back in 1950 was called Pioneer Days. It celebrated the area's history and recognized Henderson's contributions in making critically needed materials during World War II. While the city has obviously changed over the years, many of the original events are still part of the festival. A parade moves down the main streets of town, much as it did in the 1950s. This year's parade will include Las Vegas-area and out-of-state high school marching bands and floats from businesses and schools.

A festival pass that provides access to all events can be purchased for $2. Visit the Henderson Chamber of Commerce Web site, www.hendersonchamber.com, for more about the festival.

Let's Schuss: A North Lake Tahoe tradition for 21 years, Snowfest returns March 1-10. Originally a community party, Snowfest has become a major winter carnival and a traveler's destination. "People come from all over the U.S. just for Snowfest," Lori Paris, an event organizer, says. "They plan their ski vacation around Snowfest's skiing-related events."

Each year the celebration begins at 6 p.m. Friday at Squaw Valley USA. Opening ceremony highlights are the coronation of the Snowfest Queen, a torchlight parade of skiers, and fireworks. The first weekend's events are primarily in Tahoe City. Saturday begins with a pancake breakfast followed by the Tahoe City Parade. This year's parade theme is "Let Freedom Ring." For the more adventurous there is the popular Polar Bear Swim, a mind- and body-numbing plunge in Lake Tahoe. Spectators can stay dry and warm by watching the Polar Bear Swim from Garwood's Restaurant.

Sunday's big event is the Great Race, the 25th annual cross-country ski chase from Tahoe City to Truckee. "We usually have between 800 and 900 participants," Paris says. Another local's favorite is the Monster Dawg Pull, where dogs are categorized by size and assigned to pull something—like a keg of beer. Local businesses produce their own events, such as a pool tournament, a cribbage tournament, and a wine tasting, which keep visitors busy throughout the week.



At Tahoe's Snowfest, March 1-10, participants swim in the lake's frigid waters and compete in offbeat contests.

The second Saturday of Snowfest begins with a pancake breakfast followed by the Dress Up Your Dog contest in Kings Beach. At noon Saturday the Kings Beach Business Association hosts the Children's Parade, which will include the Budweiser Clydesdale team. The finale of Snowfest will be the Snow Sculpture Contest on Sunday, March 10, at River Ranch near

Tahoe City. "People get very, very creative with what they put together," Paris says.

More than 50 events are planned during Snowfest from Incline Village to Truckee; most of them are free. Special ski packages will also be available. Call 530-581-1283 or visit www.snowfest.com for information.



The Irish band Shank's Mare plays a lively tune during the St. Patrick's Day party March 15-17 in downtown Reno.

Love That Green Beer: Everything Irish will be celebrated March 15-17 at the Fitzgeralds St. Patrick's Day Celebration in downtown Reno. Virginia Street will be closed to traffic to accommodate 70 arts and crafts vendors. Two bagpipe bands will entertain on the street stage outdoors and inside the casino, and a band from Ireland will perform throughout the weekend. Fitzgeralds also is flying in a 40-piece military brass band with tattoo pipers to entertain on Friday night and Saturday.

Ceilis (parties in Gaelic) are planned for Friday night in Limericks Pub and Grille on the casino's third floor and on Sunday in the Lord Fitzgeralds buffet. During the St. Patrick's weekend, all three Fitzgeralds restaurants will feature corned beef and boxty (potato pancakes), and bars will feature special prices on Guinness and green beer. "We always go through a lot of green beer," says Sales Manager Kevin Crotchfelt. A limerick contest Saturday night will award prizes of $200, $150, and $75 for the best five-line poems. Call Fitzgeralds at 800-648-5022 for St. Patrick's Day information.

Contests include gold planning, best historic costume, and best beard and moustache.

Getting on Track: The ghost town of Rhyolite near Beatty awakens April 5-7 for the inaugural Rhyolite Jamboree. The festival celebrates the history of this Nevada gold-mining district and is a benefit to refurbish the 94-year-old Las Vegas and Tonopah Railroad Depot.

The event starts Friday, April 5, with an evening barbecue, cowboy poetry, and bluegrass music at the Rhyolite Bottle House, a landmark built of adobe and hundreds of bottles. Saturday offers arts, crafts, old-fashioned photography, and food booths. Fundraising activities include a Bureau of Land Management-sponsored government-employee dunk tank and the Kangaroo Court and Auction Jail.

Contests throughout the weekend include gold panning, best historic costume, and best beard and moustache. A wide variety of entertainment is planned for Saturday and Sunday. The Silver State Cloggers and KT's Dance Factory will perform dance exhibitions. The Desert Drifters, a group of Old West reenacters, will be seen throughout the Rhyolite site. Musical performers from as far away as Nashville will entertain visitors.

Those interested in history can join Rebecca's Walk through the Rhyolite ruins and attend the Rhyolite Railroad Symposium. Documentary filmmaker Ted Faye will preview his new film, *Death Valley Railroad*. Wagon tours of the town are offered by Ash Meadows Cow Camp. For horse riders there is a Saturday trail ride exploring hidden springs and ancient pictographs.

A sunrise service on Sunday is followed by a pancake breakfast. The majority of the Jamboree's activities are free to the public. The trail ride, with your own horse, costs $10 for adults and $5 for children under 13. The event's barbecues and pancake breakfast cost $5 or less.

Rhyolite is located near the edge of Death Valley National Park, four miles west of Beatty and 115 miles north of Las Vegas. Visit www.rhyolitejamboree.com for information about the Jamboree or local accommodations.



Haunting ruins await visitors April 5-7 to the Rhyolite Jamboree, which celebrates the ghost town's past and future.

Joan Patterson is a Las Vegas writer. Susan Elbe is a Reno freelance writer.

Photo: Jens Peerman (bottom)

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Nevada Events

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



Sweet and Sourdough

Sourdough Slim, a nationally known musician and comedian, performs his soulful yodel during the Cowboy Jubilee and Poetry March 9 in Carson City. From Carnegie Hall to Carson City, Sourdough has entertained audiences with his ability to play a guitar, harmonica, and kazoo—simultaneously.

Nevada communities offer a great variety of events this spring, from NASCAR Winston Cup racing at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway to the Reno Jazz Festival. Ski resorts at Lake Tahoe are busy with races and winter carnivals such as Snowfest. *Nevada Magazine* presents the following statewide events for March and April. Be sure to call ahead to confirm dates and times.

Las Vegas Territory

Pennzoil's World of Outlaws • Feb. 28-March 2 • Outlaw sprint cars race on the dirt oval track. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Drum Fest • March 1-2 • Fusion ensemble performs African, Indian, Native American, Celtic, and Aboriginal styles on March 1. Workshops and demonstrations on March 2. Valley View Recreation Center, Henderson, 702-565-2367.

Spring Dance Concert I • March 1-2 • Faculty choreograph for students. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-2787.

Anteaters Exhibit • March 1-3 • Anteaters of Central and South America are featured in a traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution. Las Vegas Natural History Museum, Las Vegas, 702-384-DINO.

UAW-Daimler Chrysler 400 NASCAR Winston Cup Weekend • March 1-3 • Event includes the NASCAR Bud Pole Day and Winston Cup Happy Hour on March 1, Sam's Town 300 NASCAR Busch Grand National on March 2, and the 400 NASCAR Winston Cup on March 3. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

"La Ronde" • March 1-3 and 7-10 • Comedy about sexual relationships. Little Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-LIVE.

"Top Girls" • March 1-3 and 7-10 • Caryl Churchill's play about the '80s. Black Box Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

African American Cultural Focus: Creative Memories: Scrapbook Workshop • March 2 • How to preserve family photos, stories, and memorabilia. West Las Vegas Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Classic Masterworks • March 2 • Concert featuring the music of Mozart, Schumann, and Beethoven. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Las Vegas Civic Symphony • March 3 • Classical music. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

Bootleg Canyon: Downhill and Dual Slalom • March 3 and 31 • Mountain-bike racing open to all classes. Boulder City. Call for location, 702-293-2453.

$75,000 Winning O' the Green Slot Tournament • March 7-10 • $1,000 entry fee includes three-night stay, reception, two breakfast buffets, awards dinner. Tropicana, Las Vegas, 702-739-2411.

Glass Craft Expo • March 8-10 • Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 702-734-0070.

Callaway Golf Las Vegas Intercollegiate • March 8-10 • UNLV hosts 15 collegiate teams. Southern Highlands Golf Club, Las Vegas, 702-242-3000.

Vienna Chamber Orchestra • March 9 • Music of Strauss, Brahms, and Mozart. Performing Arts Center, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Gun and Knife Show • March 9-10 • Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 319-923-4003.

Charleston Heights Jazz Concert • March 10 • Las Vegas Jazz Society event. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Henderson Civic Symphony • March 10 • Young artists, ages 12 to 18, perform. Valley View Recreation Center, Henderson, 702-565-2367.

Tapp Tool Sale • March 10 • Henderson Convention Center, Henderson, 800-989-3285.

Early Music for Early in the Year • March 11 • Baroque and Renaissance music. Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-LIVE.

Children of the Arts • March 11-15 • Artists demonstrate their skills to elementary school students. Elementary schools, Henderson, 702-565-8951.

Dance Concert • March 12 • Informal presentation

of dance forms from ballet to Middle Eastern. Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 705-651-LIVE.

Professional Job Fair • March 13 • Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 408-920-0162.

Spring Ten Minute Play Festival • March 13-17 • The works of graduate student playwrights. Paul Harris Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Poets' Corner • March 15 • Established poets and open-mike participants. West Las Vegas Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Shamrock Fun Slot Tournament • March 15-16 • Entry fee of $79 includes two tickets to awards dinner and one entry for tournament. Flamingo Laughlin, 800-435-8469.

Spring Great Las Vegas Craft Festival • March 15-17 • Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 805-481-7100.

African Drum and Dance • March 16 • Workshop. West Las Vegas Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

St. Patrick's Day Dance • March 16 • Jerry Blake Orchestra plays big-band standards. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Community Appreciation Day Block Party • March 16 • Food, music, games. West Community Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-5080.

Community Heroes Dinner • March 21 • Dinner sponsored by the National Conference of Community and Justice recognizing Las Vegans for their roles in creating a stronger community. Location TBA, Las Vegas, 702-387-2454.

Too Hot to Handle Firefighter Bachelor Auction • March 21 • Third annual fundraiser for the Clark County Fire Fighters Burn Foundation. House of Blues, Mandalay Bay, Las Vegas, 702-498-8082.

"The Mineola Twins" • March 21-31 • Adult play about twin sisters and the changes brought about by time. Nevada Theatre Company, Las Vegas, 702-873-0191.

Linda Eder • March 22 • Singer interprets popular music in a distinctive style. Performing Arts Center, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.



Native Arts Festival

Jim Big John, an Oto-Missouri/Delaware Indian, performs sign language set to music at the Invitational Native American Arts Festival, held April 5-7 in Henderson.



Nevada Territory Map

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

"Ourstory" • March 22-23 • Play by Lucina Hudson celebrating black history. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Home and Garden Show • March 22-24 • Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 702-735-5958.

Desert Quilters • March 22-24 • Quilting materials, classes, and display. Henderson Convention Center, Henderson, 702-433-5889.

Monster Jam World Finals • March 23 • Monster truck competition. Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas, 702-895-3900.

The Third Piano Concerto Competition • March 23 • Pianists age six to 21 compete for prizes and scholarships. Recital Hall, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-LIVE.

Guest Artist Piano Recital • March 24 • Roberta Rust performs. Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-LIVE.

Oscar Night America • March 24 • Gala to benefit the Arthritis Foundation. Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, 702-367-1626.

Boulder City Fine Arts Festival • March 27-28 • 17th annual art show and sale attracts more than 100 artists from six Southwestern states. Event takes place in Bicentennial Park, Boulder City, 702-293-2138.

Laughlin Rodeo Days • March 27-31 • Rodeo and parties at local casinos. Seventh annual event. Special Events Arena, Laughlin, 702-298-2214.

Americana Indian Jewelry Show • March 29-31 • Jewelry from Arizona. Henderson Convention Center, Henderson, 702-565-2171.

Old Time Barn Dance • March 30 • Callers and live music for square dancing, mixers, contras, waltzes, and polkas. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Easter Breakfast Buffet • March 31 • Holiday cruise to Hoover Dam aboard the *Desert Princess* paddlewheeler. Lake Mead Cuises, Boulder City, 702-293-6180.

April Showers Slot Tournament • April 1-3 • $250 entry fee includes two-night stay, reception, awards breakfast. Tropicana, Las Vegas, 702-739-2411.

Las Vegas Craft and Sewing Festival • April 4-6 • Craft show. Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 801-463-1200.

Summit Racing.Com NHRA Nationals • April 4-7 • Top fuel dragsters, pro stock, funny cars, pro stock trucks, and pro stock bike. Event includes a car show and swap meet. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Regional Dance Competition • April 5-6 • Cashman Center Theatre, Las Vegas, 208-939-2015.

"Two Pails of Water" • April 5-6 and 11-14 • Rainbow Youth Company production. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

Invitational Native American Arts Festival • April 5-7 • 13th annual event offers demonstrations, dance and music performances, lectures and films, fry bread, arts and crafts market, fashions, and food. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

Desert Dash Heat Wave Race • April 6 • Competitors must be ready to run, bicycle, and canoe during the race in the Boulder City and Lake Mead area. Check-in is 6-8am; race begins at 10am. Boulder City and Lake Mead. Call for location, 702-431-4858.

Henderson Boy's and Girl's Club Auction • April 6 • Benefit auction. Henderson Convention Center, Henderson, 702-565-6568.

Cashore Marionettes • April 6 • Family entertainment by oversized puppets. Silver Springs Recreation Center, Henderson, 702-565-2367.

Australian Chamber Orchestra • April 6 • Pianist Stephen Hough performs with the orchestra on its U.S. tour. Performing Arts Center, UNLV, 702-895-ARTS.

Cabaret's Biggest Names • April 7 • Performance by Michael Feinstein and Ann Hampton Callaway with Big Kahuna and the Copa Cat Pack. Performing Arts Center, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Caesars Palace Slot Tournament • April 7-10 • $1,000 entry fee. Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, 888-927-2758.

$75,000 Taste of Italy Slot Tournament • April 7-10 • $1,000 entry fee includes three-night stay, reception, two breakfast buffets, awards dinner. Tropicana, Las Vegas, 702-739-2411.

Cinema: *Stranger Than Paradise* • April 9 • Independent film. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Clark County Fair • April 11-14 • Pro rodeo, carnival, home arts and ranch exhibits, entertainment, music, barbecue. Fairgrounds, Logandale, 888-876-FAIR.

"Louder Than Words" • April 12-14 and 18-21 • Comedy about a struggling band of vaudeville misfits trying to cope. Black Box Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Black Expo • April 13 • Black business event. Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 702-646-4223.

Earth Day • April 13 • Children's science area, entertainment, dog-team demonstrations, food,





Nuts and Bolts Art

Trash becomes art April 15-26 during the Recycled Articles Contest and Earth Week Celebration at Western Nevada Community College in Carson City. Above, "Two Friends" by Jody Lacher of Reno is a Heinz concoction of an oil pan, pistons, and transmission parts.

booths. Mission Hills Park, Henderson, 702-565-2121.

"Red Riding Hood" • April 13 at Silver Springs Recreation Center. April 15 and 20 at Black Mountain Recreation Center. April 22 and 27 at Valley View Recreation Center • Missoula Children's Theatre performance. Henderson, 702-565-2367.

Israel Independence Day Celebration • April 14 • Entertainment, food, and arts and crafts. Location TBA, Las Vegas, 702-794-0090.

Las Vegas Jazz Society • April 14 • Concert at 2pm. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Golf Tournament • April 15 • Tuscany Hills, Henderson, 702-565-8951.

Cinema: *Smoke* • April 16 • Independent film. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Ho-Waiian Way Slot Tournament • April 17-20 • $625 entry fee. Westward Ho Casino, Las Vegas, 800-223-1709.

Peter Schickele Meets P.D.Q. Bach • April 19 • Benefit for the Las Vegas Philharmonic's youth programs featuring the composer, musician, author, and satirist. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 7092-895-ARTS.

Poets' Corner • April 19 • Established poets and open-mike participants. West Las Vegas Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

International Travel and Adventure Show • April 19-21 • Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 727-384-3976.



Banner Event

Las Vegas firemen (left to right) Jeff Braddock, Lamar Lucas, John Carillo, and Alan Boyett are a sampling of the bachelors to be auctioned March 21 to raise money for their department's burn foundation. Here, they pose for an annual Clark County firefighters' calendar.

"Pippin" • April 19-21 and 26-28 • Musical tells the story of a young prince in search of adventure. Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-LIVE.

Henderson Heritage Days • April 19-28 • Car show, carnival, parade, beauty pageant, 5K run, chili cook-off. Various locations, Henderson, 702-565-8951 for more information.

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Photo: Annie Dobb/Hobo Photos

ONGOING EVENTS

All events are color coded according to territory (see map on page 31).

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

Art Shows & Exhibits

Constance Ehrlich: Thru March 6. Artist uses satire and humor to convey feminist issues in her paintings. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Helen Murphy: Thru March 9. Photography exhibit. West Las Vegas Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Cowboy Up! One Hundred Years of Rodeo: Thru March 10. Exhibit chronicles the history of rodeo with memorabilia, art, and photographs. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 702-486-5205.

Picasso: 25 Years of Edition Ceramics: Thru March 25. Sixty-five plates, bowls, pitchers, vases, and plaques created by Pablo Picasso from the Edward and Ann Weston Collection. Nevada Museum of Art, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-329-3333.

Gabriel Brandt: Yellow Street and 4th Avenue: Thru April 5. Exhibition by Las Vegas artist. Sierra Arts Gallery, Riverside Artists Lofts, Reno, 775-329-ARTS.

Powwow: Native American Celebration: Thru April 28. Photography show features 54 works by Andrew Hogarth covering 17 years. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

Material World: A Global Family Portrait and Women in the Material World: Thru May 12. Photographic account detailing possessions owned by 30 families around the world. Lied Discovery Children's Museum, Las Vegas, 702-382-3445.

Wild Women: March 1-15. Eight artists exhibit fabric works, clay art, jewelry, and paintings. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

Cooking on the Range: 100 Years of Town and Country Traditions: March 1-April 30. Exhibit features recipes and kitchen artifacts from 1900 to 1999. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

Women's Work: Gear and Photography of Western Women: March 1-May 31 An all-women show of hand-crafted horse gear, trappings for the rider, and ranch photography. Western Folklife Center, Elko, 775-738-7508.

The 1940s: Keep 'Em Rolling: March 4-June 3. Automotive achievements during the war years. Symposium March 13-16 includes lectures, fashion show, and living-history talks. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

Las Vegas as Fantasy: March 15-April 27 Photography exhibit held in conjunction with the Society of Photographic Education Conference. Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-3381

Intersection: March 22-April 23. Seven Las Vegas photographers exhibit work using a variety of photographic processes. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211

Casinos and Desert Landscapes: Two Lives: March 22-May 7 Photographers Fred Sigman and Charles Morgan show collaborative casino pieces, plus Sigman's series on Vegas Wash. Charleston Heights Art Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Thadeus Foster: March 25-May 18. Abstract sculptures exhibition. West Las Vegas Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Gold Fever: Untold Stories of the California Gold Rush: April 5-July 28. Traveling exhibit presents the Gold Rush through text, documents, photographs, and daguerreotypes. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 702-486-5305.

Diane Lancia: April 15-May 24. Textured and layered photographs and prints. Sierra Arts Gallery, Riverside Artists Lofts, Reno, 775-329-ARTS.

Feelin' Groovy: Rock and Roll Graphics, 1966-70: May 12-Aug. 18. One hundred posters and handbills trace the development of the psychedelic style. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

George Washington: A National Treasure: June 28-Oct. 27 The "Lansdowne" portrait of Washington is on tour from the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery. Gilbert Stuart painted the life-size portrait of the first president in 1796. Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, 702-360-8000.

The Nevada Quilt Odyssey: A Quilt Exhibit in Three Parts: Thru Sept. 28. Historic quilts will be displayed thru March 30, contemporary quilts from the Truckee Meadows Quilt Guide from April 12-June 22, and the works of creative quilters from July 12-Sept. 28. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1190.



"Spanish Flat, 1852" is a California Gold Rush image displayed in "Gold Fever" at the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society in Las Vegas.

Music, Lectures, Tours

Concerts in the Gallery: Fridays at noon musicians perform for the lunch crowd. Sierra Arts Gallery, Riverside Artist Lofts, Reno, 775-329-ARTS.

Weekend Science Series: Saturday lectures on natural history and science from 10am-3pm. Las Vegas Natural History Museum, Las Vegas, 702-346-DINO.

Hidden Cave Tours: March 9 and 23 and April 13 and 27 Guided tour of Hidden Cave archaeological site includes self-guided tour to nearby Grimes Point petroglyph site. Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 775-423-3677

Gold Hill Hotel Tuesday Night Lecture and Dinner Series: "As Alf Doten, Jerry Aaron on March 5. "Buck Nimy: Cowboy Artist, Phil Earl on

Photo: California State Library Collection

March 12. Gold Hill Hotel, half mile south of Virginia City, 775-847-0111

Sporting Events

UNLV Men's Basketball: March 2 v. New Mexico. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-895-UNLV.

UNLV Women's Basketball: March 2 v. Utah at Thomas and Mack Center. Mountain West Conference Tournament is March 6-9 at Cox Pavilion, Las Vegas, 702-895-UNLV.

University of Nevada Men's Basketball: March 2 v. San Jose State. Lawlor Events Center, Reno, 775-784-6900.

Top Gun Raceway Drag Racing Season: March 16, one-quarter-mile racing. March 30, drag racing. April 6, drag racing. April 7 Summit Racing Series opener, ET drag racing. Top Gun Raceway, Fallon, 800-325-7448.

NASCAR Weekly Racing at The Bullring: Saturday nights beginning March 16. Racing divisions include late models, outlaw stocks, chargers, legends, speed trucks, bandoleros, demo derby, mods. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-632-8422.

Las Vegas 51s Baseball: The Los Angeles Dodgers' AAA team plays April 4-7 v. Calgary Cannons, April 8-11 v. Edmonton Trappers, April 12-15 v. Fresno Grizzlies, April 20-23 v. Tacoma Rainiers, April 29-May 2 v. Colorado Springs Sky Sox, May 3-6 v. Iowa Cubs, May 16-19 v. Portland Beavers, May 20-23 v. Omaha Royals, June 1-4 v. Tucson Sidewinders, June 10-13 v. Salt Lake City Stingers, June 14-16 v. Sacramento Rivercats, June 26-29 v. Oklahoma Redhawks, June 30-July 3 v. New Orleans Zephyrs, July 19-22 v. Tucson Sidewinders, Aug. 1-4 v. Memphis Redbirds, Aug. 17-20 v. Fresno Grizzlies, Aug. 26-29 v. Nashville Sound, Aug. 30-Sept. 2 v. Sacramento Rivercats. Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 702-798-7825.

Rattlesnake Raceway: Test and Tune on April 20. Season opener on May 4. Points race on May 18. Points race and demo derby on May 26. Points race and kids' rides, June 1 Points race June 15 and 29. Fireworks show on July 4. Points race and mud bog on July 5. Points race on July 27 Points race and kids' rides on Aug. 10. Points race on Aug. 24. Points race and demo derby on Sept. 7 Final points race and mud bog on Sept. 21 Nevada Dirt Track Championship on Oct. 19. Fallon, 775-423-7483.

Outdoor Markets

Silver State Market Place: Outdoor vendors on third weekend of the month at Sam Boyd Stadium. Las Vegas, 702-386-7927

Henderson Farmer's Market: Thurs. at Convention Center. Henderson, 702-565-2181

Las Vegas Farmer's Market: Wed. at 2-6pm, Bruce Trent Park. Las Vegas, 702-683-GROW.

"Three Ways Home: Nevada Becomes a State" • April 20 • Play by Timothy Cummings. Nevada Theatre Company, Las Vegas, 702-873-0191.

An Evening in Old Vienna • April 20 • Dance to big-band music. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Bootleg Canyon: Downhill and Dual Slalom • April 21• Mountain-bike racing open to all classes. Boulder City. Call for location, 702-293-2453.

Las Vegas Woodwind Quintet • April 21 • Concert. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

Cinema: *Household Saints* • April 23 • Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Salute to Seniors • April 23-24 • Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 702-898-0000.

POCA Las Vegas Fun Rally • April 24-28 • Pantera cars on display April 27 in 21st annual event. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 909-305-8004.

Laughlin River Run • April 25-29 • West Coast's largest motorcycle event, 19th annual edition. Various locations, Laughlin, 702-260-8605.

Moscow Grigorovich Ballet • April 26 • Company performs an updated version of the original Bolshoi production of "Spartacus." Performing Arts Center, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Spring Dance Concert II • April 26-27 • Student choreography and performances. Black Box Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-2787 for details.

Las Vegas Team Roping • April 27-29 • Competitors from 11 Western states. Rocking K Arena, Las Vegas, 702-260-8605.

Joe Williams Music Scholarship Fundraiser • April 28 • Tentative date for the annual fundraiser for the Community College Southern Nevada, an event launched by legendary jazz singer Joe Williams. Blue Note Jazz Club, Las Vegas, 702-651-5483.

