

SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL EDITION

NEVADA

JULY/AUGUST 2014

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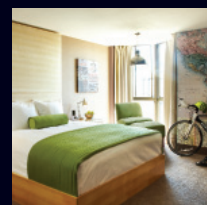


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WHITNEY PEAK. TURNING  RENO OUTSIDE IN.

OPENING SPRING 2014



contents

JULY/AUGUST 2014

DEPARTMENTS

Up Front

- 8** The Window, SLS Las Vegas Opens, Nevada Stamp, Ely Art & Wine Walk, Thunderbird Lodge, GIADA & More

Visions

- 18** Pyramid Lake's Angles & Our Facebook Photography Group's Finest

Special Section

- 22** 2014 Best of Nevada Winners

Travels

- 28** Whirlwind Roadtrip

Wide Open

- 36** Through the Lens: Cathedral Gorge State Park

History

- 40** Bowers Mansion

Events & Shows

- 46** Broadway Las Vegas Series
49 Journey and Steve Miller Band
50 Statewide Events & Shows
52 The Magic School Bus Kicks Up a Storm

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 3** Nevada Wide Web
4 Editor's Note & Letters to the Editor
6 Know Your Nevada, by Brian K. Krolicki
7 Nevada Map
54 Visit Our Tourism Partners
80 Your Nevada

Cover Photo: Sydney Martinez

ET Fresh Jerkey in Hiko provides a welcome and quirky break on a marathon adventure across southeastern Nevada.

SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL EDITION

FEATURES

GAMBLING, GOLD, AND GOVERNMENT PROJECTS

56 Nevada was hit hard during the Great Depression, as farmers and miners alike found themselves without jobs. However, the state responded to the crisis with its singular brand of fortitude and ingenuity. Along with New Deal programs such as Hoover Dam, gambling and quickie divorces were a part of the recovery process for Nevada. The end of Prohibition embodied the nation's readiness for better times, while Nevadans began to breathe a little easier.



THE SAGA OF THE USS NEVADA

68 The USS *Nevada* was launched 100 years ago, and throughout her service, distinguished herself as

one of the Navy's finest battleships. From her second-generation design to her courageous crew, *Nevada* left its mark on history during her career; in Pearl Harbor, *Nevada* was the only ship to get underway during the attack; her support at Iwo Jima saved dozens of lives; and she proved herself almost unsinkable at Bikini Atoll.

Background Image: Dotty Molt

Jim Sloves gliding across Lake Tahoe.

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NEVADA

MAGAZINE

JULY/AUGUST 2014
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On NEVADAMAGAZINE.COM



Use #nvmag for a chance to be featured in future issues.

WEB EXTRAS

- The **Reno Historical** app and website places the city's history in the palm of your hand. *Nevada Magazine* sat down with the app's editors, Dr. Alicia Barber and Donnelly Curtis, to learn more about the app's features and its future. **By Jeri Chadwell**
- A Reno hostel, the **Morris Burner Hotel**, has galvanized the Burning Man community during Black Rock City's off-season. **By Patsy K. Eagan**
- **Panaca and Pioche** are close in proximity, but embody contrary aspects of the Silver State's past. **By Rachel Williford**

On NEVADAMAGAZINE.COM/HOME/SURVEY

- From unrivaled burgers to killer fishing spots, Nevada sure has a lot of bests; but we're asking you, the reader, to tell us *your* favorites. Each issue, we'll post a category at nevadamagazine.com/home/survey.

For July/August: What's the **best summer hike in Nevada**? Visit our site, tell us your favorite in the comment section, and we'll post the winners in the next issue of *Nevada Magazine*.

WHY DO YOU LOVE NEVADA?

We are showcasing why our readers love Nevada! Visit nevadamagazine.com/home/nvlove to tell us why you love the Silver State. Submissions will be considered for possible publication in the November/December issue of *Nevada Magazine*.



CONNECT WITH US



Look for this icon through November/December 2014. It means you're reading special coverage of the state's 150th birthday.

The Long Road Home



I don't really believe in luck; I'm more of a "put good in, get good out" kind of girl. But then I got the call. I was the managing editor of *Nevada Magazine*.

To say this is my dream job is completely inadequate. Born and raised in Reno, I was one of those kids who couldn't wait to get out of my hometown for "greener pastures." In my youthful zeal I swore I'd never come back, despite the wise smiles of friends who wished me well but predicted my return. I moved to the Washington D.C. area for just over a decade, had a wonderful job and life, raised my Reno-born kids, and still believed I'd never come back. That thought turned out to last only a couple years, and then, each return visit to see my family tugged a little harder at me. Watching the sun set over the Sierra Nevada mountains, swimming in the crystal blue Lake Tahoe waters, watching the pelicans fly toward Pyramid Lake's Anaho Island ... well, you can take the girl out of Nevada, my friends, but ... you know the rest.

I moved back eight years ago and immediately knew I'd never leave again. This time I am sure; Nevada is my home, and Nevada lives in me. Almost immediately I reconnected with a man I knew from high school, and his love of rural Nevada has taken me from the duck blinds of the Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge near Fallon to the trails of Red Rock Canyon outside Las Vegas, and almost everywhere in between. But what I really love is that I have so much more to discover, even after all this time. The opportunity to explore Nevada through my adventures with *Nevada Magazine* and to share them through the stories I'll write and edit ... how many ways can I say I'm the luckiest person in the world?

Nevada Magazine has a well-earned reputation as an incredibly beautiful, intelligent, and important publication. I can say this because I had nothing to do with that; our last editor, the inimitable Matt Brown, our publisher, Janet Geary, my associate editor, Eric Cachinero, and every member of the staff here at the magazine are the ones to thank, and to them I say, "I will not let you down." I've been entrusted with taking this magazine into its future, and it's a challenge I eagerly accept.

I encourage all of you to let me know how you think I'm doing with this trust. After all, it's your magazine, and I'm lucky enough to work for you.

IN THIS ISSUE

My first official work trip was to attend the Rural Roundup tourism conference in Ely. I went out and back, making a few stops along the way, but some of our friends from TravelNevada.com took a longer roadtrip to the conference, as you'll read about starting on page 28. We continue Ron Soodalter's sesquicentennial special edition series with a look at how Nevada worked its way through the Depression and Prohibition, reinventing itself in the process.

We have an amazing story about the USS *Nevada*, which is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its first launching. *Nevada* was the only battleship to get underway during the attack on Pearl Harbor; the story of this almost-unsinkable ship is not to be missed.

Take a look at Cathedral Gorge State Park, through the lens of our wonderful photographers, and consider the story of Bowlers Mansion; this iconic park started life as the estate of two Comstock Lode silver barons with a penchant for parties. And, finally, the Best of Nevada 2014 survey results are in! Thank you to everyone who voted in our annual survey, and congratulations to all the winners. Nevada is full of amazing places, and these are but a few that await your visit!



Megg Mueller, Managing Editor
mmueller@nevadamagazine.com

TRIBAL COVERAGE

I love *Nevada Magazine*, although I would truly appreciate the stories telling of the lives, struggles, cultures, and rich history of the Native American Indians such as the Shoshone, Paiute, and Washoe Indian tribes here in our state of Nevada, as they represent a very important part of our state.

The stories of the Shoshone, Paiute, and Washoe and other bands of native American Indian tribes which live in or lived in Nevada are a vital part of Nevada.

John Marchese, Henderson

WEB KUDOS

You guys have sure made a great change to the magazine website. It looks terrific and informative as always. Nice use of white space, fonts, pix, the whole enchilada. I just read the letters of the editor, and they are right on the money.

Please pass along kudos from me to the staff.

Joyce Hollister, Genoa

UDDERLY CONFUSED

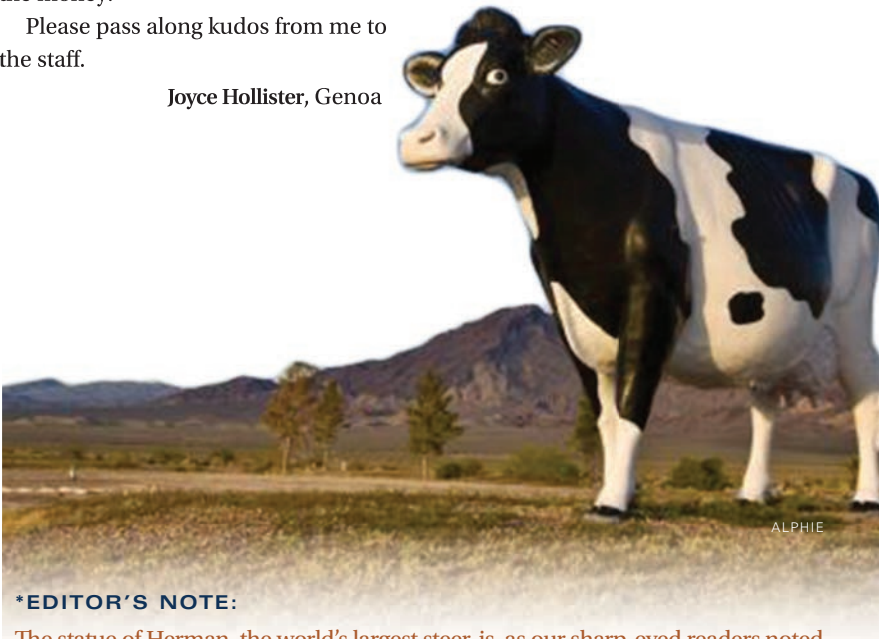
I am afraid that the story about Herman the World's Biggest Steer ("On the Road to Cowboy Poetry" May/June 2014) was a lot of "bull" as anyone can clearly see the statue is "udderly" female!

Kristine MacDonald, Silver Peak

HOLY COW

Just got my May/ June issue of your magazine. I wait every two months for it to come, and really enjoy reading it cover to cover. Had a good laugh while looking at the cow photo on page 23. I thought everyone could tell a bull from a cow. That animal is definitely not a bull. Bulls don't give milk. Thanks for the laugh, and your great magazine.

Karin Baldwin, Illinois



*EDITOR'S NOTE:

The statue of Herman, the world's largest steer, is, as our sharp-eyed readers noted, "udderly female." Sure enough, a call to the Longstreet Casino confirmed the statue is actually of Alphonse, a "giant desert bovine." At the time we checked, The Longstreet Casino's website identified the statue as Herman, who sadly passed away last year.

CONTRIBUTORS

WAYNE SCARPACI

Wayne Scarpaci was born in 1950 into a career



Navy family in Glendale, California, and spent most of his youth around ships and naval bases. He began his art career at age 5, drawing ships and trains and his art became a lifelong passion. Wayne's art skills are entirely self-taught. After a 40-year

career as a computer-engineering technician working largely on military projects, he changed careers to author and artist. In 2005 he relocated to the eastern Sierra Nevada, and currently resides in Gardnerville with his India-born wife, Swarn, and the two family cats, Cozy and Tasha.

Visit artbywayne.com.

■ PGS. 68-78

TAMERA BUZICK

Tamera Buzick was born in Reno and grew up in Carson City. She attended the University of



Nevada, Reno where she received her degree in education. She just recently retired from teaching math at Procter R. Hug High School in Reno, where she worked since 1988. This is Tamera's third season as Mansion

Curator for Bowers Mansion where she has volunteered for more than 30 years.

■ PGS. 40-44

RON SOODALTER

Ron Soodalter came by his love of the West from his grandfather, who was a cowboy in the early 1900s. He worked as a curator in a Colorado



museum and is a collector of cowboy memorabilia. He has authored two books and written more than 150 articles for various publications, including *Wild West*, *Smithsonian*, *American Cowboy*, *True West*, *Civil War Times*, *Military His-*

tory, and *America's Civil War*.

■ PG. 56-67

WE VALUE YOUR INPUT

Write to editor@nevadamagazine.com or via mail at 401 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701. You can also comment on stories and read more letters at nevadamagazine.com. Letters and comments are subject to editing.

KNOW YOUR NEVADA



Sesquicentennial fever grows as the celebration continues



CHRIS MATTHEWS, NCOT

Lieutenant Governor Brian K. Krolicki speaks to participants at the 24th annual Rural Roundup Tourism Conference in Ely.

Dear Friends,

In May I found myself enjoying one of my favorite events in one of my favorite places—Rural Roundup in Ely! Once again, the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs planned and superbly executed an action-packed and information-filled conference focusing on rural tourism. The speakers were engaging, entertaining, and full of great information. Ely rolled out the red carpet, showered us in their warm hospitality, and thoroughly entertained us. This was the 24th Rural Roundup, and I've proudly attended almost all of them, as I consider this annual gathering to be the highlight for our state's rural tourism professionals and volunteers. This year was the largest ever, with more than 275 participants! I expect this event to be going strong for many years to come. Well done to all participants and organizers.

In honor of Nevada's 150th birthday, the United States Postal Service commissioned a statehood stamp that was unveiled in late May at the beautiful Smith Center in Las Vegas. The stamp was painted by Ron Spears, a Reno artist, and depicts Fire Canyon in the Valley of Fire State Park—Nevada's first state park. It is exquisite and captures the beauty and essence of both the park and Nevada. I was joined by the Governor, both United States Senators, the U.S. Postmaster General, and former Congressman Jim Bilbray—who sits on the USPS Board of Governors—at this most special occasion.

We also had a minting ceremony for the third medallion in our sesquicentennial medallion series. This is the medallion voted on by elementary school children throughout Nevada. They had several options to choose from, and after a hotly contested election, they chose "Sign Up Nevada." The medallion depicts three famous signs: Wendover Will, Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas, and the Reno Arch. What fun the Governor and I had with the school kids, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts who came to watch the striking on Historic Coin Press No. 1. Just a hint; the fourth and final medallion will be voted upon by all Nevadans, so be on the lookout for more information.

There are some really fun Nevada 150 events happening in July and August, so get out your calendars and decide what events you're going to attend. Of course, we'll be celebrating our nation's birthday on the Fourth of July and there will be something for everyone. In communities big and small, north, south, and everywhere in between, from Summerlin to Midas, from Fernley to Fallon, to Elko and Jarbidge, there will be joyous celebrations of our independence.

The last week of July is also packed with fun things to do: Carson City will be hosting Nevada's Sesquicentennial Fair at Fuji Park; there will be a Proud Pioneer Picnic at Bowers Mansion in Washoe Valley; and Panaca is putting on the Panaca Sesquicentennial Celebration. Mark your calendars—you don't want to miss these events!

Another special item to place on your family's calendar; in August there will be an extraordinary, week-long celebration in Paradise Valley, celebrating Stewart's Ninety-Six Ranch. This ranch is also 150 years old and they are planning a huge celebration Aug. 6-10. If you can make it to Paradise Valley, you won't be disappointed.

Be sure to visit our website, Nevada150.org, for a complete list of all the exciting things happening around Nevada this year. Enjoy getting to know your Nevada in new ways.



Third Medallion

Brian K. Krolicki
Lieutenant Governor
Chairman—Nevada Commission on Tourism & Nevada 150 Commission
ltgov.nv.gov





EMILY WILSON, DOWNTOWN PROJECT

The Window's first artist-in-residence, Donovan Fitzgerald, is set to display 11 paintings, along with an ongoing art installation at the new multi-purpose meeting space.

ARTS

The Window creates space for learning and the arts to come together

The Las Vegas Downtown Project's latest endeavor is now open. The Window—a multi-purpose space located downtown at The Ogden—serves as a hub for working and co-working, meetings, and the arts. The Window's artist-in-residence program features three-month exhibits from rotating artists. Each of the artists will feature a community component in their work.

The Window's inaugural art piece includes a live installation by classically trained Las Vegas artist Donovan Fitzgerald, who specializes in chalk drawings. Fitzgerald is set to create chalk illustrations on three concrete pillars in the space.

Fitzgerald is also set to display a selection of his previous work in a gallery show that is expected to remain at The Window through the end of July. facebook.com/dtpwindow, 319-331-2936, 150 N. Las Vegas Blvd., Suite 140, Las Vegas NV



GREG HARBAUGH

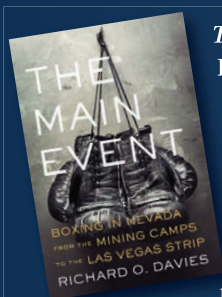
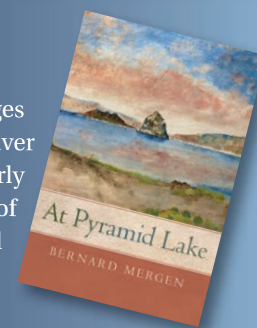
NIA SANCHEZ OF LAS VEGAS
WAS CROWNED MISS USA IN JUNE.
SANCHEZ IS THE FIRST NEVADAN TO WIN THE TITLE.

NEVADA BOOKS

At Pyramid Lake

By Bernard Mergen, University of Nevada Press, unpress.nevada.edu, 775-784-6573, 312 pages

Pyramid Lake is one of the largest lakes in the Great Basin, the terminus of the Truckee River flowing from Lake Tahoe into northern Nevada. This desert oasis, with a surface area of nearly 200 square miles, is a unique geological wonder and was home to the Paiute for thousands of years before the arrival of explorer John C. Frémont in 1844. For the Paiute, it was a spiritual center that provided life-sustaining resources, above all the cui-ui, a fish unique to the lake and now endangered. For the ranchers and farmers who settled on tribal lands, the waters that flowed into it were necessary to raise cattle and crops. Bernard Mergen tells how these competing interests have interacted with the lake and with each other, from the Paiute War of 1860 to the present. The lake's very existence was threatened by dams and water diversion; it was saved by tribal claims, favorable court decisions, improved water laws, and the rise of environmentalism.

