

80th Anniversary

NEVADA

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

MAGAZINE

Ghost Town Adventures

NEVADA
MAGAZINE'S

GHOST TOWNS & HISTORIC SITES

- EUREKA GHOST TOWNS AND OCCUPIED HISTORIC TOWNS
 - LAUGHLIN RECENT TOWNS (post 1940)
- FUEL AND SERVICES AVAILABLE
- NEVADA HISTORIC MARKERS
- PARKS (See chart for facilities)

NOTE: This map is not intended as a road map. Only major roads and highways are included to help locate sites. Most ghost towns are not accessible by unpaved public roads and many no longer exist. Always check local sources before traveling off main roads. Respect private property and obey NO TRAILER/BOAT/animal signs. Never remove materials from historic sites.

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Tour Around Nevada
Midtown Murals
Highway 50

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NOVEMBER / DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					13 LA 7:00PM	14
15 BAK 5:00PM	16	17	18	19	20	21 LA 6:30PM
22 SCW 6:00PM	23	24	25	26	27 IDA 6:00PM	28 IDA 6:00PM
29		1 AUS 7:00PM	2	3	4 RGV 5:00PM	5 AUS 5:00PM
6	7	8	9 RGV 7:00PM	10	11	12
13	14	15 OKC 5:00PM	16	17	18 TEX 5:00PM	19 TEX 5:00PM
20	21	22 FTW 4:00PM	23 IDW 5:00PM	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 BAK 7:00PM			

HOME SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. ALL TIMES PST.

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5 IDA 7:00PM	6 IDA 7:00PM
7	8	9 SCW 7:00PM	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 BAK 7:00PM	17	18	19 FTW 7:00PM	20 LA 6:30PM
21	22	23 ERI 11:00AM	24	25	26 SCW 7:00PM	27 SCW 7:00PM

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JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 AUS 7:00PM
3	4 RGV 7:00PM	5	6	7 NBA D-LEAGUE SHOWCASE	8	9
10	11	12	13 RGV 7:00PM	14 LA 7:30PM	15	16
17 OKC 7:00PM	18 OKC 7:00PM	19	20	21	22	23 AUS 7:00PM
24	25	26 IDA 6:00PM	27	28 BAK 7:00PM	29	30
						31 SCW 3:00PM

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MARCH / APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 TEX 7:00PM	3	4 TEX 7:00PM	5
6	7	8	9	10 OKC 9:00AM	11	12 OKC 5:00PM
13	14	15 RGV 5:00PM	16	17	18 AUS 5:30PM	19
20 TEX 7:00PM	21		LA 7:00PM	24	25 LA 7:00PM	26 IDA 7:00PM
27	28	29	30 SCW 7:00PM	31	1 BAK 7:00PM	2 BAK 7:00PM

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Cover Photo: Nevada Magazine created a ghost town map in 1987. This vintage collectible map—once thought vanished like the towns themselves—was recently rediscovered in our archives. If you'd like your own copy (hey, ghost towns don't move, do they?), see page 9.

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80

Celebrating our 80th year

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016
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Mural by Bridget

WEB EXTRAS

► The story of Nevada can be told in many ways, but recently, murals have become a visual part of the historical fabric in many Nevada towns and cities. In this issue, we feature Reno's Midtown Murals, but from Ely to Henderson these colorful images are appearing on buildings. Murals can provide a look back at history, a whimsical respite from an otherwise uninspired downtown, and everything in between. Read about some of these fascinating scenes, and view a plethora of images of Nevada's creative coverings.

By Megg Mueller

► In view of Nevada's tallest point—Boundary Peak—lies a hot springs worthy of a visit. Fish Lake Valley Hot Springs is equipped with restrooms, a camping area, ATV and horse trails, and natural geothermal pools that invite a hot soak. By Eric Cachinero

TOUR AROUND NEVADA 2016



It's like Cher's farewell tour; it never ends! Due to popular demand, we are going to continue our tour for 2016! **What is your favorite Nevada town?** We'll do a story on it, and present

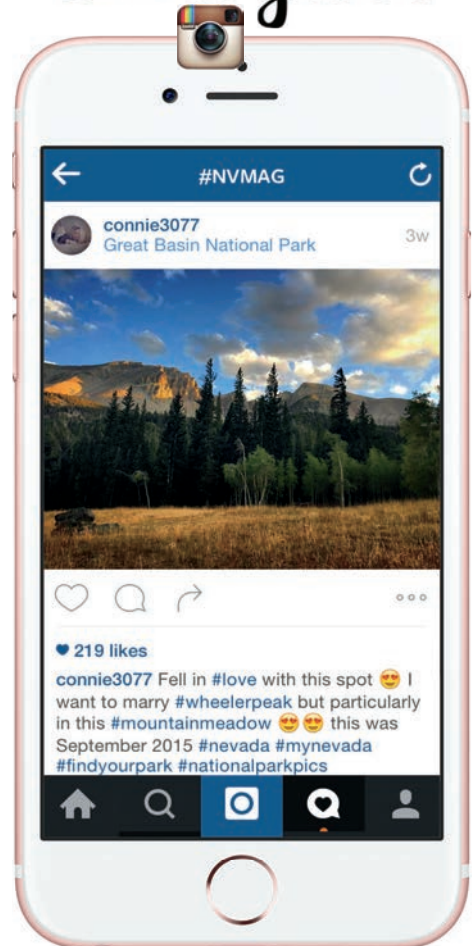
residents with a plaque.

NOTE: Carson City, Elko, Ely, Gardnerville, Laughlin, Las Vegas, Minden, Reno, Tonopah, and Virginia City are not eligible because they have already won.

Send your vote to editor@nevadamagazine.com with the town and "Tour Around NV" in the subject line. Only one vote per email address each voting session, and for full rules and information, visit nevadamagazine.com/tour.



FEATURED Instagram



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



FEATURED VIDEO

Visit nevadamagazine.com/ghosttown1 to see some cool ghost town adventures. We explore abandoned buildings, scenic views, and miles of seemingly endless dirt roads.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!



NEVADA
MAGAZINE

80
Celebrating our 80th year

Look for this icon through November/December 2016 to read about other Nevada entities celebrating anniversary milestones this year.

The Department of Highways inaugurated the publishing of an officially sponsored bulletin titled Nevada Highways and Parks. This bulletin, of 16 pages, 7 inches by 10 inches in size, is produced bimonthly and given free distribution.

The Department has set a high standard for this publication in the selection of textual matter, as well as photographs for reproduction, to portray the many natural advantages, as well as cultural features found in the State.—Report of the Department of Highways

More than 400 issues of *Nevada Magazine* have been created since the publication launched in January 1936. If I wasn't on deadline, I'd figure out exactly how many there are; my office hosts a full collection of our 80-year efforts. The magazines are an incredible resource for me, and also a great way to pass the time. When I'm between projects, I'll grab an issue and read the stories written long ago. I'm always struck by the love of our state that emanates from the pages, no matter the author or year.

As the magazine began, *Nevada Highway and Parks* was eager to promote the state's great outdoors via its newly created highways. Fred Greulich—our first editor—was often photographed in a suit and tie, sitting behind his typewriter, looking very serious. But through his stories, his adventurous side is shown, as is his wonder at the discoveries in our young state.

Very little has changed from Fred's days, at least in that respect. The magazine has a different name, and we have a different boss, but we are still a state entity that exists to portray the amazing natural advantages and cultural features of our state, with the highest visual and editorial standards.

If you're reading this, you likely know that, but if this is your first issue, welcome. I'm going to do something I don't normally do; I'm going to ask you for a birthday present. Please buy a subscription.

I'm always surprised how few people know that *Nevada Magazine* is a completely self-funded magazine. While we are proudly a part of the Nevada Division of Tourism, subscriptions, advertising, and historical calendar sales are our sole revenue sources.

As we look toward our next 80 years telling Nevada's many stories, I ask that you give the gift of *Nevada Magazine's* future to your-

self or someone you know who also thinks Nevada is the greatest state around. It's one present you won't need to return.

MORE IN THIS ISSUE

We are so excited for our 80th birthday, we are going to share the birthday love all year long with our fellow celebrants. This month, our Battle Born Birthday feature is on Highway 50 (jump to page 56); it was 30 years ago this stretch of road was given a dubious moniker by a *Life* magazine reporter who was clearly daft.

Along that historic road is one of America's last roadhouses. An indispensable part of Nevada's history, you can read about Old Mid-legate Station on page 22.

This year, we have some special treats planned as our gift to you. A series on Nevada's ghost towns will highlight a few of the more than 600 towns that are now a part of history, and we have a special surprise, too. Check it out on page 28. We will also visit each of Nevada's seven state museums; on page 68 we cover the Lost City Museum in Overton. And our ever-popular Tour Around Nevada returns; our latest town is a winning combination of history and fun. See who it is on page 72.

We shift to some winter fun with a look at a Lake Tahoe institution: Borges Sleigh and Carriage Rides. For about 50 years, the Borges family has made memories for visitors; read about them on page 34. On page 38, we take a tour of Reno's Midtown Murals that can't be missed. These beautiful pieces of art adorn so many buildings, you may just have overlooked them.

One of Genoa's first residences—The Pink House—is now a tasty home for cheeses, charcuterie, and other delicious dining. Read how this 1855 house transformed itself on page 42.

And finally, as we head into a new year, we take a look at some moments from our past. We hope you enjoy our scrapbook memories on page 80.

M. Mueller

Megg Mueller, Managing Editor

mmueller@nevadamagazine.com

HAROLDS CLUB MEMORIES

Loved the story on Harold's Club. How I wish it was still there. As a kid, I remember it as the friendliest place in town with the movie theater for children, the museum of western guns, artifacts, and paintings. Fascinating to hear over the loudspeaker: "Frank Sinatra pick up line one." Pappy strolling through the club, handing out autographed photos, and taking the time to chat. But one of the neatest things was the Harold's Club Daily News—a blue single sheet that I used to get in a rack on the elevator. It not only had the current news but also the weather. How cool is that! For Halloween in the 1950s, I won a contest by wearing a barrel (no shirt or long pants) that had the message: "Lost My Shirt At Harold's Club!" Thanks for the fond memories!

— **Craig MacDonald**, Orange County, Calif.



NOT QUITE THAT BIG

On page 8 (Nov./Dec.), the statement of "an actual 747 aircraft was rolled out" isn't true. An actual 747 has a wingspan of 195-225 feet and a length of 230-250 feet depending on the model. It would never fit on the stage. The plane used in the show was a fake and does not look like any actual plane, and it had a wingspan of just 80 feet.

— **Ross Loudon**, Reno

JUST DESSERTS

We just received our November/December issue and want to send our congratulations to everyone at *Nevada Magazine* for the awards you received. We agree—the magazine is great! We really enjoyed the article about Kingston and Belmont. It was great to be able to visit with you both in Belmont and be able to show off the courthouse with all the restoration changes our group has accomplished.