Cinema: *Trust* • April 30 • Independent film. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

We're Jammin'

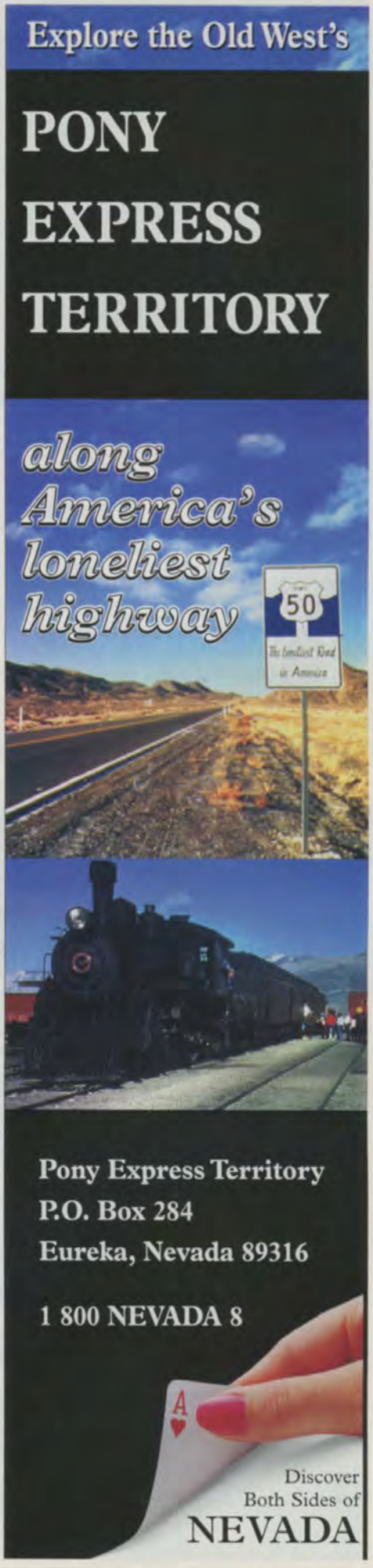
Adrenaline pumps during the Monster Jam World Finals on March 23 in Las Vegas. The monster trucks and their drivers gather at Sam Boyd Stadium to decide who owns bragging rights to the competition's "est"—the biggest, baddest, and noisiest.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Ford Downhill Championships • Feb. 28-March 2 • Former Olympic and World Cup skiers compete for titles. Squaw Valley USA, North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Snowfest Opening Ceremonies • March 1 • Torchlight parade and fireworks opens Lake Tahoe's annual winter carnival. Squaw Valley USA, North Lake Tahoe, 530-586-6985.

"Hansel and Gretel" • March 1 • Nevada Opera touring production of the fairy tale. Piper's Opera





Motorcycle City

The sights and sounds of the Laughlin River Run, the West Coast's largest motorcycle gathering, take over the Colorado River gaming town 95 miles south of Las Vegas on April 25-29. Visitors to the 19th annual event will marvel at the thousands of elaborate bikes.

House, Virginia City, 775-847-0433 for details.

"Rumors" • March 1-2 and 8-9 • Neil Simon's farce about an anniversary party gone awry. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.

Papa John's Bumps and Jumps Challenge • March 1-3 • Mogul skiers and aerialists compete. Heavenly, Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

Snowfest Winter Carnival • March 1-10 • Parades, contests, polar-bear swim, snow sculptures, fireworks, and parties at local restaurants and bars. Various locations, North Lake Tahoe, 530-581-1283.

Savor the Flavor Wine Tasting • March 2 • Food provided by local restaurants. Sierra Nevada Golf Ranch, Carson Valley, 775-782-3100.

Dummy Downhill • March 2 • Off-beat creations compete for the best runs. Mt. Rose Ski Area, Reno, 775-849-0704.

The Great Race • March 3 • 30K freestyle race from Tahoe City to Truckee using ice skates, snowshoes, and cross-country skis. Tahoe Cross-Country Ski Area, Tahoe City, 530-583-5475.

Far West Freestyle Division Championships • March 3 • Skiing and snowboarding competition. Alpine Meadows, North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-4232.

Threads Through Time • March 3 • Event celebrates Nevada Women's History Month and the women of the Carson Valley. Old Gym Playhouse, Gardnerville, 775-265-3493.

Boardercross Snowboard Race • March 3 • Race includes live music at base lodge. Diamond Peak Ski Resort, Incline Village, 775-832-1177.

Vans Triple Crown of Snowboarding • March 3-10 • North American championships feature the top snowboarders competing for a $125,000 purse. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsport Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-543-3135.

Folk and Roots Music Series • March 5 • Evan Parker Trio performs saxophone music. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.

Pro Patrol Race • March 5 • 12th annual dual slalom race, live music, and taco feed. Homewood Mountain Resort, West Shore, Lake Tahoe, call 530-525-2992 for more event information.

Wilson and McKee • March 6 • Celtic and contemporary music featuring the singer-songwriter duo. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.

K2Kahlua Halfpipe Jam • March 8-9 • Pro team

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Logandale Royalty

Miss Rodeo America Tara Graham (left) and Miss Clark County Fair Kristen Alexander appear at the Clark County Fair. This year's fair is April 11-14 in Logandale.

clinic and halfpipe competition. Alpine Meadows Ski Area, North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-4232.

"Killer Bagpipes" • March 8-9 and 22-23 • Funtime Theater Murder Mystery Dinner Show. Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-847-0433.

Booksale Bonanza • March 8-10 • Bargain used library books and audiovisual items. Location TBA, Reno, 775-327-8360.

Celebrity Winterfest • March 8-10 • Ski events benefit Special Olympics. Kirkwood Cross-Country Ski Area, 30 miles south of Lake Tahoe, 925-944-8801.

Physicians' Spouses Rummage Sale • March 9 • 51st annual benefit for health-related nonprofit programs. Reno Livestock Events Center, Reno, 775-826-2324.

Kid Stuff Saturday • March 9 • Games, entertainment, and $1 admission for ages six to 18. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

Jonesville Race • March 9 • Dual giant slalom competition. Homewood Mountain Resort, West Shore, Lake Tahoe, 530-525-2992.

Cowboy Jubilee and Poetry • March 9 • Cowboy music, barbecue dinner, and entertainment. Community Center, Carson City, 775-883-1532.

Race to Beat Cancer • March 9 • Fundraiser competition and music at the end of the day. Diamond

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Gentlemen, Go for Broke

The UAW-Daimler Chrysler 400 NASCAR Winston Cup at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway features NASCAR Bud Pole Day on March 1 the Sam's Town 300 NASCAR Busch Grand National on March 2, and the 400 NASCAR Winston Cup on March 3.

Peak Ski Resort, Incline Village, 775-832-1177.

Kinder Cup Championship • March 10 • For children ages six and under. Heavenly, Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

Huckfest Big Air Series • March 10 • Amateur big-air competition. Heavenly, Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

Snowbomb.com Sick and Twisted Halfpipe • March 10 • First in a series of four amateur big-air competitions. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsports Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-659-7453.

Soup and Shoe • March 10 • Guided hike with hot soup and bread. Kirkwood Cross-Country Ski Area, 30 miles south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-7248.

Chevy Truck U.S. Alpine Championships • March 11-19 • National championship competition. Also competition on March 17 at Sugar Bowl Ski Resort. Squaw Valley USA, North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

The Face Odyssey • March 12 • Teams of 10 skiers and riders attempt to ski one million vertical feet in one day. Heavenly, Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

Turtle Island Quartet • March 14 • Ensemble fuses classical and contemporary music. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 775-784-4046.

Laurie Lewis with Tom Rozum • March 14 • Breakdown fiddler performs in concert. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.

Fua Dia Congo • March 15 • African repertory dance and drum company. Cal-Neva Resort, Crystal Bay, Lake Tahoe, 530-546-4602.

Argenta Quartet Concert • March 15 • Renowned Reno musicians perform classical music. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 775-784-6145.

Fitzgeralds St. Patrick's Day Celebration • March 15-17 • The Reno Arch turns green while bagpipe, Irish, and military brass bands play. Arts and crafts vendors. Fitzgeralds, Reno, 800-648-5022.

R. Carlos Nakai • March 16 • Native American mu-





Hanging Around

The Cashore Marionettes perform April 6 at the Silver Springs Recreation Center in Henderson. The oversized puppets portray humorous and poignant scenes from everyday life through music and sound effects. The show's themes and vignettes are suitable for ages eight and older.

sician performs. Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-847-0433.

St. Patrick's Day Race and Celebration • March 17 • Obstacle race. Heavenly, Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

Lord of the Boards • March 17 • Snowboard competition. Alpine Meadows Ski Area, North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-4232.

St. Patrick's Day Buffet • March 17 • Irish feast. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-6611.

KidsCross • March 17 • Competition for kids 15 and under. Local pro riders will give tips and sign autographs. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsport Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-659-7453.

California Gold Rush • March 17 • 50, 30, and 15K ski races and a 6K event for kids. Benefit Far West Juniors Nordic Racing. Royal Gorge Ski Area, North Lake Tahoe, 530-426-3871.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration • March 17 • Food and drink specials. Atlantis, Reno, 800-723-6500.

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St. Patrick's Day Slot Tournament • March 17-18 • Silver Legacy, Reno, 800-215-7721 for more information.

Wayne Wong World Hotdog Championships VII • March 17-23 • Games and food and wine tasting. Alpine Meadows Ski Resort, North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-4232.

Hospitality Games • March 20-21 • Teams from the hospitality industry compete in giant slalom, skiercross, innertubing events. Alpine Meadows Ski Resort, North Lake Tahoe, 530-581-8328.

Silver Dollar Circuit • March 21-24 • American Quarter Horse Association-sanctioned event. Reno Livestock Events Center, Reno, 775-688-5750.

"A Rainforest Odyssey" • March 22 • Nevada Festival Ballet production of an ecology-themed ballet that explores the importance of the rainforest. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-785-7915.

Carson Valley Inn Invitational $20,000 Tri-Game-A-Thon • March 22-23 • Choose slots or blackjack, and a third tournament, keno, is free. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-7711 for information on the gaming tourneys.

University of Nevada Boxing • March 22-23 • Competition with UNLV, Air Force, Cal Berkeley, Santa Clara, and San Jose State. Eldorado Hotel, Reno, 800-648-5966.

Madeline Eastman Trio • March 23 • Jazz ensemble, part of High Desert Jazz Series. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.

Snowbomb.com Big Air Festival • March 23 • Big-air competition. Kirkwood Ski Resort, 30 miles south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-6000.

Echo to Kirkwood Race-Tour • March 23 • Point-to-point 14-mile course. Kirkwood Cross-Country Ski Area, 30 miles south of Lake Tahoe, 530-647-1825.

Huckfest Big Air Series • March 24 • Amateur big-air competition. Heavenly, Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

Snowbomb Sick and Twisted • March 24 • Amateur superpipe competition. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsport Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-659-7453.

X-NIX Snowboard Championships • March 28-31 • Top snowboarders compete. Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-562-1010.

Reno Chamber Orchestra • March 30 • Music by Tchaikovsky, Stravinsky, and Chausson. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 775-348-9413.

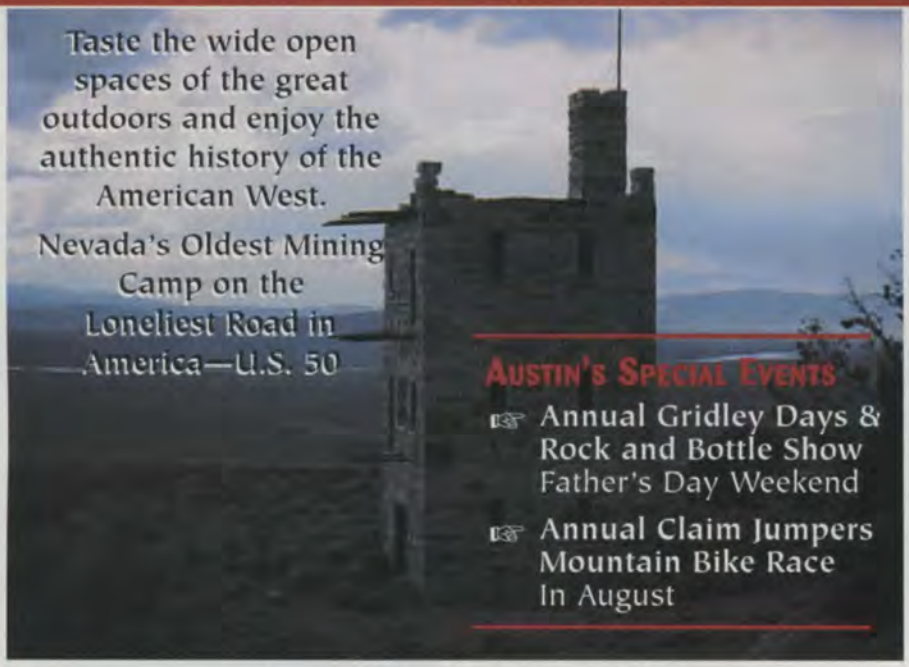
Easter Eggstravaganza • March 30 • Easter egg hunt. Homewood Mountain Resort, West Shore, Lake Tahoe, 530-525-2992.

Easter Egg Hunt • March 31 • Adults and children



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hunt for prizes. Heavenly, Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

Huckfest Big Air Series • March 31 • Amateur big air competition. Heavenly, Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

No Foolin' $30,000 Slot Tournament • March 31-April 1 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

Spring Fling • April 1 • Drinks are served mid-mountain at a bar sculpted from ice. Homewood Mountain Resort, West Shore, Lake Tahoe, 530-525-2992.

Banff Mountain Film Festival Tour • April 2 • Fundraiser for Nevada Land Conservancy features mountain adventure-based independent films. John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 775-851-5180.

Best Family Photo Contest • April 3-7 • Best family photo taken on the slopes receives a prize. Event includes a deck party. Homewood Mountain Resort, West Shore, Lake Tahoe, 530-525-2992.

Folk and Roots Music Series • April 4 • Singer Greg Brown performs. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.

National Collegiate Boxing • April 4-6 • Championship meet. Eldorado Hotel, Reno, 800-648-5966.

Lake Tahoe Pioneering Film Festival • April 4-7 • Vintage and popular films, tributes to celebrities, and guest appearances. Various locations, Stateline, 530-577-7770.

Let It Ride Tournament • April 5-7 • $100 entry fee. Reno Hilton, Reno, 775-789-2000.

"All My Sons" • April 5-7 and 12-14 • World War II drama portrays crime and punishment in a moral sense. Reno Little Theater, Reno, 775-329-0661.

Aerial Assault • April 6-7 • Big-air competition. Heavenly, Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

SpringLoaded '02 • April 6-20 • Lake Tahoe's spring celebration includes cardboard-box racing, on-snow mountain bike racing, pond-skimming, boarderfests, Euro sled racing, dual-mogul competition, and a swim in Lake Tahoe. Heavenly, Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

Billy Dutton Uphill • April 7 • Ski, run, or snowshoe over 3.2-mile route up to High Camp. Squaw Valley USA, North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Dummy Gelande • April 11 • No live dummies allowed in this test of gravity and speed. Heavenly, Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

Argenta Quartet Concert • April 12 • Renowned Reno musicians perform classical music. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 775-784-6145.

Folk and Roots Music Series • April 12 • Singer John Gorka performs. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.

Music and Theater in the Time of Lincoln • April 12-13 • The Virginia City Muckers present scenes

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Easter Parade

Kids and painted eggs go together in community Easter egg hunts across Nevada from Genoa to Lamoille (above). During the March 30-31 weekend residents and visitors will sample traditional Easter brunches while kids wait to claim the colorful orbs.

from "Our American Cousin" and "Assassins." Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-847-0433.

"Defending the Caveman" • April 12-14 • Play stars its author, Rob Becker, in a humorous exploration of the differences between men and women. Longest-running one-person play in Broadway history. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-686-6600.

Spring Fling Big Band Dance • April 13 • Carson Nugget, Carson City, 775-883-1106.

Boarding for Breast Cancer • April 14 • Youth-focused snowboarding and music festival to raise awareness about breast cancer prevention. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsport Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-659-7453.

Argenta Quartet Casual Classics • April 14 • Lighthearted concert of classical music. Recommended for children. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 775-784-6145.

Huckfest Big Air Series • April 14 • Amateur big-air competition. Heavenly, Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

Gottschalk Gala • April 14 • Touring artist Barbara Geary performs the music of Louis Gottschalk on the restored Chickering grand piano. Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-847-0433.

Recyled Articles Contest and Earth Week Celebration • April 15-26 • Artists compete for prizes using trash to create works of art. Western Nevada Community College, Carson City, 775-445-3238.

Reno Jazz Festival • April 18-20 • Guest artist Bobby Hutcherson and the Nicholas Payton Quintet headline the event's workshops and performances. Lawlor Events Center and Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 775-784-4046.

Earth Day • April 20 • Music, food, and entertainment. Northstar-at-Tahoe Resort, North Lake Tahoe, 530-562-1010.

Oodles of Noodles Cook-Off • April 20 • Juried sauce competition. Dayton Community Center, Dayton, 775-246-7909.

Doll and Teddy Bear Show • April 20 • Artist competition, seminars, costuming, and appraisals. Reno-Sparks Convention Center, Reno, 775-348-7713.

Topaz Chili Cook-Off and Craft Fair • April 20-21 • More than 40 cooks and crafters gather for music, entertainment, salsa contests, and food in 10th annual event. Topaz Lodge, Topaz Lake, 775-266-3468.

Ski-Sail Regatta • April 20-21 • Features former Olympic ski racers and sailors. Squaw Valley USA and Lake Tahoe locations, North Lake Tahoe, 530-525-SAIL.

Spring Jam V • April 20-21 • Skiercross, boardercross, ski, and snowboard big air and music at this annual spring festival. Squaw Valley USA, North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Comstock Shootout • April 20-21 and 27-28 • 10th annual youth soccer tournament featuring players from Northern Nevada, Northern California,



Photo: Cynthia A. Delaney

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Guitarist in Lovelock

David Burgess performs classic and contemporary numbers on Spanish guitar at the Pershing County Community Center in Lovelock on March 21

Oregon, and Idaho. Edmonds Sports Complex, Carson City, 775-883-9577.

Peter Schickele, P.D.Q. Bach • April 21 and 23 • Composer, musician, author, and satirist performs in Reno Philharmonic concert. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-323-6393.

$1 Invitational Slot Marathon • April 21-23 • Eldorado, Reno, 800-648-5966.

Winemaker Dinner • April 24 • Gourmet dinner featuring Hess Winery wines. Atlantis, Reno, 775-825-4700.

Stag Golf Outing • April 25-28 • 13th annual two-day scramble tournament at Sierra Nevada Golf Ranch and Golf Club at Genoa Lakes. Optional two-man net best-ball tournament at Dayton Valley Golf Club. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-6625 for more event information.

Business Showcase • April 25-May 2 • Second annual trade show. Douglas County Fairgrounds, Gardnerville, 775-782-8144.

Eagle Valley Muzzleloaders Spring Rendezvous • April 26-28 • Trappers, traders, black-powder shoot, and encampment. Canyon behind Greenhouse Garden Center, Carson City, 775-884-4542.

Celebrate the Carson River • April 27 • Family-friendly educational event about the river's environment. Bring a picnic. Apple Orchard, Fort Churchill Historic State Park, eight miles south of Silver Springs, 775-577-2631.

Multi-Cultural Festival • April 27 • Seventh annual celebration with ethnic foods, displays, dancing, music, and artwork. Western Nevada Community College, Carson City, 775-445-3238.

Carson City Symphony • April 27-28 • Concert on April 27 at Piper's Opera House, Virginia City. April 28 at Carson City Community Center, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

Meet the Authors • April 28 • Book-signing by local and regional authors. Carson Valley Museum, Gardnerville, 775-265-3996.

Rural Nevada

Wilson and McKee Concert • March 1 • Celtic music. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.

An Evening With the Arts • March 2 • 16th annual fundraising dinner and silent auction. Fallon Convention Center, Fallon, 775-423-1440.

Ranch Hand Rodeo • March 2-3 • Working cowboys compete riding saddle broncs and milking wild cows. Winnemucca Events Complex, Winnemucca, 775-623-2220.

Shooting the West XIV • March 8-10 • Annual gathering of professional and amateur photographers for three days of instruction and sharing. Event includes speakers, jam session, photo shows, and a portfolio critique. Winnemucca Convention Center, Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" • March 9 • Shakespeare's comic tale. Jeanne Dini Center, Yerington, 775-463-2245.

Banquet and Fundraiser • March 9 • Annual benefit for Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Elko Convention Center, Elko, 775-738-2073.

Pahrump Chamber of Commerce Business Expo • March 15-17 • Trade show with 90 booths. Community Center, Pahrump, 775-727-5800.

St. Patrick's Day Fair • March 16 • Food and games. Winnemucca Convention Center, Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.

Northeastern Nevada Horseman's Assocation Stallion Service Auction • March 17 • Two age groups of early and late foals. Elko County Fairgrounds, Elko, 775-753-6950.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration • March 17 • Food and entertainment. Cliff House Lakeside Resort, Walker Lake, Hawthorne, 800-756-5253.

Keno Tournament • March 17-18 • Peppermill, Wendover, 775-664-2255.

David Burgess Concert • March 21 • Guitarist traces Spanish guitar music from the time of Columbus to contemporary compositions. Pershing County Community Center, Lovelock, 775-273-2005.

Pershing County Arts Council Art Show • March 21 • Art show held in conjunction with David Burgess' performance. Pershing County Community

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Center, Lovelock, 775-273-2005 for details.

Nevada Opera Studio • March 22 • Abbreviated performance of "Hansel and Gretel." Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.

Terry Allen Concert • March 22 • Artist-singer-songwriter is accompanied by Richard Bowden on fiddle and Bukka Allen on accordion. Fallon Convention Center, Fallon, 775-423-1440.

Evening Moonlight Walk • March 30 • Ranger-led sunset walk. Bring a flashlight and jacket. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460 for more information.

Ducks Unlimited Dinner • March 30 • Dinner and auction. Battle Mountain Civic Center, Battle Mountain, 775-635-8539.



View of a Ghost Town

The picturesque ruins of Rhyolite will be the backdrop during the Rhyolite Jamboree on April 5-7 as area residents and visitors raise funds to restore the town's railroad depot.

Easter Sunday Celebration • March 31 • Brunch and Easter egg hunt. Cliff House Lakeside Resort, Walker Lake, Hawthorne, 800-756-5253.

April Fool's Party • April 1 • Food and entertainment. Cliff House Lakeside Resort, Walker Lake, Hawthorne, 800-756-5253.

The Second Hand • April 4-5 • Three-member New York dance ensemble blends acrobatics and theater. Churchill County High School Theater, Fallon, 775-423-1440 for more event information.

Terrible's Town 250 • April 5-7 • Best in the Desert off-road points race for all classes. Pre-fun run on March 9-10. Pahrump, 702-457-5775.

Rhyolite Jamboree • April 5-7 • Benefit to refurbish the Las Vegas and Tonopah Railroad Depot. Event includes barbecue, cowboy poetry, music, tours, and dance exhibitions. Rhyolite ghost town, four miles west of Beatty. For information visit www.rhyolitejamboree.com.

Slot Tournament • April 7-9 • Peppermill, Wendover, 775-664-2255.

Saddle West Shoot-Out Golf Tournament • April 9-10 • Two nights accommodations, two rounds of golf, banquet dinner, breakfast buffet, welcome cocktail party. Cost starts at $295 per person. Saddle West, Pahrump, 800-433-3987, ext. 140.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" • April 12 • Performance by Southern Utah Shakespeare Festival company. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.

Cathedral Gorge Adventure Hike • April 13 • Ranger-led three-mile walk through the park's canyons and caves. Bring water and a snack and wear sturdy walking shoes. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

High School Rodeo • April 13-14 • Rodeo Grounds, Battle Mountain, 775-461-0110.

After-Dinner Geology Walk • April 20 • Ranger-led walk to learn how the park was formed. Wear sturdy hiking shoes. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Nevada Ballet Theatre • April 20 • Performance of Handel's celebration. Jeanne Dini Center, Yerington, 775-463-2245.

Walker Lake Loon Festival • April 20-21 • Birders and photographers can take boat tours of Walker Lake during the loons' migration season. Walker Lake, Hawthorne, 800-756-5253.

Nevada Ballet Theatre • April 26 • Touring company performs an original work. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.

Cathedral Gorge Moonlight Hike • April 27 • Ranger-led hike to explore the park in early evening. Bring a flashlight and jacket. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Rainbow Ridge Challenge • April 27 • Second annual mountain-bike race over an eight-mile course of grueling inclines and gut-wrenching vertical drops. Rainbow Mountain, five miles east of Grimes Point, Fallon, 775-423-7733.

Confederate Memorial Day • April 27 • Music and history readings honor both sides of the Civil War. Fallon Cemetery, Fallon, 775-423-8797.

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2002 EVENTS CALENDAR

Spring Wings Bird Festival, May 10-12
Fallon Air Show, June 15-16
Silver State Int'l Rodeo, July 2-7
Fallon Stampede Pow Wow, July 12-14
Nevada Motocross Championship, Aug. 2-3
Hearts O' Gold Cantaloupe Festival, Aug. 30-Sept. 2
Desert Oasis Music Festival, Sept. 27-29
Wings Over The Valley Hunting Festival Sept. 27-29
Fallon Harvest Days & Nevada State Picnic, Oct. 11-13

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Photo: Carolyn Fox

Nevada Showguide

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

Nevada's clubs and hotels offer big-name entertainment and production shows. This spring, Ann-Margret returns to Las Vegas to star in "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" playing at the Aladdin. Tim Conway and Harvey Korman appear at the Las Vegas Hilton, the Flamingo Laughlin, and the Silver Legacy in Reno, and the Moody Blues play the Reno Hilton. Here, *Nevada Magazine* presents a guide to featured performers. Showrooms often fill fast, so be sure to call ahead for show times and reservations.



Dance Like an Egyptian

Daring costumes play a starring role in "Midnight Fantasy," an adult production show at the Luxor in Las Vegas. Dancers move to hard-driving songs such as "Who Let the Dogs Out?" by Baha Men and "Baby Did a Bad, Bad Thing" by Chris Isaak from the film *Eyes Wide Shut.*

Las Vegas Territory

BOULDER CITY

Hacienda • 702-293-5000 or 800-245-6380: Between Boulder City and Hoover Dam.