*The Main Event: Boxing in Nevada from the Mining Camps to the Las Vegas Strip*

By Richard O. Davies, University of Nevada Press, unpress.nevada.edu, 775-784-6573, 312 pages

As the twentieth century dawned, bare-knuckle prizefighting was transforming into the popular sport of boxing, yet simultaneously it was often banned as immoral. Nevada was the first state to legalize it, in 1897, solely to stage the Corbett-Fitzsimmons world heavyweight championship in Carson City. Promoters such as Tex Rickard brought in Jack Dempsey and other fighters to the mining towns of Goldfield and Tonopah. Prizefights sold tickets, hotel rooms, drinks, meals, and bets on the outcomes. Reno hosted the Johnson-Jeffries "Fight of the Century" in 1910. It was boxing—before gambling, prostitution, and easy divorce—that first got Nevada called "America's Disgrace" and the "Sin State." The Main Event explores how boxing's growth in Nevada relates to the state's role as a social and cultural outlier. From the celebrated referee Mills Lane to the challenge posed by mixed martial arts in contemporary Las Vegas, the history of boxing in Nevada is integral to the growth of the sport in America. Davies utilizes primary and secondary sources to analyze how boxing in the Silver State intersects with its tourist economy and libertarian values, paying special attention to issues of race, class, and gender.

TOURISM

SLS Las Vegas readies for Labor Day weekend opening

SLS LAS VEGAS HOTEL & CASINO

It's taken three years to transform the old Sahara Hotel into the SLS Las Vegas—a lifestyle-driven hotel and casino with 1,600 rooms and suites. The new property is set to open Aug. 25, with its grand opening set for Labor Day weekend. Room reservations are now being taken.

Owned by hospitality corporation sbe, guestrooms are in three towers, each with a distinct personality; Lux, World, and Story. Dining options include Bazaar Meat, an eatery by James Beard Award-winning Chef José Andrés, touted as a "wild and wonderful celebration of all things carnivorous." The nine restaurants also include Andrés' Asian-inspired Ku Noodle, sushi and Japanese cuisine at Katsuya by Starck, Cleo, and Umami Burger. The Sayers Club features live music, while LiFE is an "immersive nightclub experience." sllasvegas.com, 855-761-7757



◆ A condo at Lake Tahoe has fetched a record price, according to broker Kurt Carlstedt of **Chase International**. A 6,400 square-foot freestanding condo in Crystal Bay has sold for \$6.725 million. The three-story property comes with its own elevator. kurtcarlstedt.com, 775-831-7300

◆ **Tortoise Group**—a Las Vegas 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of pet tortoises—is expanding its adoption program to northern Nevada. The group held workshops in Reno and Minden for those interested in adopting, and if the program proves popular, the adoptions could happen statewide. tortoisegroup.org, 702-560-5519

◆ **Guy Fieri's Vegas Kitchen & Bar** is now open at the Quad Resort & Casino in Las Vegas. The outdoor patio and dining area give guests the ability to enjoy the panoramic views of the Strip while enjoying Fieri's signature cuisine, featuring bold flavors and unique twists on traditional dishes. thequadlv.com

◆ A Reno icon, **D Bar M** western store, is celebrating 50 years in business. D Bar M has been serving the cowboy and horse-owning community for decades with an in-house saddle shop, complete tack department, and head-to-toe authentic western apparel. The shop also carries Garcia bits, and museum quality silver for horse and horseman, plus original western artwork from local artists. dbarm.com, 775-329-9107



ELY RENAISSANCE SOCIETY

CULTURE

Ely Renaissance Society hosts Art & Wine Walk

The annual Ely Renaissance Art & Wine Walk happens on July 26 at 5 p.m. The event gives visitors a chance to enjoy art, meet the artists, and sample ethnic foods and wine in the Renaissance Village's early 1900-era restored houses. The event includes a no-host dinner and bar, and a silent auction with such items as gift baskets, children's toys, home décor, and much more.

Many local and out-of-town artists are involved each year, showcasing their paintings, jewelry, wind chimes, photographs, cards, pottery, and much more. The artists enjoy the opportunity to show and sell their work, plus each artist donates a piece of their art to be auctioned along with the other items.

The Art & Wine Walk evening transforms the Renaissance Village into an elegant dining and shopping experience where guests relax under the starry night, visit with friends, and enjoy good food and drinks while learning about Ely's diverse population and its history. All proceeds benefit the Art Bank Cultural Center. elyrenaissance.com



NEVADA 150

Nevada 150 & USPS unveil new stamp

To commemorate the state's Sesquicentennial, the United States Post Office issued a new Forever Stamp, featuring an illustration by Nevada native Ron Spears showing a view from Valley of Fire State Park in southern Nevada.

nevada150.org, 775-687-0608





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◆ Carrot Top, Blue Man Group, Terry Fator, and Louie Anderson are keeping travelers company at **McCarran International Airport** thanks to eight new pre-checkpoint security videos featuring the entertainers. The videos are a joint effort of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, McCarran International Airport, and the Transportation Security Administration.

lvca.com, 702-892-0711

◆ **Fremont Street Experience's SlotZilla** zip line has opened. The 77-foot high zip line takes an 850-foot flight, while flyers on the Zoomline launch from 114-feet high and zoom in a horizontal superman position 1,700 feet across the entire length of Fremont Street Experience.

vegasexperience.com, 702-678-5777

◆ JA Nugget, the City of Sparks, and Wild West Motorsports Park are hosting the first **Silver State 4WD & UTV Jamboree**. The July 14-19 event takes place at the Wild West Motorsports Park about 15 miles east of Sparks.

wildwestmotorsportspark.com, 775-750-7166

◆ **Las Vegas Arena Company**, owned by AEG and MGM Resorts International, has broken ground on a world-class, privately funded, \$375 million indoor arena set to open in spring 2016. Located between the New York-New York and Monte Carlo resorts, the 20,000-seat arena will host boxing, UFC and other sporting events, headline entertainment, awards shows, and special events.

arenalasvegas.com, 877-632-7800



DESERT RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Desert Research Institute's Dr. Lynn Fenstermaker and UNLV's Eric Knight fly a radio control helicopter to collect imagery for a study about the global carbon budget.

ENVIRONMENT

Desert Research Institute project sheds light on global carbon budget

Results from a research project involving scientists from the Desert Research Institute have generated new findings surrounding some of the unknowns of climate changes and the degree to which ecosystems absorb or release carbon dioxide as it increases in the atmosphere.

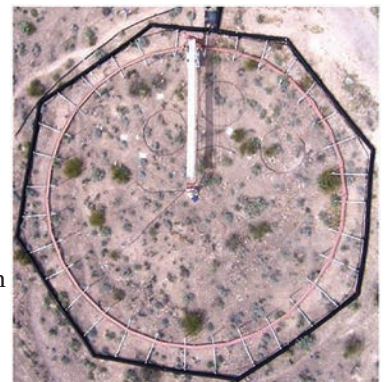
The findings are published in the journal *Nature Climate Change*. The publication details how, over a 10-year span, researchers exposed arid desert plots to elevated carbon-dioxide levels similar to those expected in 2050. The research was done at the Nevada Desert F.A.C.E (Free-Air CO₂ Enrichment) Facility, located in the Mojave Desert north of Las Vegas.

The study originated with scientists from three institutions of the Nevada System of Higher Education: the Desert Research Institute; the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; and the University of Nevada, Reno.

The new findings indicate how arid climates take up significant amounts of carbon as levels of carbon dioxide increase in the atmosphere. These findings provide scientists with a better gauge of the global carbon budget—which measures the rising concentration of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere.

The National Science Foundation's Ecosystem Studies Program and the U.S. Department of Energy's Terrestrial Carbon Processes Program funded the project.

dri.edu, 702-862-5400



Nevada Desert FACE-Free Air CO₂ Enrichment facility research plot.



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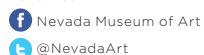
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M A G A Z I N E



◆ Nevada **Senator Harry Reid** announced a grant package from the Federal Aviation Administration totaling \$4,348,438. General aviation airports in Winnemucca, Lincoln County, Tonopah, Jackpot/Hayden, Silver Springs, Carson City, Gabbs, Fallon, Yerington, and Beatty received grants for airfield improvements. reid.senate.gov, 202-224-3542

◆ The **20th Annual Lassen-Aplegate Emigrant Trail Ride** gets underway July 18-21. SUV and other four-wheel drive owners can relive the gold rush era as they travel the 200-mile historic trail, marveling at such sights as the beautiful Black Rock Desert, the majestic High Rock Canyon, Double Hot Springs, Soldier Meadows, and more. The adventure is hosted by the High Rock Trekkers Four-Wheel Drive Club. The trip begins near Imlay, and follows the same wagon train route used by Peter Lassen in 1849. highrocktrekkers.com, 775-629-9232

◆ **Hidden Cave** in the Carson Sink just east of Fallon was featured in the April video news episode of The ArchaeologyChannel.com. The video shows the cave's origins and its importance to the Native Americans of the area. archaeologychannel.com

◆ During the 2014 Bike to Work Week Corporate Challenge, **Nevada Magazine's Danny Miller** amassed the highest average miles of all public agency participants. The annual event claims the CO2 offset by cycling instead of driving was 2,326.89 pounds. musclepowered.org

CRAVINGS

Giada De Laurentiis opens restaurant in Las Vegas

One of the newest celebrity eateries in Las Vegas—GIADA—is open at The Cromwell. Giada De Laurentiis, celebrity chef and *New York Times*' best-selling author, launched her first restaurant in June.

With a passion for Italian food touched by Californian influences, De Laurentiis has created a warm, inviting space where guests can eat in the restaurant, lounge, or on the terrace, which offers views of the Bellagio fountains and Caesars Palace. An open kitchen gives guests the opportunity to watch chefs

prepare pastas, flatbreads, and desserts as part of their meal. The Strip's first antipasto bar will accompany such fare as lemon spaghetti, chicken cacciatore, marsala herb chicken meatballs, plus vegan and gluten-free menu items.

The Cromwell opened in April as Las Vegas' first stand-alone boutique hotel with 188 rooms and suites. thecromwell.com, 855-442-3271



CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT CORPORATION

HISTORY

Thunderbird Lodge expands tour offerings

Nevada's only house museum estate at Lake Tahoe—the Thunderbird Lodge—has added a wine and cheese tour to its lineup of land and shore tours.

Wine and cheese tours are available Friday afternoons during July and August; regular public tours operate through Oct. 18.

The lodge, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was built by Captain George Whittell, Jr. in 1936. Whittell initially planned to create a multi-season resort and casino on the east shore of Lake

Tahoe, but his love for privacy led to the lodge remaining private. Whittell's legend comes alive during tours of his home, including tales of his big game animals, high-stakes poker games, Duesenberg automobiles, and more. Tours of the property include the Lighthouse Room, Old Lodge, servants' quarters, and the 600-foot secret underground tunnel leading to the legendary 55-foot wooden speedboat, Thunderbird. The magnificent mahogany craft was built in 1939 and is powered by twin Allison V-12 1150 horsepower engines used in vintage WWII fighter aircraft.

The wine and cheese tours feature foods grown in the Thunderbird Lodge's garden and California wines. It expands the lodge's other public programs, which include land-based and shore-based tours. Shore-based tours include boat tours aboard the 40-foot cruiser *Tahoe* and kayak tours, where visitors paddle to the site and enjoy lunch and the tour.

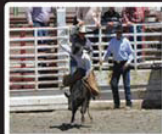
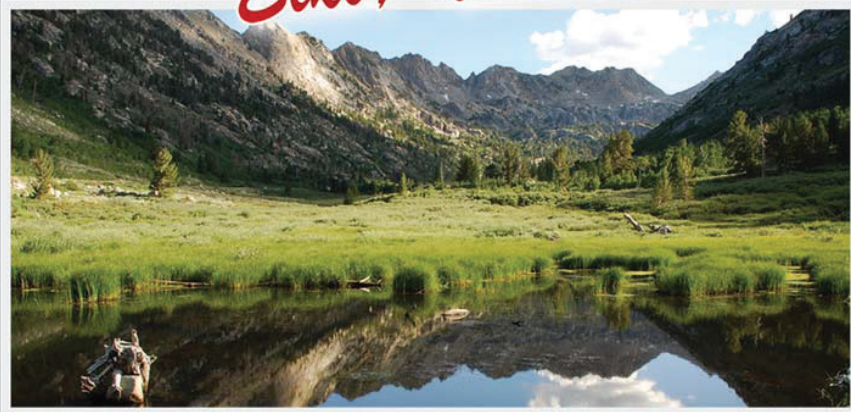
Reservations are required for all tours, and visitors can arrive by shuttle bus, boat, or kayak. Tours last about 90 minutes and require walking approximately 1/3 mile. thunderbirdtahoe.org, 775-832-8750



JARVIS PHOTOGRAPHY

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Sacred Shoreline

“This is one of those shots that came unplanned,” says Reno photographer Michael Lindberg. After an attempt to capture a sunset didn’t pan out in his favor, he came across this extraordinary view of Pyramid Lake. “I began to walk around looking for a secondary perspective,” Lindberg adds. “I decided to position myself on one of the elevated rock formations and came to the conclusion that the diagonal line of the shore made an interesting leading line.”

PHOTO BY MICHAEL LINDBERG

See more of Lindberg's work at stoneflyphotography.com





FACES

Las Vegas photographer Michael Wetzel captured this photo in Little Finland, located near the historic ghost town of Gold Butte in southern Nevada. The photo is actually a composite of two separate shots. “The first photo was taken during the late afternoon in order to capture the detail of the landscape,” Wetzel says. “The second was taken after sunset for the starry night sky. The intent was to make the image appear as if the rock faces were under the light of a full moon.”

PHOTO BY MICHAEL WETZEL

See more of Wetzel's work at mikewetzelphotography.com

ART DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

Each issue, *Nevada Magazine* Art Director Sean Nebeker chooses a photo submitted via e-mail or Facebook to be showcased on this page. E-mail your photos to snebeker@nevadamagazine.com.



BALANCE

This image presented itself to photographer Robert Petersen in early May during the egret migration near the S-Line Reservoir in Fallon. "I shot the photo while sitting in my car as to not alert the bird to my presence," Petersen says. He explains that that he took the photo while traveling to a different spot. "I was on my way to another location when I came upon the egrets feeding in the irrigation ditch," Petersen adds. "Sometimes the best photographs happen on the way."

PHOTO BY ROBERT PETERSEN

FB GROUP CHOICE

Each issue, our Nevada Photographers Facebook group votes for their favorite photo out of three selected by *Nevada Magazine* staff.

RAIN ON THE RAILS

"I wasn't looking to set up on the tracks, just to get some sun rays through the clouds," says photographer TJ Brown, who snapped this shot a few miles east of Elko in May. "When I got close to the tracks I saw how shiny the rails and ties were from the rain."

PHOTO BY TJ BROWN

See more of Brown's work at facebook.com/flyinbphotography

STAFF PICK

Each issue, the staff of *Nevada Magazine* chooses a photo submitted via e-mail or Facebook to be showcased on this page.



JOIN OUR NEVADA PHOTOGRAPHERS GROUP
facebook.com/groups/nevadasnaps



17th Annual Readers' Survey

My how time flies; the results of the 2014 Best of Nevada survey are in! Each year our readers vote for their favorite Nevada attractions—everything from state parks to golf courses, tour companies to restaurants. The best of the best have worked hard to remain on top; there are a number of familiar winners again this year. We split our state, for contest purposes only, into three areas: North, South, and Everywhere Else, which includes our rural regions and our not-so-rural, but not-quite-urban cities.