—**Rick and Donna Motis**, Belmont

ZEE BEST EVER

I LOVE the magazine and we love to get over to Nevada whenever we can. Was so excited when I turned the page to Kingston (November/December) only to see my beloved Zee sitting on the floor like I remember him. We visited Miles End B&B a few years back. John and Ann were great hosts; laid back, great food. What a wonderful place. Up until that time I wasn't too much of a dog person (we have cats, poultry, etc.). But, for some magical reason Zee and I hit it off like soul mates. Zee would sit on our room stoop in the morning awaiting me to come out. He actually would come in the room and lay by the bed. By the time we left, I was so in love with Zee. Just seeing him again in the beautiful sitting room and at the pond, brought back so many memories. Normally I donate the magazine to our hard-pressed library, but will not relinquish this one. —**Linda O'Keefe**, Mountain Ranch, Calif.

WE VALUE YOUR INPUT

Let us know how we're doing! 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.

CONTRIBUTORS

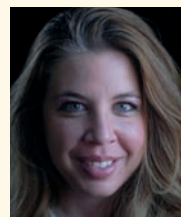
LISETTE CHERESSON



Lisette Cheresson is a writer, filmmaker, poet, and adventurer who is an avid composer, vagabond, and dirt collector. When she's not attempting to create pretty sentences or reading pretty sentences other

people have created, it's a safe bet that she's either hopping a plane, dancing, practicing yoga, or baking a pie. She is the managing editor of Wanderlust Media. ■ PGS. 22-27

TERI VANCE



Teri Vance is a native Nevadan who grew up on ranches in Elko County. She has been a professional journalist for more than 15 years, covering news in the capital and feature stories around the state.

Her Reporter's Notebook column appears weekly in the *Nevada Appeal*. ■ PGS. 34-37

REBECCA BROWN



Rebecca Brown is a freelance writer living in Reno. She has an eclectic background in environmental education, directing summer camps, book marketing, laughter yoga, and life coaching. When not otherwise creatively

occupied, Rebecca can be found paddle boarding the waters of Lake Tahoe and roaming the Sierra Nevada mountains. ■ PGS. 44-48

MARILYN NEWTON



Marilyn Newton is an award-winning photojournalist. Born in Nevada, she worked for the *Reno Gazette-Journal* for more than 51 years after starting her career at the age of 12 as a papergirl. Marilyn's

photos and stories have won almost 400 awards over her distinguished career. She has co-authored two books, and was sole author and photographer of "Alkali Angels." ■ PGS. 56-68

To find out how to contribute, visit
nevadamagazine.com/writer



TRAVELNEVADA

In an ever-expanding economy, Nevada continues to improve its tourism-focused credentials, which allow us to remain one of the leading authorities of tourism in the nation. As lieutenant governor and chairman of the Nevada Commission on Tourism, I will continue to work tirelessly to encourage travel to the Silver State.

I—along with my fellow commission members—spent months working with Nevada Division of Tourism staff as they developed the new “Don’t Fence Me In” advertising campaign to attract and encourage people to visit Nevada. The campaign focuses on the stories and experiences that visitors take with them as souvenirs during their travels throughout the state. Nevada not only has great attractions and scenic landscapes, but great people to interact with. As they say: “Go home with more stories than souvenirs.” If you would like to learn more about the advertising campaign, please visit travelnevada.com.

This January, I will be traveling to New Delhi to open up our newest TravelNevada office. By opening this office, we will continue to encourage the people of India to not only visit Las Vegas, but also visit and experience the other unique and lesser-traveled parts of the state. This is a huge development and a great opportunity for our state to attract visitors globally and compete on an international level as a tourist destination. This is an exciting time and I’m looking forward to kicking off the opening.

In the past year we have seen a marked increase in travel. All of our airports in Nevada combined saw a nearly 7 percent increase in passenger volume. At McCarran International Airport alone, there was a 7.3 percent increase in volume through the third quarter. And

in northern Nevada, the Reno-Tahoe Airport reported a modest, but steady increase in passenger volume. Nevada’s visitor volume statewide is up just over 4 percent.

As more people continue to visit Nevada, more jobs are being created and more Nevadans are becoming employed. Leisure and hospitality—Nevada’s largest employment sector—saw the largest growth with an addition of 16,300 jobs. These numbers are encouraging and reflect that Nevada’s tourism industry is dedicated to growing with the increased travel volume. I’m confident that we will only improve as we continue our efforts to attract visitors to the state.

It is an honor to serve Nevada as lieutenant governor. Whether it’s traveling to Lake Tahoe for a winter ski trip, enjoying the many attractions on the Las Vegas Strip, or experiencing the diverse offerings of our rural landscape, we have proven that Nevada’s unique destinations are great places to visit.



Mark Hutchison
Lieutenant Governor
Chairman—Nevada Commission on Tourism
ltgov.nv.gov

CALIFORNIA

UTAH

NEVADA

ARIZONA

PLACES HIGHLIGHTED
IN THIS ISSUE

Austin (pg. 62)

Carson City (pgs. 20, 21, 73)

Carson Valley (pg. 21)

Ely (pg. 66)

Eureka (pg. 66)

Fallon (pg. 62)

Fernley (pg. 60)

Genoa (pg. 44)

Lake Tahoe (pg. 34)

Las Vegas (pgs. 10, 12)

Middlegate (pg. 22)

National (pg. 32)

Overton (pg. 68)

Paradise Valley (pg. 31)

Rabbit-hole Springs (pg. 30)

Reno (pgs. 38, 49)

Scossa (pg. 30)

Sulphur (pg. 31)

Tunnel (pg. 33)

Washoe Valley (pg. 18)

Winnemucca (pg. 31)



Up Front

Google Trekker has come to Nevada

TravelNevada's Content Manager, Sydney Martinez, spent three weeks trekking across Nevada's backcountry with the 42-pound Google Trekker backpack to collect little-seen, off-road imagery. Like the Google Street Car, the backpack's myriad cameras capture the sights of Nevada like never before.

Below is an excerpt of a Q&A with Sydney. Head to nevadamagazine.com/trekker read the full story about this project.

Question: From flying high in a hot air balloon to trekking across ghost towns, you have quite a bit to cover. How did you pick the locations?

Sydney: The Trekker is designed to highlight places that vehicles cannot reach, and it was important for me to educate the public not only about Nevada's unimaginable beauty, but also things that define our state. I couldn't plan a trek without hitting no-brainer recreational places like Lamoille Canyon and Valley of Fire State Park, but it was equally vital for me to include locations that highlight Nevada's exceptional mining history, like Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, the Tonopah Historic Mining Park, or the Nevada Northern Railway. On that same note, it didn't feel right to leave out the tremendous American Indian influence Nevada has, and it was essential that I hit places like Lovelock Cave and Hickison petroglyphs. I couldn't imagine doing a trek without showing off stunning places that travelers would never imagine to be in the Silver State, like the vineyards at Churchill Vineyards or Spencer Hot Springs.

Q: The Google Trekker looks like a beast. Is it?

Sydney: The pack weighs 42 pounds when it's locked and loaded with memory, batteries, and Bluetooth. I'm 5-feet, 5-inches tall, but when wearing the Trekker I was nearly 7-feet tall! It's so giant because the top of the pack is made of a spherical dome that's equipped with 15 cameras. Each camera takes a picture every two seconds. These photos are then stitched together to create a seamless, 360-degree photo experience for users to navigate through on googlemaps.com and travelnevada.com.

Q: What were your total miles trekked?

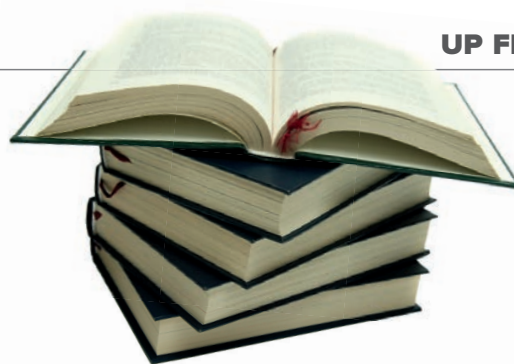
Sydney: Statewide travel efforts I estimate to be at 2,587 miles! Actual legwork, pack-on-back time I would estimate around 93 miles total (standing in the back of pickup trucks, riding on ATVs, touring in hot air balloons, cruising around in boats, etc.). Considering the amount of people who helped carry the Trekker, I can't think of a truer testament to Nevada and the spirit of its people. I joked about having folks meet me at mile marker 81 at 1:30 p.m. on a Tuesday, but sure enough, they did it. This project truly would not have been possible without this "band of brothers" mentality...my Trekker Mafia as I jokingly referred to them!

Visit nevadamagazine.com/trekker to read the full story.



PHOTOS: SYDNEY MARTINEZ/TRAVELNEVADA

NEVADA BOOKS



“Nevada: A History of the Silver State”

By Michael S. Green, University of Nevada Press, unevadapress.com, 800-621-2736, 528 pages

Of the numerous themes central to Green's analysis, luck plays a significant role in the state's growth. From early miners and gamblers to today's mega resorts, Nevada's tourism, the biggest contributor to the state's economy, still relies on gambling. He covers many more aspects of the Silver State's story including the dominance of Las Vegas over the rest of the state, political forces and the tumultuous relationship some residents have with the federal government.

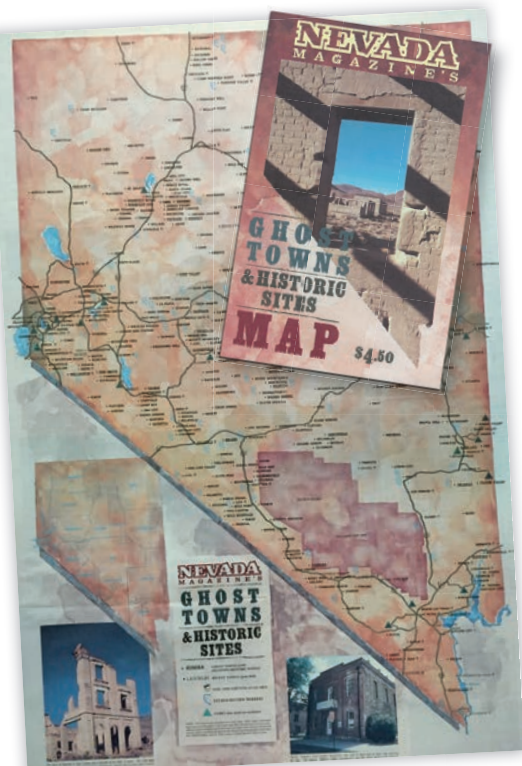
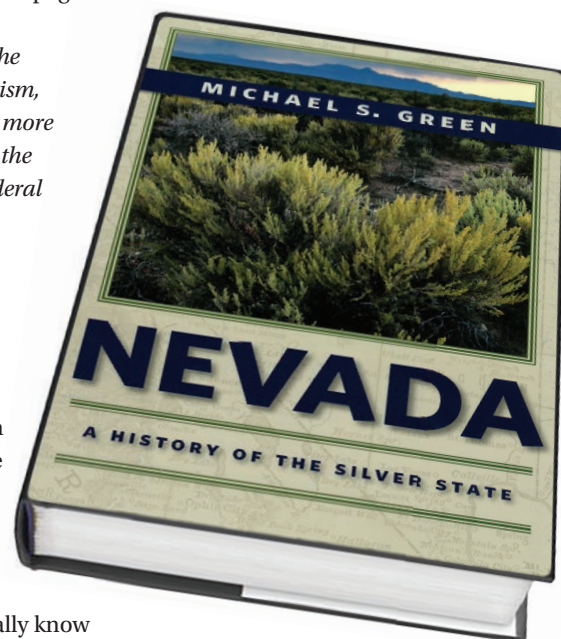
REVIEW BY JANET GEARY

Michael Green's book is an amazing and ambitious undertaking that will take you through every aspect of the Silver State's history. It is a well-written and researched book that should be mandatory reading for all Nevada high school students.