HENDERSON

Fiesta Henderson (formerly The Reserve) • 702-558-7000: Lava Lounge: Bands play Thurs.-Sat. Nils Lofgren Guitar Bar: Local guitar players are invited to jam 6-9pm.

Green Valley Ranch • 702-454-0544: Entertainment TBA.

Joker's Wild • 702-564-8100: Live entertainment Wed.-Sun.

Hyatt Regency Lake Las Vegas • 702-567-6181: Piano music and hors d'oeuvres, 6-9pm Fri.-Sun.

Sunset Station • 702-547-7777: Club Madrid: Tommy Chong, March 2. T.G. Sheppard and Johnny Lee, March 9. Paula Poundstone, March 15. Hank Thompson, March 16. Taylor Dayne, March 30. Steve Smith and the Nakeds, April 26-27. Michael Franks, May 18. America, Aug. 23. Jerry Tiffe and His Orchestra play 2-4pm Wed. Louie Louie plays at 10pm and midnight Wed. and 11pm and 1am on Fri.-Sat. Sunset Amphitheater: The Doobie Brothers, Sept. 1.

JEAN

Gold Strike Hotel • 702-477-5000 or 800-634-1359: Bands play nightly except Tues.

Nevada Landing • 702-387-5000 or 800-628-6682: Bands appear nightly except Wed.

LAS VEGAS

Aladdin • 877-333-WISH: Aladdin Theater for the Performing Arts: "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" starring Ann-Margret, April 2-7. "Rent," April 23-28. "Guys and Dolls," May 14-19. "Blast!" Oct. 22-27. Sinbad's Lounge: Bands play until 3am. Music in the London Club Lounge.

Alexis Park • 702-391-4634: "Bu-Da-Bing," interactive dinner theater.

Arizona Charlie's • 702-258-5200: Naughty Ladies Saloon: Smooth, thru March 10. Jive Delux, March 12-24. Clifton James and the Edge, March 26-31. Sonny Charles and Sweet Louie: The Checkmates, April 2-14. Randy Anderson, April 23-28. Sonny Charles and Sweet Louie: The Checkmates, July 2-14, Aug. 20-Sept. 1, and Sept. 24-Oct. 6. Randy Anderson, Oct. 8-20. Sonny Charles and Sweet Louie: The Checkmates, Oct. 22-Nov. 3.

Arizona Charlie's East • 702-951-5800: The Lounge: Tammy Graham, thru March 3. Oak Steady, March 5-10. Sonny Charles and Sweet Louie: The Checkmates, March 12-24. Mark and Clark, April 9-14. Gregg Peterson, April 16-28. Randy Anderson, April 30-May 12. Sonny Charles and Sweet Louie: The Checkmates, May 14-26 and June 18-30. Randy Anderson, July 17-21.

Bally's • 702-739-4111 or 800-237-SHOW: Jubilee Theater: "Jubilee!" (dark Fri.). Indigo Lounge: Entertainment nightly except Tues.

Barbary Coast • 702-737-7111: Lounge: Smith Brothers, March 6-17. Elements, March 20-24. Front Page, March 27-31. Lanni Counts, April 3-7. Smith

Brothers, April 10-14. Susan McDonald, April 17-28. Karaoke, 8pm-1:30am Mon.-Tues.

Bellagio • 888-987-6667: Cirque du Soleil's "O," indf. (dark Wed.-Thurs. and April 29-May 2). Musicians play in the Allegro and Petrossian lounges and Baccarat Bar. Fontana Room: Jimmy Hopper and his band (dark Mon.).

Blue Note Jazz Club • 702-699-9196: "Tease," interactive dinner theater (dark Wed.). Insomnia Nightclub: Opens at 11pm for dancing.

Boardwalk Casino Holiday Inn • 702-735-2400: Lighthouse Lounge: Spectrum, Motown sound, indf. (dark Mon.). Purple Reign, a tribute to Prince (dark Sun.-Mon.).

Boulder Station • 702-432-7777 or 800-683-7777: The Railhead: The Flutie Gang, March 15. David Benoit, March 23. Keiko Matsui, April 2. Jerry Vale, April 26-27 and Nov. 1-2. Dance nights: Salsa After Dark, Tues.; Blues, Thurs.; Yellow Brick Road, 11pm-2:30am Fri.-Sat. Jerry Tiffe plays 2-4pm Tues. KIXX: Shooting Stars Karaoke, Thurs.-Sat.

Bourbon Street • 702-737-7200: Bourbon Street Theatre: "I Love LaFong," comedy and ventriloquism.

Caesars Palace • 702-731-7333 or 800-445-4544: Shadow Bar: Dancers and flair bartenders perform 8pm-2am Sun.-Wed. Caesars Magical Empire: Dinner and magic featuring in Sultan's Palace: The Majestix, thru March 16. Alain Choquette, March 19-April 20. Scott and Jenny Alexander, April 23-May 18. Ayala, May 21-June 1. Secret Pagoda presents magicians Daryl and Fernando Koeps thru March 2. Alain Choquette and Collin Foster, March 5-16. Scott Alexander and Collin Foster, March 19-30. Jon Armstrong and Collin Foster, April 16-May 11. Jon Armstrong and Alain Nu, May 14-May 18. Scott Alexander and Alain Nu, May 21-June 1. Entertainment in the La Piazza Terrazza lounges and Cleopatra's Barge. Piano music, Galleria Bar and Café Lago. Caesars sponsors the Professional Bull Riders Bud Light Cup World Championships, Oct. 24-27, Thomas and Mack Center.

Casino Royale • 702-737-3500: Café Trilussa: Piano music nightly (dark Tues. and Wed.).

Castaways • 702-383-9232 or 800-826-2800: Windjammer Lounge and Outer Bar: Bands play nightly.

Circus Circus • 702-734-0410 or 800-444-CIRCUS: Free circus acts from 11am to midnight.

Excalibur Hotel • 702-597-7600: King Arthur's Arena: "Tournament of Kings," music-dinner show. Catch a Rising Star: Comedians perform nightly at 7:30 and 10pm. Court Jesters Stage: Strolling entertainers, 10am-10pm daily. Minstrels Lounge: Live bands and dancing. Music in the Regales and Camelot restaurants.

Fitzgeralds Holiday Inn • 702-388-2400 or 800-274-LUCK (U.S. outside Nevada): Second Floor Events Center: Craig Newell's "Tribute to Elvis," Thurs.-Sun. First Floor Stage: Mike Lee, "Singer of Memories," 8pm-1am Thurs.-Mon. Free shows.

Flamingo Las Vegas • 702-733-3333 or 800-221-7299: Gladys Knight, indf. (dark Sun.-Mon.). "Bottom's Up," 2 and 4pm, indf. (dark Sun.). Bugsy's Celebrity Theatre: "Second City," improv comedy sketches (dark Mon.).

Flamingo O'Shea's • 702-737-1343: Comedy Theater: "Hip-Nosis: Playin' With Your Head," starring Justin Tranz, R-rated comedy show, 9pm Tues.-Sat.

Four Queens • 702-385-4011 or 800-634-6045.

Four Seasons • 702-632-5000: Piano entertainment during Traditional Afternoon High Tea in the Verandah restaurant, 2-5pm daily.

Gold Coast • 702-367-7111 or 888-402-6278 (U.S. outside Nevada): East Lounge: Kinda Dixie Jazz Band, noon-6pm. Bands like Elements, Front Page, The Klique, and Smith Brothers play nightly except Mon. Gold Coast Showroom: "Honky Tonk Angels: A Tribute to Country's Great Ladies" (dark Mon.-

No Pips, Just Gladys

Showgoers can expect a top-notch performance from Gladys Knight, who has signed a long-term deal to appear at the Flamingo Las Vegas. The Grammy Award-winning Las Vegas resident has been performing for more than 50 years, beginning at age four when she sang gospel music in her church.

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Tues.). Latin Breeze, Fri.-Sat., indf. Ballroom dancing and free dance lessons with disk jockey Larry Taylor on Tues. Sunday Tea Dance Party with Larry Taylor. Free drama workshop, 9:30-11:30am Sat.

Golden Gate • 702-385-1906: Live piano featuring David Morris, Danny Sands, Bob Long, and Moses Hazen, noon-midnight. Jazz trio performs on Sun. and Wed. evenings.

Golden Nugget • 702-385-7111: Golden Nugget Showroom: Tony Orlando, thru April 22. Bands like Vi-Five-O and Nathan Owens and the Motown Review play in the Oasis Lounge nightly except Mon.

Greek Isles • 702-952-8000: Houdini Theater: "Houdini Lives" starring magician Dixie Dooley. Star Theater: Dr. Naughty, comedian-hypnotist at 10:15pm daily.

Hard Rock Hotel • 702-226-4650: The Joint: Entertainment TBA.

Harrah's Las Vegas • 702-369-5111: Clint Holmes Theatre: Clint Holmes, musical variety show (dark Sun.). Comedy Cabaret: Improv, nightly except Mon. "Skintight," musical production (dark Thurs.). Mac King Comedy Magic Show appears at 1 and 3pm Tues.-Sat. Carnaval Court: Entertainment nightly. Music nightly in La Playa Lounge.

Imperial Palace • 702-794-3261: Imperial Theatre: "Legends in Concert," celebrity impersonator show (dark Sun.). Kabuki Lounge: Bands play 4:30pm-2am.

Key Largo • 702-733-7777: Sand Bar Lounge: Bands provide live entertainment.

Lady Luck • 702-477-3000 or 800-523-9582: Lady Luck Theater: "Stars of the Strip," comedy impersonators, 2 and 3:30pm Mon.-Fri. "The Comedy Zone," comedians perform at 8 and 10pm (dark Mon.). Lucky Louie's Lounge: Bands play Wed.-Sun.



Viva Ann-Margret

Ann-Margret, who with Elvis Presley, put the Viva in Las Vegas, will star in "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," April 2-7 at the Aladdin in Las Vegas. Shown here, the performer at the Las Vegas Hilton in 1977

Las Vegas Hilton • 702-732-5755 or 800-222-5361: Hilton Theater: Righteous Brothers, thru March 3, May 29-June 16, July 16-Aug. 4, and Oct. 15-Nov. 3. Tim Conway and Harvey Korman, March 7-9. Commodores, March 26-April 7, April 23-May 9, Sept. 10-Oct. 6, and Nov. 26-Dec. 5. Smothers Brothers, April 9-21, June 18-30, Aug. 13-Sept. 1, and Nov. 5-24. Doobie Brothers, April 19-20. Earth, Wind, and Fire, May 10-13. The NightClub: Sheena Easton, indf. (dark Fri.). Dance bands play 11pm-3:15am Wed.-Sun. Jazz artists play 3-9pm Mon.

Luxor • 702-262-4400: Luxor Theatre: "Blue Man Group: Live at the Luxor," percussion theater. Pharaoh's Theater: "Midnight Fantasy," production show (dark Mon.). Ra Nightclub at Luxor: DJs Wed.-Sat. Nefertiti's Lounge: Entertainment nightly except Thurs.

Main Street Station • 702-387-1896 or 800-713-8933.

Mandalay Bay • 877-632-7400: Mandalay Bay Events Center: Aaron Carter, DreamStreet, and Lindsay Pagano, March 2. Placido Domingo, March 16. Mandalay Bay Theatre: "Storm," Latin production show (dark Tues.). House of Blues: George Thorogood, March 22. Dance music, 11pm Thurs.-Sun. Gospel Brunch, 10am and 1pm Sun. Live blues Thurs.-Sat. in the Courtyard. Bands play in the Island, Orchid, and Coral Reef lounges.

MGM Grand • 702-891-7777 or 800-929-1111: EFX Theatre: "EFX Alive," starring Rick Springfield, special-effects production show (dark Sun.-Mon.). Grand Garden Arena: WBO Featherweight Championship: Marco Antonio Barrera v. Erik Morales, March 2. Tito Ortiz v. Vitor Belfort, UFC Light Heavyweight Championship fight, March 22.

Half Off 2002 Historical Calendars!



It's a new year, but you still have time to order NEVADA MAGAZINE'S 2002 NEVADA HISTORICAL CALENDARS for friends, family, and yourself. Supplies are limited, so send your order with payment ($6.00 each, which includes shipping and handling) soon to: NEVADA MAGAZINE CALENDARS, 401 N. Carson St., Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89701-4291 Your calendars will be mailed promptly.

Photo: Las Vegas News Bureau

Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young, March 29. Wrangler ProRodeo Tour, summer finals, June 13-15. Hollywood Theatre: Entertainment TBA. La Femme Theatre: Topless Crazy Horse production from Paris (dark Tues.). Studio 54: Dancing nightly. Live entertainment in the Dome/Show Bar and Hollywood Brown Derby lounges.

The Mirage • 702-792-7777: Siegfried and Roy Theater: "Siegfried and Roy," magic spectacular (dark Wed.-Thurs.). Danny Gans Theatre: Impressionist Danny Gans performs nightly except Fri. and Mon. Entertainment in the Lagoon Saloon and Baccarat bars.

Monte Carlo • 702-730-7000: 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 • 702-794-8200: Round-table Showroom: "Thunder From Down Under," Australian male revue (dark Thurs.). Rock and Roll Legends, impersonator revue of celebrities such as Paul McCartney, Stevie Nicks, and Neil Diamond, 4pm (dark Fri.). Murray: Magic's New Master, 2pm (dark Fri.). Gilley's Saloon: Bands play nightly Tues.-Sat.

New York-New York • 702-740-6969 or 800-693-6763: Broadway Theatre: "Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance" (dark Sun.-Mon.). Cabaret Theatre: Rita Rudner, 8pm Mon.-Sat. The N.Y.P.D. (New York Piano Duos) dueling pianos play from 8pm-2:15am nightly in the Bar at Times Square.

The Orleans • 800-ORLEANS: Orleans Showroom: Night of Music: Grant Griffin, March 5-6. Bobby Vinton, March 14-17. Gordon Lightfoot, March 21-24. Neil Sedaka, March 25-30. Roy Clark, April 4-7. Frankie Avalon/Bobby Rydell, May 9-12. Lorrie Morgan, May 17-19. Air Supply, May 23-26. Debbie Reynolds, June 5-9. Neil Sedaka, June 11-16. Peter, Paul, and Mary, June 21-23. Mrs. USA Pageant, July 29-Aug. 1. Gordon Lightfoot, Aug. 8-11. Neil Sedaka, Aug. 20-25. Air Supply, Aug. 29-Sept. 1. Frankie Avalon/Bobby Rydell, Sept. 12-15. Debbie Reynolds, Sept. 18-22. Art Garfunkel, Oct. 4-6. Neil Sedaka, Oct. 8-13. Frankie Avalon/Bobby Rydell, Nov. 14-17. Bourbon Street Cabaret: Performers like Susan McDonald, Gregg Peterson, and the Coates Twins play nightly (dark Mon.).

Palace Station • 702-367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Laugh Trax Comedy Club: Comedians like Rocky LaPorte perform Tues.-Sat. Jack's Irish Pub: Entertainers perform nightly except Tues. in the Palace Station pub.

The Palms • 702-942-7777: Bands play nightly in the Palapa Lounge and Thurs.-Sun. in Rain in the Desert nightclub. DJs play Fri.-Sat. in the ghostbar,



Sibling Revelry

Tom and Dick Smothers have signed a long-term agreement to play the Las Vegas Hilton. The duo's comedy rountines, based on family squabbles, can be seen April 9-21 June 18-30, Aug. 13-Sept. 1, and Nov. 5-24.

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which has an observation deck with views of the city.

Paris Las Vegas • 800-237-SHOW: Le Theatre des Arts: Moody Blues, March 21-24. Lou Rawls/Nancy Wilson, April 13-14. Natalie Cole, April 18-21. Tony Bennett, May 9-12. Bands play in Le Cabaret Show Lounge (dark Tues.). Napoleon's Cigar Bar: Jazz trio plays nightly except Tues. Ortanique Restaurant: Jazz Wed.-Thurs. with Tommy Thompson.

The Plaza • 800-634-6575: Plaza Showroom: "Hunka, Hunka, Burnin' Love," Elvis impersonator revue starring Charles David (dark Mon.). "Le Cabaret," variety revue (dark Mon.). Music in the Omaha Lounge.

Regent Las Vegas • 877-869-8777: J.C. Wooloughan Irish Pub: Entertainment Wed.-Sun. Addison's Lounge: Bands play Tues. and Thurs.-Sun. Karaoke Night, Wed.

Rio Suite Hotel • 702-252-7776 or 800-PLAYRIO (U.S. and Canada): Copacabana Entertainment Complex: The Scintas, musical-comedy show (dark Wed.-Thurs.). Ronn Lucas, 3pm, Wed.-Mon. (dark Tues.). Pavilion: Entertainment TBA. Masquerade Village Showroom: "Tony 'n Tina's Wedding," off-Broadway interactive dinner-theater. Sunday brunch performance at noon. Masquerade Show in the Sky: Carnival-themed parade with exotic floats and costumes above the casino daily at 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 7, 8, 9, and 10pm. RioBamba Cabaret: Bands play nightly. Entertainment in the Ipanema Piano Bar and VooDoo Lounge. Club Rio: "Thump!" dance-music show is taped the first Friday of the month for national television. Nightclub open for late-night dancing Wed.-Sat.

Riviera • 702-794-9301: Splash Theatre: "Splash," production show (dark Fri.). Top of the Riv: Brett Butler, May 3-4. La Cage Theatre (third floor): "An Evening at La Cage," celebrity female impersonators revue (dark Tues.). Mardi Gras Plaza (second level): "Crazy Girls Fantasy Revue," adult revue (dark Tues.). "Riviera Comedy Club," comedians appear nightly. Le Bistro Theatre: Singer Marlene Ricci, 8:30pm Tues.-Sun. "Tribute to Elvis" with Jim LeBoeuf, 3:30-7pm Fri.-Sun. "Jay White is Neil Diamond," 7pm Tues.-Sun. Jazz on the Strip, Mon. Lon Bronson's All-Star Band plays Sat.

Sahara • 702-737-2515: Sahara Theatre: Magician Steve Wyrick, indf. (dark Tues.). Congo Room: "The Rat Pack Is Back" (dark Thurs.). Michael Holly Off-the-Wall Comedy Hour, 1 and 3pm (dark Fri.-Sat.). Entertainment also offered in the Casbar Lounge.

Sam's Town • 702-454-8048: Sam's Town Live: Entertainment TBA. Late Night: Music and dancing 11pm-3am Fri.-Sat. Roxy's Saloon: Bands play. Mystic Falls Park: Laser and water show at 2, 6, 8, 10pm.

San Remo • 702-739-9000 or 800-522-7366: Parisian Cabaret: "Showgirls of Magic," revue (dark Mon.). Bonne Chance Lounge: Entertainers nightly.

Santa Fe • 702-658-4900: The Lounge: Jerry Tiffe and His Orchestra, 7-11pm Wed. Bands play Fri.-Sat.

Silverton • 702-263-7777 or 800-588-7711: Rattlesnake Rickey's Saloon: Entertainment TBA. Bands play nightly.

Stardust • 702-732-6111 or 800-824-6033: Wayne Newton Theatre: Wayne Newton, thru March 4. Don Rickles, March 7-10. Chicago, March 14-17 and 21-24. Wayne Newton, March 25-May 1. Don Rickles, May 2-5. Stardust Ballroom: Russ Morgan Orchestra, March 30. Billy May Orchestra, June 15. Ray Anthony and His Big Swing Band, Nov. 16. Stardust Pavilion: Ray Anthony and His Big Swing Band, April 20. Les Brown's Band of Renown, Oct. 19.



Man of Many Talents

Singer Clint Holmes lays down jazz, rock, and a little soul during performances at Harrah's Las Vegas. The son of an American jazz singer and British opera star, Holmes parlays his musical talents into an entertaining show.

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Bands play onstage nightly in the Stardust Lounge.
Stratosphere • 702-382-4446 or 800-99-TOWER: Broadway Showroom: "American Superstars," impersonator revue (dark Thurs.). "Viva Las Vegas," musical revue, 2 and 4pm daily except Sun. Outdoor Events Center: Beach Boys, April 13-14. Entertainment in the Top of the World and Oasis lounges.
Suncoast • 702-636-7111: Showroom: Rich Little, March 1-3. Average White Band, March 16-17. Kingston Trio, March 22-24. Frankie Avalon /McKenna Medley and Street Wise, March 29-31. Little River Band, April 19-20. Christopher Cross, April 26-28. Eddie Money, May 10-12. Missing Persons, May 18-19. Dave Mason Band, May 25-26. The Lettermen, June 7-9. Kingston Trio, July 12-14. Air Supply, July 19-21. Average White Band, Sept. 21-22. Al Martino, Oct. 4-6. Riders in the Sky, Oct. 11-13. The Lettermen, Oct. 18-20. Rich Little, Nov. 1-3. Phyllis Diller, Nov. 29-Dec. 1. Kingston Trio, Dec. 6-8. Bands like Front Page, Elements, and Gregg Peterson play in the lounge nightly except Mon.
Terrible's • 702-733-7000: Stage Bar Lounge: Bands play Tues.-Sun.
Treasure Island • 702-894-7111: Cirque du Soleil in "Mystère" (dark Mon.-Tues.). Music in Captain Morgan's piano bar. Hideaway Lounge: Music nightly. Buccaneer Bay sea battle nightly.
Tropicana • 702-739-2411: Tiffany Theatre: "The Best of the Folies Bergere" (dark Thurs.). "Illusionary Magic of Rick Thomas," 2 and 4pm daily except Fri. Tropics Lounge: "The Birdman of Las Vegas," 11am, 12:30pm, and 2pm except Thurs. Celebration Lounge: Bands play nightly. Comedy Stop Theatre: "The Comedy Stop," stand-up comedy nightly.
Venetian • 702-733-5000: Showroom at the Venetian: "Melinda: First Lady of Magic," indf. (dark Wed.). "Bravo," starring Charo, production show (dark Sun.).
Westward Ho • 702-731-2900: Crown Room: "Puttin' on the Ritz," dinner and show, Wed. and Sat., thru March 16. HoWaiian Luau Dinner and Show, Wed. and Sat., March 17-June 8 (dark April 17). Ho-larious Comedy Revue, magic and comedy revue, indf. (dark Wed., Fri., and Sat.). Bands play nightly except Mon. in the lounge.



We're an American Band

Grand Funk Railroad, created in the 1960s, reunited in 1996. The band played for a benefit for Bosnian orphans in 1997 and will be onstage at the Flamingo Laughlin April 25. The band is known for its hit songs "We're an American Band," "Mean Mistreater," and "Loco-motion."

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Wild West Gambling Hall • 702-740-0000.

LAUGHLIN

Avi • 702-535-5555: Arrowweed Lounge: Bands nightly.

Colorado Belle • 702-298-4000: Bands play in the Boiler Room Microbrewery and Restaurant.

Edgewater • 702-298-2453: Kokopelli's Lounge: Music nightly.

Flamingo Laughlin • 702-298-5111 or 800-435-8469: Club Flamingo: "Reflections of the Rat Pack," Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Sammy Davis Jr. impersonators (dark Thurs.). Flamingo Ballroom: Tim Conway and Harvey Korman, March 6. Heavyweight boxing, April 6. Lorrie Morgan, Sept. 14. Smothers Brothers, Nov. 2. Amphitheater: Sawyer Brown, March 30. Grand Funk Railroad, April 25. Doobie Brothers, April 26-27. Wynonna, May 11. Neal McCoy, May 22. Neil Sedaka, Oct. 5. Teri Clark, Oct. 16.

Golden Nugget Laughlin • 702-298-7111 or 800-237-1739: Tarzan's Nightclub: Bands like Doo Wah Riders and Fit 2 Be Tied play. Karaoke on Tuesdays at the Golden Nugget Laughlin.

Harrah's Laughlin • 702-298-4600 or 800-447-8700: Fiesta Showroom: "Houston," impressionist revue, thru March 2. "Laughternoon in Laughlin," 2pm Tues.-Sat., thru April 20.

Pioneer • 800-634-3469: Gunfighter demonstration, 7pm Fri.-Sat.

Ramada Express • 702-298-4200 or 800-243-6846: Pavilion Theatre: Limeliters, March 2-6. Jeff Dunham, March 9-10. Rich Little, March 23-24. Doo Wah Riders, March 30 (free show). Lounge: Bands play nightly at the Ramada Express except Mon. Karaoke Madness, Mon.

River Palms • 702-298-2242 or 800-835-7904: Bands or DJ music nightly in the Bermuda Club Lounge. Karaoke with Don West, 4-7pm Wed.

Riverside Resort • 702-298-2535 or 800-227-3849 ext. 616: Don's Celebrity Theatre: Spirit of Ireland, March 4-17 (dark March 15). Mel Tillis, March 19-24. Chris LeDoux, March 28-29.

MESQUITE

CasaBlanca • 702-346-7529 or 800-459-7529: CasaBlanca Showroom: Entertainment TBA. Comedy shows Fri.-Sat. when there is no headliner onstage. Bands entertain nightly except Mon. in the Skydome Lounge.

Eureka Casino Hotel • 702-346-4646: Wild Cactus Lounge: Sonny D, Mon. and Wed. Fun Fool's Karaoke, Tues. Bands play Thurs.-Sun.

Oasis • 702-346-5232 or 800-621-0187: The Boot Saloon: Video and live DJ, Fri. and Sat. Sandy Hackett's Comedy Club on Sat. Cabaret Lounge: Bands play.

Virgin River • 702-346-7777 or 800-346-7721: Bands play in the casino lounge nightly except Mon.