We stayed with 16 categories again this year, but if you think we're missing any, please let us know. Thank you to all who voted, and congratulations to each of this year's winners. Be sure to remind your favorite businesses and attractions to visit nevadamagazine.com and look for the 2015 Best of Nevada survey in March of next year. Until then ... **THE WINNERS ARE ...**



BUFFET

NORTH: Toucan Charlie's Buffet & Grille,
Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, Reno
atlantiscasino.com

SOUTH: Carnival World Buffet, Rio All-Suite
Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas
riolasvegas.com

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Rum Jungle Buffet, Casino
Fandango, Carson City
casinofandango.com

CASINO

NORTH: Peppermill Resort Spa Casino, Reno
peppermillreno.com

SOUTH: Bellagio, Las Vegas
bellagio.com

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Carson Valley Inn, Minden
carsonvalleyinn.com



HOTEL

NORTH: **Peppermill Resort Spa Casino, Reno**
peppermillreno.com

SOUTH: **Encore/Wynn, Las Vegas**
wynnlasvegas.com

EVERYWHERE ELSE: **Mizpah Hotel, Tonopah**
mizpahhotel.net



Mizpah Hotel



The Mob Museum

EVENT

NORTH: **Hot August Nights, Northern Nevada**
hotaugustnights.net

SOUTH: **Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas**
vegasexperience.com

EVERYWHERE ELSE: **The Polar Express of Ely, Nevada Northern Railway, Ely**
nnry.com

GOLF COURSE

NORTH: **Lakeridge Golf Course, Reno**
lakeridgegolf.com

SOUTH: **Angel Park Golf Club, Las Vegas**
angelpark.com

EVERYWHERE ELSE: **Genoa Lakes Golf Club & Resort, Genoa**
genoalakes.com

MUSEUM

NORTH: **Nevada Museum of Art, Reno**
nevadaart.org

SOUTH: **The Mob Museum, Las Vegas**
themobmuseum.org

EVERYWHERE ELSE: **Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely**
nnry.com



Genoa Lakes Golf Club & Resort



Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum



Nevada Northern Railway

NIGHTCLUB

NORTH: [Edge nightspot, Peppermill Resort Spa Casino, Reno](#)

[peppermillreno.com](#)

SOUTH: [Marquee Nightclub & Dayclub, The Cosmopolitan, Las Vegas](#)

[cosmopolitanlasvegas.com](#)

EVERYWHERE ELSE: [Peek Nightclub, Harrah's, Lake Tahoe](#)

[harrahslaketahoe.com](#)

PLACE TO SHOP

NORTH: [The Summit, Reno](#)

[thesummitonline.com](#)

SOUTH: [Fashion Show Mall, Las Vegas](#)

[thefashionshow.com](#)

EVERYWHERE ELSE: [Virginia City](#)

[visitviriniacitynv.com](#)

PLACE TO TAKE THE KIDS

NORTH: [Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum, Reno](#)

[nvdnm.org](#)

SOUTH: [Springs Preserve, Las Vegas](#)

[springspreserve.org](#)

EVERYWHERE ELSE: [Nevada Northern Railway, Ely](#)

[nnry.com](#)

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SOUTH: Ellis Island Casino & Brewery,
Las Vegas

ellislandcasino.com

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Pittman Café, Mizpah Hotel,
Tonopah

mizpahhotel.net

SHOW

NORTH: Eldorado Showroom, Eldorado Hotel Casino,
Reno

eldoradoreno.com

SOUTH: Blue Man Group, The Venetian, Las Vegas

blueman.com

EVERYWHERE ELSE: A Night in the Country, Yerington

nightinthecountry.org



Eldorado Showroom

SKI RESORT

NORTH: Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe, Reno

mtrose.com

SOUTH: The Resort on Mt. Charleston

mtcharlestonresort.com

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Heavenly Mountain Ski Resort,
Stateline

skiheavenly.com

SPA

NORTH: Spa Toscana, Peppermill, Reno

peppermillreno.com

SOUTH: Canyon Ranch SpaClub, The Venetian Resort
Hotel Casino, Las Vegas

venetian.com

EVERYWHERE ELSE: 1862 David Walley's Hot Springs
Resort and Spa, Genoa

1862davidwalleysresort.com

STATE PARK

NORTH: Washoe Lake State Park

SOUTH: Valley of Fire State Park

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park

TOUR COMPANY

NORTH: Patty's Tours

pattystours.com

SOUTH: Maverick Helicopters

maverickhelicopters.com

WEDDING VENUE

NORTH: Peppermill Resort Spa Casino, Reno
peppermillreno.com

SOUTH: Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapels,
Las Vegas
vivalasvegasweddings.com

EVERYWHERE ELSE: Mizpah Hotel, Tonopah
mizpahhotel.net

THANK YOU, LVCVA AND GREEN VALLEY RESORT!

Nevada Magazine would like to thank the Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority and the Green Valley Resort for sponsoring our 2014 Best of Nevada Readers' Survey.

Lucky voter Cindy W. from Winnemucca won the Henderson Travel Package!

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all of our readers for voting!

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Valley of Fire State Park

Starting out in Vegas, I made the surprisingly short drive up I-15 and into Valley of Fire State Park. All I can say is holy smokes. Brace yourself for a load of stunning, dramatic landscapes and photos. I took about 30 photos before I was even technically inside park boundaries; I just couldn't control the urge! Interestingly, Valley of Fire has been the site of a number of movies, including "The Professionals," "Star Trek Generations," and "Transformers." It's incredible that one place has that ideal state park scenic beauty, and can quickly morph into otherworldly landscapes. It even offers historic niches along the way, such as petroglyphs dating to 1150 A.D. I was on a pretty ambitious schedule, and regrettably only had two hours to spend here, when I should've allotted two weeks!

WHIRLWIND ROADTRIP

Alien jerky, pioneer graffiti, and a hiking kitty cap an adventurous itinerary.

STORY & PHOTOS BY SYDNEY MARTINEZ

Having lived in Nevada for more than 17 years, I shamefully admit I'd never made it to the elusive, yet alluring southeastern part of the state. Knowing there are endless, incredible finds in this region, I decided to make it the frontrunner for a killer roadtrip. By flying to Las Vegas from Reno, making my way north to Ely, and then looping back down U.S. Highway 93 to Vegas, I hoped to encounter a few new travel experiences.

Mission accomplished.

I covered eight state parks, one national park, three museums, six lodging options, and two wildlife preserves in seven short days. Whew! It was a whirlwind, but an oh-so savory experience.



After the Valley of Fire, I was en route to Ely when that extra-special roadtrip delirium settled in after about 100 miles. Lucky for me, ET Fresh Jerky proved to be the trip's best roadside stop, located right before the turnoff to Hiko. After a roadside billboard offered an opportunity to "drop my toxic waste in the cleanest restrooms in Area 51," ET Fresh Jerky delivered the extraterrestrial and zany experience this Nevada roadtrip begged for. Feeling kind of punchy after being in the car for several hours, uncanny alien murals provided an awesome photo op. With some fresh air and Hell Hole Hot Jerky in tow, my energy levels were restored and the drive's final two hours flew by.



Before starting the trip, I was looking for imaginative lodging options. While I love a good roadside inn, I was hoping for more of an adventurous overnight stay. I got just what the doctor ordered at The Bunkhouse in Ely, which is part of the Nevada Northern Railway National Historic Landmark. Situated in an—wait for it—operating rail yard, The Bunkhouse was erected in 1906, and originally served as the chief engineer's quarters. My room was one of three available, and I even got to be roomies with the railway's train master, who lives in the building. I knew I 'wasn't in Kansas anymore' when he returned for the night, covered in head-to-toe soot! This experience definitely pushed me out of my element a bit, but in an absolutely wonderful way. My room was super comfy, and even had an original early 1900s safe inside it. I couldn't tell if the train master was kidding when he told me the railway was haunted, but it made for an exciting night, to say the least!

After the trip's best out-of-my-element experience, I was off to see some more scenic beauty. Looping back down south, I hit several more state parks and found myself outside Pioche, in Spring Valley and Echo Canyon State Parks. Not knowing these parks were connected by waterways, I made the loop throughout, enjoying the serenity they served. It became obvious why this area was one of the first settled in the region: its abundance of water is unique for what I would believe is an arid climate. Driving between the parks,

drinking in the panoramic beauty, the biggest mindblower of the trip revealed itself: 150ish-year-old inscriptions etched on a canyon wall. Realizing they were signatures from stagecoach passengers passing through the area, it all became very humbling. Seeing this pioneer graffiti reminded me of stories I had heard of stagecoachers signing their names with wagon axle grease, but never would I have expected to encounter this historical treasure trove. It made me realize we are all just a tiny sliver in a great big puzzle, and what a serene setting I found myself in to interpret all of this.



Feeling like my chi had been realigned, I made my way to what was the most comfortable accommodations of the trip: The Pine Tree Inn & Bakery in Panaca. Nevada's second permanent settlement, modern-day Panaca is a tidy, farming community that allowed me to recharge during my two nights here. Life seemed to slow down, and it was awesome. The family-owned B&B definitely oozes the 'all-in-the-family' vibe, making you feel like you're spending the night at your grandmother's house. They serve a deliciously hearty pancake breakfast, which was perfect, as I had another jam-packed day on the docket!

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HOOVER DAM - LAKE MEAD

Mike O'Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge



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Kershaw-Ryan State Park

Heading to Kershaw-Ryan State Park, I thought I was in for the usual state park experience. I couldn't have been more delightfully surprised with what I found: a rainforest-esque setting with a friendly feral cat who apparently works the dayshift at Kershaw-Ryan. Yep, a spunky little run-of-the-mill cat. As if this wasn't surprising enough, the nameless cat, who I quickly dubbed Kershaw, went on an entire, mile-long hike with me! My time with the charismatic Kershaw Kitty was one of the more unique things I've ever encountered; he was so fun and charming, it will be difficult for me to resist adding this awesome state park to future roadtrip itineraries.



Oak Springs Summit Trilobites

Roadtrips can be a scavenger hunt of sorts ... trying to find a cool restaurant, or a nightlife hotspot. The hands-down, best scavenger experience of this extravaganza goes to an unsuspecting gem at mile marker 81 on U.S. 93. I'm talking about trilobites, loads of them. On Bureau of Land Management-owned land, there is an absolute mecca of little fossilized bugs, embedded in 500-million-year-old shale. A totally perfect pit stop and good reason to jump out the car for a quirky and not-so-obvious geology lesson! An overwhelming sense of determination took over; I was not leaving there without uncovering a trilobite!

SOUTHEASTERN NEVADA STATE PARKS TOUR: ITINERARY

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Downtown Container Park
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Day 2

Valley of Fire State Park
ET Jerky
Ely-Ride Nevada Northern Railway
Overnight at Bunkhouse, Ely

Day 3

Rural Roundup Conference, Ely
Prospector Hotel

Day 4

Cave Lake State Park
Great Basin National Park - Lehman Caves
Overnight at Pine Tree Inn & Bakery, Panaca

Day 5

Spring Valley State Park-Fishing Derby
Echo Canyon State Park
Pioneer Graffiti
Pine Tree Inn & Bakery

Day 6

Kershaw-Ryan State Park
Trilobite exploration, BLM territory
Windmill Ridge Cabins, Alamo

Day 7

Pahranagat National Wildlife Refuge
Triple George Grill
Atomic Liquors
Downtown Grand Las Vegas

Day 8

Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort
Springs Preserve

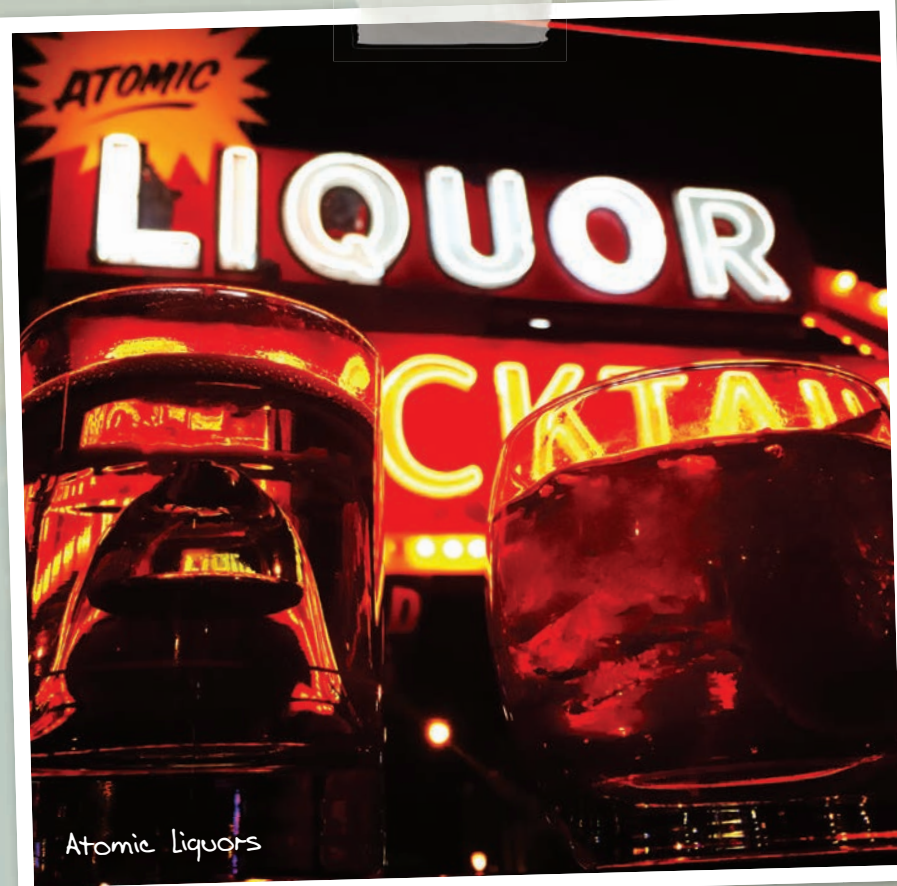
Have your own Nevada *Travels* story? Share your story and photos with us, and you just might be published in *Nevada Magazine*. Send your story and pictures to editor@nevadamagazine.com.



Pahranagat National Wildlife Refuge exuded such a zen-like experience; I swear, they need to hold yoga classes here. Something about this oasis settled my trilobite-induced delirium. To my complete surprise, yet again, the amount of water and wildlife in this region totally blew me away. Something even more remarkable: the delightful May afternoon I visited proved to be optimal wildflower season; the prickly pear cactus above proves that. Although it had been a wild and crazy trek, Pahranagat knocked some sense back into me, and I was ready to take on Vegas for one last night.



After a completely satisfying warpath of a trip, I was back in Vegas for the night and on the prowl for a savory, sit-down dinner with a cool vibe. Ask and you shall receive! Some friends I made at the Mob Museum tipped me off about the Triple George Grill, a few blocks north of the Fremont Street Experience. Not sure what I was really looking for, I was presented with a totally scrumptious feast; Spicy Shrimp & Scallop Linguine, complimented with a hefty helping of sourdough bread.



After seeing just a little bit of everything, the only Nevada staple I seemed to be missing was a solid neon fix. The legendary Atomic Liquors was within walking distance, and after checking this place out, the walk was merited. Proudly representing themselves as Las Vegas' oldest bar, Atomic Liquors had an atomic bomb viewing area on their roof at one time, and currently has an exposed time capsule embedded in the floor! With an impressive dive-bar vibe—sans the questionable nature of a true dive bar—and creatively concocted cocktails like the F-Bomb and Hunter S. Smash, Atomic Liquors was the perfect way to wrap up a crazy awesome trip!



Sydney Martinez is a Nevada-enthusiast who loves all things outdoors. She is also working as the content development specialist for the Nevada Commission on Tourism, actively documenting lively Nevada adventures to share on TravelNevada.com. Since graduating from the University of Nevada, Reno with a photojournalism degree in 2009, Sydney was inspired to explore the Silver State's countryside as a hobby, but officially joined the Nevada Commission on Tourism in 2014. When she's not chronicling her adventures, Sydney lives for a good lazy day at Lake Tahoe with friends and family.

Visit NevadaMagazine.com to see more photos and the full itinerary. Read about other stops on Sydney's adventure at TravelNevada.com.

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Valley of Fire State Park

29450 Valley of Fire Highway, Overton
702-397-2088

ET Fresh Jerky

12600 South U.S. Highway 93, Hiko
775-725-3677

The Bunkhouse

Nevada Northern Railway Museum
1100 Avenue A, Ely
866-407-8326

Pioneer graffiti

Spring Valley State Park
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via State Route 322
775-962-5102
and
Echo Canyon State Park
12 miles east of Pioche
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775-962-5103

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Kershaw-Ryan State Park

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via U.S. Highway 93
and State Route 317
775-726-3564

Trilobites

Oak Springs Summit Area
12 miles west of Caliente on
U.S. Highway 93

Pahranagat National Wildlife Refuge

U.S. Highway 93, Alamo
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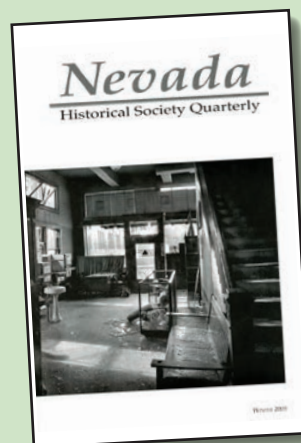
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THROUGH THE LENS: CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARK



Geological wonder has photographers and adventurers flocking to natural beauty.

BY ERIC CACHINERO

This page: Cathedral Gorge State Park provides spectacular scenery and photographic opportunities. Opposite page: Several miles of hiking trails (above) give visitors access to many different areas of the park. Canyon walls (below) are the result of millions of years of volcanic activity and erosion.

PHOTO: LARA MATTHEWS



PHOTOS: FERNANDO COYOTE

The otherworldly atmosphere of Cathedral Gorge State Park may give visitors the impression that they have stepped foot on—well—another planet. Forged from violent and fiery volcanic activity and wrought by millions of years of erosion, the composition of this photographer's paradise is as complex as it is captivating. The gorge's kaleidoscope walls are composed of earthy tones that weave into a natural labyrinth of geological splendor. Cathedral-like spires and dramatic designs in the soft bentonite clay span the scenery, leaving adventurers feeling like they may have just stumbled into another dimension.

The park offers trekkers and shutterbugs a chance to explore their own little slice of Nevada's unique topography, along with a plethora of pursuits and pastimes. Camping facilities, a picnic area, and miles of steep gorges and slot canyons keep visitors to this distinct Nevada park thirsty for another adventure.

FORGED FROM FIRE

Though established as one of four original Nevada State Parks in 1935, Cathedral Gorge began its legacy much earlier. The landscape is the result of elemental collaboration that molded and modified the area over a span of millions of years.

The Caliente Caldera Complex is responsible for the volcanic eruptions that gave the park its origins. Each eruption deposited layers of ash—sometimes hundreds of feet thick—over the area. Approximately 5 million years after the eruptions ceased, fractures in the bedrock that shaped the mountains and valleys of Nevada created a depression, now known as Meadow Valley. Over time, the depression filled with water, as well as ash and pumice left over from the volcanic activity. Eventually the lake drained, leaving the ash and pumice behind to be exposed to wind and rain, causing more erosion and forming the gorge we see today.





SYDNEY MARTINEZ

Clockwise from top: A metal staircase leads to Miller Point Overlook, a popular scenic destination in the park. An explorer traverses the cathedral-like spires the park is known for. Remnants of a stone water tower that was most likely used for irrigation are a unique addition to the park's features.

GORGEOUS GORGES

Located off U.S. Highway 93 approximately 170 miles north of Las Vegas, the park can be visited as a day trip for many Nevadans; however, spending a couple of days at the gorge allows for much more exploration. The park sits at 4,800 feet, providing hot daytime temperatures in the summer and cold winters.

The campground offers 22 sites, each equipped with a table, grill, and shade structure. Water and flush restrooms are accessible year-round, and electrical hookups are available. The Regional Visitor Center—located at the entrance to the park—offers interpretive displays and information about eastern Nevada and several state parks.