With photographs, illustrations, and maps, the book discusses how Nevada is seen through the eyes of many people throughout history. Michael offers his considerable take on “Understanding the Place” (his first chapter). Everything from the geology of the state, to its plant and animal life, and early western history plays into his introduction of what becomes a fascinating and thought-provoking read.

Thinking I knew a great deal about Nevada's history, I was prepared to skim through most of the facts; however, once I started reading, I found out how little I really know about our state. Michael includes every character—famous and not-so-famous—that had a hand in Nevada's history, as well as historical areas of the state I never knew existed.

His 35-page index will give you a good indication on what is covered in this book and I doubt anyone will find an omission worth mentioning. The author delves into each decade with a genuine curiosity and good story telling ability, making this book a must for any Nevada history buff.



VINTAGE GHOST TOWNS MAP

In 1987, *Nevada Magazine* published “Ghost Towns & Historic Sites”—a map featuring locations of ghost towns statewide. The map comes complete with historical information about some of the sites, and also locations of rural historical markers.

Recently, *Nevada Magazine* came across a limited supply of these maps, and we want to offer our readers a chance to own a piece of history. We're selling the maps for the original 1987 price of \$4.50.

Maps can be purchased online at nevadamagazine.com, by calling *Nevada Magazine* Circulation Manager Carrie Roussel at 775-687-0610, or by mailing a personal check payable to *Nevada Magazine* to 401 N. Carson St., Carson City, Nevada 89701.

Order your map today and check out page 28 for a story on ghost town adventures in the Silver State.



Travel and Tourism Research Association has named **Claudia Vecchio**—director at Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs (dba TravelNevada)—the 2015 winner of the J. Desmond Slattery Professional Marketing Award. The award is presented annually to a professional who has made a significant contribution to the travel and tourism marketing industry. travelnevada.com

Livability.com has named **Carson City** one of the Top 10 Best Places to Retire, 2015. Carson City offers access to affordable and quality health care, a practical cost of living, retiree-friendly businesses and services, as well as several amenities to help keep residents active. The website uses data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Medicare, Esri, NOAA, Walk Score, the EPA, and other sources in its selection process. livability.com

Siegfried & Roy introduced the newest additions to their animal family with four six-week-old tiger cubs at Siegfried & Roy's Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat at The Mirage Hotel & Casino. Born to mother Indira and father Svengali, these are the first tiger cubs to be introduced at The Mirage in five years. The cubs' names are Liberty, Hirah, Maharani, and Justice. mirage.com, 702-791-7111

Casino Player magazine recognized the **Eldorado Resort Casino Reno** in 14 different categories for its "Best of Gaming" awards. The winners are voted on by the magazine's readership. The Eldorado won Best Player's Club for Club Eldorado, Best Comps, Best Promotions, Best Casino Hosts, and Best Poker Tournaments. eldoradoreno.com, 775-786-5700

Reno-Tahoe International Airport has announced Alaska Airlines will start flying one daily nonstop flight between Reno and Orange County, Calif., on March 16. Alaska Airlines also started daily nonstop service between Reno and Boise in November. renoairport.com, 775-328-6400



Pete Rose Sports Bar and Grill

JEFF RAGAZZO



DOUGLAS FRIEDMAN

Inspired by the Milan Opera, the main dining room at Carbone features a floor-to-ceiling Murano Glass Crystal Chandelier originally commissioned for a Ferrari showroom in the 1960s.

DINING

Las Vegas' dining scene unveils host of new entries

New York City's Carbone brings the Big Apple vibe to ARIA Resort & Casino. Carbone Las Vegas reinvigorates classic Italian-American cuisine with unforgettable tableside service, world-class-sourced ingredients, and award-winning culinary craftsmanship. aria.com

Baseball icon Pete Rose has opened the Pete Rose Sports Bar and Grill at 3743 S. Las Vegas Blvd. The menu highlights responsibly sourced ingredients with quality American dishes and features three specialty items honoring Rose's love affair with the cities in which he played. Cincinnati Chili, Montreal Poutine, and Philly Cheesesteaks pay homage to Rose's successful tenures with the Reds, Expos, and Phillies. facebook.com/peterosegrilllv

Rivea and Skyfall Lounge, by Michelin-decorated chef Alain Ducasse, are now open atop Delano Las Vegas. The properties bring together Riviera-inspired cuisine, celebrated libations, a chic casual atmosphere, and great views of Las Vegas. delanolasvegas.com

Zydeco Po-Boys opened in Downtown Las Vegas, offering fast, casual, and affordable Cajun cuisine. Guests can enjoy gumbo, red beans & rice, Po-Boy sandwiches, and more. zydecopo-boys.com

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waterskiing on Lake Mead, and mountain biking along miles and miles of rugged trails. Just swing by to start flying by the seat of your pants. VisitBoulderCity.com





■ The **Nevada State Prison** in Carson City is the latest addition to the National Register of Historic Places. Established in 1862 as the Nevada Territorial Prison, the facility was one of the earliest symbols of Nevada's growing status in the mid-nineteenth century. The prison closed in 2012, and could potentially become a museum, tourist attraction, and movie set. nps.gov, 202-354-2211

■ Eastern Nevada is gearing up for some annual winter events. Early season cold temps and snowfall are predicting a return of the **White Pine Fire & Ice Show** at Cave Lake State Park. The ice sculpting competition and event is set for Jan. 15-17. **The Winter Steam Spectacular** at Nevada Northern Railway in Ely is slated for Feb. 12-14 and Feb. 19-21. elynevada.net, 775-289-3720

■ The **Electric Daisy Carnival** organizer—Insomniac—donated \$105,000 to Southern Nevada charities. The Emergency Medicine Resident Research Fund, Injured Police Officers Fund, and HELP of Southern Nevada's Shannon West Homeless Youth Center will each receive a donation of \$35,000. Since the festival's move to Las Vegas in 2011, Insomniac has donated more than \$380,000 to local organizations. insomniac.com

■ A **mammoth tusk and molar** were discovered in a Southern Nevada area not previously known to have fossils. University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) paleontologists excavated the tusk and molar of a young mammoth in October, about 40 miles northwest of Las Vegas in an area outside Indian Springs. The young mammoth is believed to have lived 13,000 to 20,000 years ago during the last Ice Age. The molar will be reassembled at UNLV, and the tusk is at the Las Vegas Natural History Museum. unlv.edu, 702-895-3011



SHOPPING

Local clothing line picked up by national retailer

Reno eNVy merchandise is now available at SCHEELS All Sports Superstore in Sparks. The Reno eNVy brand recently celebrated its 10-year anniversary with the launch of the Battle Born line of apparel.

Reno eNVy founder Scott Dunseath has created his successful business as a way to highlight the rich culture, fun-loving nature, and pride of Reno-area citizens. Along with its downtown Reno retail location and website, and SCHEELS, merchandise can also be found at the student bookstore on the University of Nevada, Reno, campus.

SCHEELS is a 25-store operation with stores in 10 states and the Sparks location is the world's largest all-sports superstore. renoenvy.com, 775-682-3800



MATTHEW B. BROWN

RECREATION

Las Vegas' ski resort goes back to original name

Las Vegas Ski & Snowboard Resort returns to its roots with a name change to Lee Canyon, the area's original name when established in 1963. The name reflects the area's long history as a winter playground for locals and guests as well as its evolution to a year-round outdoor recreation destination.

Lee Canyon offers 195 acres of terrain, 30 trails that are accessed via three chair lifts and one tubing lift, and an additional 250 acres of hike-to terrain. The resort is open through Easter, weather permitting. leecanyonlv.com, 702-385-2754



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■ The Courtyard Buffet at **Circus Circus Reno** lets kids eat free every Friday. Buy one adult buffet and get one children's buffet at no extra charge. Kids also get five 2-for-1 Midway plays for carnival style games in the Circus Circus Reno Midway of Fun while the adults get scratch cards to earn casino prizes. circuscircusreno.com, 775-329-0711

■ In recognition of Frank Sinatra's 100th birthday on Dec. 12, 2015, the Las Vegas News Bureau is celebrating his legendary career in Las Vegas through exhibitions featuring iconic and rarely seen images from its archives. **"The Sinatra's Centennial"** exhibit highlights Sinatra's impact on Southern Nevada. The exhibits are free to the public and can be seen at the Las Vegas Convention Center through May 31. lvvva.com, 702-892-0711

■ Reno native Juan Ibarra was chosen for the fifth season of the Discovery Channel's No. 1 rated show **"Gold Rush."** The reality show follows three teams of gold miners during the six-month gold mining season in the Klondike region of Canada. Ibarra served as a crew mechanic, and could be asked back for subsequent seasons. discovery.com

■ The **Nevada Indian Commission** celebrated 50 years of service to the state of Nevada and honored four Nevadans for their contributions to the American Indian community at an awards dinner in November. The Indian Commission was created by Governor Grant Sawyer and Assemblyman Ernie Johnson in 1965. The dinner raises funds for the former Stewart Indian School, according to current Indian Commission Director Sherry Rupert. nic.nv.gov, 775-687-8333

■ Las Vegas' McCarran International Airport welcomed **Norwegian Air's** first flight from Copenhagen, Denmark in November. Norwegian also is now offering weekly nonstop flights from Stockholm, Sweden to Las Vegas. mccarran.com, 702-261-5211



Re-enactors, members of the Nevada National Guard, and Western Shoshone tribe raise an American flag and Western Shoshone flag during the opening of the interpretive trail at Fort Ruby.

HISTORY

Fort Ruby opens historical trail

Once called the "worst post in the West" by soldiers stationed there, Fort Ruby—about 70 miles south of Elko at the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge—recently opened an interpretive trail. The fort also includes historical displays and the ongoing refurbishment of remaining ruins. Fort Ruby was constructed in 1862 as a military presence for overland travel and mail service. fws.gov

EDUCATION

Talking books, magazines available for free

Local and national printed materials are available free of charge in audio format to Nevadans unable to use standard print materials due to a visual or physical disability.

The Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records (NSLAPR) participates in the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), Library of Congress national network of cooperating libraries through the Nevada Talking Book Services (NTBS). It began providing this service in 1968.

The library's collection includes fiction and nonfiction audio and Braille books and magazines for all ages, preschool through adult. Books in the collection are produced based on broad appeal. Bestsellers, biographies, fiction, and how-to books are very popular subjects and some titles are produced in Spanish. Digital audio and Braille books and magazines are also available for download from the Internet once a patron establishes service.

NTBS also records books about Nevada and/or books written by Nevada authors. The recording program also records and distributes *Nevada Magazine* to patrons who subscribe. All materials, including the audio players, are mailed to and from patrons. nsla.nv.gov, 775-684-3354



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In our Jan./Feb. 2016 Visions section, we decided to stick with a theme. We hope you enjoy an artistic look at some rustic wooden fences in the state.