NORTH LAS VEGAS

Fiesta Rancho • 702-631-7000: Roxy's Theatre: Comedy Night, Sat. 5, 7, and 9pm (free show). Bands play Fri.-Sat. in the Cabo Lounge.

Jerry's Nugget • 702-399-3000: Royal Street Lounge: Dance bands play Fri. and Sat.

Texas Station • 702-631-1001: Dallas Events Center: Willie Nelson, March 23. Glen Campbell, June 7. The Chantels/Diamonds/Tokens, June 22. Patti Page, July 6. Fabian with Joey Dee and the Starliters, July 27. The Armadillo: Loveshack, Fri.-Sat. Sunday Swing with Jerry Tiffe, 4-8pm Sun.

PRIMM

Buffalo Bill's Resort • 800-FUN-STOP: Star of the Desert Arena: Entertainment TBA. Stage Bar: Bands play Thurs.-Sun. Carolee's Comedy Club: Guest comedians, Fri.-Sat.

Primm Valley • 800-FUN-STOP: The Piano Bar: Pianist Thurs.-Sun.

Whiskey Pete's • 800-FUN-STOP.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

CARSON AREA

Carson Nugget • Carson City, 775-882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (continental U.S. including Nevada): Nugget Show Bar: Bands like the Motifs, David Proud, and Blind Date play Tues.-Sun.

Carson Station • Carson City, 775-883-0900: Bands play nightly except Mon.

Carson Valley Inn • Minden, 775-782-9711 or 800-321-6983: Shannon Ballroom: Tribute to the Beach Boys, thru March 3. Creedence Clearwater Revival Tribute, March 5-10. Jimmy Buffett Tribute, March 12-17. Cabaret Lounge: Bands like Palmore Brothers, The Robeys, and Turquoise perform.

Piñon Plaza • Carson City, 775-885-9000: Sports Book Lounge: Bands play Wed.-Sun.

Sharkey's Nugget • Gardnerville, 775-782-3133.

Topaz Lodge • Topaz Lake, 775-266-3339: Bands play Fri.-Sat.

RENO/SPARKS

Atlantis • 775-825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Atlantis Concert Weekend, March 8-9. Bands like Night Flight, Mansion, and Speedy Garfin perform nightly in the Center Stage Cabaret.

Boomtown • 775-345-6000: Boomtown Cabaret: Bands play nightly except Mon.

Club Cal Neva-Virginian • 775-323-1046 or 877-777-7303. Bands play on Fri. and Sat.

Circus Circus • 775-329-0711: Free daily circus acts, 11am-10:30pm.

Eldorado • 775-786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside Nevada) or 800-648-3024 (Canada). Eldorado Showroom: "Burn the Floor," production show opens April 4. Bands play nightly at the Brew Brothers microbrewery. Piano music in the Roxy Lounge. BuBinga Lounge: Dance to DJs and bands.

Eddie's Fabulous '50s • 775-329-1950: Lounge entertainment. DJ music at Reno Live at Eddie's.

Fitzgeralds • 775-785-3300 or 800-648-5022 (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands perform nightly.

Harrah's Reno • 775-788-2900 or 800-HARRAHS: Sammy's Showroom: "Whisper," adult revue, 10pm Sun.-Tues., 7:30 and 10pm Wed., 10pm Fri., midnight Sat. (dark Thurs.). Gordie Brown, one-man theatrical production, 7:30pm Fri.-Tues. plus 9:30pm Sat. (dark Wed.-Thurs.). The Plaza at Harrah's Reno: Entertainment TBA.

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John Ascuaga's Nugget • Sparks, 775-356-3304 or 800-648-1177: Celebrity Showroom: Tribute to Cole Porter, March 6 and 13. Glen Campbell, March 15-17. Michael Martin Murphey, March 22-23. Eddie Money, April 5-7. Rose Ballroom: Entertainment TBA. Bands play nightly in the Casino Cabaret and Trader Dick's. Flamenco guitarist Thurs. and jazz Fri.-Sat. in Restaurante Orozko.

Peppermill • 775-826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Tahoe Grand Showroom: Entertainment TBA. Bands play in the Cabaret Lounge.

Rail City Casino • Sparks, 775-359-9440: Side Track Lounge: Entertainers play on weekends.

Reno Hilton • 775-789-2285 or 800-648-3568 (U.S. outside Nevada): Hilton Theater: Wayne Brady, March 1. Billy Gilman/Clark Family Experience, March 22. The Moody Blues, March 29. Smokey Robinson, April 5. Stars of the Welk Show, April 16-17. "Carnival of Wonders," magic revue (dark Fri.). Hilton Pavilion: Entertainment TBA. Silver State Pavilion: Entertainment TBA. The Garage: Bands play nightly.

Sands Regency • 775-348-2200: Empress Lounge: Music nightly except Sun.-Mon. Comedians perform in the Just For Laughs Comedy Club (dark Mon.-Tues.).

Silver Club • Sparks, 775-358-4771 or 800-905-7774 (U.S. outside Nevada).

Silver Legacy • 775-329-4777 or 800-225-BASS (U.S., Canada, and Mexico): Grande Exposition Hall: Andrew Dice Clay, March 8-9. Huey Lewis and the News, April 5-6. Tim Conway and Harvey Korman, April 19-20. REO Speedwagon, April 27. Ottmar Liebert, May 18. Engelbert Humperdinck, June 7-8. Rum Bullions Island Bar: Dueling pianos, Thurs.-Mon. Steel Rum Drums, Tues.-Sat. Comedians perform at the Catch a Rising Star comedy club (dark Sun.). Silver Baron Lounge: Piano music.

Sundowner • 775-786-7050.

Tamarack Junction • 775-852-3600.

Western Village • Sparks, 775-331-1069, 800-648-1170.

STATELINE, LAKE TAHOE

Bill's Lake Tahoe • 775-588-2455.

Caesars Tahoe • 775-588-3515 or 800-648-3353: Circus Maximus: Wayne Brady, March 2-3. Kevin Pollack and Bobby Slayton, March 15-16. Grand Ballroom: Glenn Miller Orchestra, March 17. Nero's 2000 nightclub has live music. Cleo's Bar and Entertainment Lounge: Pianist Arthur Hervey.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe • 800-HARRAHS: South Shore Room: George Thorogood, March 8-9. "Yeah, Yeah, Yeah: A Tribute to the Beatles," starring Rain, thru March 31 (dark Tues. and Fri. and March 9), and May 22 to September 15 (dark Tues. and Fri.). Bands play in the Casino Center Stage.

Harveys • 775-588-2411 or 800-553-1022 ext. 2883: Cabaret: The Improv, James Stephens II, March 5-9. Jackie Flynn, March 12-16. Allan Havey, March 19-23. Ron Pearson, March 26-30. Max Alexander, April 2-6. Pam Stone, April 9-13. Henry Cho, April 16-20. (dark Sun.-Mon.). Geechy Guy, indf. on Sun.-Mon.

Lake Tahoe Horizon • 775-588-6211 or 800-322-7723: Golden Cabaret: "Carnival Cabaret," male celebrity impersonator revue (dark Mon.). Club Z: Dance music. Bands play in the Aspen Lounge.

Lakeside Inn • 775-588-7777: Entertainment TBA.

NORTH LAKE TAHOE

Cal-Neva Resort • Crystal Bay, 775-832-4000 or 800-225-6382: Frank Sinatra Celebrity Showroom: TBA.

Crystal Bay Club • Crystal Bay, 775-831-0512: DJ Wed.-Sun.

Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe • Incline Village, 775-832-1234: Bands play in the Regency Grand Ballroom. Lone Eagle Restaurant: Music, Wed.-Sat. Casino Stage Bar: Pianist, Wed.-Sun.



He Left His Heart

Tony Bennett's big break came in 1949, and since then the pop-jazz star has become one of those rare performers whose appeal crosses generations and musical styles. Bennett headlines May 9-12 at Paris Las Vegas.

Jim Kelley's Tahoe Nugget • Crystal Bay, 775-831-0455.

Tahoe Biltmore • Crystal Bay, 775-831-0660: Bands play nightly.

Rural Nevada

AMARGOSA VALLEY

Longstreet Inn • 775-372-1777: Weekend entertainment.

BEATTY

Stagecoach • 775-553-2419 or 800-4-BIGWIN (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands play in the lounge Fri.-Sat.

Exchange Club • 775-553-2368: Karaoke on Fri.

ELKO

Commercial Hotel • 775-738-3181: Bands play nightly.

Gold Country • 800-621-1332: J.R.'s Lounge: Entertainment on weekends.

High Desert Inn • 775-738-8425: Comedy show Fri.

Red Lion • 775-738-2111 or 800-545-0044 (Western U.S. outside Nevada): Club Max Showroom: John Kay and Steppenwolf, March 16.

Stockmen's Hotel • 775-738-5141 or 800-648-2345 (U.S. and Nevada): Bands play in the Stockmen's Showroom.

ELY

Hotel Nevada • 775-289-6665.

FALLON

Bonanza Inn • 775-423-6031.

Fallon Nugget • 775-423-3111.

HAWTHORNE

El Capitan • 775-945-3322: Bands play in the casino lounge.

Joe's Tavern • 775-945-2302.

JACKPOT

Barton's Club 93 • 775-755-2341.

Cactus Petes • 800-821-1103: Gala Showroom: Entertainment TBA.

Horseshu Casino • 775-755-2321. Horseshu Cabaret: Entertainment TBA.

LOVELOCK

Ramada Inn/Sturgeon's • 775-273-2971: Center Club Showroom: Bands and karaoke are featured on weekends.

PAHRUMP

Mountain View Casino and Bowl • 775-727-7777: Bowling alley at the Pahrump casino.

Saddle West Hotel, Casino, and RV Park • 775-727-1111. Club West: Nightclub, 9pm Fri.

Terrible's Lakeside • 775-751-7770.

Terrible's Town Casino • 775-751-7777.

TONOPAH

Banc Club • 775-482-5409: Bands play Thurs.-Sat.

Station House • 775-482-9777: Shotgun Willie's Saloon: Bands play nightly except Mon.

WENDOVER

Peppermill • 775-664-2255 or 800-648-9660 (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands play nightly except Mon.

Rainbow Casino • 775-664-4000: Cabaret Lounge: Bands play nightly except Mon.

Red Garter • 775-664-2111 or 800-982-2111 (continental U.S. outside Nevada).

Silver Smith • 775-664-2231 or 800-354-3671: Jim's Bar: Live entertainment nightly except Mon.

State Line • 775-664-2221, 800-354-3671: Stateliner Lounge: Entertainment nightly.

WINNEMUCCA

Winners Hotel • 775-623-2511: Bands play nightly.

Model T Hotel • 775-623-2588. Bands play Wed.-Sun.

Holiday Inn Express • 775-775-625-3100.

Sundance Casino • 775-623-3336.

Red Lion • 800-633-6435.

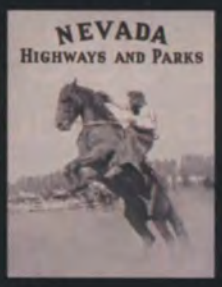
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Casino West • 775-463-2481: Weekend music.

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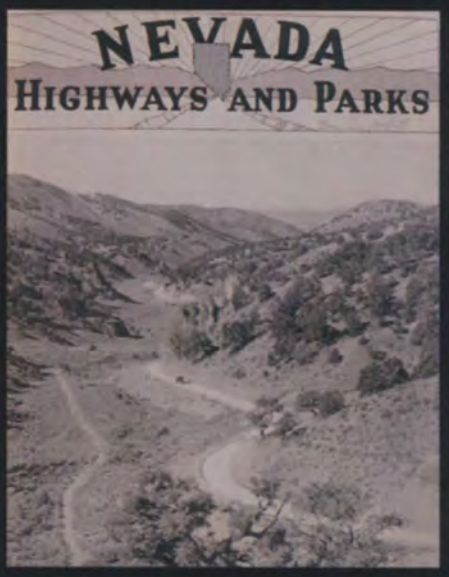




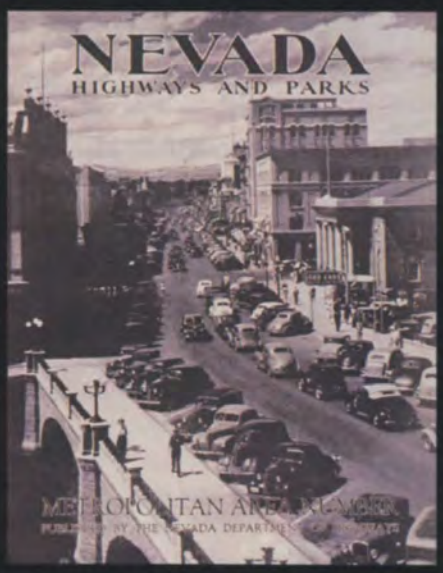






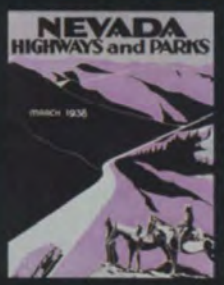






















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Hip Hopper

Jimmy Hopper and his band go where most lounge acts fear to tread.

By Kathy Espin



Uncombed crooner Jimmy Hopper moves smoothly from rock to country to opera during his show in the Fontana Room at the Bellagio in Las Vegas.

Singer Jimmy Hopper is one of those performers who has helped create a new image for Las Vegas lounge acts. His room is not a smoky, noisy place, with patrons yelling out requests for "Misty."

Instead, Hopper and his five-man band play the Bellagio's cushy Fontana Room, where huge windows overlook the fountains on the Strip. The group goes where most cover bands fear to tread. The music runs the gamut from gospel to Aerosmith and Sting, from the Moody Blues to Jimmy Webb, from Andrea Bocelli to Bruce Springstein. Hopper doesn't do impersonations. Rather, he delivers his own interpretations of familiar tunes with full orchestration and solid vocals.

"The point is just that we do a wide range of music," Hopper says of the challenging mix of numbers. "I just love to throw curve balls at my crowd."

Hopper keeps the show's atmosphere low-key and intimate as he showcases other band members, tells stories, and talks to the crowd. During a recent show, Hopper apologized for the leopard print silk bandana he wore over his hair, which is usually bleached blond and studiously unkempt. He explained that an encounter with a creative hairdresser left his hair blue. "I look like a Smurf," he lamented. The bandana went well with the long black coat, see-through silk print shirt, and sparkly eyeliner that made him look like a rock star. The image is a long way from his Southern, military-family roots.

A native of Virginia Beach, Hopper moved with his family to Southern California as a child. A Navy brat, he was the only one of seven children to take up music as a career. "At the age of three or four, I started singing quite a bit. My mother told me she would put me outside in the swing set, and I would sit out there and sing for hours," he says. His father was especially supportive of his interest in music. Largely self taught, Hopper once studied with an opera teacher and eventually taught himself the guitar, keyboards, and percussion instruments he plays in his act. While performing in Southern California nightclubs, Hopper was discovered by a *Star Search* producer. Hopper's seven appearances on the show led to jobs at Trump Castle and Harrah's in Atlantic City. Then he took up residence at the top of the Westin St. Francis in San Francisco. "It was a 380-seat showroom with a view of the Golden Gate Bridge. Very posh." The three-month gig lasted two years.

In San Francisco Hopper received a call from "one of my fans who happened to be the owner of the Rio." The fan was Las Vegas developer Tony Marnell, who was expanding the Rio. In 1999, Hopper was hired to play the VooDoo Lounge at the top of the hotel's new tower. He played the VooDoo for a year and built a reputation. "I worked really hard up there, and we created a lot of hype all over the city," he says. During that time, he was the subject of a rare positive story in the *National Enquirer*, and *Entertainment Tonight* called him "Las Vegas' hottest late-night performer."

In his Bellagio show Hopper leads a group effort. "I arrange and produce all the music that's in our show with the help of our musical director, Brian Hicks," he says. Hicks also plays keyboard. Other players include violinist David Ragsdale, who toured with Kansas for six years. Guitarist

Photo: Ron Koch

Jimmy Crespo toured with Aerosmith in the '80s and Rod Stewart in the '90s. Drummer Jamie Borden performed with Great White, and backup singer Danielle Bell formerly played Gloria Estefan in "American Superstars" at the Stratosphere. "She's my right arm on stage," Hopper says. "They are all individual artists, and they all get featured."

Hopper and his wife, Sally, live in Las Vegas with their one-year-old daughter, Priscilla Rain. Sally manages Hopper's career. He says, "She has a master's degree. She is beautiful and well-liked. She's wonderful."

When not on stage or rehearsing, Hopper says, "I'm the kind of guy who is always washing my cars. I don't want to say I'm anal, but I'm close." Hopper works out daily and is on a very strict low-carbohydrate, high-protein, low-fat diet that limits

Hopper was the subject of a rare positive *National Enquirer* story, and *Entertainment Tonight* called him "Las Vegas' hottest late-night performer."

him to lots of vegetables, fish, and chicken and a "nice steak every now and then," according to Sally Hopper. Besides playing golf and tennis, the singer does all the cooking in the Hopper household, which currently is moving to a home in the newly developed Southern Highlands area in the southwestern Las Vegas Valley.

Like most Las Vegans, Hopper enjoys the Southern Nevada sunshine but admits he often misses the wet, foggy weather in San Francisco. He says, "I love Vegas. This is my home. This is the place for me. It has been very, very good to me. Jimmy Hopper is very blessed."

Show Notes

Jimmy Hopper and his band perform nightly except Monday in the Bellagio's Fontana Room on the Las Vegas Strip. The shows, which are free, are at 9:30 and 11:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 6 and 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Call the Bellagio, 888-987-6667 for information.

Kathy Espin is a Las Vegas writer.

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Casino Notes

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

Las Vegas Territory

24-Hour Bingo: **Arizona Charlie's East** has set a summer completion date for an expansion that will enable the property to offer 24-hour bingo. The three-floor project includes additional slot and video poker machines and a new race and sports book.

Laughlin Bound: **Harrah's Laughlin** and **Allegiant Air** are offering discount hotel and air packages on more than 250 scheduled round-trip flights on MD-87 aircraft. The program features direct flights into the Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport and ground transportation to Harrah's Laughlin. Call 800-315-9113 for information.

Downtown Gourmet: The **Lady Luck's** Burgundy Room restaurant, which was selected "Best Gourmet Room" in *Nevada Magazine's* 1999 readers' poll, has updated its menu to reflect changing food trends. New items include escargots, frog legs, beef Wellington, duck a l'orange, and fried strawberries.

Maestro Returns: Tenor Placido Domingo returns to Las Vegas March 16 to perform at **Mandalay Bay**. Tickets for the concert cost $60, $100, $150, $200, and $300. The opera star's appearance will celebrate Mandalay Bay's third anniversary.

Grand Opening: **Neonopolis**, a $100-million entertainment project in downtown Las Vegas, has an April completion date. To date, tenants in the three-level complex include national chain restaurants, shops, a 14-screen theater, fast-food outlets, clothing stores, and gift shops.

Asian Chic: Pearl, a restaurant featuring Cantonese and Shanghainese specialties, opened recently in the **MGM Grand's** Studio Walk. The eatery offers Chinese food with a Western flair, touches such as French pastries, and a wine cellar with an aperitif trolley and a sommelier to assist diners. On the traditional side, Pearl offers a tea trolley complete with tableside ceremonial preparation.

A Touch of Vegas: Created by the owners of New York City's supper club Lotus and Los Angeles' Sunset Room, the Venus Lounge and Tiki Bar is a classic Las Vegas lounge offering dancing and burlesque entertainment. Located in the **Venetian,** the Venus is decorated in hand-carved tikis and a photomural depicting vintage Las Vegas scenes.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

On a Roll: Bowling packages are being offered by the **Carson Valley Inn** in Minden through March. For groups of 10 to 20, the "First Strike" combo includes Friday and Saturday hotel accommodations, a group





Visitors will find gourmet dining in the Burgundy Room at the Lady Luck in downtown Las Vegas. With seating for 60 diners, the tiny, secluded restaurant has a menu that ranges from beef Wellington and escargots to fried strawberries.

dinner in a private room, and bowling on the four private-party lanes at the nearby Silver Strike Lanes Bowling Center, which opened in December. The price is $99 per person for weekends and $79 for Sunday through Thursday arrivals.

Apres Ski: **Harrah's Lake Tahoe** offers apres-ski deals from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday to Sunday through March 15. During Snow Jam 2002 visitors can expect ski-themed entertainment, food, beverages, and prizes. A typical evening might include Warren Miller films and chili or karaoke and hot dogs. Prizes range from ski gear to the grand prize of a four-day, three-night ski getaway at Harrah's Lake Tahoe.

Casino Promotions

Special Link: The **Fallon Nugget** and **Bonanza Inn** casinos in Fallon and the **Silver Springs Nugget** in Silver Springs feature a "Weakest Link" promotion on Thursdays through April 30. Drawings are held every 20 to 30 minutes, and winners select a card to see how much cash they win. Drawing tickets are free.

Vacation Rewards: Visitors have until March 31 to play for a free one-week vacation every year for a lifetime. Monthly winners at the five **Harrah's** properties in Nevada will be eligible for a grand prize, which will be awarded in Las Vegas in May. Entries can be earned by signing up for a Total Rewards card (free), purchasing a show ticket or an entrée at any Harrah's-owned restaurant, hitting a hand-paid jackpot, or placing a $10 single keno or sports bet.

Gaming Tournaments: A number of Nevada casinos offer daily or weekly tournaments. They include the free Eye Opener Slot Tournaments offered Sunday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon at the **Saddle West** in Pahrump; call 800-433-3987 There are daily slot tournaments Sunday through Thursday at the **Reno Hilton**. The top five winners receive entry to a $75,000 tournament on April 12-14; call 775-789-2000. The **Carson Nugget** in Carson City holds regular blackjack tournments for a $10 buy-in. The games take place Monday and Friday at 10 a.m. and Tuesday at 7 p.m.; call 775-882-1626.

Entertainment

Nakeds Freebie: Steve Smith and the Nakeds will perform a free concert on April 26-27 at **Sunset Station** in Henderson. The Nakeds are a 10-piece rhythm-and-blues band that toured 20 years as an opening act for such headliners as Clarence Clemmons, Gary "U.S." Bonds, and Nils Lofgren before appearing in Club Madrid.

Enduring Duo: Comedians Tim Conway and Harvey Korman are among the hottest headliners to play Nevada showrooms. Desperate fans have even contacted *Nevada Magazine* on a search for tickets to see the duo from TV's *Carol Burnett Show*. Conway is adept at the physical comedy, with Korman as his foil. Korman, who turned 75 in February, opened a recent show at the **Las Vegas Hilton** with a monologue on aging:

"Sex? Are you kidding? I can't even get into my OWN pants."

"These days I'm letting my eyebrows grow so that I'll have a hairline again."

"My skin is corroding. They call them liver spots. The other day I took a pen and connected spots. It spelled out 'old fart.'"

On Viagra: "For me it is like putting a new flag pole on a condemned building."

Their skits include a sendup of baseball's "echoing farewell" with Conway contradicting Korman's achievements, Korman's interview of Conway as the knee-length Scandinavian golfer, and Conway's mumbling, bumbling, shuffling portrayal of a ticket agent. The pair finished the show with their signature routine, "Dentistry for Dummies." Conway and Korman play the **Flamingo Laughlin** on March 6, the **Las Vegas Hilton** on March 7-9, and the **Silver Legacy** in Reno on April 19-20.



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Las Vegas Territory

BOULDER CITY

Boulder City Historic District • Walking tours. 1305 Arizona St., 702-293-2034.

Boulder City/Hoover Dam Museum • Displays and books on the dam's construction in 1930s. 1305 Arizona St., 702-294-1988.

Boulder Dam Hotel • 1305 Arizona St., 702-293-3510.

Colorado River Tours • Underground gold mine tour. Nelson, 702-293-4422.

Hoover Dam and Hoover Dam Visitor Center • Tours, theaters, exhibit hall, High Scaler Monument. U.S. 93, 702-597-5970.

Lake Mead Cruises • Excursions on Lake Mead. 702-293-6180.

Lake Mead National Recreation Area and Alan Bible Visitor Center • Visitor center is on U.S. 93 between Boulder City and Hoover Dam. 702-293-8990.

Skydive Las Vegas.com • Tandem jumps. 702-293-1860.

St. Jude's Ranch for Children • Chapel tours. 100 St. Jude's St., 702-294-7100.

HENDERSON

City of Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve • Self-guided or guided tours for more than 10 people of the 80-acre preserve. 2400 Moser St. off Sunset, 702-565-4264 and 702-566-2940.

Clark County Museum • 1830 S. Boulder Hwy., 702-455-7955.

Ethel M Chocolate Factory and Cactus Garden • Tours. 2 Cactus Garden Dr., 702-458-8864.

Mountasia Family Fun Center • 2050 Olympic, 702-898-7777.

Ron Lee's World of Clowns • Tours. 330 Carousel Pkwy., 702-434-1700.

LAS VEGAS

Adventuredome • Covered park with rides and attractions. Next to Circus Circus, 800-444-CIRCUS.

A.J. Hackett Bungy • 810 Circus Circus Dr., 702-385-4321.

Bellagio • Fountain shows. 702-693-7111.

CART Driving 101 • Indy-cars driving experience. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-651-6300.

Cinema Ride • Motion simulator rides. Forum Shops at Caesars, 702-369-4008.

Cowboy Trail Rides • Horseback riding. 702-387-2457.

Crystal Palace In-Line Skating and Hockey Complex • 9295 W. Flamingo, 702-253-9832.



Watch Your Speed, Bud

Ethan Thomason directs traffic at the Lied Discovery Children's Museum in Las Vegas. The activity, for ages five and under, is part of the Desert Discovery area of the museum, which has about 100 science and learning exhibits that teach children about weather, music, theater, and many other subjects.