Whether waiting for that perfect moment to capture the scene or just exploring a special Silver State treasure, Cathedral Gorge State Park caters to all adventurers. After visiting even once, it's easy to see why the park continues to keep nearly 40,000 visitors each year coming back for more. ▀

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Cathedral Gorge State Park
parks.nv.gov, 775-684-2770



SYDNEY MARTINEZ



LARA MATTHEWS

CATHEDRAL GORGE EVENTS

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Cathedral Gorge State Park
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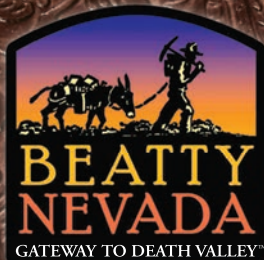
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NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This historical photograph of Bowers Mansion (above) was taken in the 1860s, and shows how the mansion and its surroundings looked in its early days. Opposite page: Thanks to ongoing preservation efforts, the modern mansion looks very similar to how it did a century and a half ago.

BOWERS MANSION: THE CHRONICLE OF A CURIOUS NEVADA LANDMARK

This historic icon's influence spans more than 150 years.

BY TAMERA BUZICK

The best view of Nevada's gold- and silver-mining days can still be seen from the Bowers Mansion porch. On a warm summer afternoon, you can sit back and enjoy the same view once seen through the eyes of early Nevadans. If you use your imagination, you can picture guests arriving for a picnic: the women in their Victorian dresses; and picnic hats covered with white Swiss and green ribbons. They arrive from every direction by horse and buggy, and train. They lay out their blankets and prepare picnic baskets. They play games, swim in the ponds, and dance throughout the day. When visiting Bowers Mansion, if you listen closely, maybe you'll hear 150 years of children's laughter, for the mansion has always been a popular summer destination.

LUCKY STRIKE FUELS THE FORTUNE

The mansion's story began on the Liverpool docks in early 1849, when Eilley Oram Hunter boarded a ship bound for America. Her destination was the newly established Mormon settlement of Salt Lake City. Her first husband, Stephen Hunter, had recently converted to Mormonism and wished to live in the new church center. Soon after arriving in Utah Territory, they were divorced. Five years later, her second husband, Alexander Cowan, took her further west when he joined a mission organized to create a government at Mormon Station (Genoa), which was then in western Utah. After establishing a rudimentary frontier government, the Mormons moved their community to Washoe Valley in a small settlement they named Franktown.

Eilley's fortune changed in the fall of 1857, when the mission was recalled. This sent Alexander back to Salt Lake City and brought an end to their marriage. Eilley took her chances and moved to a small mining camp in Gold Canyon. She began buying and selling mining claims while running her first boarding house. Soon prospectors found enough gold to begin a rush. They established a new town named Gold Hill.

Lemuel Sanford (Sandy) Bowers was one of the new arrivals. While buying and selling mining claims, he discovered he owned a 10-foot strip right next to a 10-foot strip owned by Eilley. They joined their claims and their lives; they were married on Aug. 9, 1859. It was soon discovered their claim was part of a surface deposit rich in silver ore, making the Bowers very wealthy. One way to show their wealth was to build a mansion grander than any other in the West. When asked why he wanted to build his mansion in the newly established Nevada Territory, Sandy simply replied, "I made my money in this county, and here is where I intend to spend it."

The rowdy town of Gold Hill was unsuitable for the castle they desired. They chose to build it in a beautiful valley, with snow-topped mountains to the west and a clear lake to the east. A place where hot and cold springs flowed calmly and the surrounding lands were open and free. Eilley and Sandy's mansion would be built at the base of the Sierra Nevada foothills, overlooking Washoe Lake. For their new home, they chose the Washoe Valley land Eilley had acquired from Alexander in their divorce.

Constructed in 1862, the mansion had eloquently cut marble fireplaces, furnishings from Europe, and the hand-crafted inserts, hinges, and doorknobs were made of gold and silver from their mine. By the fall of 1863, the Bowers and their daughter, Persia, who they adopted during a grand 10-month excursion to Europe, were ready to move into their glamorous home.

The following summer marked the first year of seasonal entertainment. Visitors wishing to get away from the dust and

noise of Virginia City and Gold Hill made the three-hour journey across Ophir Grade into Washoe Valley. Here they found tall pine trees, open pastures, and clear running water. As described by *History of the Comstock Lode* author Grant Smith, "It was a trip to paradise."

Nevada's first heyday was short lived. It wasn't long before the Comstock silver mines played out sending the entire region into a depression. Sandy moved back to Gold Hill hoping to save the mine. He realized the end was near and prepared to sell the famous Bowers Mine, but that never materialized. Sandy Bowers died of a lung condition at his Gold Hill residence in the spring of 1868.

PICNICKER'S PARADISE

With the mine no longer a source of income, Eilley turned the mansion into a public resort. She began advertising in local papers stating the splendid mansion included a number of fine baths, a piano, an extensive library, a billiard table, and all the comforts of home. The beautifully landscaped grounds included greenhouse shrubbery and a flower garden. Two manmade ponds were available for admiration or use; the local mineral waters were thought to contain beneficial medicinal properties. Eilley served meals at any hour and spared no expense in making Bowers Mansion the "Carlsbad of Nevada."

The birth of Reno and the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad were followed by the construction of the Virginia & Truckee Railroad, which made the journey to Bowers Mansion easier and more enjoyable. A silver strike in 1873 brought renewed life to the region and the mansion. With people spending money again, Bowers Mansion became a premier destination. Every weekend brought picnickers, and each year the earliest settlers, known as the Pioneers, gathered and reminisced about the old days. A local paper described a normal day:

As they arrived at the mansion, their "amiable and bustling hostess," Mrs. Bowers greeted them. Lunch was the first activity as picnickers quickly filled the grounds. Eilley opened her mansion to her guests, so they could admire the fine building with its magnificent furniture, beautiful pictures and other splendid objects of interest. Guests bathed in the swimming ponds, swung under the trees, waltzed on the outdoor dance floor, and generally just had a fine old time. At an 1873 picnic, the only complaint was that Washoe Lake was too far away and too shallow. One man claimed the fish had no scales on their bellies because they had to swim so close to the bottom. As the sun began to fade behind the mountains, guests boarded the train, mounted their horses or climbed into their wagons as they departed from a grand event not to be forgotten.

The picnics were splendid and well received, but they did not help Eilley's financial situation. To add to her hardship, she lost



BOWERS MANSION



UNR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Some of Bowers Mansion's most attractive features are its spring-fed outdoor swimming pools. The pools continue to attract visitors each year, who take advantage of the park's barbecues and picnic facilities.

her daughter to appendicitis the summer of 1874. As her debt increased, and her once-beloved home began showing signs of decay, her creditors took control. On May 3, 1876, Eilley lost everything at public auction for \$10,000. That summer the new owner, Myron C. Lake, canceled all social events for the year.

The mansion never returned to its Victorian glory days, but the picnics and summer entertainment continued. For the next quarter century, owners and managers opened the mansion to the public. The V&T railroad offered affordable excursion tickets allowing locals to picnic, swim, play, and dance as they did in the old days.

SUMMERTIME AT THE MANSION

The spring of 1903 brought a renewed vision when local brewer Henry Riter purchased the mansion. He quickly made repairs and reopened the mansion as a public resort. Picnickers still came by train and horse and buggy, but soon automobiles brought a new generation of visitors. Live music was replaced by a player piano and the Charleston took the place of the waltz. Riter turned the library into a bar and his wife Edna served meals in the courtyard. The swimming ponds were reinforced and improved by adding concrete, a feature not appreciated by those who remembered the ponds' soft, sandy bottom.

Through the Roaring Twenties and Prohibition, and even the Great Depression, locals found time to spend the day enjoying the fresh air, wide-open spaces, and spring-fed pools at Bowers Mansion. The largest event of the time was the moonlight picnic that occurred each fall. Guests stayed until well after dark, return-

ing home with their acetylene lamps sending faint streams of light upon the dusty roadways. Exhausted children asleep in the back, were dreaming of next summer when they would return to Bowers Mansion.

Soon after Riter turned 80 he decided it was time to sell, but he wanted the mansion and grounds turned into a park. Children had been playing there since Nevada's mining days, and he believed it belonged to Nevada's children. With the help of the Reno Women's Civic Club, Washoe County purchased the property in 1946 and declared Bowers Mansion a public park. A 1966 county bond allowed for improvements and the building of two new swimming pools.

MODERN MANOR

Today, visitors can still enjoy the wide-open spaces of Washoe Valley by simply exiting from Interstate 580 and taking a quiet drive along Old U.S. Highway 395 to Bowers Mansion Park. The mansion is open for tours Saturdays and Sundays from May 17 to Sept. 28, and the park is open daily and is free of charge. There are many picnic tables, and two playgrounds available for children.

Individual picnic tables and barbecue grills are available along with two pavilions for group celebrations and events. During the summer, enjoy the refreshing spring-fed waters of the Bowers Mansion pools, which are open noon to 5 p.m. daily, from June 14 to Aug. 10. The pools may be modern, but the experience has been the same for 150 years. ▀



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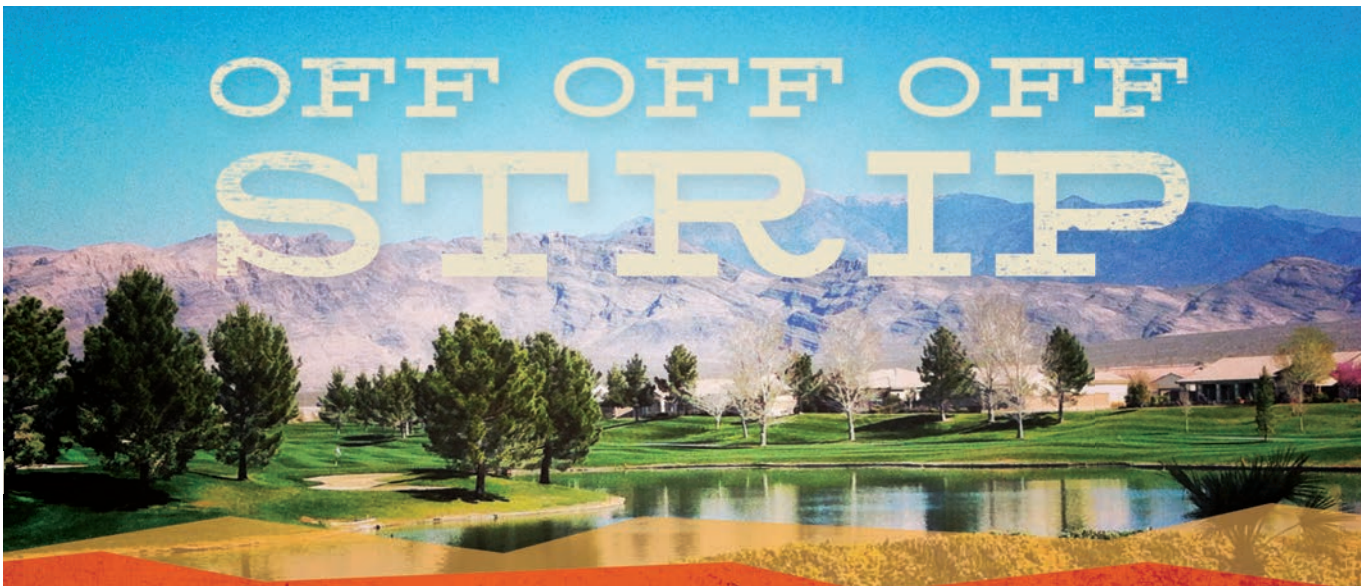


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Self-guided tours during events:

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SUMMER EVENTS

Nevada Proud Pioneer Picnic

July 26

Join descendants of Nevada's earliest settlers from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., as Bowers Mansion recreates the annual Pioneer Picnic. Bring your lunch basket and blanket, and picnic like they did in Nevada's Victorian heyday. Nineteenth-century entertainment will be provided throughout the day.

nevada150.org, 775-688-1190 x. 224

Bowers Mansion Bluegrass Festival

Aug. 15-17

Come join the Northern Nevada Bluegrass Association for a music-filled weekend at the mansion. The lineup includes Michael Martin Murphey, Run Boy Run, Frank Solivan & Dirty Kitchen, and more. bowersbluegrassfestival.org, 775-843-7053

Bowers Mansion (above) is open to the public for tours on Saturdays and Sundays. Below: This 1950s photograph of the Bowers Mansion pools shows a very different structure than the modern pools.



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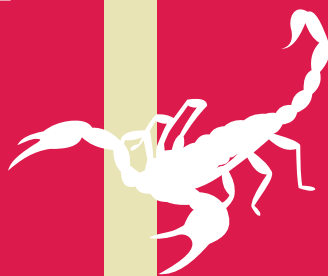
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PHOTOS: JOAN MARCUS

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The eight-part series features a variety of classic productions and celebrated new shows in addition to "Wicked," including "GHOST," "Pippin," "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," "Nice Work If You Can Get It," "Newsies," "Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella," "Annie," and "Kinky Boots." The Broadway Las Vegas Series schedule is as follows:

GHOST

Aug. 12-17

Kinky Boots

Sept. 4-14

Wicked

Oct. 8-Nov. 9

Pippin

Nov. 25-30

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Jan. 20-25, 2015

Nice Work If You Can Get It

Feb. 24-March 1, 2015

Newsies

March 17-22, 2015

Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella

April 28-May 3, 2015

Annie

May 26-31, 2015



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treasureisland.com, 800-392-1999

For one night only, comedian Carlos Mencia is set to bring his audience to stitches at Treasure Island. Renowned for his Comedy Central show "Mind of Mencia," this comedic superstar is bringing his popular stand-up act to Las Vegas on July 4.

Mencia began his stand-up career performing at The Laugh Factory during amateur night and quickly rose to national fame. In 2000, he released a comedy album called "Take a Joke, America" that showcased his brand of confrontational humor. He has also released multiple CDs and DVDs featuring his stand-up performances, including "Performance Enhanced," "No Strings Attached," "Not For The Easily Offended," and "Down To The Nitty Gritty."

Showtime: 9 p.m.

ALSO AT TREASURE ISLAND

Bill Cosby, July 18

The Adam Corolla Show, Aug. 29



NEWS

Due to the tremendous success of **Britney: Piece of Me** at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino, new show dates have been added in August and September to the two-year residency. brittneypieceofme.com, 855-234-7469

Legends in Concert at the Flamingo Las Vegas recently celebrated 31 years of performances, and has announced a new performance schedule. The Legends in Concert lineup includes tributes to entertainment icons Tina Turner, Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe, Michael Jackson, and Shania Twain. legendsinconcert.com, 702-777-7776

SHOWS OF INTEREST

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thesmithcenter.com,
702-749-2012

RON WHITE

The Mirage

July 4-5

mirage.com,
702-791-7111

SUBLIME WITH ROME

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July 5

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WEEZER

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Aug. 1

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CESAR MILAN

The Palms

Aug. 15

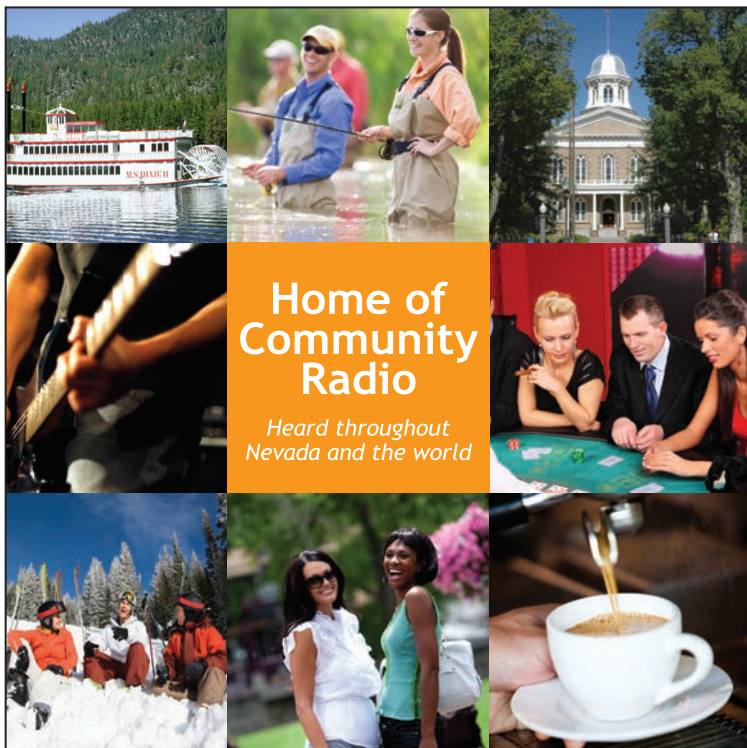
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- 101 Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce
- 102 Beatty Chamber of Commerce
- 103 Boulder City Chamber of Commerce
- 104 Carson City Convention & Visitors Bureau
- 106 Carson Valley Visitors Authority
- 108 Eureka Opera House
- 109 Fallon Convention & Tourism Authority
- 110 Elko Convention & Visitors Authority
- 112 Nevada Commission on Tourism
- 117 Winnemucca CVA
- 119 Pony Express Territory
- 121 Town of Pahrump
- 122 Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority
- 129 Lincoln Communities Action Team

- 133 City of West Wendover
- 135 Nevada Silver Trails

HOTELS

- 203 Carson Valley Inn
- 205 Mizpah Hotel
- 209 Peppermill Resort Spa Casino
- 232 Eldorado Resort Casino
- 259 Whitney Peak Hotel
- 260 Hotel Nevada

GOLF

- 317 Genoa Lakes Golf Club & Resort

BED & BREAKFASTS

- 401 Nevada B&B Guild

ATTRACTIONS, GALLERIES, & MUSEUMS

- 603 Nevada Northern Railway
- 618 Springs Preserve
- 628 Nevada State Museum, Carson City
- 634 California Trail Interpretive Center

- 636 Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum
- 637 The Mob Museum
- 638 Nevada Historical Society
- 640 Nevada Museum of Art

EVENTS/SHOWS

- 704 Nevada's Cowboy Country
- 738 Ruby Mountain Balloon Festival

RECREATION

- 904 Sightseeing Tours Unlimited

RESTAURANTS

- 1007 Cactus Creek Prime Steakhouse

RETAIL SHOPPING

- 1210 Scheels
- 1217 Scolari's Food & Drug Company

RADIO

- 2401 America Matters/ Fox News Radio

JOURNEY AND STEVE MILLER BAND

AMERICAN ROCK LEGENDS LIGHT UP THE STAGE AT HARVEYS.