Golden leaves feel the bite of winter during a snowstorm at the Wilson-Commons Ranch (Twaddle Ranch) in Washoe Valley. | Photo By Sandra Whitteker



Sun peeks through the clouds
as fresh snow rests on desert
vegetation in Carson City. | Photo
By Lora E. Myles





Still, crisp air floats over the Carson Range as a quiet stream reflects the setting late-autumn sun. | Photo By Theresa Larsen

Facebook Group Choice

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

A spotted towhee perches on a fence as light snow drops slowly around it. | Photo By Larry Burton



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PHOTOS: RYAN AND LISETTE CHERESSON

Sitting 47 miles east of Fallon and 64 miles west of Austin, Middlegate Station is not quite a town—it's never been incorporated—and the population hovers around 16. But travelers will find gas, food, and lodging.

The Last Roadhouse

MIDDLEGATE STATION BALANCES ON THE EDGE OF HISTORY AND EXTINCTION.

BY LISETTE CHERESSON

Driving along Highway 50, even seasoned road-trippers may find themselves in a bit of panic. Once they've ridden the ghost train in Ely or visited the Eureka Opera House, there's a kind of nothing that conjures visions of lone cowboys on horseback; the kind of nothing country songs beg into psyche. Mountains rise and fall against stark desert landscape. The power lines end.

And then a patch of green emerges in the distance, and an old wooden structure reveals itself: Middlegate Station, the only settled area between Austin and Fallon.

"People often ask me, 'How can you live out here like this?' " says Fredda Stevenson, who bought Middlegate in 1984. Fredda currently operates the bar/motel/restaurant complex with her husband, Russ.

"I can't imagine living anyplace else. Any freedom that we have left, I have out here," she says. "I think when people come out here they feel at home. And that's a good feeling."



A PLACE FOR EVERYONE

One reason people feel at home in this middle of nowhere is shared heritage. Middlegate is one of the last Overland Stagecoach roadhouses still in operation. Russ and Fredda restored the existing structure to its original glory by reclaiming wood from nearby abandoned mining shafts, and the result is a living museum that embodies the last vestiges of an American way of life.

Fredda calls her decorative tchotchke her treasures—there's a serious collection of Western nostalgia adorning the walls of Middlegate, including 19th-century newspapers found on site. There's a "hero wall," boasting U.S. Armed Forces patches (mostly gifts from local military members), and the bar ceiling is covered in dollar bills signed by patrons and passerby. One of the prized bills is Asian currency gifted to Middlegate by tourists, Russ says, "who came all the way from Mongolia just to see the last of the Old West."

Marvin Smith is a nomadic rancher who occasionally works grazing cattle on land surrounding Middlegate.

"It is traditional out here," Marvin says. "It's kind of like the Old West never died."

Towns like Middlegate are essential, he believes, because if you're hurt out on the range there's somewhere to go. But their necessity is as emotional as it is practical. Towns like Middlegate provide Marvin—and people like him—with a community they would otherwise lack.

Rodney Leach is a truck driver based in the small town of Pahrump, about 300 miles south of Middlegate.

"There's not a person that works here who doesn't make you feel like you belong," Rodney says.

In this way, Fredda and Russ perpetuate the historical social fabric of a roadhouse as well as the physical. They're known for taking in the destitute and helping them back on their feet and back on the road—in the way that roadhouses used to be stopovers for travelers who would occasionally need a favor.

"They save people from the worst all the time," says Paul Smith, the motel housekeeper and resident musician. "They got me set up, helped me with my career," he says, explaining that everyone who works at Middlegate works for tips, room, and board.

"Because of them, we've all learned teamwork under tough conditions. This is gas, food, lodging—off-the-grid rustic," Paul says proudly, "but we love it."



LAUREN ARENDIS



KURT KUZNICKI

Top: Relics of the area's past remain to greet visitors today. Bottom: Greg "Goyo" Delpozzo came to work at Middlegate Station after retiring from the U.S. Forest Service.



KURT KUZNICKI

Inside the restaurant and bar, there is no shortage of memorabilia and character; visitors can peruse everything from signed dollars on the ceiling to military patches, Fredda's long-collected tchotchkes, and Western artifacts.



PHOTOS: RYAN AND LISETTE CHERESSON



GEOGRAPHY OF HOPE

It's the "off-grid" bit that makes the current situation in Middlegate challenging—and what is driving their current economic crisis.

"When I bought this place," Fredda says, "diesel was 30 cents a gallon."

They run the entire town on a single generator—a finicky machine on good days. Because of the high cost of fuel, they've been operating in the red for years.

The Stevensons have applied for 27 grants to date, but have been rejected for all. In the 1990s, they called on NV Energy (then Nevada Power Company) to put in a grid in their area, which ultimately did not happen. Most grants for rural development are awarded to communities or institutions that are on-grid, because the saved energy cost can then be put back into the system.

Sarah Adler, the director of Nevada USDA Rural Development, says that while the agency does its best to meet the needs of rural residents, there's only so much federal and state tax money to allocate. Sarah and her office worked with Middlegate to get them into the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)—a subsidy that could offset 25 percent of an energy-efficiency installation like solar. Unfortunately, even if they had been accepted into the REAP, their costs would still have been astronomical.

For Middlegate to be approved for a low-income USDA loan, there has to be a solid revenue stream to repay it. Fredda knows that her operating costs are enough to scare any lender.

"That's really the challenge we're facing with Middlegate—it's a dream," Sarah says. "It's history and it's precious, but for some of the forms of assistance that are available, there needs to be an economy that's predictable in order to meet the need."

Middlegate's challenges aren't unique, according to Professor Paul Starrs, chair of the history department at University of Nevada, Reno.

They're the same problems of access that affect many Americans living in rural locales.

"But just as the person in charge of rural development concerns themselves with rural internet access, it's probably time to start thinking about how these truly rural communities can become autonomous in terms of power," he says.

For now, Fredda and Russ are relying on their regulars to provide them with the flow of customers they need to stay afloat. They don't know, however, how long they'll be able to keep it up.

Paul Starrs refers to Middlegate as the embodiment of what Wallace Stegner called the "Geography of Hope." Middlegate, as it exists today, provides necessary services and community for people who are carrying on a way



LAUREN ARENDS

Guitars that belong to musicians who perform at the bar are left to play another day; decorative lamps are for sale; farm implements, ropes, and more decorate the restaurant.

of life that matters. It embodies the spirit of radical self-reliance and rugged individualism. Its loss is something that would affect us all.

“It’s a great part of history,” the professor says. “And people like Fredda represent a force of human nature...and that’s a very good thing.”

For more information on Middlegate Station and its current challenges, don’t miss the upcoming documentary, “The Last Roadhouse.” Visit lastroadhouse.com for more information.



LOOKING BACK

In our March/April 2012 issue, then-associate editor Charlie Johnston conquered Middlegate’s famous Monster Burger, a feat few challengers accomplish. To read about this tasty side of Middlegate—and other great burgers around the state—visit nevadamagazine.com/mmmburgers.



A SLICE OF AMERICA

Middlegate Station

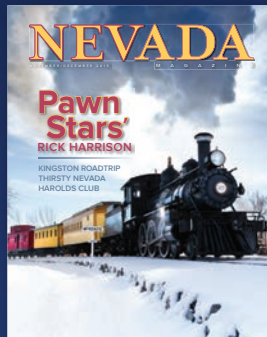
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Charlie Johnston and Fredda Stevenson

PHOTOS: MATTHEW B. BROWN

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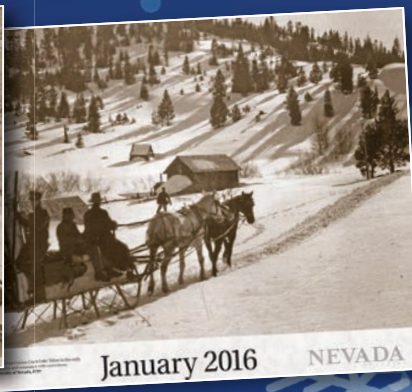
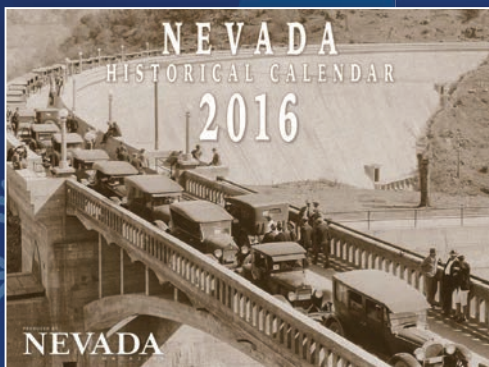


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SETTLEMENTS OF NORTHWEST NEVADA.

PART 1: SKELETONS OF HISTORY

BY ERIC CACHINERO

Ghost towns are skeletons of history. Though time has withered many away to the point of almost nothingness, even the most seemingly inconsequential heap of rocks and sticks tells a story: stories of hardship, stories of hope, stories that only the people who once called these establishments home will ever know.

But not all are withered away. Some leave clues behind in their architecture. Magnificent arches, stamp mills, even huts dug into the side of a mountain and reinforced with railroad ties all leave clues as to their purpose and inhabitants.

Explorers of these sites have a unique opportunity to construct their own understanding of the goings-on of yesteryear, and with more than 600 ghost towns in Nevada, can spend some serious time doing so.

PHOTO: ERIC CACHINERO



BLACK ROCK BOUND

It is an especially chilly November morning when my grandfather, Paul McKee, and I set off in search of as many ghost towns as we can possibly jam-pack into a single day. Heading northeast out of Reno via State Route 447, we arrive in Gerlach—our final stop for fuel before heading east on Jungo Road (Secondary State Route 48). The road is about 100 miles of dirt (not counting side trips to ghost towns) and follows for some distance the Noble's Cutoff of the California Trail, as evidenced by tracks visible from the main road.

Several natural hot springs are visible to the north of the Jungo Road—just on the edge of the Black Rock Desert—and offer a chance to warm up on freezing days such as this. We stray from the main road, following SSR 86 en route to our first ghost town of the day: Rabbithole Springs.

RABBITHOLE SPRINGS

Discovered by the Applegate family in 1846, the springs—located on the Applegate-Lassen Route of the California Trail—provided the last source of water before the 21-mile trek across the Black Rock Desert. Though sporadic placer mining activity took place, it wasn't until the 1930s that a washing plant was installed at the springs and as many as 150 men are said to have mined the area during its peak.

Today, the wash plant at the springs is still visible, along with a half-standing stone structure nearby. About 3.5 miles east and somewhat visible from the road lie several more structures, including an intact cabin whose door is branded appropriately: "The Rabbithole Resort."

SCOSSA

Some 12 miles east of Rabbithole Springs via SSR 86 lies the ghost town of Scossa. The establishment's roots can be traced to March 1907, when small mining operations began. The boom was short-lived, however, and the town faded out as quickly as it had appeared. Then, in 1930, Charles and James Scossa established a claim on the site. In hopes of a stimulant to combat the Great Depression, the *Saturday Evening Post* published a feature article on the site, telling of the discovery of gold. Gold production ramped up over the next few years, with some even describing the location as the "only camp of immediate promise on the Nevada desert." Though the metals provided by the region did help boost the state's mining profits, gold recovery didn't pan out much after 1937, and ushered the town into the ranks of ghost.