Desert Demonstration Gardens • 3701 W. Alta, 702-258-3205 for information about visiting the gardens.

Elvis-A-Rama Museum • 3401 Industrial, 702-309-7200.

ESPN Zone • Sports-themed restaurant. New York-New York, 702-740-6969.

Excalibur • Dragon battle in front moat, motion simulators. 702-597-7777.

Flamingo Las Vegas • Wildlife sanctuary. 702-733-3111.

Floyd Lamb State Park • Picnicking and fishing. 9200 Tule Springs Rd., 702-486-5413.

Flyaway Indoor Skydiving • 200 Convention Center Dr., 702-731-4768.

Forum Shops at Caesars • Hourly shows at Festival and Atlantis fountains. 702-893-4800.

Fremont Street Experience • Light show on the hour from dark to midnight. Downtown Las Vegas, 702-678-5600.

Gameworks • Climbing wall and arcade. Showcase Mall, 3785 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 702-597-3122.

Guggenheim Museums • Guggenheim Heritage features works of the masters. Guggenheim Las Vegas has contemporary exhibits. Venetian, 702-414-4500.

Guinness World of Records Museum • 2780 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 702-792-3766.

Hard Rock Hotel • Music memorabilia. 702-693-5000.

Harley-Davidson Cafe • Motorcycle memorabilia, Harleys, and other items on display. Las Vegas Strip, 702-740-4555.

Holy Cow! Casino • Brewery tours. 702-732-2697.

Howard W. Cannon Aviation Museum • McCarran International Airport, 702-455-7968.

Imperial Palace Auto Collection • Classic and antique vehicles. 702-794-3174.

Laser Quest • 7361 W. Lake Mead, 702-243-8881.

Las Vegas Art Museum • 9600 W. Sahara Ave., 702-360-8000.

Las Vegas Club • Sports memorabilia. Downtown, 702-385-1664.

Las Vegas Mini Gran Prix • Go-kart track, roller coaster, super slide. 702-259-7000.

Las Vegas Motor Speedway • Guided tours. 702-644-4444.

Las Vegas Natural History Museum • From dinosaurs to desert creatures. 900 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 702-384-DINO.

Liberace Museum • Pianos and memorabilia. 1775 E. Tropicana, 702-798-5595.

Lied Discovery Children's Museum • Science and other learning exhibits. 833 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 702-382-KIDS.

Luxor • Motion rides, IMAX Theatre, and King Tut's Tomb and Museum. 702-262-4000.

M&M's World • Museum and gift shop. Showcase Mall, 702-736-7611.

Madame Tussaud's Celebrity Encounter • Wax Museum. Venetian, 702-367-1847.

Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History • 4505 Maryland Pkwy., UNLV, 702-895-3381.

MGM Grand • Lion habitat open daily. 702-891-7979.

Mirage • Volcano and Siegfried and Roy Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat. 702-791-7111.

Mount Charleston • Recreation information. 702-222-1597.

NASCAR Cafe • Race cars displayed. Sahara Hotel, 702-734-7223.

Nevada State Museum and Historical Society • Lorenzi Park, 700 Twin Lakes Dr., 702-486-5205.

New York-New York • Roller coaster. 702-740-6969.

Nevada Zoological-Botanical Park • Home of 150 species, from apes to peacocks. 1775 N. Rancho Dr., 702-648-5955.

Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort Historic State Park • Site of 1855 settlement. 908 Las Vegas Blvd. N., at Washington Ave., 702-486-3511.

Paris Las Vegas • Rides to the observation deck of the hotel's Eiffel Tower. 702-946-7000.

Planet Hollywood Las Vegas • Movie memorabilia. 3500 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 702-791-7827.

Race for Atlantis • IMAX 3D motion simulator. Forum Shops at Caesars, 702-893-4800.
Rainforest Cafe • Bird habitat and animated creatures. MGM Grand, 702-891-8580.
Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area • 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-363-1921.
Richard Petty Driving Experience • Drive NASCAR-style cars. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-643-4343.
Rio Suite Hotel • Free carnival-themed sky parade. 702-252-7777.
Sahara Hotel • Speed: The Ride roller coaster, virtual-reality car racing. 702-737-2735.
Sam's Town Sunset Stampede • Water and laser show. 702-456-7777.
Santa Fe Station • Ice arena. 4949 N. Rancho Dr., 702-658-4900.
Scandia Family Fun Center • 702-364-0070.
Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay • Exhibit of sharks, sea predators, and aquatic creatures. Visitors can ask questions of divers. 702-632-7777.
Shelby American • Shelby Cobra auto museum and factory tour. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-643-3000.
Spring Mountain Ranch State Park • Red Rock Canyon, 702-875-4141.
Star Trek: The Experience • Las Vegas Hilton, 702-697-8700.
Stratosphere • Roller coaster, Big Shot ride, and Strat-O-Fair midway. 702-380-7777.
The Palms • IMAX theater. 702-942-7777.
Treasure Island • Sea battle every 90 minutes starting at 5:30pm. 702-894-7111.
Tropicana • Birds and gambling museum. 702-739-2222.
Venetian Hotel • Gondola rides on the hotel's Grand Canal. 702-733-5000.
Walker African-American Museum and Research Center • Exhibits and records, by appointment only. 702-647-2242.
Wetlands Park • Nature center and walking trails. 7050 E. Tropicana Rd., 702-455-7522.
Wet 'n Wild • Water theme park; closed for the season. 702-765-9700.

LAUGHLIN

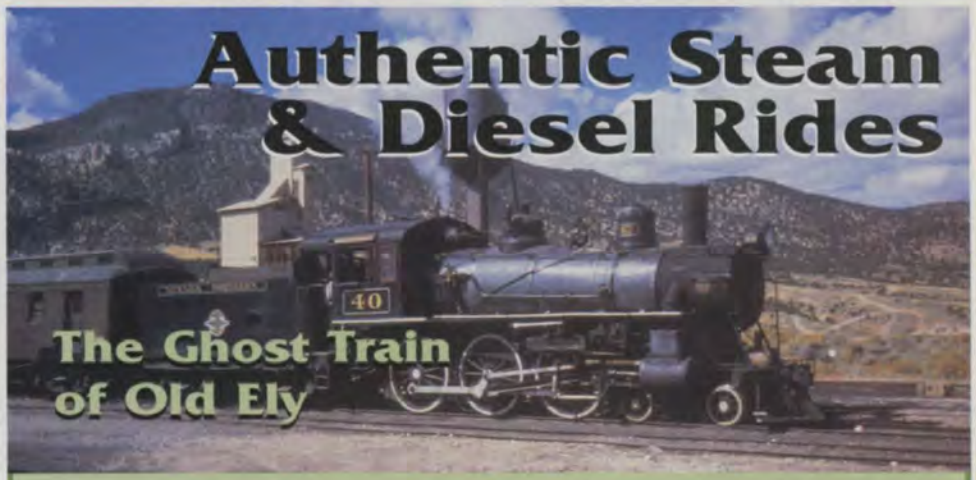
Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area • Nature and water sports. Four miles south of Laughlin, 702-298-1859.
Colorado Belle • Cyber Roller Coaster and Boiler Room Microbrewery. 702-298-4000.
Colorado River Museum • Arizona Hwy. 95, 520-754-3399.
Davis Dam • Self-guided exterior tours. 520-754-3623.
Del Rio River Tours • 520-754-4391.
Grapevine Canyon • Seven miles west of Laughlin. Inquire about road conditions, 702-298-2214.
Laughlin River Tours • Colorado River, 702-298-1047.
Ramada Express • American Heroes Museum. 702-298-

Adrenaline Alert

Roller coasters and thrill rides in Las Vegas include those at New York-New York, the Sahara, and the Stratosphere, which also offers a Big Shot ride. The Primadonna Resorts, 43 miles south of Las Vegas, have roller and cyber coasters and a turbo drop ride. In Laughlin, 95 miles south of Las Vegas, the Colorado Belle has a cyber coaster.

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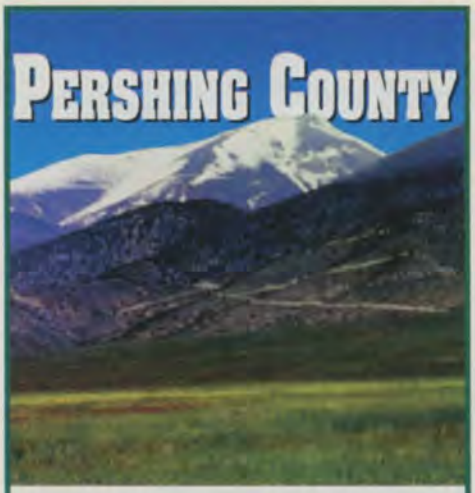




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4200 for more information about the museum.
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MESQUITE

Virgin Valley Heritage Museum • 702-346-5705.
Oasis • Gun club, hayrides. 702-346-5232.

NORTH LAS VEGAS

The Planetarium • Community College of Southern Nevada, 702-651-4759.
U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds • Tour of demonstration squadron's facility, 2pm Tues. and Thurs. Nellis Air Force Base, 702-652-7200.

OVERTON

Lost City Museum of Archaeology • Ancient Pueblo culture in the Moapa Valley. 702-397-2193.
Valley of Fire State Park • 702-397-2088.

PRIMM

Primadonna Resorts • Roller coaster, water flume, cyber coaster and Turbo Drop rides, cars belonging to Bonnie and Clyde and Dutch Schultz, and Clyde's bullet-riddled shirt. 702-382-1111.

SEARCHLIGHT

Paddle River Art.com • Art gallery. 702-297-1540.
Searchlight Museum • Area history. 702-455-7955.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

CARSON CITY

Brewery Arts Center • 449 W. King St., 775-883-1976.
Carson and Mills Park Railroad • Mills Park, 775-887-2523.
Children's Museum of Northern Nevada • Educational exhibits. 813 N. Carson St., 775-884-2226.
Kit Carson Trail • Walking tour. 775-687-7410 or 800-NEVADA1.
Nevada State Capitol • 775-687-5030.
Nevada State Library and Archives • State Constitution exhibit. 100 Stewart St., 775-684-3310.
Nevada State Museum • 600 N. Carson St., 775-687-4810.
Nevada State Railroad Museum • S. Carson St. at Fairview Dr., 775-687-6953.
Nevada Supreme Court • Tours. 775-684-1617.
Roberts House Museum • 1207 N. Carson St., 775-882-2174.
Stewart Indian Museum and Cultural Center • 5366 Snyder, closed for remodeling.
Warren Engine Co. No. 1 Museum • 777 S. Stewart St., 775-887-2210.

DAYTON

Dayton State Park • 775-687-5678.
Dayton Historic Society Museum • Open weekends in the 1865 Old Dayton Schoolhouse on Shady Lane.

GARDNERVILLE

Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center • Old Douglas County High School on U.S. 395, 775-782-2555.

GENOA

Genoa Courthouse Museum • Closed for season. 775-782-4325.
Mormon Station State Historic Park • 775-782-2590.
David Walley's Hot Springs • 775-782-8155.

LAKE TAHOE

Hard Rock Cafe • Harveys, Stateline, 775-588-2411.
Heavenly Gondola • Stateline, 775-586-7000.
Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park • Sand Harbor, 2005 Hwy. 28, Incline Village, 775-831-0494.
M.S. Dixie II Paddlewheeler • Zephyr Cove, 775-588-3508.
Ponderosa Ranch • Seasonal hours. 775-831-0691.
Tahoe Gal Paddlewheeler • Tahoe City, 530-583-0141.
Tahoe Rim Trail • 164-mile system. 775-588-0686.
Tallac Historic Site • Closed for the season. South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-5227.
U.S. Forest Service Visitors Center • Stream-profile chamber. 530-573-2600.
Vikingsholm • Tours. 530-525-7232.
Zephyr Cove Resort • Cruises, boat rentals. 775-588-6644.

RENO

Animal Ark • 10 mi. north of Reno on U.S. 395, then 12 mi. on Red Rock Road, 775-969-3111.
Bartley Ranch Regional Park • Hiking, horse arena, and one-room Huffaker Schoolhouse. 775-828-6612.
Fleischmann Planetarium • Stargazing programs. U of N campus, 775-784-4811.
Galena Creek Regional Park • Mt. Rose Hwy., 775-785-4319.
Harrah's Reno • Laser show nightly at the outdoor plaza. 775-786-3232.
Liberty Belle Slot Collection • Liberty Belle Saloon, 4250 S. Virginia St., 775-825-1776.
National Automobile Museum (The Harrah Collection) • 10 Lake St. S., 775-333-9300.
National Bowling Stadium • Tournaments and IWERKS theater. 300 N. Center St., 775-334-2695.
Nevada Historical Society Museum • 1650 N. Virginia St., U of N campus, 775-688-1190.
Nevada Museum of Art, E.L. Wiegand Gallery • During construction of new museum, gallery is located in the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts. 775-329-3333.
Kiddie Playland • Rides, picnicking. Idlewild Park, 775-329-6008.
Raymond I. Smith Truckee River Walk • 775-334-2077.
Reno Hilton • Water golf, Ultimate Rush thrill ride, putting course, go-kart center. 775-789-2000.
Reno Tahoe Gaming Academy • Classes. 1313 S. Virginia St., 775-329-5665.
Riverside Artist Lofts • Arts and cultural center. 17 S. Virginia St., 775-329-2787.
Sierra Arts Center Gallery • Gallery and offices. Riverside Artist Lofts, 17 S. Virginia St., 775-329-2787.
Sierra Safari Zoo • 10 mi. north of Reno at Red Rock Rd., 775-677-1101.
Silver Legacy • Giant mining machine and laser shows every hour. 800-MUSTSEE.
Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden • Rancho San Rafael Park, 775-785-4153.
Wilbur D. May Great Basin Adventure • Rancho San Rafael Park, 775-785-4064.
Wilbur D. May Museum • Rancho San Rafael Park, 775-785-5961.

Take a Hike

The Tahoe Rim Trail, a 164-mile route around Lake Tahoe, is open to hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers. Built by volunteers, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Nevada Division of State Parks, the spectacular trail winds through two states, six counties, three national forests, state parkland, and three wilderness areas.

PYRAMID LAKE

Numana Hatchery Visitors Center • 775-574-0290.

SPARKS

John Ascuaga's Nugget • Ranchers' brands exhibit. 775-356-3300.
Sparks Heritage Foundation and Museum • Local history, Southern Pacific train cars, 1864 Glendale School. Victorian Square, 775-355-1144.
Sparks Marina Park • Fishing, walking paths.775-353-2376.
Victorian Square Fountain • Water shows. 775-353-2284.
Wild Island • Water park open in summer, miniature golf and raceway open year-round. Off I-80, 775-359-2927.

VERDI

Boomtown Family Fun Center • Motion-theater rides, Ferris wheel, and miniature golf. 775-345-8668.

VIRGINIA CITY

Assay Office Museum • 775-847-0777.
The Castle • 775-847-0275.
Chollar Mine • Tours of workings. 775-847-0155.
Fourth Ward School Museum • 775-847-0975.
Julia C. Bulette Red Light Museum • 775-847-9394.
Mackay Mansion Museum • 775-847-0173.
Nevada Gambling Museum • 775-847-9022.
Piper's Opera House • 775-847-0433.
Ponderosa Mine • Tours. 775-847-0757.
Virginia and Truckee Railroad • 775-847-0380.
Virginia City Radio Museum • 775-847-9047.
Virginia City Tours • 775-786-0866.



Ready to Ride

A gleaming Virginia and Truckee Railroad steam engine rolls out at the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City. Visitors can ride the train during special steam-ups at least once a month from May to December, and at other times visitors can ride on an electric motorcar.

The Way It Was Museum • 775-847-0766 for information.

WASHOE VALLEY

Bowers Mansion Park • Park open year-round. Historic mansion of Comstock millionaires, open seasonally. 775-849-1825 for more information on mansion tours.

Davis Creek Park • 775-849-0684.

Washoe Lake State Park • Birdwatching, windsurfing, fishing. East Lake Blvd., 775-687-4319.

Rural Nevada

AUSTIN

Hickison Petroglyph Recreation Site • Self-guided tour with signs. 24 miles east of Austin on U.S. 50, 775-635-4000.

BEATTY

Beatty Museum • Mining exhibits. 775-553-2424.

Death Valley National Park • Park can be reached via Beatty. 775-553-2200.

Rhyolite • Historic bottle house and the Gold Well Open Air Museum sculpture exhibit. Four miles west of Beatty, 775-553-2424.

ELKO

Northeastern Nevada Museum • 1515 Idaho St., 775-738-3418.

Ruby Mountains and Jarbidge Wilderness Area • 775-752-3357.

Sherman Station Complex • Restored 1875 ranch, tours, and greater Elko area visitor information. 775-738-7135.

Western Folklife Center • 501 Railroad St., 775-738-7508 for information.

Wild Horse State Recreation Area • 65 miles north of Elko, 775-758-6493.

ELY/GREAT BASIN PARK

Cave Lake State Recreation Area • 15 miles south of Ely, 775-728-4467.

East Ely Railroad Depot Museum • Tours. 775-289-1663.

Great Basin National Park • Hiking, camping, ancient bristlecones, and tours of Lehman Caves. Baker, 65 miles east of Ely, 775-234-7331.

McGill Historical Drug Company • Call for tours of an old-fashioned drugstore. McGill, 775-235-7082.

Nevada Northern Railway Museum • Train rides on historic locomotives. 1100 Ave. A, East Ely, 775-289-2085.

Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Site • 16 miles (11 dirt) south of Ely, 775-728-4467.

White Pine Public Museum • Exhibits on history of Ely area. 2000 Aultman St., 775-289-4710.



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www.winnemucca.nv.us

EUREKA

Eureka Opera House • Open for tours Mon.-Fri. or by appointment. 775-237-6006.
Eureka Sentinel Museum • 775-237-5010.

FALLON

Churchill County Museum and Hidden Cave • Tours. 1050 S. Maine St., 775-423-3677.
Fort Churchill State Historic Park • Eight miles south of Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.
Sand Mountain • Giant sand dune 20 miles east of Fallon, 775-885-6000.
Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge • 15 miles east of Fallon, 775-423-5128.

FERNLEY

Reno-Fernley Raceway • Paint ball games park. Fernley, 775-575-7217.

GABBS

Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park • Dinosaur fossils and ghost town of Berlin. 20 miles east of Gabbs, 775-964-2440.

GOLDFIELD

Historic Buildings and Mining Tour • Telegraph Office, Florence Mine, and Goldfield Consolidated Mines Company Building. 775-485-3486.

HAWTHORNE

Mineral County Historical Museum • Exhibits on the history of the Hawthorne area. 400 10th St., 775-945-5142 for information.
Walker Lake State Recreation Area • Fishing, camping, and birdwatching. 775-945-5896.

LOVELOCK

Giant Tufa Park • West of Lovelock, 775-273-7213.
Pershing County Marzen House Museum • Lovelock-area history. 775-273-7213.

PAHRUMP

Death Valley National Park • Park can be reached via Pahrump, which is 58 miles east of Furnace Creek. 775-727-5880.
Pahrump Valley Winery • Tours. 3810 Winery Rd., 775-727-6900 or 800-368-WINE.

PIOCHE/CALIENTE

Box Car Museum • Railroad and local history. Caliente, 775-726-3129.
Cathedral Gorge State Park • 10 miles south of Pioche, 775-728-4460.
Elgin Living History Schoolhouse Museum • Open for weekend tours or by appointment; 21 miles south of Caliente. Write Lynn Wood, Box 266, Caliente, NV 89008 for information.
Kershaw-Ryan State Park • Three miles south of Caliente, 775-728-4460.
Lincoln County Historical Museum • Pioche, 775-962-5207.
Million Dollar Courthouse • Closed for the season. Pioche, 775-962-5182.
Spring Valley State Park • 775-728-4460.
Stone Cabin Living History Museum • One mile north of Spring Valley State Park, seasonal. 775-728-4460 for more information.

ROUND MOUNTAIN

Smoky Valley Museum • 1935 schoolhouse and assay equipment. Open by appointment. 775-377-2243.

SILVER SPRINGS

Fort Churchill State Historic Park • Eight miles south of Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.

TONOPAH

Belmont Courthouse State Historic Site • 50 miles north of Tonopah, 775-867-3001.
Central Nevada Museum • Tonopah-area history. 775-482-9676.
Tonopah Historic Mining Park • 775-482-9274.

WENDOVER

Bonneville Salt Flats • 801-977-4300.

WINNEMUCCA

Buckaroo Hall of Fame • 775-623-2225.
Humboldt Museum • Winnemucca-area history. 775-623-2912.
Midas Schoolhouse • Call for tours; 46 miles by dirt road, east of Winnemucca, 775-529-0302.

YERINGTON

Lyon County Museum • Exhibits and photos on the history of the Yerington area. 775-463-2245.

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HOTELS/CASINOS (CONT.)
050 Ramada Express/Laughlin

HOUSEBOAT RENTALS
063 Forever Resorts

ATTRACTIONS, GALLERIES & MUSEUMS
067 Liberace Museum & Foundation/ Las Vegas
068 Nevada Northern Railway Museum/Ely

EVENTS
074 Pioneer Territory
075 Nevada's Cowboy Country/ Winnemucca
079 Nevada Backroaders/Ely

WEDDING CHAPELS
081 Chapel of the Bells/Reno
082 Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel

RECREATION
087 Nevada Dept. of Trans./Bicycle Safety
089 Tonopah Historic Mining Park
093 Lake Mead Cruises
094 Bahama Breeze/Orlando

TOURS
096 Guaranteed Tours/Las Vegas
097 Sundance Helicopters/Las Vegas

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Vacation Hot Lines

Where to call or write for Nevada travel tips.

When planning your Nevada trip or vacation, be sure to write or phone these one-stop sources for information. Also, Internet users can visit the Web sites listed. If you plan to stop by a chamber of commerce (C of C) office, chances are it will be open in the daytime Monday through Friday.

Statewide Information

Nevada Commission on Tourism: 401 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701; www.travelnevada.com; 775-687-4322 or 800-NEVADA-8 anywhere in U.S. and Canada.

Las Vegas Territory

Asian C of C: 900 E. Karen, No. C217, Las Vegas, NV 89109; 702-737-4300.

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

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

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

Henderson Convention Center: 200 Water St., Henderson, NV 89015; www.cityofhenderson.com/convention; 702-565-2171.

Hoover Dam Visitors Services: Box 60400, Boulder City, NV 89006; 702-294-3524.

Jean Visitor Center: Interstate 15 South, Exit 12, Box 19470, Jean, NV 89019; www.vegasfreedom.com; 702-874-1360.

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

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

Latin C of C: 829 S. Sixth St., Las Vegas, NV 89125; www.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., Box 502, Laughlin, NV 89029; www.visitlaughlin.com; 702-298-3321 or 800-4LAUGHLIN.

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

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

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

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

Urban C of C (formerly Nevada Black C of C): 1048 W. Owens Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89106; www.lvurbanchamber.org; 702-648-6222.

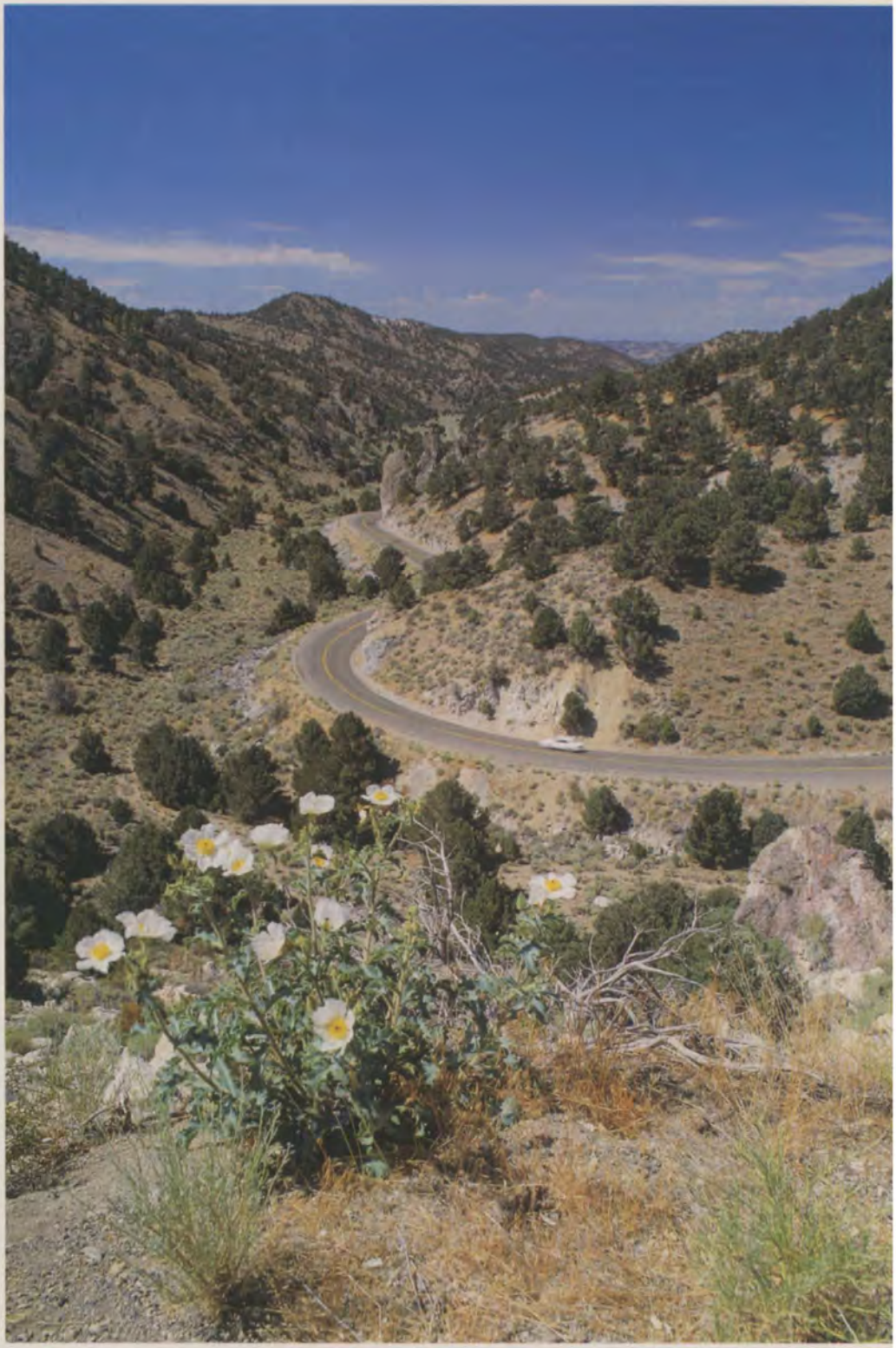
Reno-Tahoe Territory

Carson City C of C: 1900 S. Carson St., Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89701; www.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: 1513 Hwy. 395, Gardnerville, NV 89410-5283; www.carsonvalleynv.org; 775-782-8144 or 800-727-7677 in U.S.