On July 30, the Lake Tahoe Outdoor Arena at Harveys is set to rock out to the iconic tunes of two music legends. Journey and Steve Miller Band are lighting up the stage, touring together for the first time ever. The collaboration brings some of the greatest hits from past decades to Lake Tahoe.

Since they formed in 1973, Journey has earned 19 Top 40 singles and 25 Gold and Platinum albums. The band's "Greatest Hits" album is certified 15 times Platinum, bringing Journey into the elite club of Diamond-certified album holders.

You can call him The Space Cowboy or the Gangster of Love, but whatever you decide to call Steve Miller of the

Steve Miller Band, there's no denying his influence on modern music. Join the band and rock out to favorites like "The Joker," "Fly Like an Eagle," and "Rock'n Me." ▀

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Journey and Steve Miller Band
Harveys, Stateline
July 30
harveystahoe.com, 775-588-6611

MORE SUMMER CONCERTS

MÖTLEY CRÜE WITH ALICE COOPER

Reno Events Center, Reno
July 25
visitrenotahoe.com, 775-335-8800

LADY GAGA

Harveys, Stateline
Aug. 2
harveystahoe.com, 775-588-6611

THE BEACH BOYS

Silver Legacy, Reno
Aug. 2
silverlegacyreno.com,
775-329-4777

AEROSMITH & SLASH

Harveys, Stateline
Aug. 8
harveystahoe.com, 775-588-6611

BILLY CURRINGTON

Cactus Pete's, Jackpot
Aug. 10
ameristar.com, 866-667-3386

DIRTY HEADS, PEPPER, & AER

Grand Sierra Resort, Reno
Aug. 11
grandsierraresort.com,
800-648-3568

BRUNO MARS

Harveys, Stateline
Aug. 14
harveystahoe.com,
775-588-6611

SARA EVANS

Peppermill Concert Hall,
Wendover
Aug. 15
wendoverfun.com,
800-217-0049

SAMMY HAGAR & FRIENDS

Harveys, Stateline
Aug. 16
harveystahoe.com,
775-588-6611

RASCAL FLATTS & SHERYL CROW

Harveys, Stateline
Aug. 24
harveystahoe.com,
775-588-6611

THE DAN BAND

Whitney Peak Hotel, Reno
Aug. 30
whitneypeakhotel.com,
775-398-5400

ALSO AT HARVEYS

THE EAGLES

Join the Eagles Aug. 29-30 at the Lake Tahoe Outdoor Arena for the "History of the Eagles" tour. The Eagles are set to perform classics spanning their career as well as songs featured in "History of the Eagles" documentary.



PLAN YOUR TRIP

The Eagles
Harveys, Stateline
Aug. 29-30
harveystahoe.com, 775-588-6611

4TH OF JULY EVENTS

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Virginia City
visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-847-7500

4TH OF JULY WEEKEND

Jarbidge
Jarbidge.org

4TH OF JULY WEEKEND

Weber Reservoir, Schurz
775-773-2588

DAMBOREE CELEBRATION

Various locations, Boulder City
bcnv.org, 702-293-9256

FERNLEY 4TH OF JULY

Fernley
fernley-4th-of-july.com, 775-575-7163

FIREWORKS EXPRESS

Nevada Northern Railway, Ely
nnry.com, 775-289-2085

GENOA AMERICANA CELEBRATION

Mormon Station State Park, Genoa
genoaamericana.com, 775-783-3517

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Moapa Valley
moapavalley.com

MIDAS 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Midas
friendsofmidas.org, 775-345-0336

OLD-FASHIONED 4TH OF JULY

Eureka
eurekacounty.com, 775-237-6006

PICNIC IN THE PARK

Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon
churchillcounty.org, 775-423-7733

ROCKETS OVER THE RIVER

Laughlin
visitlaughlin.com, 800-425-8445

STAR SPANGLED SPARKS

Victorian Square, Sparks
janugget.com, 800-648-1177



Star Spangled Sparks

DARRON BIRGENHEIER

SUMMERLIN COUNCIL

PATRIOTIC PARADE

Summerlin
summerlink.com, 702-341-5500

BIGGEST LITTLE CITY WING FEST

Reno
July 4-6
silverlegacyreno.com, 800-687-8733

EVENTS

ARTOWN

Reno
July 1-Aug. 1
renoisartown.com, 775-322-1538

150 YEARS OF NEVADA
TRANSPORTATION

Nevada State Railroad Museum,
Carson City
July 4-6
nevada150.org, 775-687-0608

NATIONAL BASQUE FESTIVAL

Elko
July 4-6
exploreelko.com, 775-738-6854

LECTURE: RAPTOR ADVENTURES

Animal Ark, Reno
July 5
animalark.org, 775-970-3111

LAKE TAHOE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Sand Harbor State Park
July 11-Aug. 24
laketahoeshakespeare.com
775-832-1616

AUSTIN COMPRESSION ART &
FIRE FESTIVAL

Smith Creek Playa, Austin
July 12
controlledburnreno.com, 775-686-9608

COMSTOCK CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Virginia City
July 12
visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-847-7500

14TH WORLD LANDSAILING
CHAMPIONSHIP

Smith Creek Playa, Austin
July 12-19
nalsa.org, 408-313-6811

AMERICAN CENTURY CHAMPIONSHIP

Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course, Stateline
July 15-20
tahoecelebritygolf.com, 775-588-3566

ROCK THE COMSTOCK

Virginia City
July 19
visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-847-7500

RIDE THE RIVER POKER RUN

Riverwalk District, Reno
July 20
renoriver.org, 775-825-9255



Ride the River Poker Run

JAMIE KINGHAM

A NIGHT IN THE COUNTRY

Lyon County Fairgrounds, Yerington
July 24-26
nightinthecountry.org, 775-463-5114

PANACA SESQUICENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION

Panaca
July 24-26
facebook.com/panaca, 775-962-1648

104TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF
LOCOMOTIVE 40

East Ely Railway Depot, Ely
July 26
nnry.com, 775-289-2085

COMPRESSION! ART & FIRE

ReTRAC Plaza, Reno
July 26
controlledburnreno.com, 775-686-9608

NEVADA PROUD PIONEER PICNIC

Bowers Mansion, Washoe Valley
July 26
washoecounty.us/parks, 775-823-6501

VILLAGE ART & WINE WALK

Renaissance Village, Ely
July 26
elyrenaissance.com

GREATER RENO STAMP &
COVER SHOW

National Bowling Stadium, Reno
July 26-27
renostamp.org, 775-246-4769

RENO-TAHOE OPEN

Montreux Golf & Country Club, Reno
July 28-Aug. 3
renotahoeopen.com, 775-322-3900

HOT AUGUST NIGHTS

Reno/Sparks
July 29-Aug. 3
hotaugustnights.net, 775-356-1956

NEVADA SESQUICENTENNIAL FAIR

Fuji Park, Carson City
July 30-Aug. 3
nv150fair.com, 775-283-7469

CHURCHILL COUNTY FAIR & RANCH RODEO

Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon
Aug. 1-3
churchillcountyfair.com, 775-867-3975

GOLDFIELD DAYS

Goldfield
Aug. 1-3
goldfieldnevada.org, 775-485-3560

KINGSTON DAYS

Kingston
Aug. 2
austinnevada.com, 775-964-2200

BRISTLECONE ARTS IN THE PARK

Ely
Aug. 2-3
elynevada.net, 775-293-0012

NINETY-SIX RANCH SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Ninety-Six Ranch, Paradise Valley
Aug. 6-10
stewarts96ranch.com, 775-578-3311

LINCOLN COUNTY FAIR & RODEO

Panaca
Aug. 7-9
lcnvfair.org, 775-962-2784

EUREKA COUNTY FAIR

Eureka County Fairgrounds, Eureka
Aug. 7-10
co.eureka.nv.us, 775-237-6026

RUBY MOUNTAIN RELAY

Various locations throughout Ruby Valley
Aug. 8-9
rubymountainrelay.com, 775-340-5943

JARBIDGE DAYS

Jarbridge
Aug. 8-10
jarbridge.org

ALOHA RIVER REGATTA

Laughlin
Aug. 9
visitlaughlin.com, 800-425-8445

DINE THE DISTRICT FOOD TOUR

Riverwalk District, Reno
Aug. 9
renoriver.org, 775-825-9255

LECTURE: BEFORE IT WAS THE PARK

Spooner Lake
Aug. 9
parks.nv.us, 775-684-2704

LYON COUNTY FAIR & RODEO

Lyon County Fairgrounds, Yerington
Aug. 14-17
lyon-county.org, 775-221-4087

BOWERS MANSION BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

Bowers Mansion, Washoe Valley
Aug. 15-17
bowersbluegrassfestival.org, 775-233-0122

RENO GREEK FESTIVAL

Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church, Reno
Aug. 22-24
renogreekfest.com, 775-825-5365

FALLON FIGHTS: THE RURAL RUMBLE

Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon
Aug. 23
fallonfights.com, 775-423-4556

WILD HORSE FAIRE

Virginia City
Aug. 23
wildhorseadventure.net, 775-220-6806

CANFEST

Peppermill Resort Hotel, Reno
Aug. 24
canfestbeer.com

BURNING MAN

Black Rock City
Aug. 25-Sept. 1
burningman.org, 415-863-5263

BEST IN THE WEST NUGGET RIB COOK-OFF

Victorian Square, Sparks
Aug. 27-Sept. 1
nuggettribcookoff.com, 775-324-6435

TRI-COUNTY FAIR & STAMPEDE

Winnemucca Events Complex, Winnemucca
Aug. 28-31
winnemucca.com, 775-623-5071

FALLON CANTALOUPE FESTIVAL

Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon
Aug. 29-31
falloncantaloupe.com, 775-427-4076

BELMONT LABOR DAY CELEBRATION

Belmont
Aug. 30
belmontcourthouse.org, 775-482-3968

LUCAS OIL REGIONAL SERIES

Wild West Motorsports Park, East Sparks
Aug. 30
wildwestmotorsportspark.com, 775-750-7166

CIVIL WAR REENACTMENT

Tonopah Historic Mining Park, Tonopah
Aug. 30-31
tonopahhistoricminingpark.com, 775-482-9274

COMSTOCK CIVIL WAR DAYS

Virginia City
Aug. 30-Sept. 1
visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-847-7500

Check out our summer concerts listings on page 49.



River Regatta

THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS KICKS UP A STORM

DISCOVERY CHILDREN'S MUSEUM BRINGS INTERACTIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE TO LAS VEGAS.



Soaring above the earth on The Magic School Bus is a most exciting way to learn about the weather; and through Sept. 1, visitors to the DISCOVERY Children's Museum in Las Vegas can do just that. Based on the popular Scholastic Entertainment books and television series, "The Magic School Bus Kicks Up a Storm" offers an interactive and exciting way to explore the water cycle and its relation to weather, and how influences from air, heat, water, and land combine to create weather.

The exhibit has transformed The Magic School Bus into a flying weather observatory where different types of weather can be created, experienced, and measured. By visiting Ms. Frizzle's Classroom and climbing aboard The Magic School Bus, children, parents, and teachers are immersed in the weather exhibit in a unique way.

The exhibit features many interactive stations, including Ralphie's Hot Air Balloon Race—a display that allows children to send miniature hot air balloons sailing over a heated surface—and the Walkerville Weather Center—an interpretive center that teaches children how to report the weather "live" through television or radio. ▀



PLAN YOUR TRIP

The Magic School Bus Kicks Up a Storm
DISCOVERY Children's Museum, Las Vegas
Through Sept. 1
discoverykidslv.org, 702-382-3445

EVENTS & EXHIBITS

JOHN C. FRÉMONT SYMPOSIUM

Nevada State Museum, Carson City
July 25-26
museums.nevadaculture.org, 775-687-4810

PICTURING MEXICO: ALFREDO RAMOS MARTINEZ

Nevada Museum of Art, Reno
Through Aug. 17
nevadaart.org, 775-329-3333

DORIS DUKE'S SHANGRI LA

Nevada Museum of Art, Reno
Through Aug. 31
nevadaart.org, 775-329-3333

EXPRESSING THE RURAL WEST

Western Folklife Center, Elko
Through Sept. 8
westernfolklife.org, 775-738-7508

RUSH TO RENO: MILLIONAIRES IN THE ONE SOUND STATE

Wilbur D. May Museum, Reno
Through Sept. 14
maycenter.com, 775-785-5961

JERRY LEWIS: PAINTED PICTURES

UNLV Marjorie Barrick Museum, Las Vegas
Through Sept. 27
arts4nevada.org, 702-895-3381

THE RHYTHMS OF AFRICA

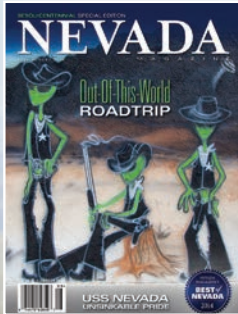
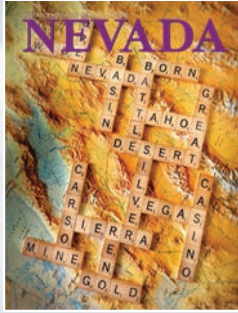
Left of Center Gallery, Las Vegas
Through Oct. 11
leftofcenterart.org, 702-647-7378

FINDING FRÉMONT: PATHFINDER OF THE WEST

Nevada State Museum, Carson City
Through 2015
museums.nevadaculture.org, 775-687-4810

Explore NEVADA with us

In print and online, we highlight urban and rural travel, dining, people, history, events, shows, and more. Subscribe to *Nevada Magazine* at nevadamagazine.com, or call **775-687-0610**.



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NEVADA

M A G A Z I N E

Looking for more Nevada events & shows?

We invite you to visit our Nevada tourism partners.

Refer to the full-page map on page 7 for city and town locations.

LAKE TAHOE

Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority
tahoesouth.com, 530-544-5050

North Lake Tahoe Visitors Bureau
gotahoenorth.com, 888-434-1262

NORTHERN NEVADA

City of Reno
reno.gov, 775-334-INFO

**Reno-Sparks Convention
& Visitors Authority**
visitrenotahoe.com, 800-FOR-RENO

**Battle Mountain (Lander County
Convention & Tourism Authority)**
battlemountaintourism.com,
775-635-1112

**Black Rock Desert
(Friends of Black Rock High Rock)**
blackrockdesert.org, 775-557-2900

Carlin (City of)
explorecarlinnv.com, 775-754-6354

**Carson City Convention
& Visitors Bureau**
visitcarsoncity.com, 800-NEVADA-1

Carson Valley Visitors Authority
visitcarsonvalley.org, 800-727-7677

Dayton Chamber of Commerce
daytonnvchamber.org, 775-246-7909

Elko Convention & Visitors Authority
exploreelko.com, 800-248-3556

**Eureka County Economic
Development Program**
eurekacounty.com, 775-237-5484



JEFF DOW

Fallon Convention & Tourism Authority
visitfallonnevada.com, 866-432-5566

Fernley (City of)
cityoffernley.org, 775-784-9800

Gardnerville (Town of)
gardnerville-nv.gov, 775-782-7134

Genoa (Town of)
genoanevada.org, 775-782-8696

**The Greater Austin
Chamber of Commerce**
austinnevada.com, 775-964-2200

Hawthorne Convention Center
visitmineralcounty.com,
775-945-5854

Jackpot (Cactus Petes)
jackpotnevada.com, 800-821-1103

Jarbidge
jarbidge.org

Lovelock
loverslock.com, 775-273-7213

Mason Valley Chamber of Commerce
masonvalleychamberofcommerce.com,
775-463-2245

Minden (Town of)
townofminden.com, 775-782-5976

Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation
pyramidlake.us, 775-574-1000

Sparks (City of)
cityofsparks.us, 775-353-5555

Spring Creek (Association)
springcreeknv.net, 775-753-6295

Virginia City Tourism Commission
visitvirginiacitynv.com, 800-718-7587

Wells Chamber of Commerce
wellsnevada.com, 775-752-3540

West Wendover (City of)
westwendovercity.com, 866-299-2489

**White Pine County Tourism
and Recreation Board (Ely)**
elynevada.net, 800-496-9350

**Winnemucca Convention
& Visitors Authority**
winnemucca.nv.us, 800-962-2638

SOUTHERN NEVADA

City of Las Vegas
lasvegasnevada.gov, 702-229-6011

**Las Vegas Convention & Visitors
Authority**
lasvegas.com, 877-847-4858

Beatty Chamber of Commerce
beattynevada.org, 866-736-3716

Biking Las Vegas
bikinglasvegas.com, 702-430-1638

Boulder City Chamber of Commerce
bouldercitychamber.com, 702-293-2034

➤ More Nevada events and shows: travelnevada.com/events



Hot August Nights

Goldfield Chamber of Commerce
goldfieldnevada.org, 775-485-3560

Henderson (City of)
hendersonlive.com, 702-267-2171

Las Vegas Welcome Center at Primm
Located at the Fashion Outlets
of Las Vegas, 702-874-1360

Laughlin Visitor Information Center
visitlaughlin.com, 800-452-8445

Lincoln County
lincolncountynevada.com, 877-870-3003

Mesquite (City of)
mesquitenv.gov, 702-346-5295

Moapa Valley Chamber of Commerce
moapavalleychamber.com,
702-398-7160

**Nevada Welcome Center
at Boulder City**
visitbouldercity.com, 702-294-1252

Nevada Welcome Center at Mesquite
visitmesquite.com, 877-637-7848

Pahrump
visitpahrump.com, 866-722-5800

Primm (Valley Resorts)
primmvalleyresorts.com, 888-386-7867

Rachel
rachel-nevada.com, 775-729-2515

Tonopah (Town of)
tonopahnevada.com, 775-482-6336

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TERRITORIES

Cowboy Country
cowboycountry.com

Indian Territory
nevadaindianterritory.com, 775-687-8333

Las Vegas Territory
lvterritory.com, 702-348-4708

Nevada Silver Trails
nevadasilvertrails.com

Pony Express Territory
ponyexpressnevada.com, 888-359-9449

Reno-Tahoe Territory
renotahoe.com, 775-687-7410

ART/PERFORMING ARTS

Arts Las Vegas
artslasvegas.org, 702-229-6511

Brewery Arts Center, Carson City
breweryarts.org, 775-883-1976

Brüka Theatre, Reno
bruka.org, 775-323-3221

Eureka Opera House
eurekacounty.com, 775-237-6006

Goldwell Open Air Museum
goldwellmuseum.org, 702-870-9946

Oats Park Art Center, Fallon
churchillarts.org, 775-423-1440

Pioneer Center, Reno
pioneercenter.com, 775-686-6600

Piper's Opera House, Virginia City
piperslive.com, 775-847-0433

Reno Little Theater
renolittletheater.org, 775-813-8900

**The Smith Center for the
Performing Arts**
thesmithcenter.com, 702-749-2012

Western Folklife Center, Elko
westernfolklife.org, 775-738-7508

Yerington Theatre for the Arts
yeringtonarts.com, 775-463-1783

For more arts events in the state:



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NATIONAL PARKS

Great Basin National Park
nps.gov/grba, 775-234-7517

Death Valley National Park
nps.gov/deva, 760-786-3200

Lake Mead National Recreation Area
nps.gov/lake, 702-293-8691

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STATE PARKS

Nevada State Parks
parks.nv.gov, 775-684-2770

Part VI: Gambling, Gold, and Government Projects

After struggling to maintain momentum through the Great Depression, Nevadans are aided by the sinful schemes that supported the infamy of the Silver State.