Several small structures remain where the town site once stood. A large cross keeps watch over the dwindling structures, as does a large mine head frame and several mine openings above the town. Though the head frame can be approached, please keep your distance as the ground can be very unstable and a person falling straight down a 150-foot mine shaft may be pretty hard on the mine.

Back out on SSR 86 and heading north—about 2 miles north





Opening spread: A structure used for loading ore stands idle at the Birthday Mine. Clockwise from below: A wooden roof now lies in the dirt in the ghost town of Sulphur. Remnants of a wash plant decay on the bank of Rabbithole Springs. “The Rabbithole Resort” lies just east of the springs and is still in great structural shape. The opening of a hut in an unidentified ghost town leads to a small room that probably housed miners. The mine head frame at Scossa stands sentinel over the crumbling town.



PHOTOS: ERIC CACHINERO

of Scossa—lies Maude’s Well. The site is visible from the road and holds the remains of an impressive stamp mill, used to crush gold- and silver-rich ore.

UNIDENTIFIED SITE

Driving back toward Rabbithole Springs, we spot a large pond on the north side of the road, with an unnamed road running alongside it and perpendicular to SSR 86. We decide the road is the most direct route to our next destination: the ghost town of Sulphur. Heading north on the unnamed road, we spot several interesting-looking huts off to our east. After exploring a bit, we quickly realize we have come across something special. Only in Nevada can you stumble upon an unknown, unmarked, and to my knowledge unnamed ghost town.

The settlement has approximately eight huts built into the side of small hills. Though some roofs are missing, the huts’ structural integrity is relatively sound. All except one: its walls—fashioned from used railroad ties—are caving under the enormous weight of the earth that surrounds it. As curious as the lack of information on this ghost town is the size of some of the doors and ceilings. They are such that anyone taller than about 5 foot 4 inches would be forced to duck to get inside them.

The sun begins to set as we get back to the truck, and we hurry along the unnamed road to our next ghost town.

SULPHUR

Sulphur is aptly named after the sulfur deposits that exist nearby. The deposits became a commodity when a Paiute Indian is said to have lead prospectors to the area in 1869. Quickly the claim began to pay out, and in the 1880s, the mine was producing six tons of sulfur per day. Once the Western Pacific Railway laid lines through the area in 1909, the settlement constructed a post office. It wasn’t until the 1950s that the post office closed and the town became a skeleton.

Today, not much remains of the town of Sulphur. There are several collapsed structures that dot the landscape, dwarfed by the massive Hycroft Mine, which operates in the area today.

WIN THE MUCCA

We begin to make our way to Winnemucca, where a delicious barbecue dinner at The Pig awaits us. As we drive, Pulpit Rock—a massive geological feature protruding straight up from the earth—is illuminated by the sun and makes for a wonderful view. We snap a few sunset photos and eventually retire for the night.

WELCOME TO PARADISE

The next morning, we’re up and headed straight for paradise. Everyone has a different notion of their own paradise, but when it comes to the sheer beauty of rustic Paradise Valley, I’m sure many would agree it’s deserving of the title. Though far from a ghost town, Paradise Valley is a must see if you’re traveling in

this part of the state.

My grandfather and I try, albeit unsuccessfully, to locate several ghost towns in the area. Spotting mule deer while driving dirt roads looking for ghost towns isn't a bad way to spend a day, though, even when unsuccessful.

We spend some time glancing at Hinkey Summit, which lies just north of Paradise Valley, and decide not to attempt passing it due to snowy conditions. So, it's back out to Highway 95 north for us as we drive to more-accessible sites.

NATIONAL

Near the Oregon border, we turn off on National Canyon Road (SSR 85) and make our way up the canyon. A large, rock house is visible at the mouth of the canyon, as is Threemile Creek, which winds across the dirt road a time or two. Soon we come across a structure used for loading ore at the Birthday Mine. The structure is massive and in incredible shape considering its age. We finally reach the top of the canyon, and can't see much that resembles the ghost town of National anywhere. After glassing the area with binoculars, we decide to descend down SSR 694 by foot due to muddy road conditions. Soon enough, we discover the National site.

National is rumored to have once contained the richest gold ore ever mined in Nevada. In 1907, two prospectors are said to have entered the area by car—a car produced by National Motor Vehicle Company, hence the naming of the town. By 1909, the mine was producing ore that averaged almost \$30 per pound. The ore was so rich that a town quickly sprung up, complete with several stores, saloons, and even a two-story hotel. By 1915, nearly \$7 million in gold had been pulled from the ground, and the veins began to run dry.

Not much remains in the area today, surprising considering the town once contained more than 50 framed houses and many businesses. A flooded mine shaft accompanies several wooden and metal structures that exist sporadically throughout the canyon.



ERIC CACHINERO



PAUL MCKEE

This page: One of several wooden structures (left) remains in National. Above: Tailings at National litter the canyon. Top: A cabin at the ghost town of Tunnel provides fantastic views over the valley. Opposite page: A brick building in the town of Tunnel gives the impression that the digging operations in the area were viewed as long term. Inset: A rock structure at the mouth of National Canyon lies mostly in ruins.



PAUL MCKEE



PHOTOS: ERIC CACHINERO

TUNNEL

With one more ghost town on our list, we hurry to Lovelock—the fastest route for us to reach Seven Troughs. We take Seven Troughs Road (State Route 399) northwest out of Lovelock, racing the sun so we can see the ghost town in the last bit of daylight. As we approach Sage Valley hoping to make it to Seven Troughs, another ghost town catches our eye, and we decide to explore it instead. The ghost town of Tunnel is what we find, and what a beauty it is.

The site was established in the late 1920s when an attempt to tunnel horizontally into shafts of the Seven Troughs mines located several miles away was made. The goal was to eliminate drainage problems that were plaguing the Seven Troughs mines. After digging a little more than two miles, wet ground was encountered and drilling costs soared. All work was ceased in 1934.

There are several impressive structures still standing in Tunnel. A large, redbrick building stands in decent shape. A stamp mill, wooden cabins, and mine tailings create an impressive view. A cemetery lies about a mile below the camp with about a dozen gravesites, but the markers are illegible.

HOME, JAMES, AND DON'T SPARE THE HORSES

As my grandfather and I make the drive back to Reno, I reflect upon the things we experienced. It's a wonder that these places endure. Endure through rain, through heat, through vandals leaving their ugly mark on the integrity of history; these places still exist. Some of these towns are fragile, as skeletons often are. But though delicate now, the impact they had on Nevada history is not. ▀

Keep an eye on this column for the remainder of 2016 as we explore ghost towns all across the state. Have a ghost town you think we need to see? Email ecachinero@nevadamagazine.com and let us know about it.



VINTAGE GHOST TOWNS MAP

Check out page 9 for a special offer on a piece of Nevada Magazine history to accompany your own ghost town adventures.

TRAVEL LOG

MILES: 691

DAYS: 2

GHOST TOWNS: 9



Above: Sam Borges and his Belgian draft horses in 1987. Below: A wintry sleigh ride in the meadow outside the Parks' house in 1967.

Dashing Through History

LAKE TAHOE FAMILY AT THE REINS OF A HALF-CENTURY OF MEMORIES.

BY TERI VANCE

With a natural affinity for the outdoors and animals, Sam Borges had always dreamed of a life working with horses. And when a sense of dissatisfaction with the routine of his job in San Jose, Calif., came upon him, Sam packed up his family and moved to Lake Tahoe, where he and his wife, Rosie, received a chance to make his dream a reality.

That was the way Sam had always operated: all in.

Now, nearly 50 years later, Borges Sleigh and Carriage Rides—a company built on a twist of fate—still graces the shores of Lake Tahoe.



A WINNING FUTURE

Sam was born in 1924, in Albany, New York, and he grew up on the road with a mother who traveled the country selling Bibles after reportedly being healed from blindness through the power of prayer.

"When he was 13, Sam told his mother, 'This is your life, not mine,'" recounts his daughter-in-law, Dianna Borges. "He told her he wanted to live on a ranch. So she made a 'Boy for Rent' sign. A nice family who had just lost a son took him in to teach him to become a rancher."

It was there in Lemoore, Calif., that he learned to care for horses, clean stalls, and clear fields. In 1948, he met Rosie Luis and the pair were married the following year; three sons quickly followed. The family moved to Lake Tahoe in the early 1960s.

In 1965, he and Rosie had an unexpected surprise. A fourth boy, Dwight, was born 12 years after his closest brother.

Dwight wasn't the only the surprise the family would receive.

In 1965, Sam entered his son, David, in the South Lake Tahoe Dodge dealership's raffle for a Shetland pony.



Above: Sam gives a carriage ride in the summer of 1989. Below: A postcard with a photo of the Borges' sleigh in action was found by Dianna Borges in a local shop.



"The whole family went down to the dealership that Saturday morning and waited for them to draw a name," Dianna says. "The first name they drew wasn't there, and you had to be present to win. The next name was David Borges."

The next step was to build a sleigh to hook up the newly acquired steed. An avid tinkerer, Sam saw a picture of a sleigh in a J.C. Penney catalog and used it as a model to build his own.

He'd hook the sleigh up to Little Joe—a name he'd gotten from the popular television show "Bonanza"—and give rides to the neighborhood kids. The joy he saw on the kids' faces as he'd take them to and from the bus gave him an idea.

"Dad worked construction in the summer and snow removal in the winter," Dwight says. "The snow removal business wasn't reliable, so he decided to start giving sleigh rides to tourists in the winter instead."

On a late summer day in 1967, Sam put on his best suit and drove down to see Brooks Park of the Park's Cattle Company. Sam offered Brooks a percentage of the profits if he would allow Sam to run his sleigh in the tree line above his snowy meadows overlooking the lake.

"It seemed a shame only the cows got to enjoy such a terrific sight," Sam is quoted as saying. The two men shook hands, and the deal was made.

FROM DREAM TO LEGACY

This year, Dwight—who, like his father, quickly tired of city life after graduating with a degree in engineering, and came home to take over the business—and Dianna are kicking off what they're deeming the 50th anniversary of the Borges Sleigh and Carriage Rides in Lake Tahoe.

"Papa Sam wasn't very good with note taking," Dianna says. "He was old world. We're really close to 50 years, it just depends who you talk to."

Although Sam died in 2010, his influence can still be felt in every aspect of the business, including the care of 15 Belgian draft horses, the dedication to the customer, and treatment of employees.

Today, guests can embark on a number of special horse-drawn adventures offered by the Borges family. In the summer months, carriages operate in Lake Tahoe, offering views of the historical and scenic destinations. During the winter months, sleigh rides are available at various locations in Lake Tahoe, including South Lake and Sand Harbor State Park. The company also offers pony rides, which are available for parties and special events year-round.

Guests—including such celebrities as Bob Hope, Ray Charles, and Muhammad Ali—come for a variety of reasons. Some are looking to check off a bucket list item; others return to mark such life events as proposals, weddings, anniversaries, and birthdays.

While each ride is unique, every driver continues the tradition Sam started of leading guests in a sing-along to "Jingle Bells" and reciting "Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening," by Robert Frost.

"The area is so beautiful," Dwight says. "We tell stories and entertain the crowd. It ends up really being a life-changing experience for people. It's almost magical."