Dayton Area C of C: 200-B Main St., Box 2408, Dayton,



Summit Scenery

Travelers will encounter a number of scenic summits while crossing Nevada. Here, Carroll Summit on State Route 722 between Eastgate and Austin has motorists climbing to 7,452 feet before descending into a valley and reaching the next summit, Railroad Pass at 6,431 feet.

Photo: Carolyn Fox

NV 89403; www.daytonnvchamber.org; 775-246-7909.

Greater Reno-Sparks C of C: 1 E. First St., Reno, NV 89501; 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 for travel information.

Lake Tahoe, Incline Village/Crystal Bay Visitors 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., Box 884, Tahoe City, CA 96145; www.tahoefun.org; 530-581-6900.

North Lake Tahoe Resort Association: 245 North Lake Blvd., Box 5459, Tahoe City, CA 96145; www.tahoefun.org; 530-583-3494 or 800-824-6348.

Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority: 4590 S. Virginia St., Box 837, Reno, NV 89504; www.renolaketahoe.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., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; www.tahoeinfo.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; 195 Hwy. 50 at Round Hill, Zephyr Cove; www.tahoe chamber.org; 775-588-4591.

Virginia City C of C: 131 S. C St., Virginia City, NV 89440; www.virginiacity-nv.com; 775-847-0311.

Cowboy Country

Battle Mountain C of C: Box 333, Battle Mountain, NV 89820; 775-635-8245.

Elko C of C: 1405 Idaho St., Elko, NV 89801; www.elko nevada.com; 775-738-7135.

Elko Convention and Visitors Authority: 700 Moren Way, Elko, NV 89801; www. elkocva.com; 775-738-4091, 800-248-3556 outside Nevada.

Jarbidge Community Association: Trading Post, 72 Main St., Box 260072, Jarbidge, NV 89826; 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: 395 Sixth St., Box 615, Wells, NV 89835; www. wellsnv.com; 775-752-3540.

Winnemucca C of C: 30 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; www.winnemucca-nv.org; 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, Lander County Courthouse, Austin, NV 89310; 775-964-2200.

Ely's Bristlecone Convention Center: 150 Sixth St., Box 958, Ely, NV 89301; www.elynevada.net; 775-289-3720.

Eureka County C of C: 111 N. Main St., Box 1078, Eureka, NV 89316; 775-237-5484.

Fallon Convention and Tourism Authority: 100 Campus Way, Fallon, NV 89406; 775-423-4556 or 800-874-0903. www. fallontourism.com

Fernley C of C: 70 N. West St., Box 1606, Fernley, NV 89408; www.fernleynevada.net; 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; 775-423-2544.

Silver Springs EDASS (Econ. Dev. Authority of Silver Springs): Box 269, Silver Springs, NV 89429; 775-577-2069.

White Pine Chamber of Commerce: 636 Aultman, Ely, NV 89301; www.elynevada.net; 775-289-8877.

Pioneer Territory

Amargosa C of C: HCR 69-2, Box 401W, Amargosa, NV 89020; www.amargosavalley.com; 775-372-1515.

Beatty C of C: 119 E. Main St., Box 956, Beatty, NV 89003; www.governet.net/nv/as/bea; 775-553-2424.

Caliente C of C: Depot Building, Box 553, Caliente, NV 89008; 775-726-3129.

Gabbs Information: 509 Main St., Box 176, Gabbs, NV 89409; 775-285-4019.

Goldfield C of C: Box 219, Goldfield, NV 89013; Web site: members.xcom.com/gfldchamber; 775-485-3560.

Greater Smoky Valley C of C: State Route 376 at Carver's, Box 1977, Round Mountain, NV 89045; 775-377-2490.

Lincoln County C of C: Box 915, Panaca, NV 89042; www.lincolncountynevada.com; 775-728-4282.

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 St., Box 1635, Hawthorne, NV 89415; www.mineralcountynvchamber.org; 775-945-5896.

Pahranagat Valley Chamber of Commerce: Box 421, Alamo, NV 89001; 775-725-3483.

Pahrump Valley C of C: 1301 Hwy 160, Box 42, Pahrump, NV 89041; www.pahrumpchamber.com; 775-727-5800.

Pioche C of C: Box 127, Pioche, NV 89043; 775-962-5544.

Tonopah C of C: 301 Brougher Ave., Box 869, Tonopah, NV 89049; www.tonopahnevada.com; 775-482-3859 for Tonopah information.

Tonopah Convention Center: Box 408, 301 Brougher Ave., Tonopah, NV 89049; www.tonopahnevada.com; 775-482-3558.

Indian Territory

Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada: 680 Greenbrae Dr., No. 265, Sparks, or Box 7440, Reno, NV 89510; 775-355-0600.

Indian Territory: Nevada Commission on Tourism, 401 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701; www.travelnevada. com; 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: Nevada Hwy. 488, 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 S. Curry St., Carson City, NV 89710; www.state.nv.us/stparks; 775-687-4370.

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area: HCR 33, Box 5500, Las Vegas, NV 89124; www.redrockcanyon.blm.gov; 702-363-1921.

More Outdoor Activities

Bicycling in Nevada: Nevada Department of Transportation: 1263 S. Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89712; www. bicyclenevada.com; 775-888-RIDE.

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 office: 1100 Valley Rd., Reno, NV 89512; www.nevadadivisionofwildlife.org; 775-688-1500; Southern Nevada: 4747 W. Vegas Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89108; 702-486-5127.

Pyramid Lake Fisheries: Star Route, Sutcliffe, NV 89510; www.pyramidlakefisheries.org; 775-476-0500 for Pyramid Lake Fisheries information.

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.

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Dining Directory

The following Nevada dining directory includes current magazine advertisers. Each listing gives sample dishes, whether breakfast, lunch, and dinner (B, L, D) are served. 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. Major credit cards are accepted at the restaurants unless otherwise noted.

Las Vegas Area

AMERICAN

Imperial Palace/Betty's Diner—794-3261. Shakes, malts, sundaes, sandwiches, soup, bakery. B, L, D. $.

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

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

Imperial Palace/Imperial Buffet—794-3261. Prime rib and champagne dinner nightly at the Imperial Buffet. B, L, D. $.

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

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

Ramada Express/Station Cafe—298-4200. L, D. $.

Riviera/Kady's Coffee Shop—794-9403. Coffee shop selections. B, L, D. $-$$.

ASIAN

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

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

INTERNATIONAL

Riviera Hotel/Mardi Gras Food Court—734-5110. Nine quick-service eateries featuring international cuisine. B, L, D. $, no credit cards.

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

ITALIAN

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

Riviera Hotel/Ristorante Italiano—794-9363. Lobster Francaise, fresh seafood. D. $-$$$.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

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

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

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

Laughlin

AMERICAN

Flamingo Laughlin/Flamingo Diner—298-5042. Deluxe sandwiches, New York steak, omelets, malts and shakes. B, L, D. $.

Flamingo Laughlin/Fruit Basket Buffet—298-5042. Beef, fish, chicken. B, L, D. $.

Ramada Express/Carnegie's 24-Hour Dining Car—298-6231. Dine in a detailed reproduction of a railroad dining car. Extensive menu. B, L, D. $.

Ramada Express/Roundhouse Buffet—298-4200. The buffet presents more than 100 items, including a carving station. B, L, D. $.

Ramada Express/Under the Stairs Cafe—298-4200. Sandwiches, hot dogs, salads, shrimp cocktail, pastries. B, L, D. $.

Ramada Express/Station Cafe—298-4200. L, D. $.

CONTINENTAL

Flamingo Laughlin/Alta Villa—298-5042. Pepper crusted fillet mignon, shrimp capellini pomodoro, linguini frutta di mare. D. $$.

ITALIAN

Ramada Express/Passaggio Italian Gardens—298-4200. Chef Rafi's Italian-with-attitude variations. Homemade pastas and pizzas. D. $.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

Edgewater/Hickory Pit Steak House—298-2453. Steak, seafood, prime rib, barbecue ribs and chicken. D. $$.

Flamingo Laughlin/Beef Baron—298-5042. Steak, chicken, ribs, select prime rib. D. $$.

Ramada Express/The Steakhouse—298-4200. Specializing in flame-broiled meats. D. $$.

Reno-Carson Area

AMERICAN

Best Western Piñon Plaza Resort/Branding Iron Cafe and Margarita Saloon—Carson City, 885-9000. Western favorites at moderate prices. B, L, D. $-$$.

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

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

Carson Station/Station Grill and Rotisserie—Carson City, 883-8400. Baby back ribs, fish specials. L, D. $-$$.

Carson Station/Station Restaurant—Carson City, 883-0900. Homestyle cooking. B, L, D. $.

Carson Valley Inn/Fiona's—Minden, 783-6650. Steaks, seafood, and nightly specials. D, $$.

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. $-$$.

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

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Farm House Coffee Shop—Sparks, 356-3300. Old-fashioned home cooking, omelettes, pancakes, and fried chicken. B, L, D. $.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Gabe's Pub and Deli—Sparks, 356-3300. Quick-service deli offers snacks, sandwiches, desserts, pastries. B, L, D. $.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/General Store—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, seafood Louis, Golden Rooster Room fried chicken. B, L, D. $.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Rotisserie—Sparks, 356-3300. Buffet, Sunday brunch. B, L, D. $-$$.



Kristofer's Steak House offers steaks, seafood, and a Mediterranean atmosphere at the Riviera.

Peppermill/Food Court—Reno, 826-2121. Mexican, Asian, Italian, hamburgers, and salad bar. B, L, D. $.

Peppermill/Island Buffet—Reno, 826-2121. Chicken, seafood, prime rib, salads. B, L, D. $.

Peppermill/Peppermill Restaurant—Reno, 826-2121. Hamburgers, salads, seafood, chicken. B, L, D. $-$$.

Silver Club/Town Square Restaurant—Sparks, 358-4771. Breakfast served all day. B, L, D. $-$$.

Silver Club/Port of Subs Deli—Sparks, 358-4771. Fresh deli sandwiches. B, L, D. $.

ASIAN

Eldorado/Golden Fortune—Reno, 786-5700. Hong Kong-style cuisine. D. $$.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Trader Dick's—Sparks, 356-3300. Cashew chicken, Szechwan specialties, flaming dagger brochette. L, D. $$.

BASQUE

Louis' Basque Corner—301 E. Fourth St., Reno, 323-7203. Sweetbreads, tripe, paella, other seafood dishes, served family-style. L, D. $$.

BREW PUBS

Eldorado/The Brew Brothers—Reno, 786-5700. Gourmet pizzas, ribs, barbecue shrimp, and sausages at the brew pub. L, D. $.

CONTINENTAL

Peppermill/White Orchid—Reno, 826-2121. Filet mignon, seared ahi, medallions of elk, lobster. D. $$$-$$$$.

INTERNATIONAL

Eldorado/Roxy—Reno, 786-5700. Gourmet dishes include Chilean sea bass with Yukon gold potatoes and creamed spinach. D. $$.

Eldorado/Chefs Buffet—Reno, 786-5700. USDA prime rib, homemade pastas, Mongolian grill, salad bar, dessert bar. B, L, D. $.

Eldorado/Choices—Reno, 786-5700. Deli, espresso bar, bakery, Asian Noodle Kitchen. B, L, D. $.
Eldorado/Tivoli Gardens—Reno, 786-5700. Multi-ethnic, 24-hour restaurant. B, L, D. $.

ITALIAN

Eldorado/La Strada—Reno, 786-5700. Northern Italian cuisine featuring a variety of veal, chicken, and seafood entrees. Award-winning wine list. D. $$.
Peppermill/Romanza Ristorante Italiano—826-2121. Osso Bucco Alla Romanza, Salmone Affumicato con fettuccini nere alla vodka, costolette D'Agnello, ravioli di zucchine dolci. D. $$.
Silver Club/Anna Maria's—Sparks, 358-4771. Italian cuisine served in a casual setting. D. $-$$.

MEDITERRANEAN

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Restaurante Orozko—Sparks, 356-3300. Veal medallions saltimbocca, braised lamb shank, paella valenciana. D. $$-$$$.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

Best Western Piñon Plaza Resort/ Steakhouse—Carson City, 885-9000. Specialties include Southwestern shrimp, rack of lamb dijonaise, six cuts of steak. D. $$.
Carson Nugget/Oyster Bar—Carson City, 882-1626. Clam chowder, fish and chips, salmon burgers, pan roasts. L, D. $.
Carson Nugget/Steak House—Carson City, 882-1626. Veal scaloppini, scampi in dill sauce. D. $$.
Eldorado/The Grill Steakhouse—Reno, 786-5700. Prime rib, seafood, and grilled entrees. Exhibition-style kitchen. D. $$.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/Oyster Bar—Sparks, 356-3300. Lazyman's cioppino, seafood stews. L, D. $$.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/Steak House—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, steak, and lobster. L, D. $$.
Peppermill/Steak House—Reno, 826-2121. Steaks, seafood, chicken, salads. D. $$$-$$$$.
Silver Club/Victoria's—Sparks, 358-4771. Steak, prime rib, poultry, pasta, and seafood. D. $-$$.

Lake Tahoe

AMERICAN

Caesars Tahoe/Cafe Roma—Stateline, 588-3515. Lamb chops, prime rib. B, L, D. $-$$.

ASIAN

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

ITALIAN

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

STEAK & SEAFOOD

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

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. $-$$$.
PAHRUMP: Saddle West Hotel/Silver Spur—727-1111. T-bone steak dinner. Filet mignon and lobster, chicken cordon bleu, 8 oz. swordfish dinners. B, L, D. $.
WINNEMUCCA: Model T/Casino Restaurant—623-2588. Chicken strips, chicken-fried steak, prime rib special, ribeye steak, fried prawns. B, L, D. $.





A Fab Show

Is Rain's Beatles tribute worth a ticket to ride? Yeah, yeah, yeah.

By Denise Sloan



"Yeah! Yeah! Yeah! A Tribute to the Beatles" stars (clockwise from left) Joe Bithorn as George Harrison, Joe Curatolo as Paul McCartney, Steve Landes as John Lennon, and Ralph Castelli as Ringo Starr.

Rain, the Fab Four tribute band that has played lounges on the Silver Circuit for 20 years, has returned to Harrah's Lake Tahoe with "Yeah! Yeah! Yeah! A Tribute to the Beatles." This is not just Rain performing its regular show—which is well done—but a major production that recalls life in America in the 1950s, '60s, and '70s.

While guests are seated and drinks served, three theater-size video screens show newsreel footage and trivia questions that take you back to an era that spanned JFK and Ravi Shankar, bobby sox and bell bottoms, hula hoops and VW bugs. That's when the Beatles changed rock 'n' roll. But even non-Beatles fans can get caught up in the reverie, says Mark Lewis, Rain's founder. "People who are Beatles fans go nuts," he says. "And those who could take them or leave them are going to leave our show as Beatles fans."

This production expands Rain's usual show into a full-blown, multimedia Beatles extravaganza by using sets, videos, and lots of costume changes. Dressed in black Beatles suits with bowl-shaped haircuts, Rain begins with a medley of "Ticket to Ride," "Hard Day's Night," "I Want to Hold Your Hand," and other early hits that launched the British Invasion. Video screens show Chuck Berry concerts, vintage television commercials, and footage of President John F. Kennedy.

Paul McCartney is performed by Joe Curatolo, who plays bass, piano, and guitar. At 17 he won a sound-alike contest at Beatlefest in New York City. He performed in the Broadway show "Beatlemania" and joined Rain in 1982. Lead guitarist Joe Bithorn portrayed George Harrison in "Beatlemania" on the road for two years and joined Rain with Curatolo. Ringo Starr impersonator Ralph Castelli, an original cast member of "Beatlemania" in Los Angeles, performed in the motion picture. Steve Landes portrays John Lennon. Besides taking turns with Curatolo on most of the lead vocals, Landes plays rhythm guitar, piano, and harmonica. Lewis adds the keyboard and percussion sounds the Beatles used in recordings.

Rain brings the greatest Beatles tunes back to life—"A Day in the Life," "Back in the USSR," "Yesterday," "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," and songs from "Abbey Road." Another element of the show gets the audience involved. A live camera scans the showroom, and the video is interspersed with crowd shots from Beatles concerts. When the camera pans a section of the Soouth Shore Room audience, everyone claps, dances, and raises arms in a group wave.

"Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!" recaptures the Beatles' era with delightful results. From the earliest performances on *The Ed Sullivan Show* to their last album, this production covers it all with creativity and twists that are too clever to give away.

Show Notes

"Yeah! Yeah! Yeah! A Tribute to The Beatles" starring Rain appears 8 p.m. nightly except Tuesdays and Fridays in the South Shore Room at Harrah's Lake Tahoe. The show runs through March 31 and plays again May 22 to September 15. Tickets are $29 for adults and $19 for children 12 and under. For reservations call 800-HARRAHS.

Denise Sloan is entertainment and food editor for the Tahoe Daily Tribune. *She saw the Beatles twice in San Francisco in the 1960s.*

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Frond Memories

The upscale Palms offers an increasingly rare event: a Las Vegas resort opening.

By Deke Castleman

A dog year is commonly believed to be the equivalent of seven human years. Likewise, a year's worth of Las Vegas hotel developments could be the equivalent of seven years in any other city in the land. That's why the debut of the Palms Casino Resort in November was so eagerly anticipated: The Palms was the city's first major resort opening in 15 months—almost 10 years in "human" terms.

The $265-million resort is located on West Flamingo, down the block from the Rio and across the street from the Gold Coast, about a mile west of the Strip. The Palms was built by the Maloof family, owners of the Sacramento Kings basketball team. The Maloofs opened the Fiesta in North Las Vegas in 1994 and sold it to Station Casinos six years later.

The Maloofs' new hotel boasts 455 oversized guest rooms, seven eateries and a food court, three bars and a nightclub, a 14-plex movie theater, pool and spa, Kids Quest childcare center—and some slot machines and table games, too.

The hotel's Polynesian theme is understated, even abstract. More noticeable is the Palms' trendiness, designed, it seems, for an affluent Southern California Gen X and Boomer crowd. The literal highlight is the Ghostbar at the top of the hotel tower, affording a panoramic overlook of the city. On the outdoor patio there's a plexiglas window in the floor that, being the only thing between you and a ground-level parking lot, causes the best—or worst, depending on your perspective—case of vertigo in Nevada. (One wonders what the many people who jump up and down on it hope to accomplish!)

In Palapa, the casino-floor lounge, bands play nightly; patrons usually fill the small dance floor. Rain in the Desert, the Palms' nightclub, has louder music, a bigger dance floor, and a younger crowd.

Among the restaurants, the Nine steakhouse (of Chicago fame) has received initial raves, in part for its round champagne and caviar bar. Alizé, a creation of pioneering Las Vegas restaurateur Andre Rochat, offers gourmet French cuisine on the top floor. The excellent Fantasy Market Buffet is a bargain at $6.99 for lunch and $9.99 for dinner, especially considering the meat-heavy menu, Middle Eastern station, and Mongolian grill. Other dining options include Little Buddha (of Paris fame) for Pacific Rim cuisine and sushi, Garduños for Mexican food, and the Blue Agave Oyster and Chile Bar. The food court has a Garduños Express, Panda Express, and Regina's Pizza (of Boston fame).

The Palms was one of two Vegas-area openings in late 2001; Green Valley Ranch Station Casino in Henderson debuted a month later. However, the next resort on the Las Vegas horizon, Steve Wynn's Le Reve, isn't scheduled to be completed until 2004. Unless a surprise resort is built before then, Las Vegas is in for the equivalent of half a lifetime without a grand opening.



The Palms has a trendy, somewhat retro design and atmosphere. At right, the Ghostbar's observation deck offers views of the Las Vegas Strip and a floor window (visible at rear center) that is sure to induce vertigo.

Palms Readings

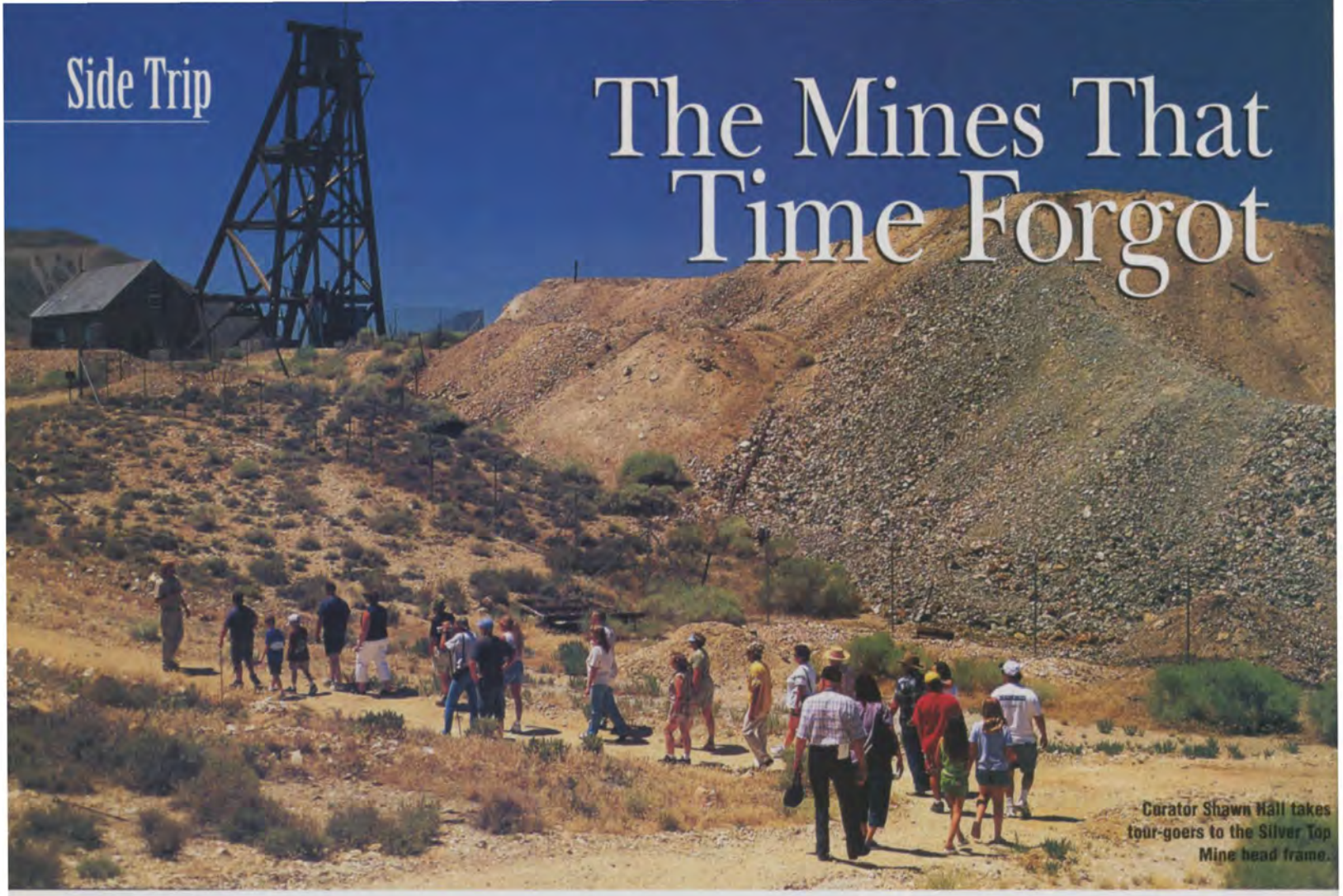
The Palms Casino Resort, located at 4321 West Flamingo Road at Royal Flush Way in Las Vegas, has 455 rooms and suites. Room rates vary widely depending on the season and day of the week; rates generally average $100. Call 866-PALMS-RES or visit www.palms.com for further information.

Deke Castleman is senior editor of the Las Vegas Advisor *and author of* Las Vegas.

Photo: Gene Hertzog (top)

Side Trip

The Mines That Time Forgot



Curator Shawn Hall takes tour-goers to the Silver Top Mine head frame.

The Tonopah Historic Mining Park is so well preserved it looks as if the miners just got off shift. **By Mark Mallicoat**

Driving home to the Bay Area after attending last winter's Mining Artifact Collectors Meet in Tucson, my friends and I decide to stop at Tonopah. Known as the Queen of the Silver Camps, Tonopah bustled with mining activity in the early 1900s. We're here to tour the town's mining park, and I can hardly wait for Shawn Hall, the manager and curator, to open the gate.