BY RON SOODALTER

When the Great Depression struck an unprepared nation in 1929, Nevada took its share of blows. As Governor Fred Balzar was assuring constituents that Nevada's economy was healthy and there was no need for concern, the state's banks—including the impressive 12-bank chain run by the Wingfield Corporation—were falling further and further into insolvency. By mid-1932, four major financial institutions had failed, and others were in serious trouble. A number of hearings by a joint legislative committee revealed serious irregularities in the way the banks were being run, and despite a loan of nearly \$5 million from the new Reconstruction Finance Corporation, the Wingfield banks were soon put in receivership. Suddenly, the Depression became personal to thousands of Nevadans, as they realized neither they nor their savings were immune to the woes of the nation.

THE DEPRESSION HITS NEVADA

The state's farmers and stock growers suffered as well. In 1932 alone, Nevada's gross revenue from livestock and crops plummeted from \$22.1 million to \$6.4 mil-

lion. A newly appointed State Agricultural Relief Committee worked to obtain lower feed costs and shipping rates, but it was not enough to bail out the stockmen. At this juncture, a desperate Governor Balzar appealed for federal aid.

Although many growers went bankrupt—their lands and stock taken over by East and West Coast moneyed interests—some did benefit from federal relief. When a crippling drought struck in 1934, the federal government poured huge sums of money into such projects as well-drilling, installation of windmills, cultivation of springs, and the purchase of undernourished sheep and cattle from stockmen impacted by the drought.

And while farmers saw their annual income hit an all-time low in 1932, within three years income reached \$12.4 million, thanks largely to help from federal programs.

More troubling was the decline in mineral production—the state's leading industry. Things seemed bleakest in 1932, with a gross yield seven times lower than in 1929. Nevada Senator Key Pittman fought vigorously to restore the value of silver, both at home and internationally, and in 1933—largely due to Pittman's machinations—the federal government committed to purchase approximately 99 percent of America's silver over the next four years, with a starting price more than 21 cents above market value.

Copper, however—the mainstay of the state's mineral production—presented a more pressing challenge than silver as market prices dropped and jobs became less available. Despite predictions by "experts" that the industry would not be significantly affected by the Depression, as early as January 1930, Ruth and McGill





NATIONAL BANK RENO NEV.

UNR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

This early 1930s photograph of the Reno National Bank captured an era when Nevadans began to feel the sobering grip as the Great Depression took hold on the Silver State.

suffered a massive production cut by the Nevada Consolidated Copper Company and the subsequent layoffs of some 400 men. Within months, those who managed to hold onto jobs saw their salaries cut by 10 percent. By 1932, the plant was running at only 17 percent capacity with an operating loss of more than \$2 million for the year. Within months, the copper metal price at the refinery fell to an all-time low of less than 5 cents per pound.

Things could have been worse. From 1930 to 1933, company officials initiated improvements that saved at least some jobs and kept the company from outright ruin. The conversion from steam to electric shovels in the mines, as well as improvements to the crushing, smelting, and refining systems, dramatically modernized the system for extracting and processing ore. Nonetheless, economic conditions in the copper industry were in a depressed state.

Again, the federal government attempted to raise the value of copper and stabilize the market. This was addressed through the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA), signed into law in June 1933 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The new law—which Roosevelt called “the most important and far-reaching legislation ever enacted by the American Congress”—was structured specifically to do away with cut-throat competition, raise the value of copper, and ensure workers a decent work week with commensurate pay. This was to be achieved through the development of specific codes, written by committees composed of workers, management, government representatives, and members of the public. The Copper Code was officially adopted in April the following year.

Copper did, in fact, make a slight comeback in 1934, both in the number of workdays and an increase in market value. By 1937, production had jumped to a 10-year high of \$15.3 million, while overall mineral production in the state reached an impressive \$34 million. This seeming return to prosperity did not last, however. Copper production dropped radically

within the year, causing more cutbacks and closures.

This time, it would take a veritable arsenal of President Roosevelt’s new federal programs to help restore Nevada’s mineral industry. Through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Public Works Administration (PWA), money was transfused into the mining industry, while the newly passed Fair Labor Standards Act provided additional jobs, with fixed hours and a minimum wage. By the following year, things were looking up and by 1939—thanks largely to the federal government’s multifaceted work and relief programs—the Depression was effectively over for Nevada’s mining industry.

NEVADA AND THE NEW DEAL

These programs and agencies created to cope with the Great Depression were, in large measure, the brainchild of Franklin Roosevelt. As soon as he was sworn in, Roosevelt set plans in motion for a number of federally funded programs aimed at putting Americans back to work, setting businesses back on a stable footing, and aiding the individual states in fiscal recovery. The “New Deal,” as his system of social improvements was dubbed, provided not only money and jobs, but hope to millions of Americans whose lives had been devastated. Within a short time, agencies and organizations were in place dispensing not only aid, but also work opportunities.

Perhaps because of its sparse population, combined with a strong, vocal representation in Congress, Nevada was singularly blessed. According to Nevada state historian Russell R. Elliott, “Per capita expenditures of selected New Deal agencies from 1933 to 1939 were greater for Nevada than for any other state. Not only was Nevada first in total per capita expenditures, but first, also, per capita in loans, Civil Works Administration (CWA) and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) funds, and funds for public roads.”

Twenty-four CCC camps were set up across Nevada, from the post at Westgate



Above: President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal program provided money, hope, and most importantly, jobs to a weary Nevada. Below: The Works Progress Administration was one of the most effective New Deal programs, providing a paycheck for more workers than any other employer in the state.



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to the camp in Reno. In six years, the CCC put some 4,000 Nevadans to work building roads, planting trees, and digging irrigation ditches and canals. Their labor would have a long-term beneficial effect on the state.

The CWA, established in late 1933 and designed to run only a few months, provided emergency relief by giving checks to the jobless and finding people work wherever possible. In its brief existence, it employed thousands of Nevadans at such short-term jobs as painting road signs, refurbishing schools, digging wells, enhancing road surfaces, and putting up historical markers. When the CWA program ended in early 1934, the responsibility for assigning relief fell first to the Federal Emergency Relief Act, and a year later, to the Relief Appropriation Act.

One of the most effective New Deal programs—for the nation, as well as Nevada—was the Works Progress Administration (WPA). In addition to providing a paycheck for more workers than any other employer in the state, it was also aimed at instilling civic pride at a time when such niceties might have seemed irrelevant in the daily fight for survival. Local artists were hired to design and paint murals on the walls of public buildings; musicians were paid to form bands and stage concerts and recitals in their respective cities and towns; writers were paid to refine and catalog county archives and to create a historical state guide, the first of its kind in Nevada. Again, the benefits would be far-reaching.

The federal government's exhaustive efforts yielded an unanticipated effect for Nevada in the impetus it provided the labor movement. Unions in the state had taken a beating as a result of unsuccessful strike attempts in 1919. Union status was much reduced, made worse by the advent of the new company towns. Starting in the 1920s, the "bosses" began providing clean, respectable housing, schools, libraries, and generally wholesome environments for the workers and their families. Without a guaranteed right of assembly and collective bargaining, unions had little to offer



UNR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

the workers.

However, in addition to setting up codes that ensured reasonable workweeks and paychecks, NIRA also guaranteed union members the right to organize and engage in collective bargaining. Suddenly, the door to organized labor opened wide, and the union reemerged stronger than before. The Western Federation of Miners was reborn as the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, and workers in such mining towns as McGill and Ruth soon set up local affiliates. Although the NIRA was deemed unconstitutional in 1935, its provisions relating to labor rights were taken up and perpetuated by other forms of legislation.

FIGHTING THE DEPRESSION ON THEIR OWN TERMS

While New Deal agencies scrambled to provide jobs and relief to a stricken American public, the propaganda machine worked overtime to promote the federal government's agenda. Equating support of the new programs with good ol' fashioned patriotism, it encouraged such public events as Blue Eagle and Labor Day pa-

Hoover Dam (above) put thousands of laborers to work in Nevada and was one of the most successful efforts to combat the Great Depression. Below: Men out of work were a far too common sight during an early 1930s Nevada.



rades. A typical event was the parade held in Ely in August 1933, sponsored by the local branch of the Patriotic Volunteers of America. And as they had at the beginning of World War I, speakers known as “four-minute men” honeycombed the country and the state, staging talks and rallies.

Meanwhile, forward-thinking Nevadans put forth their own unique, innovative and far-reaching efforts to combat the Depression. Nowhere was this more evident than with the builders of the monumental Hoover Dam. Once work on the dam commenced in 1931, the monthly payroll of the thousands of laborers exceeded \$750,000, and the workers—deprived of the “luxuries” upon which to spend their pay in the morally upright company town of Boulder City—needed a place to blow off steam. As it happened, relief was just a short train ride away. They rode the specially constructed railroad spur 20 miles to the wide-open community of Las Vegas. There—with liquor, gambling, and prostitution—the small town that had begun life as a whistle stop along the Union Pacific tracks catered to the leisure-time requirements of the hard-living crews. By the time the dam was completed in 1935, the river was harnessed and its impounded waters created a huge lake. Soon, the little “center of sin” that flourished a short train ride away had perfected its own methods for fighting the fiscal downtrend.

THE RETURN OF LEGALIZED GAMBLING

In 1931, state legislators enacted two laws designed to enhance the financial status of such towns as Reno and Las Vegas, and to increase Nevada’s revenue flow, both from licensing fees and consumer-spent dollars. These laws were the re-legalization of gambling and the six-week divorce bill. While the results of the first were disappointing, in the beginning, the second quickly became a gold mine.

Gambling had been outlawed 21 years earlier, but enforcement was spotty, and many in the state were clamoring for the



UNR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

In the early 1930s, the Bank Club was the largest casino in Reno and helped revitalize the city’s financial status.

law’s repeal. When the gambling bill was introduced into the state legislature, it received widespread support—both officially and unofficially—with only a small, vocal opposition from religious groups and women’s organizations. The bill passed easily, and certain towns prepared for the bonanza.

Las Vegas was not the only gambling-and-girls mecca in Nevada; Reno prepared for its fair share of sinful revenues as well. In fact, anticipating the passage of the law to legalize gambling, Reno got the jump on Las Vegas. The city fathers authorized the expansion of the Bank Club, Reno’s largest casino, as well as other gambling emporia. City officials were well aware of the gambling activities going on in the back rooms of Reno’s speakeasies; many benefited financially by looking the other way. Now, it was all out in the open, and the casinos burgeoned with new customers, many from California. On Easter weekend 1931, some 5,000 out-of-towners entered Reno to take advantage of the new law.

During the two decades gambling was prohibited, licensing had not been an issue; now, it became a requisite to conducting business. Many houses continued to operate without a license, but the state legislature was quick to amend the problem. They placed the responsibility for levying and collecting licensing fees with the counties, with a quarter of the resultant revenues given to the state, and three-quarters to the respective counties, out of which a significant share would go to the towns and cities. While state revenues from the licensing of gambling houses were far from huge, the individual towns and counties did relatively well. In 1933, Reno netted \$50,000 from licensing fees alone. The overall national response to Nevada’s re-legalization of gambling might have been negative, but in Nevada, gambling was here to stay.

Inevitably, organized crime saw opportunity in the new law and established a presence in Nevada’s gambling centers. In fact, there was a rumor at one point that

Al Capone himself was considering moving to Nevada, to which the Reno sheriff naively responded,

"Al Capone is welcome in Reno as long as he behaves himself."

One of the most significant contributors to the rise and longevity of gambling in the state was a device that is irreversibly linked to Nevada: the slot machine. Known euphemistically—and for good reason—as the “one-armed bandit,” it began life in the early 1890s. The game paid two nickels if the spinning wheel landed on one of 10 illustrated horse-shoes. The device was known, predictably, as Horseshoes. Over time, the principal would be applied to ever-fancier consoles and games, such as the Golden Gate and California Bear. A number of California novelty companies turned out their own variations. Shortly after the slot machine’s invention, however, California law banned cash payouts. For a brief period, winners were paid in redeemable trade checks, chewing gum, and sometimes cigars. In 1911, the California state legislature banned slot machines altogether, and most were converted to product dispensers. For a time, it appeared the slot machine’s time had come and gone.

When Prohibition led to the establishment of speakeasies, slot machines made a comeback. But it was not until the 1930s that “slots” truly began to come into their own. Varying in size from table-mounted to standing units, many were things of beauty, with hand-carved wooden consoles and illuminated panels. Some were built in the shape of Art Deco skyscrapers. But it was the efficiency more than the beauty of the slot machines that earned money for their owners. A company named Bally was founded in 1931 as a manufacturer of such amusement games as Pinball and Horseshoe, but in 1938 it developed and marketed the sophisticated “Double Bell” slot machine, which en-

abled a gambler to play either a nickel or quarter. By the mid-1940s, slot machines were regular fixtures in virtually every gambling house in Nevada.

Despite legalization, improved technology, and predictions of an unprecedented boom, the bonanza was slow in coming. The *Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal* had been accurate—at least for the foreseeable future—when it warned, “Nevada should not become unduly excited over the prospects of luminaries from all over the world coming to the state to establish...gambling casinos made possible under the new law... People should not get overly excited over the effects of the new gambling bill – conditions will be little different than they are at the present time, except that some things will be done openly...”

Various factors contributed to the surprisingly modest gaming revenues in the 1930s. For one, fearful of the lawlessness legal gambling might prompt, the local governments of such prospective “resort” towns as Reno and Las Vegas were initially slow to issue licenses and insisted on keeping the number of gambling parlors deliberately low. “Any more than that number,” predicted the *Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal* in March, 1931, “means crooked games, [and] cheating the law at every turn...[T]he sentiment of a great majority of residents is in absolute accord.” Apparently, the city fathers of Reno and Las Vegas were also concerned that unrestrained access to gambling halls would trigger alarms among the populace and lead to rapid repeal of the new law.

In addition to Las Vegas and Reno’s cautious approach, there were some communities that belatedly decided gambling was simply wrong. Elko banned slot machines from grocery and drug stores, while Sparks sought to restrict gambling by levying outlandish fees on the use of all gambling devices, capping at \$100 per month for each slot machine. For its part, the *Carson City Daily Mirror* lamented, “The passing of the six-weeks divorce law and the gambling law is nothing to be proud of. Both measures could have been forgotten and the state would have been

SLOT MACHINE MAN

Though the spinning wheels, catchy tunes, and dancing lights of the slot machine have become an icon of Nevada gaming, the “one-armed bandits” did not originate in the Silver State. Instead, the creation of the machine is credited to German inventor Charles Fey, who debuted the first slot machine—named the Liberty Bell—in San Francisco circa 1895.

Because the devices had yet to reach their full potential in Nevada during the early 1900s, many early slot machines were built as dispensers of candy and gum. Over the next several decades, Fey perfected and modified his invention, before he passed away in 1944.

Many of Fey’s iconic machines are located at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City, but are not currently on display.

Check out *Nevada Magazine’s* 75th-Anniversary Edition for a feature article on Charlie Fey and his slot machines. Limited supply available by calling toll-free 855-729-7117.