"It's definitely magical," Dianna clarifies. ▀





TAKE A RIDE

Borges Sleigh and Carriage Rides
sleighride.com, 775-588-2953



Far left: Rosie Borges poses with Bob Hope during his carriage ride in the 1970s. In 1968, Dwight rides the Shetland pony that started the business. Above: Dwight, in 2014. Right: Madeline Borges Corral greets a horse with grandfather Dwight.

THROUGH THE LENS:

MIDTOWN MURAL TOUR

RENO ART MURALS INSPIRE AND INVIGORATE AREA AND ARTISTS.

BY MEGG MUELLER

"Visionary" by OVERUNDER (Erik Burke); photo by Tony Fuentes.



When we're young, many of us play with a jack-in-the-box; with just a little persistence, we are continually delighted by the surprise that pops up. Reno's Midtown Mural Tour is a bit like that; the payoff is worth the small effort required to see the beautiful, evocative, and generous murals sprinkled in this newly energized segment of the Biggest Little City.

The murals have been appearing for years, but it wasn't until Geralda Miller and Eric Brooks—co-curators of Art Spot Reno, a comprehensive website for the area's arts and events—expanded on Eric's impromptu tours for friends that the Midtown Mural Tour was created. Today, guided tours of the more than 60 murals happen the second Saturday of each month, and most tours include one of the muralists, along with Eric's encyclopedic knowledge of the works and artists.

As with many inner-city gentrification projects, the murals are taking on a life of their own; in summer of 2015 alone, more than 20 murals were added to the mix, and more are being commissioned and painted each month. The vibrant

CITY LIMITS « Midtown Mural Tour

expressions of local, national, and international artists have been created out of artistic need, but also because savvy business people and artists have begun working together to bring new life to Reno's admittedly aging core. The subjects run the gamut; from characters to portraits and everything in between. But there's one thing you won't find: graffiti.

"The difference between murals and graffiti is permission," Geralda says. "Murals are a deterrent to vandalism and tagging."

That permission is changing the face of Midtown, as businesses seek muralists to decorate their walls, which in turn encourages the thriving artists' community Geralda and Eric are striving to support. A portion of the small charge for the guided tour is given to the accompanying artist.

"We want to make sure artists in this area are getting paid," Geralda says simply. Her love for the arts fuels her goal to get the word out about this often-overlooked side to the city. Eric—one of Reno's most fervent ambassadors—concurs.

"Reno's public art collection is incredible. We may even have the highest percentage of public art per capita than any other city," Eric estimates. "We need to help develop the artists here, and we need to help keep them here."

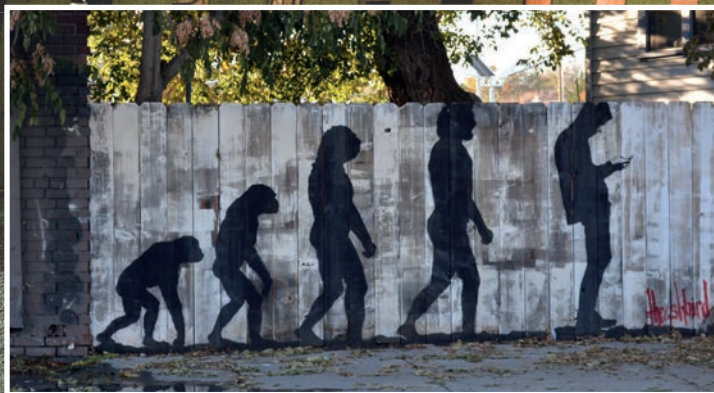
Their work—along with others—is paying off. A small part of the overall art scene, murals are taking off with at least 25 found in downtown Reno (north of Midtown), and the University of Nevada, Reno is working on a mural tour also. The city's annual Artown festival reaches its 20th anniversary this year, and as this nationally recognized, popular month-long event each July is proud of noting, Reno is Artown. But for Geralda, Eric, and Art Spot Reno, one month is simply not enough to highlight all the incredible art events happening in Reno.

"Reno is a year-round art town," Geralda says. "We should be a destination for the arts." ▀





Left: The artist(s) of the girl with the goggles is unknown; photo by Megg Mueller. Top: The Squid on Melting Pot World Emporium is by Adam Pittman; photo by Neil Lockhart. Middle: "Roar" was created by the CBS crew; photo by Megg Mueller. Bottom: The Bull is by Nanook; photo by Art Spot Reno.



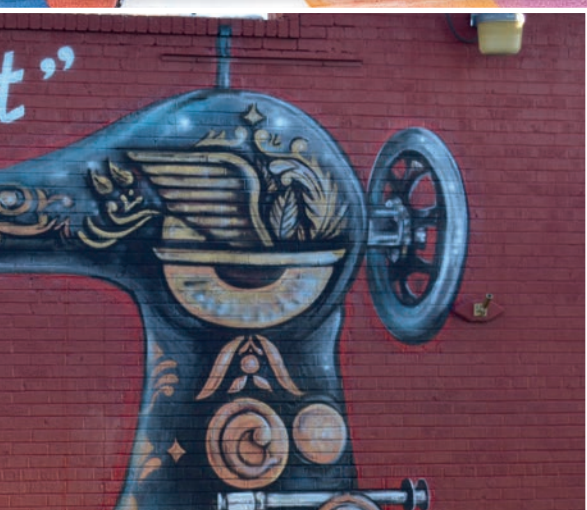
Clockwise, starting top left: Black Rock City Map by Bridget; photo by Megg Mueller. "Un dia la ves" by Carlos Martinez; photo by Tony Fuentes. Happy Happy Joy Joy storefront by Joe C. Rock; photo by Tony Fuentes. Junkee Clothing Exchange by Joe C. Rock; photo by Neil Lockhart. The purple panther is by SPEK; photo by Megg Mueller. "We Make Clothes Fit" by Joe C. Rock; photo by Megg Mueller. "Evolution" by Thrashbird; photo by Megg Mueller. The high heel shoe is by Joe C. Rock; photo by Laura Reaney.

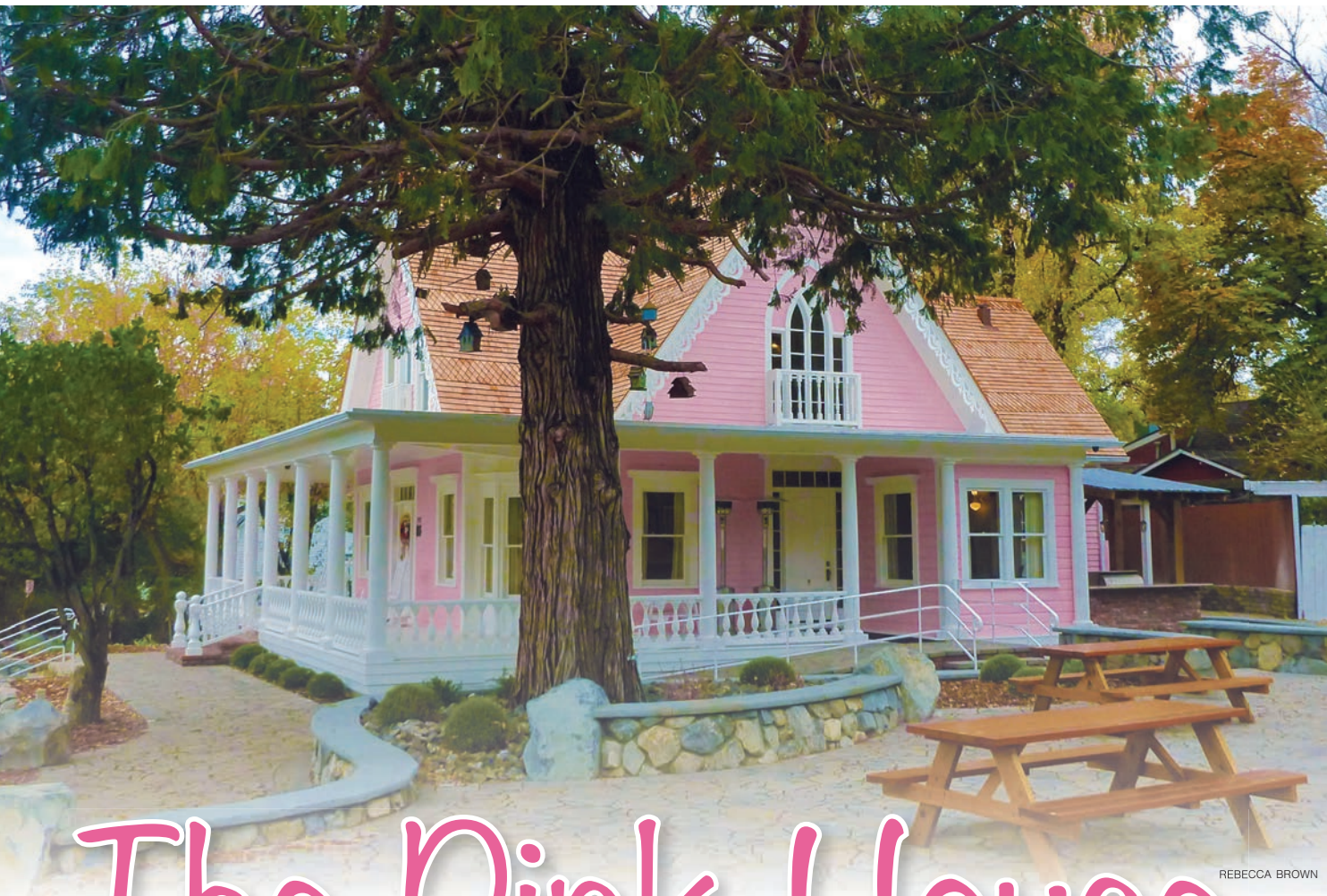


TAKE A WALK

Midtown Mural Tour

Second Saturday of the month, \$10
artspotreno.com





The Pink House

REBECCA BROWN

SERVING UP HISTORY WITH A SLICE OF CHEESE.

BY REBECCA BROWN

Nestled in the small northern Nevada town of Genoa is an unmistakable landmark steeped in history—The Pink House. This beautifully restored building turned cheese-and-charcuterie shop invites further exploration.

Expecting to find the typical counters and cases, I'm pleasantly surprised to walk into a space that is at once homey, cozy, and old-fashioned. The Pink House's owner, Lois Wray, is happy to sit down and share some history and a cup of delectably creamy butternut squash soup with me. Her passion for The Pink House and its history are apparent as she shares stories from the house's colorful past and its lengthy renovation process.

Four and a half years ago, Lois and her husband, Dan, moved to Genoa from San Diego. She saw the house and envisioned someone restoring it to its Gothic Revival roots. An idea was born, and that someone became Lois, with the intention "to honor its original integrity and do right by the Pink House."

As I savor my soup, I look around the rooms and see the love and meticulous attention to detail that went into the restoration, right down to the tabletops made from reclaimed wood from the original house.



Chef Jeanne Whited and Cheesemonger Casey Sebahar

THE PINK HOUSE

A COLORFUL HISTORY

The Pink House was built in 1855 and was one of the first homes in the settlement of Genoa—but it wasn't always pink. It was originally painted white and located just up the street. Oxen pulled the house on rolling logs to its current resting place in 1870, the same year it was painted pink by the Johnson family.

Several prominent families including the Reese, Johnson, and Virgin families have lived in the Pink House. It's biggest claim to fame may be that Lillian Finnegan grew up in the house and went on to found the Candy Dance to raise money for the town's streetlights. The annual tradition has continued every year since 1919.