The Tonopah Historic Mining Park takes in 130 acres and the workings of five of the district's biggest producers. My eyes are bugging out of my head. We gaze upon acres of mine buildings, dumps, equipment, head frames, hoisting works. It's a trip back in time, mining history saved from the wrecker's ball.

We join Shawn in the visitor center, which once was an assay lab and powerhouse. We inspect the historical photos, mining displays, hundreds of old carbide lamps, and mining books and mineral specimens for sale.

Shawn gives us a map of the park, and we begin our tour, free to explore the area while enjoying a first-hand look at an early-1900s mining operation. Artifacts are displayed in their original settings. Instead of an ore car hidden in a small shed, several cars sit on the trestle leading to the grizzly, an ore-sorting house. Miners' cages are still attached to the flat-wire ropes of the head frames, ready to descend the shafts. A century after mining began in this area, much of the park looks as if the miners have just got off shift and their equipment is right where they left it.

We visit the Silver Top Mine first. From the distance we can see the hoisting works, the head frame, and several buildings. Inside the hoisting works, all of the equipment is in place; the only thing missing is the engineer to run the hoist. With every step, I think about the hundreds of miles of tunnels beneath me, knowing that many of them are well preserved because of the dry desert air and the lack of water in the shafts.

We hike over to the Mizpah Mine, and again I am in awe of what lies before us. The Mizpah is considerably larger than the Silver Top and boasts a steel head frame as complete as the day the miners stepped out of the cages. Here, too, the wire rope from the head



Ore cars sit on tracks leading to the grizzly, where the ore was sorted.

Photos: Jim Galli (top), Larry Angier (bottom)

frame still extends into the hoisting works. The Mizpah's well-preserved office is open for inspection, as are several supply buildings. A few minutes' hike takes us up the hill to the head frame, shaft, and hoisting works of the Desert Queen.

The mines from this district produced more than five million tons of ore in the early 1900s. At today's market, the value of the precious metals produced would be in excess of $1,200,000,000 and a few pennies—and there were no taxes then. Tonopah's heyday lasted from 1905 to 1920. After the boom, mining continued to be profitable until about 1930, and some companies ran on a smaller scale until World War II. By 1948 the end had come. Jim Butler, who is credited with discovering the ore that led to Tonopah's establishment in 1900, must be smiling down on the town today since the mining park is located on his original claims.

The Tonopah Historic Mining Park is constantly being expanded, and several projects are in the works. Last summer a bridge was built over a 500-foot open mine, allowing visitors to view the exposed shaft below. Shawn tells us there are plans to make portions of the underground areas open to the public. Visitors will be able to see the square-set timbering and get a feel for what it was like to work underground 100 years ago. You can bet I'll be back for that excursion.

Tonopah's Mining Park

The Tonopah Historic Mining Park is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday from October 1 to March 31, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily April 1 to September 30; it's closed on federal holidays. Bus tours are welcome. Visitors may contact Shawn Hall, the park's manager-curator, at 775-482-9274, www.tonopahnevada.com, or Box 965, Tonopah, NV 89049. The park is a nonprofit agency and welcomes donations of mining-related items, large or small. The Central Nevada Museum in Tonopah also has many good mining artifacts. Tonopah offers several motels, casinos, restaurants, and a historical walking tour. For more information call 877-866-6724 or visit www.tonopahnevada.com.



Mark Mallicoat, a contributor to the International California Mining Journal, *collects mining artifacts and manages his family contracting business in the San Francisco Bay Area.*





Visitors stand on an iron-mesh bridge and look down a 500-foot mine shaft. At top, the Silver Top Mine head frame and hoisting works and Tonopah's skyline can be seen from the park's visitor center.

Photos: Jim Galli



Louis' Basque Corner: "I think what interested me were the signs. And the façade of the building was so plain, yet the windows said something. I had to angle the hotel sign a bit to read it."



St. Mary's in the Mountains: "I saw this Virginia City scene in a travelogue film I created for the convention authority. I packed up my camera, got the same view, and came back to the studio to paint it."

Roy Powers

A retired Reno marketing director returns to his first love, painting.

When Roy Powers retired in 1998, he could have paused a moment to reflect on a life filled with professional success and head to the nearest golf course. Instead, he was well into his second career as a painter.

After joining Reno's Thomas C. Wilson Advertising Agency in 1949, Powers went on to become the marketing guru for the Riverside Hotel, Harolds Club, the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority, and other companies. He served on the boards of many civic groups. Faced with the demands of family and work, Powers left behind his first love, painting.

But in 1975 he returned to his easel. "It was gnawing away at me," he says. "I decided to give it a shot. I read and studied and brought home how-to books and played with different media—pencil, pen and ink, watercolor, and then finally decided on acrylic."

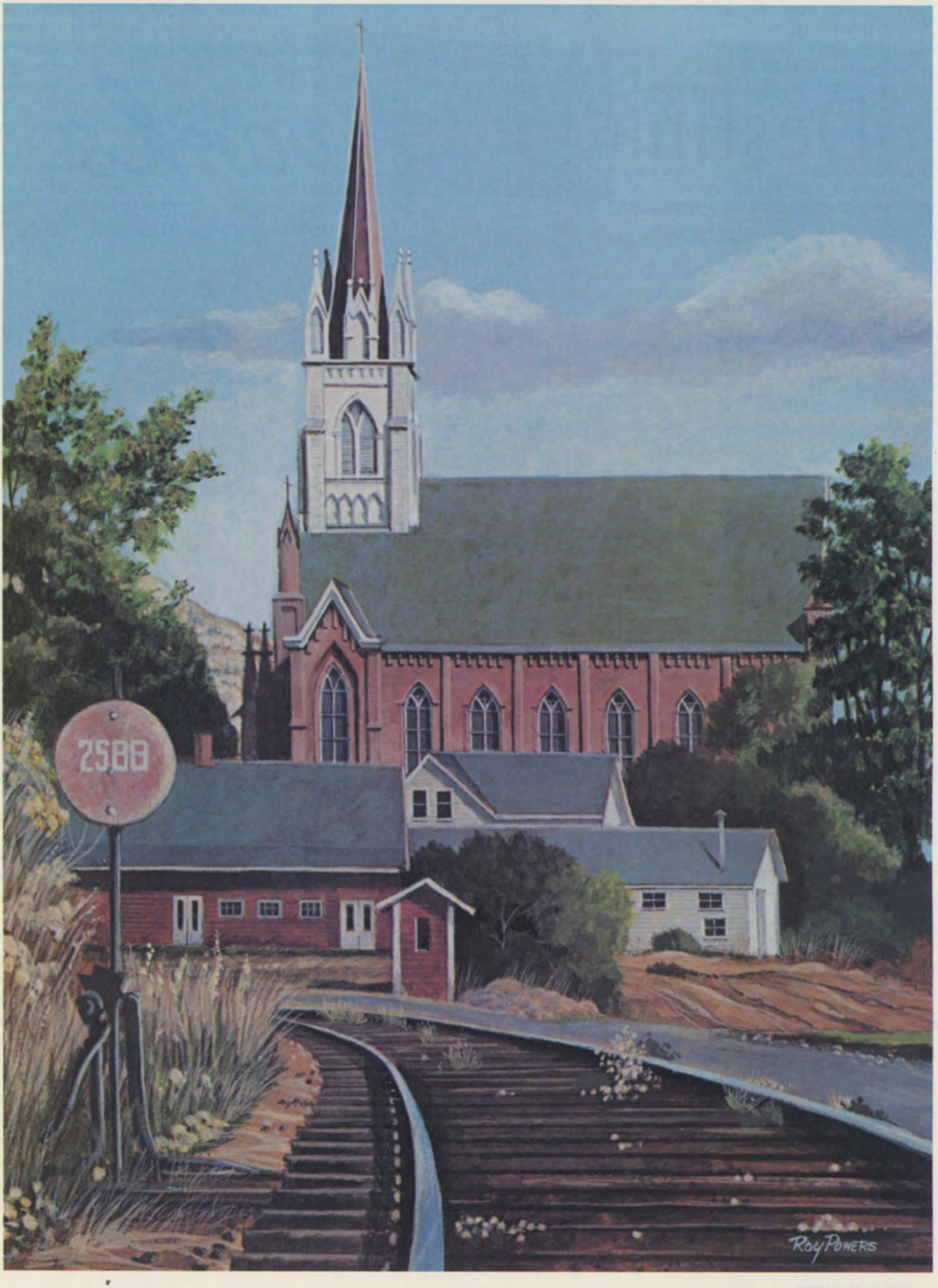
Powers began painting some of Reno's landmark buildings, such as the Lander Street Grocery and Morrill Hall at the University of Nevada. He sold his first paintings for as little as $100. "A few people were brave enough to buy some," he says. "Then all of a sudden, it mushroomed." The 79-year-old artist now paints full time, commanding $500 to $3,500 per painting and $75 for a print.

At first glance, his detailed paintings appear to be photographs. But look closely and you'll see Powers has only hinted at the brickwork on a wall or exaggerated the shadows. He featured 47 works in his first solo exhibition, "A Reunion of Landmarks: The Paintings of Roy Powers," held at the Nevada Historical Society in Reno last fall. His paintings and limited-edition prints are displayed at Powers FrameWorks, a frame shop Powers and his wife, Jackie, operate at Franktown Corners in Reno.

"I'm just so pleased this has worked out," Powers says. "It's given me a whole new fountain of youth."

The only trouble is, a backlog of commissions keeps him off the golf course.

—Joyce Hollister


2588
Roy Powers

Destination: Sparks



Fred Cornelius Photography/Sparks Redevelopment Agency (3)

Joyce Hollister

The rib cook-off draws crowds to Victorian Square on Labor Day weekend. Nearby, a historic locomotive is on display (left). Sparks Marina Park offers water sports (right).

Many visitors know **Victorian Square** in Sparks as a festive headquarters for events like the Sparks Hometowne Farmer's Market and the Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-off. Other times, guests at nearby casinos are pleased to discover the square's fountains, trees, and flowers as they stroll the avenue or relax on a park bench.

Victorian Square, the rejuvenated town center of Sparks, is located three miles east of downtown Reno next to Interstate 80 and bordered on its south side by **Victorian Avenue** and **John Ascuaga's Nugget**. The square was the Sparks Redevelopment Agency's first project in the late 1980s. Casinos, shops, a museum, a visitor center, and the art deco-styled 14-plex Century Sparks Theater anchor the plaza, where events take place throughout the year.

"Victorian Square is really the heart of the city," says June Palmer, special projects superintendent for the agency. "It's the community gathering place."

In the early 1900s Sparks was an instant city, created when the Southern Pacific Railroad moved its division point 30 miles west from Wadsworth. Offices and repair shops were constructed at the company's new town site. Workers' homes in Wadsworth were placed on flatcars and carried to the new community beginning in 1903. The town, named after Governor John Sparks, was formally established in 1905.

Sparks officials plan a gala centennial celebration in 2005, and Victorian Square is sure to host many of the festivities. The downtown square offers a bandstand, amphitheater, and the **Sparks Chamber of Commerce's Visitors Center**, which displays a historic locomotive, caboose, and passenger cars. The nearby **Sparks Heritage Museum** tells the railroad history of Sparks and is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday to Friday and 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Dating from the 1860s, the restored **Glendale School House** was moved to the square, and guided tours can be arranged by calling 775-355-1144. In good weather, visitors enjoy the plaza's interactive fountain and nearby outdoor cafes.

John Ascuaga's Nugget, the **Silver Club**, the

Mint, **Western Village**, **Rail City**, **Baldini's**, the soon-to-be-opened **Duke's**, and other casinos present 24-hour Nevada-style gambling, entertainment, and dining on the square or in other parts of Sparks. Many restaurants and shopping malls in Sparks cater to out-of-town folks as well as residents.

The **Sparks Marina Park**, 300 Howard Drive off North McCarran Boulevard, beckons visitors with fishing, boating (only low-speed motor boats), and swimming and offers sandy beaches, volleyball courts, playgrounds, picnic tables, and group areas. The city and the Sparks Chamber of Commerce host events at the marina, a former gravel pit now filled with nearly one billion gallons of water. Sparks operates 31 parks and welcomes out-of-town softball teams at tournaments spring through fall.

The city also bills itself as the **Gateway to Pyramid Lake**, which is 28 miles north on State Route 445. Closer to town, via exit 20 on Interstate 80, is **Wild Island Family Adventure Park**, a large water park with miniature golf, two race tracks, bumper cars, and a game center. Golfers can play championship links at **Wildcreek Golf Course**, **D'Andrea Golf Club**, and **Red Hawk Golf Club**.

City and casino events bring tourists and dollars into the community. About 280,000 people visited Victorian Square last year during the Nugget's rib cook-off on Labor Day weekend, and nearly 10,000 people visited the 2001 Farmer's Market, held every Thursday for 10 weeks during the summer.

"What we wanted to do as a community," Palmer says, "was to find an appeal and establish an atmosphere—one that is clean and safe and enjoyable—and visitors will come back and tell other people about it."

Special Events in Sparks

Mutt Strut: The Nevada Humane Society's dog walk is slated for 9 a.m. June 1 at Sparks Marina Park. Proceeds benefit the society. Information: 775-331-5770.

Sparks Hometowne Farmer's Market: Growers from California's Central Valley sell produce 4 to 9 p.m. on Thursdays, June 13 to September 12, in Victorian Square. Chefs prepare dishes, and visitors can purchase ethnic dinners. A family activity center keeps kids happy, and bands play on the Great Basin Brewery stage. Information: 775-353-7857

Star Spangled Sparks: An old-fashioned July Fourth at Sparks Marina Park includes a volleyball tournament, crafts, food booths, and music. At 7 p.m. Victorian Square attractions include magicians, stiltwalkers, food, and drinks. Information: 775-358-1976. A 9:30 p.m. fireworks show is sponsored by John Ascuaga's Nugget. Information: 800-648-1177

The Big Easy: "Laissez les Bon Temps Rouler," French for "Let the Good Times Roll,"



The Farmer's Market is held at Victorian Square.

is the theme for the Victorian Square's July 12-14 Big Easy festival complete with daily Louisiana-style parades, dancing, and craft show, compliments of the Silver Club. The sounds of Cajun, Zydeco, Dixieland, and New Orleans rhythm and blues fill the square. Creole and Cajun dishes like gumbo, jambalaya, crayfish, and red beans and rice are served. Information: 775-358-4771

Hot August Nights: Hot rods and classic rock 'n' roll highlight activities held in Victorian Square on August 6-10. Crowds gather to view restored cars from the 1940s, '50s, and '60s and listen to live music played on the bandstand. Information: 775-356-1956.

Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-off: Chefs from around the country cook ribs following secret recipes and time-honored techniques on Labor Day weekend, August 29-September 2, in the square. Visitors vote on their favorites. Arts and crafts, roaming musicians, clowns, camel rides, face-painting, and entertainment are offered at the event sponsored by John Ascuaga's Nugget. Information: 800-648-1177

Sparks Turkey Trot: A 10K run and two-mile run or walk for families and their out-of-town guests take place at the Sparks Marina Park at 8:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Day, November 28. Participants earn sweatshirts and indulge in refreshments. Information: 775-353-7835.

Sparks Hometowne Christmas: A parade, hot chocolate, cookies, and hot roasted chestnuts followed by holiday singing are offered free beginning at 12:30 p.m. on December 7 in Victorian Square. The community Christmas tree is lit at 5:15 p.m. Sparks' sister city, Garibaldi, Oregon, provides the 60-foot tree. Information: 775-353-7857

Concerts in the Park: Call the Sparks Parks and Recreation Department, 775-353-7835, for a summer schedule.

Sparks Information: Call the Sparks Chamber of Commerce Tourist Information Center, 775-358-1976, for help with travel planning. Visit www.ci.sparks.nv.us for information about Sparks events and attractions. The 92-year-old *Sparks Tribune*, 775-358-8061 covers the area's news, events, sports, and other activities.—*Joyce Hollister*



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When Lizzie Baymer raced her bicycle in Eureka, the mining town had 4,200 residents, nearly 10 times its present population. This view dates from about 1885.

The Cycling Seamstress

(Continued from page 17)

town druggist, loaned her his bike, but it was not in good repair, and after two more falls she retired for the evening. What a disastrous beginning to her engagement! Thus Patsy Green won the race, covering 15 miles in two hours and 50 minutes. In that time Lizzie was able to cover only 16-5/6 miles instead of her 25-mile goal.

The Saturday noon race pitted Lizzie against a local runner. Her goal was to cycle 75 miles in 12 hours while James O'Brien would try to run 10 miles to her last 11. Afterwards, the *Sentinel* reported that because "Eureka Hall, giving 36 laps to the mile, is the smallest room in which a bicyclist ever attempted to make a record in regard to speed, the remarkable time in which Miss Baymer covered 76 miles is something to wonder at." She had completed 76 miles, instead of the promised 75, in 11 hours, with seven hours, 47 minutes actual running time and three hours, 13 minutes off the track. "The above score," stated the *Sentinel*, "is something remarkable, and it is the best time that has ever been made by a bicyclist, male or female, in a hall of this size." O'Brien was complimented for completing his 10 miles only eight laps behind Lizzie despite the fact that he was ill.

The climax of Miss Baymer's engagement was a 100-mile race against O'Brien on May 15. She would ride 100 miles while O'Brien walked and ran 60 miles, all in 13 hours. The *Sentinel* announced that pools on the race would be sold the night before at the International Saloon by auctioneer Frank Keelar, noting, "It will be a fine chance for speculation, as it will be a close race." In defeating O'Brien, Lizzie cycled 100 miles in 12 hours and nine minutes, while the runner, in the same amount of time, missed his goal by less than three miles. The management had provided its promised entertainment, and attendance was good.

> "The remarkable time in which Miss Baymer covered 76 miles is something to be wondered at."

What became of Lizzie Baymer and Eureka following her visit in May 1880? That August Eureka suffered a disastrous fire, and Eureka Hall, where Lizzie performed, was destroyed. Eureka City Park now occupies the site. But despite fires, mine closings, and the passage of time, one can stroll through Eureka today and imagine what the town was like when Lizzie appeared there. Located on U.S. 50, Eureka (population 520) is a community proud of its heritage. Restorations include the 1877 Jackson House Hotel, the 1879 Eureka County Courthouse, and the 1880 Eureka Opera House, which was built on the foundation of the Odd Fellows Hall following the August 1880 fire. The 1879 *Eureka Sentinel* building now houses the town's museum. A self-guided walking tour takes visitors past many landmarks.

And what of Lizzie? She left behind little except a few photos of herself in racing attire and the scrapbook filled with news clippings and race programs. The clippings indicate that after her Eureka appearance she traveled to California towns like Chico and Marysville, giving trick-riding shows and racing. One story mentions a possible cross-country tour but provides no details.

In 1983 her great-nephew, the late Wheeler K. Hobbs of Stockton, California, donated the photos and a photocopy of the scrapbook to the Nevada Historical Society. Hobbs' son Russ, who lives in Stockton, says he knows no more about Lizzie than we do, except that she had five brothers and sisters, and he doesn't know where the original scrapbook is.

Although the rest of Lizzie's life is unknown to us, through her scrapbook we can share her excitement as she stepped off the train in a boisterous Nevada mining town and proceeded to cycle hundreds of miles on her "ordinary."

Sandra Sorensen, a retired Washoe County property appraiser who lives in Sparks, is a docent and part-time receptionist at the Nevada Historical Society in Reno. *Contact the Eureka Chamber of Commerce, Box 1078, Eureka, NV 89316, 775-237-5544, or the Eureka Opera House, 775-237-6006, for more information on Eureka attractions, services, and tours.*

Photo: Nevada Historical Society

Letters

(Continued from page 7)

relates to casino entertainment. Oh, well. We live in a very rural area, Jarbidge in "Cowboy Country," and have a problem with the state territories map that runs in the *Nevada Events and Shows* section.

Our town is not even on the map! Since we have the state's largest wilderness area, and the community hosts many activities throughout the year that are printed in the magazine, Jarbidge should be on the map.

Dot Creechly
Outdoor Inn
Jarbidge

Dot, thanks for your letter pointing out the attractions around Jarbidge. We've added Jarbidge (with only one "r") to the map in this issue's "Nevada Events" listing.—Ed.

Boaters, Buckle Up

There was a mention in the Sept/Oct *Nevada Magazine* that passengers on a moving watercraft in Nevada must wear life jackets. Being from out of state we need some clarification on this. For instance, does this include yachts, cabin cruisers, ski boats, and houseboats? We occasionally have people from our club who vacation and boat in your waters.

Cal Coie
Clover Island Yacht Club
Kennewick, WA

Cal, the item should have referred to personal watercraft. State boating law requires all occupants of personal watercraft, commonly known as jet skis, to wear Coast Guard-approved life jackets. They also must be worn by water-skiers and by all children under 12 on board a vessel under way unless in an enclosed cabin. See www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/nrs-488.html for further details.—Ed.

Saving Trains

I enjoy *Nevada Magazine* and have been a subscriber for many years. Way back in July/August '92 the magazine ran a wonderful piece by Gary Elam entitled "Saving the Trains." Since it has been a few years, I would like to see a followup, maybe in a summer issue?

L.J. Richards
Tucson, AZ

L.J., thanks for the suggestion. There may be a train story on track.—Ed.

How to Submit Letters: *Readers are encouraged to send letters regarding stories and photos in the magazine. Write "Letters to the Editor," Nevada Magazine, 401 N. Carson St., Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89701-4291. Fax 775-687-6159. E-mail editor@nevadamagazine.com.*

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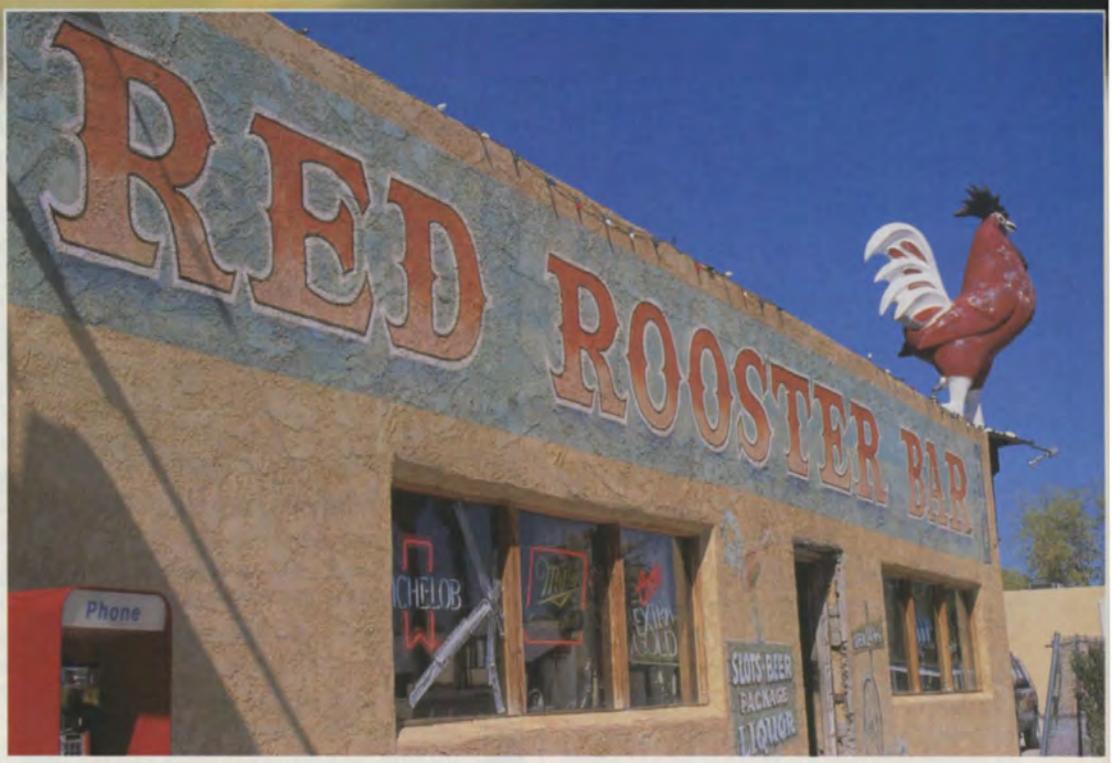
Overton Moods





Moapa Valley Neon: During their recent Southern Nevada travels, photographers Carolyn Fox and Larry Angier of Jackson, California, visited the Moapa Valley town of Overton. The travelers overnighted at the Overton Motel, "where friendly folks stay."

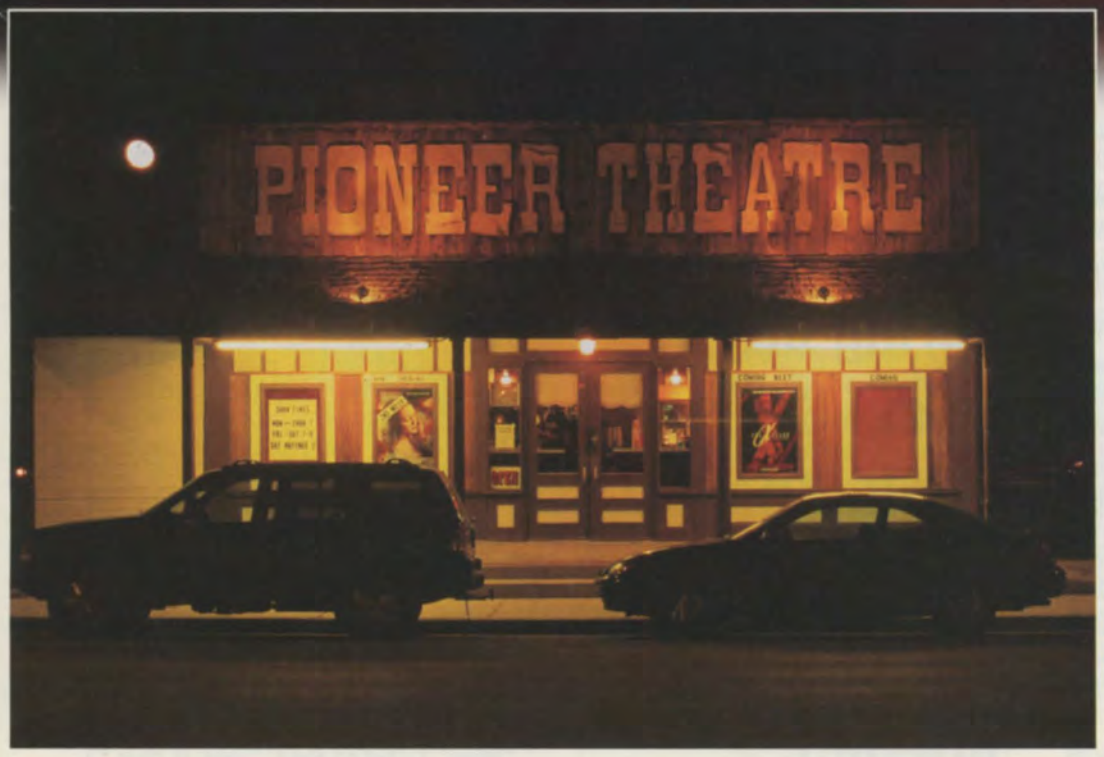
Crow Bar: The Red Rooster greets the morn on Moapa Valley Boulevard.