JIM REINHELLER

Slot machines from different eras were displayed at the Liberty Belle Saloon in Reno before it closed in 2006. The iconic machines were instrumental in changing how Nevadans gambled.

better off from a moral standpoint.” Gambling in Nevada would not truly become a cash cow until well into the 1940s.

THE LAND OF THE QUICKIE DIVORCE

The same day Governor Balzar signed the gambling bill into law, he also made the six-weeks divorce bill legal. The gambling proceeds that found their way into state and local coffers paled in comparison to the revenues garnered by the new divorce law.

By the mid-1920s, most states required a waiting period of at least a year for divorces. The Nevada state legislature had gotten a jump on the rest of the nation in 1927 by reducing the residency requirement for divorce to three months. When other states followed suit, Nevada dropped the requirement to a new low of six weeks.

Nevada state revenues benefited immensely from neighboring California’s insistence on maintaining a one-year waiting period. Californians, as well as thousands of people from other states, descended upon Nevada—Reno in particular—in order to take the “Reno cure,” as it was called, and extricate themselves from their marriages.

Soon, Reno acquired a dual reputation, enjoying praise from some for its forward thinking, while others condemned it as an assault upon the sacred institution of marriage. Various movies featured Reno as one of the central characters—rarely in a positive light. Ignoring criticism, Reno flourished. In 1929, locals voted on a motto, which was emblazoned on a huge illuminated arch in the heart of town, proclaiming Reno “The Biggest Little City in the World,” and it did all it could to live up to its reputation.

A well-laid-out program of options awaited the so-called “divorce seekers,” or “six-weekers,” all geared to separate them from their money. Many chose to spend six weeks in the casinos, while others took advantage of Nevada’s other tourist attractions. And while the average applicant might stay in a Reno hotel or boarding house, people of wealth and status—mostly women—could choose to spend the waiting period in the comfort of “divorce ranches”—private, exclusive dude ranches on an elegant scale. A number of distinctively upscale western outfits, such as Washoe Pines and Donner Trails, catered to the divorce trade, allowing women of means to pass their days in the company of Nevada’s young, appealing cowboys. The most famous of the divorce ranches began in the late 1930s as the Tumbling DW, named for its founder, Eastern aristocrat Dore Wood, but was later dubbed the

Flying M E, after Wood's wife, Emmy. It sat in Washoe Valley between Reno and Carson City, and over the years such illustrious names as Astor, Rockefeller, Roosevelt, and Dupont appeared in the Flying M E register.

The wranglers were responsible for everything from leading trail rides and overnight camp-outs, to chaperoning their soon-to-be-liberated charges to Reno or Carson City for a wild time. Inevitably, despite house rules forbidding "fraternization" with the guests, some of the women found temporary comfort in the arms of these storybook cowboys. As one former wrangler commented, "If anybody says it didn't happen, he's a damn liar!" In the end, the divorce ranch experience was a positive one; the divorcees went home happy, while the money they left behind worked toward maintaining economic stability. Divorce ranches continued to thrive in Nevada well into the 1950s.

So popular was the "Reno cure" that it generated its own vocabulary. "Going to Reno," became synonymous with getting a divorce. Famed columnist Walter Winchell coined the phrase "Reno-ation" to describe the divorce process, while the park across from the Washoe County Courthouse came to be known as Alimony Park, and the bridge across the Truckee River—from which, according to local lore, divorcees would throw their wedding rings—was called the Bridge of Sighs. The courthouse was referred to as the Women's Exchange, and the Separator. Down the street from the courthouse, the Corner Bar of the Riverside Hotel was called the Widow's Corner, and served as the watering hole and gathering place for the cliques of locals and divorce seekers known as the Reno divorce colony. Nevada came to be referred to as the State of Easy Divorce, and Reno itself acknowledged internationally as the "Divorce Capital of the World" was informally called the Divorce Mill, the Divorce Mecca, the Separation Center of the West, the City of Broken Vows, or simply, Sin City. The trains that brought the divorce seeker to town were known as Divorcee Specials,



NEVADA STATE MUSEUM

A six-week vacation at a dude ranch was the chief attraction to a Reno divorcee.

and when he or she went out on the town, it was referred to as "going Reno." Sometimes the man or woman seeking a divorce would arrive with a companion of the opposite sex in tow; this person was colloquially known as the "spare," or the "cousin." The day at the end of the waiting period, or "severance stay," on which the six-weeker received the official document of divorce was called Graduation Day.

Perhaps the most unusual, yet somehow fitting, tribute was the concept for a brassiere, attributed to a local female publicist and appropriately called "the Reno," that "both separates and supports."

There are no accurate records tallying the amount spent in the 1930s on lawyers, accommodations, fees, and recreation owing to the six-weeks law, but estimates range from \$1 million to \$5 million annually. Ironically, Nevada awarded (and still awards) more marriages than divorces to those who came to take advantage of the state's user-friendly marriage laws; but because there was no time requirement

for marriage, the lovebirds had no need to stay the six-week waiting period required of those seeking divorce. The big money lay with those seeking to sunder, not join!

BOOZE IS BACK!

It took America 13 years to recognize the "Noble Experiment" prohibiting the manufacture, transport, and sale of alcoholic beverages was proven a cataclysmic failure; even then the federal government acted with caution. In early 1933, while the repeal amendment was making its way through the various state legislatures—a process that promised to take up to a year—Congress and the President gingerly tested the waters by passing a stopgap measure allowing the manufacture and sale of beer and wine with 3.2 percent alcohol content. The wine, by all reports, was terrible—described by one vintner as "insipid slop." As for the beer, it was a far cry from the pre-Prohibition eight percent brews, but it was beer.



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Nevada State Journal

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RENO, NEVADA, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1933

Client of the United Press Association

THE WEATHER
 Nevada—Cloudy Wednesday and
 Thursday; local showers or snow
 during night periods; normal
 temperatures.
 TEMPERATURE WEDNESDAY
 Highest, 43; Lowest, 28

PRICE FIVE CENTS

U. S. PROHIBITION IS REPEALED

Lindy Starts Atlantic Flight, Hits Squalls

EVASION OF U. S. TAXES IS TARGET

House Committee's Plan
Would Yield 237
Millions

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—(UP)—Continuing the repeal of federal taxes by widely known, it today was said today administration in day recommended changes which it estimated would yield \$237,000,000 annually.

Higher rates on dividends and increased taxes on capital gains and income were set at the chief proposals.

The setting up of personal holding corporations by individuals for the purpose of tax evasion was outlawed by the administration which recommended a 55 per cent tax on the undistributed net income of such firms.

After Tax Cuts Bill

"It is believed," said the administration report, "that a majority of these corporations are formed for the sole purpose of avoiding the imposition of the estate tax on the stockholder."

The report proposed that the government should have the power to be exercised against the income tax by the administration.

UNWEPT, UNHONORED AND UNSUNG!



'ALL WELL' AMERICANS BROADCAST

Visibility Third of Mile
Air Pair Approaches
Mid-Ocean

NEW YORK, Wednesday, Dec. 5.—(UP)—Col. and Mrs. Charles A. Lindbergh were flying into unmet weather on their flight from Sweden, British West Africa, to Brazil as dawn broke over the coast Atlantic Ocean today.

The radio station of the Pan-American Airways at Bahia, Brazil, which was to regular communication with the Lindberghs, reported receiving a message from Mrs. Lindbergh at 1:17 a. m. which said that the sky was eight-tenths overcast and that there were scattered squalls.

They had covered about one-third of the 170-mile flight at that time. Visibility was three miles, according to the message which ended with the words "all well."

Position messages sent from the plane indicated that they were receiving a direct line to Natal, Brazil, where they are expected to land.

Utah Convention's Act Unanimous; President Appeals for Moderation

U. S. TAXES REPEALED BY ACTION

Roosevelt Asks Citizens To Buy Liquor From Legal Dealers

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—(UP)—President Roosevelt issued a plea for temperance tonight as the end of America's 14-year experiment with constitutional prohibition was proclaimed officially.

In a proclamation issued at 6:55 p. m. an hour after Acting Secretary of State Phillips formally had announced the passing of constitutional prohibition, Mr. Roosevelt called upon all citizens to confine their purchases of alcoholic beverages to legal dealers.

The repeal of the dry law took effect at 12 noon today. The three of 78 investigations and police officers and 174 criminals.

The census bureau reported that 454,000 persons died of alcoholism during the prohibition years from 1917 to 1932.

In Brief, Here's Story of Prohi Reign in Nation

(By United Press)

Repeal of the 18th or prohibition amendment was proposed by congress on December 18, 1933. It was accomplished two years later.

The joint congressional repeal resolution was submitted to the states on February 20, 1933.

Michigan, voting on April 3, 1933, was the first state to ratify repeal. Utah voting yesterday was the 36th.

A total of 1,336 persons now are serving sentences in federal prisons for violation of prohibition laws.

Enforcement of the dry law cost the three of 78 investigations and police officers and 174 criminals.

The census bureau reported that 454,000 persons died of alcoholism during the prohibition years from 1917 to 1932.

DRY STATE IS 36TH TO VOTE WET

Pennsylvania, Ohio Give Constitutional Change Their Approval

By GEORGE D. CRISKEY

United Press Staff Correspondent, SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 5.—(UP)—Utah, which will signify a prohibitive vote, tonight brought an end to 14 years of national prohibition.

Thirty-one delegates, gathered to the state-called state capital, voted unanimously to approve the twenty-first amendment, and in that action, Utah became the 36th state and that state required to ratify the amendment.

The headline of this Dec. 6, 1933 copy of the *Nevada State Journal* announces the repeal of Prohibition, ushering in a new era in Nevada history.

In supporting Prohibition's repeal, newly elected President Roosevelt was looking to generate tax and licensing revenues and to put Americans back to work. The hesitancy displayed by some Nevada towns and cities over the re-legalization of gambling was all but absent from their response to the return of booze. In Las Vegas, 52 license applications for cabarets and saloons reached the city clerk's office during the first week of the new 3.2 law. Other communities sprouted legal bars and taverns, and city fathers throughout the state were more than ready to grant licenses, with fees designed to fill the general coffers.

As soon as the 3.2 law went into effect, cases of Becker's Beer, brewed in Ogden, Utah, were shipped across the state line to the Coca-Cola Bottling Company warehouse and the Southern Nevada Wholesale Corporation. Here, they were

purchased right off the loading docks, and delivered to venues in the state. In Las Vegas, the actual purchase of the beer and wine had to briefly await the reissuing of city ordinances, but this was not the case in nearby Boulder City, since—as a federal reservation—it was not obligated to deal with the local red tape. A resident of Boulder City bought three cases of Becker's at the Coca Cola loading dock and drove it back to Jack Lauback's Tavern, while a fellow Boulderite drove another shipment to the Green Hut Café. The same scene played out across the state, as Nevadans drank legal alcohol for the first time since 1920.

When it came time for Nevada to ratify the actual repeal amendment on Sept. 23, 1933, delegates from the state's 17 counties gathered in the state capital and cast a unanimous vote for its passage. The law was ratified on Dec. 5. Within two days,

Reno took in \$28,400 in licensing fees.

Still, there were problems to be addressed. Police who once might have been paid or tempted to look the other way were now genuinely motivated to shut down unlicensed speakeasies and arrest bootleggers, some of whom were putting homemade hooch in legitimate bottles and marketing it as legitimate whiskey. Since alcohol was now readily available at consistent prices and quality, the makers of illegal whiskey became anachronisms overnight. On another note, there were stockpiles of untaxed, illegal beer and whiskey, and the owners rightly feared an IRS backlash if they tried to sell it. Also, there were thousands of gallons of confiscated bootleg liquor being held by the state as evidence to be used by U.S. Attorney Robert Douglas at trials that now seemed pointless.

There was also the issue of public



HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST

Works Progress Administration crews built the Galena Creek Ski Hut with native rock in 1937 to provide shelter for Reno-area skiers. The Mount Rose site also served as a U.S. Forest Service training area.

drunkenness. On New Year's Eve in Reno in 1933, there were eight auto accidents, resulting in three people being admitted to the hospital. There were also drunken fights and burglaries. For the most part, however, Nevadans responded to the return of legal liquor in a restrained, if exuberant, manner.

Almost immediately, the state began to realize the fiscal benefits of repeal: a steady flow of revenues from licenses, and new employment opportunities for its citizens in the areas of manufacture, sale, and distribution. It was never more welcomed.

LOOKING AHEAD

By the end of the 1930s, Nevada had recovered from the most devastating fiscal calamity in U.S. history. However, as Nevada's signature mining industry grew increasingly healthy, its profits and prosperity would derive largely from supplying yet

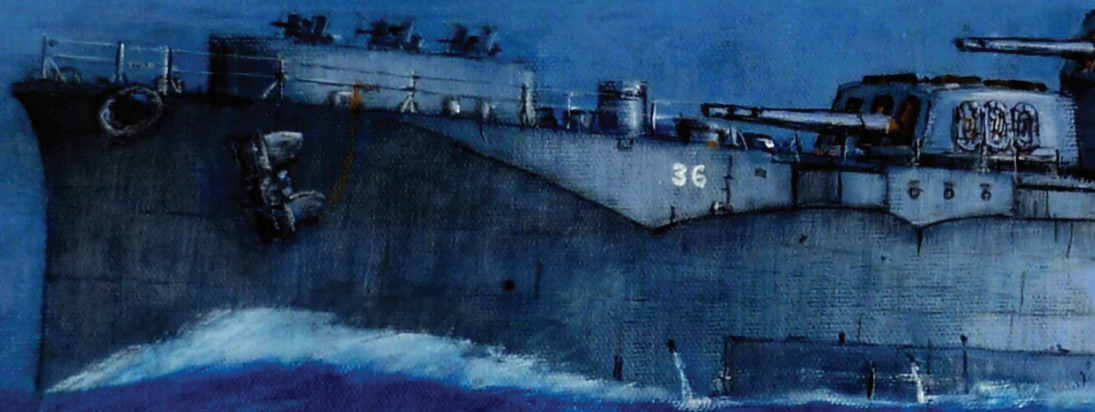
another war. It was not a unique position for Nevada to be in; its very annexation during the Civil War was in large measure due to its ability to supply the Union with much-needed metals. And during the four years of World War I, the state saw productivity nearly double as a result of both federal and foreign demands for silver and copper. The First World War had been touted as the conflict that would end all wars; now, it became apparent that this conceit had been born of pain, exhaustion and shock, and it was wrong. By 1939, a new conflict was spreading throughout Europe, and within two years it would jerk the nation from its isolationism, and engulf it in a global war. And it would impact the social and economic growth of Nevada for years to come. ■

COMING UP SEPT./OCT. 2014

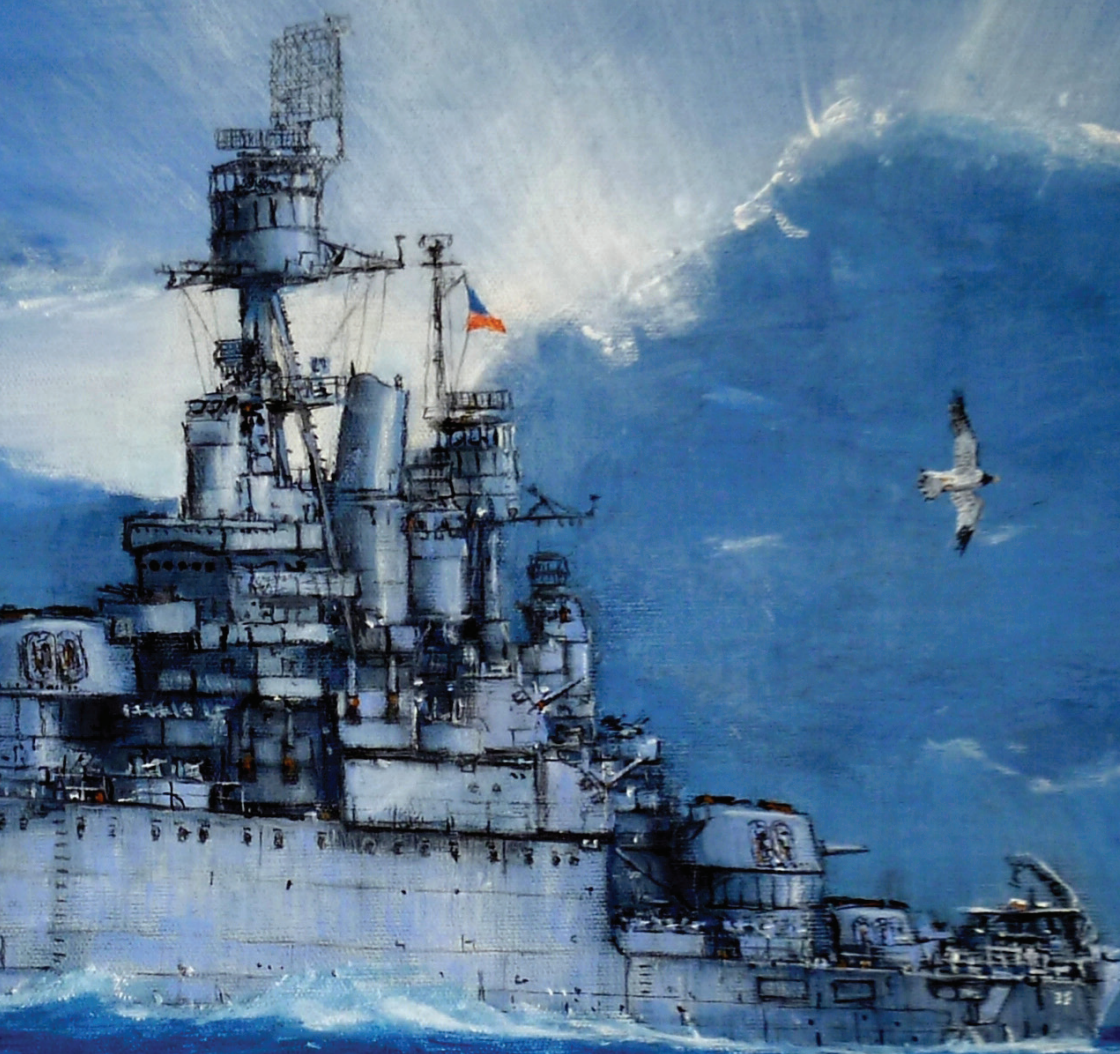
In Part VII, we will look at Nevada's significant contribution as the state and the nation march into World War II. We will see it enter the nuclear age with the 1951 detonation of the world's first atomic bomb at the Nevada Proving Grounds. We will watch as gangsters such as Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel put their imprimatur on Las Vegas, Reno, and Lake Tahoe. As casinos begin to feature elaborate shows to entertain guests, Nevada will bring big-name entertainment to a new level. And we will witness a population boom that made Nevada the fastest growing state.