Lois' eyes sparkle as she shares the history of the home and its prior inhabitants. She says the bulk of the documents establishing Nevada as a state were either drafted or signed in the very place where patrons are now sampling cured meats and cheeses.

"I knew what I was getting into with the renovation process," Lois says. "There were no negative surprises, but a lot of pleasant surprises."

At 160 years old, the house is still structurally sound. All of the doorframes, windows, and the doors are original. Probably the biggest pleasant surprise was discovering the original roof hidden underneath the existing roof. Others included finding newspapers dating back as late as the 1800s in the walls, and a \$5 IOU from Judge Virgin's son for a hackney ride from Reno to Genoa. Also found in the house were letters, stamps, a playbill, old spoons, and a bottle of Henley's Eyeopener, an elixir.

CHEESE AND CHARCUTERIE IN GENOA?

The Pink House offers the area something different with its high-quality healthy foods and shared plates.

"I wanted to enhance all of the good things that are going on in this historical district while not being in competition," Lois says. "I tried to stay local with everything that I did here at The Pink House and the one thing I was striking out on was finding



PHOTOS: REBECCA BROWN

The parlor (above) exudes old-fashioned welcoming charm. Left: Butternut squash soup is made entirely from scratch. Below: The cheese counter has a flavor and style to suit every palate.





PHOTOS: THE PINK HOUSE

Tasty options include, clockwise from top: a seasonal vegetable frittata, grilled romaine Caesar salad, and lemon panna cotta with fresh berry compote.



a cheesemonger that would be able to do the things that I needed.”

She found her cheesemonger, Casey Sebahar, through an ad placed in the American Cheese Society’s magazine. Speaking with Casey, you can’t help but get excited about cheese. He puts a lot of thought into the vetting process for the cheese he selects.

“I try to source from smaller producers with high quality milk... people who really know their animals and know their craft, rather than big, industrial-made cheeses,” Casey says.

All cheese and meats at The Pink House are sliced to order. Behind the cheese counter you will find variety in the cheese and the types of milk used, as well as a broad spectrum of flavors and countries represented.

“I want to focus more on different American cheeses because that’s kind of a new and exciting thing happening in the last decade or so with a lot more good American producers,” Casey explains.

For the charcuterie, Casey again offers variety with prosciutto, salami, and pates all gracing the meat counter. He maintains a focus on American producers—50 percent of the cured meats and cheeses are from the U.S.—as well as European favorites.

Casey plates a combination of manchego from Spain, Stilton from England, goat Gouda from Paso Robles, Calif., and Taleggio from Italy for me to try. The presentation is beautiful and includes a fresh baguette and quince jam from Happy Girl Kitchen in Monterey, Calif. The variety of tastes and textures are wonderful.

“The Pink House really is a unique place. I think just being in this building is really special. Even if you are not a cheese person it’s a fun place to visit and a fun place to hang out,” Casey says.

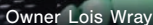
LOCAL CHEF MIXES IT UP

While The Pink House is first and foremost a cheese and charcuterie, a seasonal menu of small plates, salads, and sandwiches seeks to introduce people to healthier eating habits while letting the flavor of the food speak for itself. A glance at the menu had me salivating for the cheese & mac small plate and lemon panna cotta.

Chef Jeanne Whited is from Gardnerville, and she likes to be creative with her menu. Her made-from-scratch roasted butternut squash soup is one of the creamiest I’ve ever tasted. There is a daily soup and a daily salad special, but sandwiches like The Judge—a combination of soppressata, coppa, mortadella, roasted red pepper, olive tapenade, and provolone on a baguette—are anything but routine.

As I leave The Pink House, Lois’ words echo in my mind: “What was important to me was first honoring the integrity of the house and then secondly, doing something that was complimentary to the community.”

Lois has done both, and with style, grace, and a fair amount of good old-fashioned hospitality. ■



The Pink House
193 Genoa Lane
Genoa, NV 89411
thepinkhousegenoa.com
775-392-4279

THE PINK HOUSE

- Raw milk cheeses in the United States must be aged for at least 60 days.
- The orange color in many cheeses is a vegetable dye called annatto. It is often added to make light-colored cheeses more attractive.
- Most hard, more-aged cheeses have very little lactose, so a lactose-intolerant person can often eat cheeses like Parmigiano-Reggiano or aged cheddar.
- The strong smell of many soft washed-rind cheeses comes from *Brevibacterium Linens*, the same bacteria that causes foot odors.
- Cheese can be made from the milk of all kinds of mammals, including camels, yaks, reindeer, donkeys, and even moose.
- The American Cheese Society holds a competition every year for the best American cheeses.
- The Cheesemonger Invitational takes place twice a year and crowns the top cheesemonger.

[illegible]

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Elko Classic Car Show-*September 9-10*
Ruby Mountain Balloon Festival-*September 23-25*



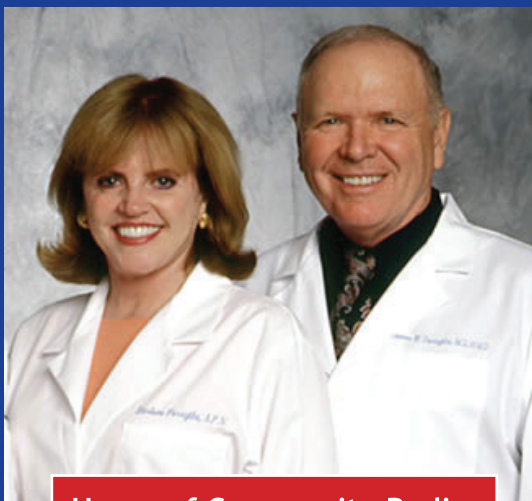
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1180AM Good Time Oldies
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TELEVISION PBS

- 2701 KNPB Channel 5

PAINT NITE

DRINK, PAINT, AND SOCIALIZE AT RENO RESTAURANTS AND BARS.



Paint Nite—a leader in the social painting phenomenon—has announced its expansion into Reno. Paint Nite is a fun alternative to a typical night out, offering a creative way for people to drink, paint, and socialize with others in the comfort of their favorite local bar or restaurant. While participants mingle with old friends and make new ones, a professional artist provides step-by-step instruction, allowing attendees to turn a blank canvas into a final piece of personalized art in about two hours.

“This area has many talented artists and an amazing bar scene, the ideal combination for great Paint Nite events,” says co-founder Dan Hermann. “Paint Nite offers a creative way to have a few drinks with friends or meet new people in a laid back atmosphere. You don’t need to have an ounce of artistic ability, you just need to be open to having fun!”

Unlike social painting classes at brick-and-mortar locations with limited capacity and minimal food and beverage offerings, Paint Nite’s “nomadic” business model means more classes in a variety of bars and restaurants designed to suit every need. Seats are limited and event tickets, which include a canvas, paint, brushes, a smock, and professional instruction, are sold in advance online. If

desired, drinks and food to accompany the painting experience are purchased directly from the hosting bar or restaurant.

Event dates and locations, artist information, and a sample of each featured painting can be found on paintnite.com.



GET COLORFUL

Various locations, Reno
Select dates
paintnite.com



Grammy Award-winning rock band Iron Maiden brings its electrifying heavy metal music to the Mandalay Bay Events Center Sunday, Feb. 28, as part of its “The Book of Souls” world tour.

As one of heavy metal’s most influential bands, Iron Maiden is known for its distinctive performances, which include stellar guitars, unique songwriting, electric vocals, and legendary mascot: Eddie. One of the first bands to be classified as “British Metal,” the group inspired several well-known bands such as Metallica, Slipknot, Avenged Sevenfold, and more. Since forming in 1975, Iron Maiden has produced 16 studio and 11 live albums, selling more than 90 million copies worldwide. The English band is also known for top hits like “Two Minutes to Midnight,” “Run to the Hills,” and “The Trooper.”

Tickets start at \$61.65 and are on sale at all Mandalay Bay box offices, livenation.com, ticketmaster.com, all Las Vegas Ticketmaster locations, or by calling 800-745-3000.

WHERE

Mandalay Bay Events Center

WHEN

Feb. 28

TICKETS

mandalaybay.com, 702-632-7777

Starting at \$61.65

WORTH A CLICK

ironmaiden.com

ALSO AT MANDALAY BAY

Charles Kelley, Jan. 28

Black Sabbath, Feb. 13

las vegas shows



MYRIAM SANTOS

MUST SEE

JOHN FOGERTY

The Venetian Theatre

Jan. 8-23

venetian.com, 702-414-9000

Legendary singer, songwriter, and guitarist John Fogerty is bringing back the golden age of rock during "Peace, Love, and Creedence,"—an eight-show residency at The Venetian Theatre inside The Venetian Las Vegas, Jan. 8-23.

"Peace, Love, and Creedence" celebrates the music and culture of the 1960s, with a special focus on the year 1969. Through exclusive footage and personal stories, the intimate show features a behind-the-scenes look at the pivotal year Fogerty wrote and recorded three separate Creedence Clearwater Revival albums including "Bayou Country," "Green River," and "Willy and the Poor Boys." Attendees will enjoy performances of iconic Creedence Clearwater Revival classics including "Fortunate Son," "Down on the Corner," and "Have You Ever Seen the Rain," as well as Fogerty's solo hits including "Centerfield" and many more.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

In November, international entertainment phenomenon **Blue Man Group** revealed its newly renovated theater inside Luxor Hotel and Casino. The Blue Man Theater has been custom designed for the ideal Blue Man Group experience, putting audiences closer to the action than ever before. blueman.com, 800-258-3626

The Smith Center for the Performing Arts is presenting an all-new family series that is thrilling kids and parents this season. Share the timeless story of "The Cat in the Hat" on Jan. 13. thesmithcenter.com, 702-749-2000

HOTTEST SHOWS

SURVIVOR

Golden Nugget

Jan. 8

goldennugget.com

702-385-7111

ELTON JOHN

The Colosseum at Caesars Palace

Jan. 19-20, 22-23, 26-27, 29-31

thecolosseum.com

866-227-5938

OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN

Flamingo

Jan. 19-22, 26-30

flamingolasvegas.com

702-777-2782

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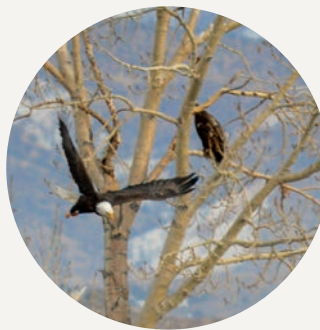
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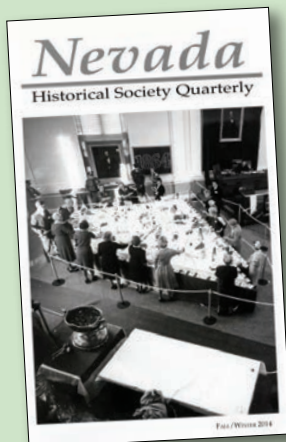
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The LONELIEST Road in AMERICA *Comes of age*



30 YEARS AGO, A DUBIOUS DISTINCTION BEGAT A FORTUITOUS FACT.

BY MARILYN NEWTON

NEVADA
MAGAZINE
80
Celebrating our 80th year

The view of Highway 50 looking west toward the waning sun gives insight into why AAA once warned motorists "not to drive there unless they're confident of their survival skills."