Photos: Carolyn Fox (top left and bottom right), Larry Angier (bottom left and top right)

Photos by Carolyn Fox & Larry Angier





Lake Mead Casting: The first night Fox and Angier noticed the reflections cast by the Sportsman's. Other retreats in Overton, where many residents are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, include a café, deli-ice cream shop, McDonald's, and the Lost City Museum.

Now Showing: *The Horse Whisperer* was playing at the Pioneer Theatre, a neighborly one-plex.



Race to Lye Creek

Memorial Day 1999 was warm in Northern Nevada. I stood on a ridge top, some of state's most beautiful wild country spread out at my feet. Indeed, few places are more scenic and less overrun than the northeast face of Granite Peak, a sentinel in the Santa Rosa Range.

Alas, my complaining body did not allow me to celebrate. Everything ached: my sea-level lungs, my back, my thighs. I doubled over, gasping, in an effort to suck in enough air to begin enjoying the view. Down the snow-covered slope I'd just climbed was a sort of consolation—the expression on my companion Paul Rehm's face. He was wheezing just as hard as I was.

Paul and I were ascending something mountaineers call a couloir—a steep, snow-filled gully—so we could have the intense pleasure of skiing back down. By our calculations the downhill ride would take about 10 minutes. Still, as my lungs finally began to work, I decided the two hours of uphill effort was worth it.

We thought we'd picked the perfect spring day to ski Granite Peak. Then we were pummeled by graupel.

We had picked Granite, a 9,732-foot peak 55 miles north of Winnemucca, after warm weather forced us to cancel our annual last-trip-of-the-season to New Hampshire's Mount Washington. The previous summer my wife and I had spent a week in the U.S. Forest Service's Lye Creek campground next to Granite and had been charmed by the place. Now I was about to see if the charm would hold in the off-season.

"So far, so good," I thought as I wiped sweat from my brow and contemplated the descent. It was steep and lush, surely as good as anything New Hampshire had to offer. The Forest Service rangers in Winnemucca had told us the weather might become "a little unstable," but I figured Nevada weather had to be a lot more stable than New England's.

"Wow," I said to Paul, "look at that." I pointed northwest across the Quinn River

Illustration: John Bardwell



By Charles Luce

Valley, which glowed tan under a hazy sun. Somehow my eyes skipped over a rack of gathering cumulus. "You can see all the way to Steens Mountain in Oregon."

"Look at that!" Paul responded, waving at the couloir at our feet. It was filled with soft, granular snow, the kind skiers affectionately call "corn."

My eyes followed his gestures. Neither of us had the presence of mind to think of anything else, like the weather. Instead, we peeled the climbing skins from our telemark skis and scootered to the edge. "You first," Paul insisted. "Just take some pictures of me coming down."

The snow was exquisitely textured, deliciously fast and maneuverable. I hop-turned to the bottom and then whirled around and raised my camera. "Funny," I thought as I set the lens, "there's not much light. You'd think in the mountains at noon with all this snow..." But Paul came whooping down the gully, and I forgot to follow the thought.

"Let's go up the next one, dude!" he yelled, pulling to a stop.

"OK," I agreed. "Look, if we drop off at the right place, we can keep going down that narrow finger of snow all the way to the creek." I pointed at a snowbank that led through an aspen forest to the stream a thousand feet below. Little did I guess that the narrow path would soon become a sanctuary.

We reattached our climbing skins and trudged up the mountain, moving toward a bigger and steeper couloir. This trip was turning out to be the perfect ski vacation. And I've always enjoyed spring skiing. It isn't so cold. The days are much longer than in winter. It isn't so cold. There is much less avalanche danger. It isn't so cold. And here, in the Great Basin, the solitude is intense, and the views are terrific.

Hearing something in the sky, I looked up. I noticed two cloud layers sliding in opposite directions. That couldn't be good. I looked back down the slope toward Paul. Fingers of fog were streaking up canyons, apparently aiming for Granite—and for us. I watched the tendrils begin a lazy spiral up, up, up.

Suddenly a flurry of ice pellets hit my head. I stared stupidly as the frozen globules bounced around us like little ping-pong balls. "Charles!" Paul shouted from below. "Graupel!" Graupel is a pre-hail ice formation. It's not a good sign. A basso profundo grumbling echoed directly above my head. "Oh, #@**&!" I muttered. As if the thunder gods had been insulted, they rolled in the heavens again. "Get down!" Paul shouted. "Down! Lie down!"

He needn't have shouted, for I had already dropped to the snow. The open slope was as exposed as a skinny dipper's butt. Lightning flashed in the gathering darkness. I knew my options were down to two: A) pray, or B) dig. I am not religious. I had no shovel. Suddenly I thought of option C. "Ski!" I said loudly and reached down to peel off my skins.

"Ditch your poles!" Paul shouted. Hell, they were worth $70! Instead of throwing the lightning-rod-like poles away, I dropped into a tuck and launched downhill. "Hey!" he yelled, but another blast from the heavens drowned his words. I wasn't listening anyway. I was heading for that slender finger of snow that led down to Lye Creek.

Moments later I skied past Paul, both poles in one hand, as if this somehow made me a less likely lightning target. "Lye Creek!" he shouted as I blasted past. "Hell, yes!" I said. "I'm gone!" I crested a rise in the snow, looking for that narrow finger. "Ka-boom!" A bolt slammed the ridge behind me. That snow strip below was awfully narrow—I wondered for a second if I could ski it safely. Something whipped into my peripheral vision. It was Paul, zooming past. "Go, dude!" he shouted.

Down we raced toward the forested valley. But when we ran out of snow in a dense aspen thicket, the storm was peaking. The sky flickered green and blue, thunder snapped and pounded, and the graupel assault was drenching. "We've gotta bail our metal," Paul yelled. "Right!" I agreed. We jumped out of our bindings and heaved skis, poles, and metal-stayed backpacks into the brush and dove onto our stomachs.

As the thunder rolled, I dropped into a tuck and launched downhill.

The sky was roaring but not as loudly as my pulse. I tried to remember childhood prayers. The minutes crawled past, and I wondered why I hadn't stayed home. Heck, it was late May. I could be fly-fishing or mushroom-hunting in a safe, low-altitude forest.

Slowly the storm began to abate. Maybe we were going to survive after all. Something big moved behind me. I tensed, expecting a cougar to pounce. Then I heard a familiar voice.

"Charles, look! It's just like home!" Paul was walking toward me, holding something in his hand. "I found some mushrooms!" I started laughing. We had survived to ski another day.

Charles Luce of Hoboken, New Jersey, is a college photography professor and a frequent Nevada explorer. He wrote about "John Muir's Nevada" in the July/August '00 issue.

Creepy Crawlers

By David B. Williams

Myths abound about scorpions, tarantulas, rattlesnakes, and black widows, but truth is often stranger than fiction.



Watch out—the bark scorpion's sting can be deadly. Here its exoskeleton glows under black light.

"I feel like someone is sticking a heated needle into my hand and twisting and turning it. The pain is creeping up into my arm. It's turning into a pulsing throb. I'm feeling cold all over. My heart is racing! I'm shaking. It's so cold..." That was what my friend Scott gasped in the final minutes of his life, following his first and last encounter with a scorpion.

At least that's the story I told campers at my campfire programs at Arches National Park in Utah. Only one part of the tale was true: Scott had been stung by this country's largest scorpion, the six-inch-long *Hadrurus arizonensis*, or giant desert hairy scorpion. The pain, however, actually felt like a bee sting and lasted only an hour.

If I had not revealed the truth about Scott, many of the campers huddling near the fire would have believed the story. During my years as a park ranger, I was amazed how many people were concerned about being stung, bitten, or jabbed on their trips to the desert. Visitors to places like Nevada, which abound in these creatures, seem to think that behind every shrub and under every rock lurks a black widow spider, rattlesnake, scorpion, or tarantula just waiting to pounce. But during my nine years of desert dwelling I heard of only a few such incidents. The most serious victim I knew was bitten in her bed by a black widow—and she survived.

Each of those four well-known denizens of Nevada has an undeserved reputation as a killer. In fact, more people die from bee stings than from the combined bites and stings of the desert's so-called scary creatures.

Still, one should be aware that one species of scorpion and all species of rattlesnake pack potentially lethal bites and should not be touched or harassed. Under no circumstances should people attempt to handle any of these animals. Nor should we kill them on sight simply because they are venomous.

Many myths have arisen around these mostly shy but menacing-looking animals. While working on a field guide to the flora and fauna of the Southwest, I discovered many dubious "truths"—that baby rattlesnakes are more dangerous than adults, and that tarantulas' eyes turn red before they leap up to six feet to bite their prey. To alleviate fears concerning these desert dwellers, I've tried to debunk some of the best-known myths—and in many cases, truth is stranger than fiction.

Scorpions

Largest: Giant desert hairy scorpion (*Hadrurus arizonensis*), up to six inches long. **Most Lethal:** Bark scorpion (*Centruroides exilicauda*). **Species in Nevada:** 30.

Scorpions have intrigued people for thousands of years. "There are so many myths, and most are so trivial—for exam-

Photos: Alvin McLane (top left), John S. Reid (middle)

ple, the offspring eat the mother, or scorpions are the only animals to commit suicide—they are not worth anyone's time to discuss," says David Sissom, a scorpion expert at West Texas A&M. "The most important myth to dispel is that all scorpions are deadly." Only about 25 of the 1,500 scorpions found worldwide have venom deadly to humans. Most stings (scorpions do not bite) are no worse than a bee sting.

The United States has only one species, the bark scorpion, that can potentially kill a human. In Nevada, this 2-3/4-inch-long species is native only to the state's extreme southern corner near the Colorado River, although some are now scurrying about Las Vegas, having snuck in via nursery plants grown in Phoenix. Those people most susceptible to the scorpion's neurotoxins are children under 12, adults over 65, and anyone with a major health problem such as a heart condition and high blood pressure.

"The second myth is that one can recognize the dangerous species by their color or by their size," says Sissom. Coloration varies within species, sometimes considerably (bark scorpions range from straw yellow to light brownish with dorsal dark stripes). Despite what some folks say, length does not determine lethalness. All scorpions start small and grow by molting, so the best way to judge the creatures' danger factor is to examine their crablike pincers. Scorpions with large claws generally do not rely on venom for killing a meal, whereas the more virulent bark scorpion has slender pincers and subdues its prey with a quick, toxic jab of its tail.

Roughly 30 scorpion species occur in Nevada, according to Will Pratt, curator of entomology at the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. "Any terrain you name, you can find one, from low desert to pine forests," Pratt says. Despite their abundance, he adds, people rarely see scorpions because they are nocturnal and spend most of their time in burrows or under rocks, logs, and bark. So be careful when you pick up that next piece of wood while camping at Lake Mead or Valley of Fire State Park.

Surprisingly, if you want to see scorpions, the best time to find them is at night because their exoskeletons glow under black light. One word of caution: Remember that other creatures, like rattlesnakes, do not glow and often forage at night.

Tarantulas

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *APHONOPELMA IODIUM.* (THIS GENUS INCLUDES AT LEAST 20 SPECIES. MOST ARE HARD TO DISTINGUISH, AND MUCH NAMING CONFUSION EXISTS).

Despite its impressive size, up to a six-inch legspan (Nevada's species reaches about three inches), the tarantula's reputation for dangerous bites, inflamed eyes, and leaping ability is unwarranted.

"They are neither poisonous nor aggressive. Tarantulas would much prefer to avoid human contact and will only bite if severely provoked and unable to escape by any other means," says Cara Shillington, who studies tarantulas at Oklahoma State University. Her only tarantula bite occurred after she chased one of the hairy spiders around a car for several minutes.





The tarantula (above), villain of countless Western movies, is a hairy but gentle giant. At left, a resident of Hot Creek Valley waves its tail. The fairly large pincers may indicate this scorpion doesn't depend on lethal venom to kill its prey.

Although they keep their teeth to themselves, tarantulas can create a cloud of hairs by scraping their abdomen. These utricating hairs, as they are called, are especially irritating to the eyes and nose of mammals such as coyotes, skunks, and people.

Tarantulas live in burrows under bushes or boulders and generally become active in fall. In Nevada, tarantulas are most common south of Tonopah, but the big arachnids may be found in northern areas, too. They are common enough in Central Nevada that the high school in Gabbs chose the Tarantulas as its team name.

Photos: Alvin McLane

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Autumn tarantula sightings are common on the outskirts of Las Vegas and on the roads near Virginia City.

"If you see a tarantula wandering across a Nevada road in fall, he is most likely a male in search of a mate," says Pratt. Once males reach sexual maturity, which occurs between the ages of seven and 14, they abandon their burrows and literally walk themselves to death—up to a mile—in hunting for females. Because they are so active during this time, the males use up their energy reserves, so they eventually die of exhaustion unless they first are run over by motorists or eaten by roadrunners. Females spend most of their lives, which can last up to 25 years, in their burrows.

The tarantula's web is not noticeable above the nest's rim, although silk guy lines extend outward and alert the occupant to a potential meal wandering by. Tarantulas eat frogs, lizards, and insects, secreting enzymes that break down soft tissues, which allows the victim's insides to be sucked dry.

Besides humans, the tarantula's main predator is the tarantula hawk (*Pepsis spp.*), a three-inch-long wasp with a metallic-blue-black body and orange wings. After mating, a female tarantula hawk runs about searching for a tarantula, which she attacks and stings, paralyzing the eight-legged meal-to-be. She then drags the immobilized tarantula to a burrow and deposits an egg on it. After hatching, the *Pepsis* larva eats the still-living tarantula; the spider has to be living, as a dead tarantula would dry out and not provide food.

Rattlesnakes

Longest: Western diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus atrox*), more than four feet long. **Most Poisonous:** Mojave (*Crotalus scutulus*).

Of all of Nevada's notorious animals, the rattlesnake might be the most myth-inspiring. The number-one bit of rattler misinformation is that you can tell the snake's age by counting its rattles.

"They add a rattle each time they shed their skin, which occurs two to four times a year, and rattles periodically break off, so they provide no age information," explains Alex Heindl, curator of herpetology at UNLV's Marjorie Barrick Museum. For those who believed this myth, don't feel bad, because it has been told and retold since its first appearance in print—in 1615.

Two other myths involve rattlers' defensive tactics. Heindl explains, "First off, they do not always rattle before they strike, and second, they are not waiting to attack you." When rattlesnakes see people, they quickly realize that we are too big to eat, the wrong species to mate with, and a predator. "They will generally retreat, remain still, or alert you to their presence with a rattle." This does not mean that a person will not be bitten if he or she harasses, tries to touch, or simply surprises a rattler. The two rattlers of particular concern are the Mojave and the Western diamondback, which are more aggressive than other species.



The Western diamondback is an ill-tempered rattler that is best avoided.

If you are bitten, you should go to a hospital for first aid immediately. That being said, approximately 20 percent of all adult bites are dry (no venom). The remaining 80 percent range from minimal injections to ones that can kill. You cannot tell immediately whether you have been envenomated, but tingling and swelling develop within five to 10 minutes with a "wet" bite. What happens next depends on which snake bit you and how much venom it injected.

Nevada's six rattlesnake species can be found from canyons to foothills throughout the state. The most toxic variety, the Mojave rattlesnake, lives in the creosote-bush flats and alluvial fans of the southern quarter of the state. Mojaves and sidewinders are occasionally seen by visitors driving the Scenic Loop Drive in Red Rock Canyon, while the Great Basin rattlesnake is more common in the sagebrush flats of

Photos: John S. Reid

Northern Nevada. You probably won't see any rattlesnakes, however, because they are generally nocturnal.

Spring and early fall are the best times to encounter the vipers, since they may venture out during the day to soak up heat. When winter hits, all species "den up" and hibernate until spring.

Black Widow Spiders

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *LATRODECTUS HESPERUS.* FEMALE IS IDENTIFIED BY A RED HOURGLASS ON ITS BELLY.

One of the most widespread "facts" in the animal world is that female black widows consume the males immediately after mating. Robert Smith, author of *Venomous Animals of Arizona*, says this matter needs some clarification. He says, "Females sometimes eat their mates, but not always, and it more often occurs some time after mating." In one of Smith's studies, only one male was eaten during 25 copulatory events.

Smith offers a reason why a male might choose to be eaten. "If a male has a low possibility of finding another mate (because webs are far apart), he might as well remain in the web and die, thus providing food for the production of eggs." During the mating process the male's two copulatory organs break off inside the female. Smith adds, "Since he can't mate again, it is to his evolutionary advantage to become a meal."

Black widow spiders are known for their poisonous bite, and the reputation is well deserved. A black widow packs a neurotoxic venom up to 14 times more toxic than a rattlesnake's. Although the bite itself is relatively painless, symptoms, which include excruciating pain, vomiting, and nausea, quickly develop. Anyone who suspects a widow bite should go to a hospital. Although few adults die from these spiders' bites, children and the elderly should be cautious.



The female black widow is known by her red hourglass.

Black widows are common throughout Nevada, especially around houses, where they prefer protected areas such as eaves, under sinks, and basements. Historically, outhouses were a problem because black widows dangled below the seat, often producing unpleasant results. The jet-black females can be identified by the well-known red hourglass on their abdomen, while the much smaller (one third her size) males are grayish with stripes and blotches.

In wild locales, like Valley of Fire or Red Rock Canyon, the spiders live in rock crevices, in rodent burrows, or under logs. The open, random web ends in a dense, tube-like gap. Inside the funnel the timid female waits for food and for a mate, who faces an uncertain fate.

David B. Williams of Seattle is the author of A Naturalist's Guide to Canyon Country *(Falcon Publishing, Helena, MT, 2000, ISBN 1-56044-783-4). As an FOB (Friend of Bugs) he thinks that male black widow spiders should get more respect.*

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Map Facts/Contest Winner



Congratulations to David Sadewasser, a Tucson reader who won last issue's contest by naming 11 Nevada places and items that bear Native American names (see map). He receives a free year's *Nevada Magazine* subscription for his effort. Responding by e-mail, David showed knowledge of Nevada Indian names and landmarks from the Owyhee River to Laughlin's Avi Casino. An intellectual property manager for a pharmaceutical research company, David has been a *Nevada* subscriber since the mid-'80s and enjoys exploring the state's backcountry. "Sometimes I would either overestimate my vehicle or underestimate the terrain. Once I had to get dug out of a wash, in Meadow Valley about four miles south of Carp, by a few kind trainmen from the Union Pacific who fortunately passed that way," he says. "Today, I regard Nevada as the closest thing to a living Western history museum."

The Nevada Spirit

(Continued from page 90)

Other locals volunteered as pushers, who, while strapped inside, pushed bales of hay out the back of the C-82s to the livestock below. My friend Ken Hammond of Elko worked as a pusher during hay drops in Ruby Valley. He was constantly throwing up due to severe air turbulence and the hay particles swirling around inside the aircraft, but Ken kept pushing while throwing up and did his part.


George Swallow (right) helped coordinate the haylift.

The weather broke after about a month, and Operation Haylift was discontinued. While thousands of sheep and cattle did perish from cold and starvation, the airlift was credited with preventing what could have been a complete economic disaster for the state's sheep and cattle industry.

When my friend Ken was recruited as a pusher, I was somewhat miffed that he didn't mention my name as someone who would like to do it also. Because of the excessive snowfall, I did participate in a Ruby Mountains snow-measurement expedition on snowshoes. I like to tell myself that I was doing that at the same time Ken was throwing up over Ruby Valley.

—George Sheaks

Note: For further details on this wintertime drama see "Operation Haylift" by Mark McLaughlin in the Jan/Feb 1999 issue.—Ed.

Reader Recommended

Sound of Music: I recommend the outdoor concerts that the Reno Hilton puts on in the summer and fall. Specifically, my husband and I went to the James Taylor concert in September. While listening to James from the bleachers we could watch the planes land at the airport and people golfing on the Hilton's aqua range. It might have been the balmy night or the music, but we had a great time. I know they don't hold the concerts in cool weather, but I'd recommend them for this summer.—*Betty Peters, Carson City*

Cantaloupe Country: Because of your recent story on Fallon, we stopped there on a trip last fall. We frequently take Highway 50 on our way to Utah, but about all we have ever done in Fallon is to get gas and maybe a drink and a snack at the gas station's food mart. But this time, we visited Maine Street. You can see that when that street is completed, it will be a nice place for travelers to stop for a half a day instead of half an hour. The people in the coffee shop were really friendly, and the coffee was great. We also enjoyed the Churchill County Museum. We may even go to Fallon for the Hearts O' Gold Cantaloupe Festival in September.

—Jim and Ann Herschill, Folsom, CA

Do you have a Nevada travel recommendation to share with other readers? *Write Nevada Almanac, Nevada Magazine, 401 North Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701; fax 775-687-6159; or e-mail dave@nevadamagazine.com. Be sure to include your town and state.*

Photo: Eastern Nevada Historic Photo Archives


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Trivia, the Nevada Spirit, and a New State Symbol contest.

Nevada Trivia

Q: How many tunnels can you drive a car through in Nevada?

A Four. There are pairs of tunnels at Cave Rock, on the east side of Lake Tahoe, and near the Humboldt Palisades on Interstate 80 east of Carlin.

Q What U.S. President performed on stage at the Last Frontier in Las Vegas?

A Former President Ronald Reagan. An actor in the 1930s, '40s, and '50s, Reagan made his only Nevada stage appearance (not counting campaign and presidential visits) in 1954 in the Strip hotel's Ramona Room.

—from The Nevada Trivia Book *by Richard Moreno (Gem Guides, 1998)*



Holey Toledo "I call this photo 'Darkman Cruising'—not even bullets can stop him," says Las Vegas photographer Ed Opsitos, referring to the sci-fi movie hero. Ed and his friend Evan Blythin found the abandoned car while hiking near Blue Diamond. The photo may have a future as a CD cover. Ed observes, "To me this image says, 'Keep on truckin' "



Contest

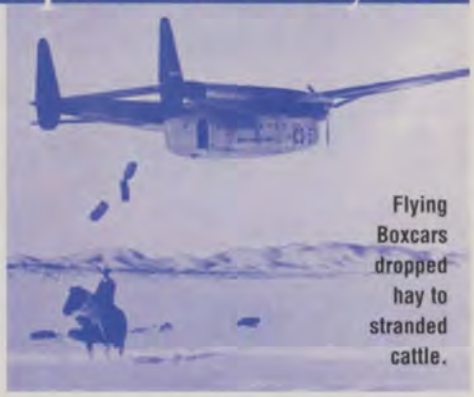
New State Symbol

Nevada has about a dozen state symbols such as the state reptile (desert tortoise) and state flower (sagebrush). If you had your way, what **New State Symbol** would you enact (and identify)? The state roller coaster (the Desperado)? The state ravioli (Bruno's)? The possibilities are even greater than the age of our state fossil (the ichthyosaur). Share your idea with thousands of fellow readers.

Send a description of your New State Symbol by March 15 to Nevada Almanac, *Nevada Magazine*, 401 North Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701; fax 775-687-6159; or e-mail dave@nevadamagazine.com. Be sure to include your mailing address and daytime phone number. The first two readers who respond will receive free one-year subscriptions, and we'll share everyone's new state symbols in the next issue.

The Nevada Spirit: Operation Haylift

George Sheaks of Ventura, California, was one of those who answered the call in the Nov/Dec '01 issue to describe examples of the Nevada Spirit, times of war or peace when Nevadans stepped forward to help their fellow citizens. George, who works with U.S. Secret Service computer operations, has been a *Nevada Magazine* subscriber for seven years. His response won George a free year's subscription and our appreciation for recalling this heroic story.



Flying Boxcars dropped hay to stranded cattle.

They Provided a Lift

I'm an Elko native, and I was living there when the savage, record-breaking Nevada winter of 1948-49 left thousands of starving livestock stranded in canyons and open range. High snowdrifts closed roads throughout much of the state, which prevented getting feed to the livestock or herding livestock to corrals.

With help from the Air Force, National Guard, and area locals, rancher George Swallow of Ely coordinated a plan to airlift feed to the animals. Ranchers rode jumpseat in C-82 Flying Boxcars and directed pilots to the marooned animals. George Hawes, a resident of Ely who had lived across Idaho Street from me in Elko, hired a pilot to fly him to remote areas, where he dropped food and supplies to snowed-in residents.

(Continued on page 88)

Photos: Ed Opsitos (top), Eastern Nevada Historic Photo Archives (bottom)

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