THE SAGA OF THE USS NEVADA

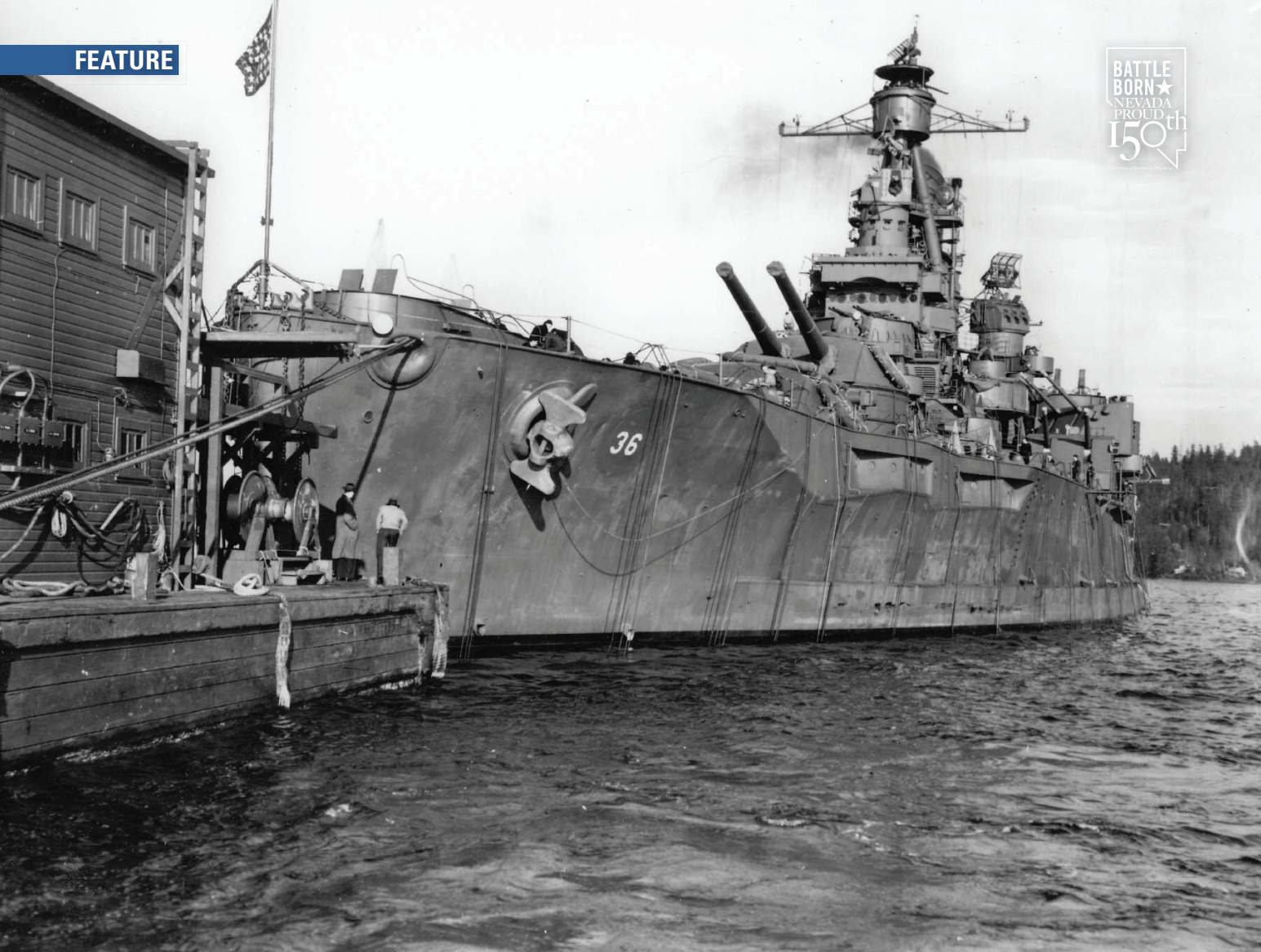
Historic vessel leaves crucial chapter of American history in its wake.



BY WAYNE SCARPACI



The *Nevada* (BB-36) on the morning of V-J Day, Aug. 14, 1945, the day the fighting stopped. *Nevada* fought from the first day of WWII to the last and earned seven battlestars in the process. She steamed 137,027.34 miles, spent 389 days in combat zones, fired 5,028 14-inch rounds 18,297 5-inch rounds, 23,311 40mm rounds, 23,333 20mm rounds. She destroyed five Japanese, and three German planes, countless guns, tanks, bridges, supply dumps, fuel dumps, and ammunition dumps. She also neutralized an enemy battlecruiser, and six 15-inch gun emplacements.



PIETER BAKELS

Bow view of the *Nevada* (BB-36) port side. Puget Sound Navy Yard, Dec. 15, 1942.

July 11, 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the launching of United States Battleship Number 36 named for the great state of Nevada. Throughout Battleship *Nevada's* long career—from her inception in 1909 to her sinking in 1948—she repeatedly distinguished herself. She was one of the most innovative and active battleships in the US Navy, as unique and special as the state for which she was named. That special Nevada mystique, with its bad-boy past, endless forbidding sagebrush deserts, a land of contrasts, contradictions, and beauty, carried over to Battleship *Nevada* and seemed to embody the very spirit of the state. From her heroic sortie at Pearl Harbor to her exemplary war record and incredible toughness in the face of efforts to sink her, Battleship *Nevada* is indeed a ship to be remembered.

Nevada was the 36th state to be admitted to the union and Battleship *Nevada* was the only ship whose hull number, (BB) 36, coincided with the state's admission order.

When commissioned in 1916, the press of the day heralded *Nevada* as a “super dreadnaught” and declared that she shifted Uncle Sam's Navy into the position of being the world's leading

sea power. This is because *Nevada* introduced the radical new concept of the raft body armor principal. This provided the thickest possible armor (13.5-inches thick) in a box-shaped fortress amidships, enclosing the ship's vital systems, leaving non-vital areas largely unarmored. Vital areas were defined as the main turrets, their barbettes, magazines, the engines, command, conning, and main battery fire control. This feature made *Nevada* the first second-generation battleship and rendered all first-generation battleships obsolete. *Nevada* was also the first US battleship to be fitted with triple turrets in positions one forward and four near the stern, and was the first US Navy battleship designed from the onset to use oil as fuel.

BRAVELY MAKING HISTORY

On Dec. 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor was attacked. However, at 8 a.m. standing at attention on the fantail, *Nevada's* band started playing the “Star Spangled Banner.” While standing fast in ranks, they were interrupted by a strafing attack aimed at them by a Japa-

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WAYNE SCARPACI

USS *Nevada* underway during the attack on Pearl Harbor. *Nevada* was the only battleship to sortie during the attack.

nese rear gunner in a torpedo bomber passing overhead which fortunately missed all personnel. The band paused during the strafing, but immediately picked up when it was over. They once again paused as a second torpedo bomber flashed overhead, this time without strafing. They then picked up once more until the last note was played, at which time all scattered for their battle stations.

Nevada was the first battleship to open fire at enemy planes, and she was the only ship to shoot down an aircraft with its secondary surface battery at Pearl Harbor. And on this day, luck earned *Nevada* a permanent berth in the annals of naval history. When in port and not tied to a pier, a battleship usually had just one boiler online to generate electricity; however, a single boiler was not enough for a battleship to get underway. Early on that fateful morning, *Nevada's* officer of the deck realized the same boiler had been in use since the ship had returned to port on Dec. 5, and ordered a second boiler lit.

By 8 a.m., the second boiler was at full steam. When the attack

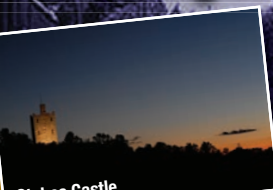
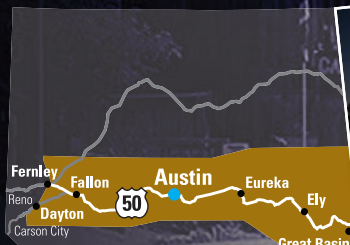
started, the senior officer present afloat (SOPA) realized that with two boilers online, *Nevada* had enough power to get underway. He immediately ordered the hoisting of the signals "I am preparing to get underway" and "request tug assistance." The tugboat *Hoga* was dispatched to assist *Nevada*.

UNDER ATTACK AND FIGHTING BACK

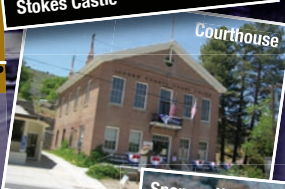
Minutes later *Arizona*—moored directly ahead of *Nevada*—blew up in a tremendous explosion and began burning furiously. At 8:10 a.m., *Nevada* was struck forward by a torpedo and at 8:13 a.m. was struck amidships by a bomb. At 8:25 a.m., the first wave of Japanese attackers withdrew. Realizing the danger of the burning oil on the water drifting toward *Nevada*, the SOPA made the decision to get underway without the tug. The mooring hawsers were cast off and at 8:40 a.m., *Nevada* started to back down; minutes later her bow swung into the channel. At 8:47 a.m. the ship started moving forward. *Nevada* was underway! The effect was electrifying on the men ashore and aboard the other

A sign of good things to come ...

Austin, Nevada. Another stop along the way.



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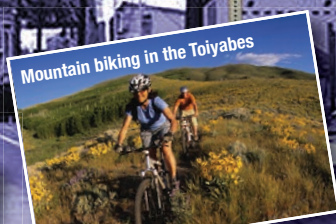
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NEVADA STATE MUSEUM: SCOTT KLETTE

The punch bowl from the USS *Nevada* silver set.

ships. Tumultuous cheering broke out and men from the stricken *Arizona* and *West Virginia* leapt into the water and swam to join *Nevada* as she passed.

Many of the men who saw *Nevada* underway recalled the words of the "Star Spangled Banner" when they saw the ensign courageously raised and standing out stiffly in the breeze. The ship then successfully navigated around the pipe for the harbor dredge and headed for the channel out of the harbor. At 8:55 a.m., the arriving second wave of Japanese planes noticed *Nevada* underway and moved to attack her in hopes of sinking the ship in the channel and blocking it. At 9 a.m., dive bombers and torpedo bombers put *Nevada* under heavy attack, and within a few minutes the ship was hit by five more bombs. *Nevada* was burning forward and amidships and sinking by the bow. The SOPA realized *Nevada* was going to sink and ordered the ship grounded. At 9:10 a.m., *Nevada* was grounded on Hospital Point with the assistance of the tug *Hoga*, which had dutifully followed *Nevada* down the channel. Thirty minutes later *Nevada* was moved across

the channel to Waipio Point to prevent the stern of the ship from swinging around and partially blocking the main channel. Thus, gallant *Nevada* was the first (and only) battleship to get underway during the Pearl Harbor attack.

BACK IN ACTION

On Feb. 12, 1942, *Nevada* was refloated, and six days later was towed into drydock for temporary repairs. On April 22, she got underway on her own power. *Nevada* was the first of the pre-war battleships to be fully modernized. She emerged with new radars, fire control, and a new 5-inch battery that gave her the same anti-aircraft capability as modern battleships. In December, *Nevada* was ready to rejoin the fleet and in May 1943 participated in the landings to retake Attu and Kiska in the Aleutians Islands. In June 1943, *Nevada* was transferred to the European Theater where she supported D-Day landings at Normandy, and was commended for her accurate gunfire. She then took part in the landings on



NEVADA STATE MUSEUM

Top: Left to right: Captain H.L. Grosskopf, and his staff of executive officers of the USS *Nevada* hold the state flag which disappeared from the battleship during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941. The flag was returned by Robert J. Raynor, a Navy Yard employee, who found it. Photograph taken on July 16, 1945.

Bottom: USS *Nevada* off Iwo Jima, February, 1945. The ship has just returned to the Pacific after serving in Europe.



WAYNE SCARPACI

Nevada afire off the Ford Island seaplane base, with her bow pointed up-channel. Photographed from Ford Island. Official U.S. Navy Photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives.

the South of France, where she single-handedly neutralized the damaged Vichy French Battlecruiser *Strasbourg* at Toulon with a single 14-inch hit.

In September 1944, *Nevada* was released from the European Theater and transferred to the Pacific. She arrived in time to participate in the landings at Iwo Jima where she again distinguished herself. Two days before the main landings she was assigned to support 12 landing craft infantry (LCI) with underwater demolition teams (frogmen) to remove underwater obstacles and mines. The LCIs amphibious assault ships immediately came under heavy fire as the Japanese commander believed this to be the main landing force. *Nevada* rang up flank speed and charged the beach with both forward turrets blazing and at 800 yards, threw herself broadside between the LCIs and the beach, allowing them to escape.

Nevada was struck by an Acchi 99 'Val' dive bomber Kamikaze that crashed on her starboard quarter while off Okinawa, Japan on March 27, 1945. On April 5 1945, also off Okinawa, an undetected 4.7-inch shore battery suddenly opened fire, sending five rounds into the side of the ship causing minor damage. *Nevada*

returned fire, but the bunker was so well protected it took 71 14-inch rounds to destroy it. This was the first and only time *Nevada* was hit by counter-battery. In July 1945, *Nevada* joined *Tennessee*, *California*, and *West Virginia* and the new battle cruisers *Alaska* and *Guam* for anti-shipping sweeps off the China coast.

ALMOST UNSINKABLE

After the war, *Nevada* was selected as a target ship for the atomic bomb tests at Bikini Atoll. To identify her as the target for the airburst shot Able, she was painted orange. *Nevada* survived the test and was determined to still be in an operable, if radioactive, condition. The second test, shot Baker, an underwater detonation, also failed to sink *Nevada*. One airborne observer reported the explosion actually lifted the ship clear of the water on an even keel. And although now dangerously radioactive, she was still considered to be only minimally damaged and still operational.

Nevada was stored at Kwajalein until 1948 when she was towed near Oahu to be sunk as a target. On July 26, 1948, a powerful



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Battleship USS *Nevada* (BB-36) painted orange as a target ship for the Operation Crossroads Able Nuclear weapons test in 1946. Official U.S. Navy Photograph of the cover of *All Hands* magazine, July 1946 issue.

Right: A sailor from the Trident ballistic missile submarine USS *Nevada* viewed the silver set during a visit in 2012.

new explosive device was tested aboard *Nevada*, only to detonate without causing significant damage. On July 31, *Nevada* was to be sunk by naval gunfire from the modern battleship USS *Iowa* (16-inch guns) and three light cruisers (6-inch guns). First from 15 miles out, then just five, *Nevada* was pounded by gunfire, but refused to sink. Destroyers were sent in to fire hundreds of 5-inch projectiles into *Nevada*, but when the smoke cleared, *Nevada* was riding proud and defiant.

Finally, the decision was made to torpedo the ship and an Avenger torpedo bomber put a single torpedo into starboard side of *Nevada* amidships. Slowly at first, *Nevada* started listing starboard,

then abruptly capsized and went down, stern first, in 2,600 fathoms of water 165 miles southwest of Pearl Harbor with her colors still flying. The toughness of *Nevada* was a vindication of, and a tribute to, the men who designed and built this fine ship.

As the ship disappeared into the Pacific, a former crewman was heard to remark: "Certainly every man who ever served aboard her will be forever proud to say: "I served on the greatest of the great battleships, the USS *Nevada*, and a part of her mystique will always remain with me." A fitting epitaph for Battleship *Nevada*. ▀



NEVADA STATE MUSEUM: JEANETTE MCGREGOR

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Buy Wayne Scarpaci's book, "Battleship Nevada: The Extraordinary Ship of Firsts" and view his artwork at artbywayne.com





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Jamie J. Clark, husband Stephen Garnett, and daughter Michael. Jamie uses a Nikon D300s with a 24-70mm lens to document her adventures throughout Nevada.

A Family Affair

STORY & PHOTOS BY JAMIE J. CLARK

It's hard to know what might bring a group of people together; sometimes it's celebrating a family bond, other times it's sharing a passion for a place or event. For us, going to A Night in the Country brings both of those together in one amazing event that we look forward to all year long.

A group of us from Nevada get together each year, about 20 in total; some have been going for about eight years; my husband Stephen and I have been going for three, and we're pretty sure our daughter Michael—well—started there! One of my greatest memories of A Night in the Country is dancing in the aisles at the concerts with my dear friends Jessica Bell and Kristi Glover; these ladies are two of the biggest reasons we go each year. Other memories are just snippets of events or the little things that bring the color of this event alive for me, as a participant and as a photographer: muddy irrigation ditches, makeshift pickup-truck-bed pools, wide-mouthed canning jars as fine drinking glasses, and cowboy boots and hats ... lots of boots and hats.

Last year, Stephen and I entered the Mr. & Mrs. Night in the Country photo contest; we included Michael because it only seemed logical, as she will always be a part of the event for us.

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