DAVID BRAUN

It was 30 years ago, in July 1986, that *Life* magazine used the term “The Loneliest Road in America” to describe the stretch of U.S. Route 50—more commonly known as Highway 50—from Fernley to Ely across central Nevada. AAA even advised against traveling the highway, claiming there was nothing to see. For those who were crazy enough to travel that lonely road anyway, they were advised to carry survival gear such as water and cold-weather clothes.

Is the Loneliest Road in America really as bad as *Life* magazine claimed?

The moniker could easily have been a slap in face, but savvy state officials adopted the phrase and turned it into something positive. The state created a survival passport that same year, which travelers could get stamped at locations along Highway 50 and redeem for a certificate.

Suddenly, the loneliest road wasn’t so lonely as people sought bragging rights to “I Survived the Loneliest Road in America.”

Tourism numbers began to climb and are continuing to do so, and the passport program continues to this day. The state’s response became a help to the economy of the towns along U.S. 50.

“The state turned lemons into lemonade,” Fallon City Councilman Bob Erickson says. “I think Highway 50 has a unique place in the country and Nevada history. It’s like going to a museum. I love the history of the communities and the wide open spaces.”

Wally Cuchine, who was in charge of Eureka’s opera house for more than 18 years, agrees.

“The survival passports are still bringing people to town,” Wally says.

A NOT-SO-LONELY HISTORY

The path of the Loneliest Road in America has been well traversed in Nevada’s history. American Indians followed herds of antelope and deer across the middle of what would become Highway 50. Early explorers—including Jedediah Smith and John C. Fremont—traveled through the area; the Overland Stage followed a similar route, as did the Pony Express carriers.

In 1913, entrepreneur Carl G. Fisher dreamed of building a continuous roadway from New York City to San Francisco as a memorial to President Abraham Lincoln. What became the Lincoln Highway bisected Nevada’s core, but was described by a young Dwight Eisenhower as “...one succession of dust, ruts, pits, and holes.”

It wasn’t until 1926 that a national highway system was created, and present-day Highway 50 closely mimics the Lincoln Highway in many places. Nevada’s portion of the bicoastal road traverses the state for a distance of about 410 miles, starting in South Lake Tahoe and ending at the Utah border. The 287 miles from Fernley to Ely is the designated Loneliest Road, even though the section between Fernley and Fallon is actually Highway 50 alternate.

An image of the Milky Way looking south from Hickison Summit east of Austin, with the only artificial light coming from a car on Highway 50.





GRANT KAYE

A FEAST FOR THE SOUL

The many mountain ranges—about 17—in those approximately 287 miles take travelers from the serene desert floors to majestic mountain ranges, with unparalleled vistas at every turn. Despite the naysayers 30 years ago, there is plenty to see and do along the loneliest road, and short side-trips reveal a lot about Nevada. But it is also clear why it was so named; five towns span the almost 300 miles and while the population of Fernley is about 19,000, the remaining four—Fallon, Austin, Eureka, and Ely—add just another 13,000 citizens, combined.

It is at Fernley—which is technically on Highway 50 Alternate—the Loneliest Road begins and the distance between towns grows and grows. Yet it's what's in between and around civilization that also makes Highway 50 worth a trip.

FERNLEY

A farming community established in 1904, Fernley was also a depot of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Today, the town of nearly 20,000 sits at the apex of Highway 50, Interstate 80, and U.S. Route 95 Alternate.

Hazen is a small hamlet just 12 miles east of Fernley, and while the town's store is on the National Register of Historic Places, it is closed but worth a photo. The town is also the location of Nevada's last lynching in 1905.

Just off Highway 50 on U.S. 95 Alternate is the Lahontan Reservoir. Named after the ancient Lake Lahontan, this local boating and camping area offers 69 miles of shoreline and ample wild-life-viewing opportunities, including bald eagles.

**What became the
Lincoln Highway
bisected Nevada's core,
but was described
by a young Dwight
Eisenhower as "...one
succession of dust, ruts,
pits, and holes."**



Above: Lahontan Reservoir was constructed as part of the Newlands Project, one of the first irrigation projects following passage of the 1902 Reclamation Act. Below: Artist Pan Pantoja created his desert tortoise sculpture for the city of Fernley in 2013. It is located in Main Street Park.





PHOTOS: ROBERT PETERSON

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FALLON

From Fernley, it is 30 miles to Fallon, which got its start in the 1890s when the Truckee River's waters were brought to the area and the desert was reclaimed for agriculture.

About 7 miles outside Fallon, the road passes by Grimes Point Archeological Area. Ancient civilizations in the valley left their stories via petroglyphs now found on the basalt rocks there. Stop at the Churchill County Museum in Fallon for information about a tour of Grimes Point and nearby Hidden Cave.

Past those petroglyphs—about 25 miles outside Fallon, 100 yards before Sand Mountain on the north side of Highway 50—the alkali lakebed serves as the graves of the LeBeau children. Widely believed to be the graves of three sisters that died en route via buckboard to a doctor too many miles away, the graves are tended by locals committed to preserving the memory of the many pioneers who died crossing the dessert in the 1800s.

Next is Sand Mountain. Sands from ancient Lake Lahontan form the huge dune that is 2 miles long and 600 feet high, and popular for camping and off-road vehicle activity. The ruins of the Sand Springs Pony Express Station are nearby, and the fort is worth a stop.

The site of a 12.5-kiloton atomic bomb—Project Shoal—that was detonated underground in 1963 is found just over the Sand Springs mountain range for the very intrepid and patient explorer. Take State Route 839 and head south about 5 miles; take a right until a fork in the road and veer right. A concrete pad, and other debris are still on the site but visitors are advised not to touch anything.

A few miles east of Middlegate (see page 22), the Lincoln Highway, U.S. 50, and Pony Express routes diverge over and around the Desatoya Mountains. The Loneliest Road follows the route between the Desatoyas and Clan Alpine Range, where the ruins of the Cold Springs Pony Express Station can be found. Built in 1860 of large native rocks and mud, the building's four rooms included living quarters, barn, storage, and corral.

AUSTIN

Between Fallon and Austin, it's 110 lonely miles. About 5 miles before is a historical marker for the ghost town of Jacobsville; take the road there south of Highway 50 for just under a mile, then bear left for about a half mile. Building foundations still exist from the short-lived town. Continue on the road for a short distance to Ledlie, to see a few remnants of this old rail-road stop.

Just west of Austin is a castle built by Anson Phelps Stokes, a wealthy capitalist who had a financial interest in local mines. The three-story Stokes Castle is 50 feet by 50 feet around, and was occupied briefly in the late 1800s by Stokes and his sons.

Top: Grimes Point petroglyphs outside Fallon are believed to have been created more than 6,000 years ago. Middle: Sand Mountain is a four-wheeler's paradise. Bottom: Stokes Castle in Austin overlooks the Reese River Valley.



TRAVEL NEVADA



DIRK HUBER



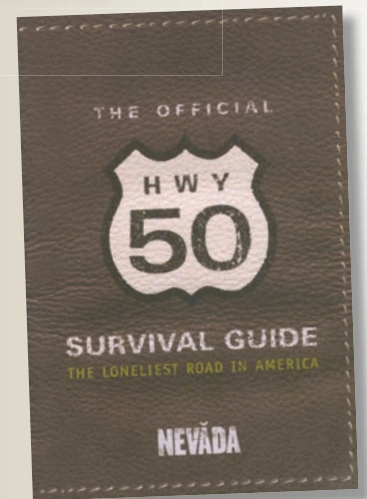
WILLIAM BAUER



RACHID DAHNOUN

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SYDNEY MARTINEZ/TRAVELNEVADA

Highway 50 may not be well populated, but one thing that is never lacking are sunsets that mimic paintings and seem to be endless.

◀◀◀ LOOKING BACK...



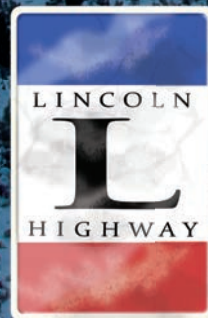
In February 2006, our cover asked, “Are You a Survivor?” Inside were 20 unusual ways to explore the Loneliest Road in America, some of which don’t even exist today (what’s a payphone??). Read the story at nevadamagazine.com/survivor



In March/April 2011, we asked five intrepid travelers to cross the loneliest road, their way. Bicycle, car, horseback, motorcycle, and on foot, our writers set out to conquer Highway 50. Read their stories at nevadamagazine.com/hwy50perspectives

IDENTITY CRISIS

Though some portions of Highway 50 and the Lincoln Highway follow the same route, they are not the same highway. Lincoln Highway—referred to as “The Main Street Across America”—was dedicated in 1913 as the first national memorial to President Abraham Lincoln, predating the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. by nine years. Highway 50—dedicated in 1926—ironically turned America’s Main Street into the Loneliest Road in America.



Carroll Summit on the Lincoln Highway. Photo by Skip Reeves.



TOP PHOTO: LARRY BURTON. ABOVE: ERIC CACHINERO.

Opposite page: The Eureka Opera House was built in 1880 and still hosts concerts and performances today. Above: Ely's Hotel Nevada and Nevada Northern Railway National Historic Landmark are two of the most visited sites in the eastern town.

Legend says Austin was founded by a Pony Express rider's horse that kicked over a rock, revealing a rich ledge of silver ore. Another legend—completely true—is Reuel Colt Gridley's Sanitary Sack of Flour, which was just that; an ordinary sack filled with flour. Selling the sack over and over, Gridley helped raise more than \$275,000 for hospitals treating injured Civil War soldiers. Gridley's store is still standing, and a historical marker is on the spot.

Hickson Petroglyph Recreation Area is 24 miles east of Austin, and offers a short self-guided tour past a number of American Indian petroglyph panels, plus camping and gorgeous views.

EUREKA

During the 70 miles to Eureka from Austin, you'll drive just 14 miles north of the geographic center of Nevada, and understand Eureka's importance in the middle of our state. To find it, about 37 miles east of Austin take State Route 882 south and look for a solitary post and geocache box.

The Friendliest Town on the Loneliest Road as it's become known, Eureka was founded on silver discoveries in 1864, and the mining town is still a welcome respite along the trek. Its most famous feature is the Eureka Opera House, built in 1880, and the town boasts an impressive walking tour of its historic buildings. Eureka is also the perfect gateway to the ghost towns of Hamilton, Shermantown, Monte Cristo, Treasure City, and Eberhardt.

ELY

The Loneliest Road ends 77 miles past Eureka in Ely, which was originally a stagecoach station. The Pony Express also passed here, as did trains connecting the mines of Austin and Eureka to the Transcontinental Railroad. It wasn't until after the start of the last century that a mining boom hit the area when copper was discovered.

Although the railroads are gone now, the Nevada Northern Railway National Historic Landmark and its museum are a must when visiting this small town, as is its renaissance village that recreates the housing of Ely's many founding immigrants.

At the end of Highway 50 in Nevada is the state's national park—Great Basin National Park. The park is also 30 years old this year; look for a full story in a future issue.

The loneliest road is anything but lonely, depending on your spirit of adventure. The towns may be small but they are historic and offer interesting places to see. ▀

HIT THE ROAD

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EUREKA OPERA HOUSE

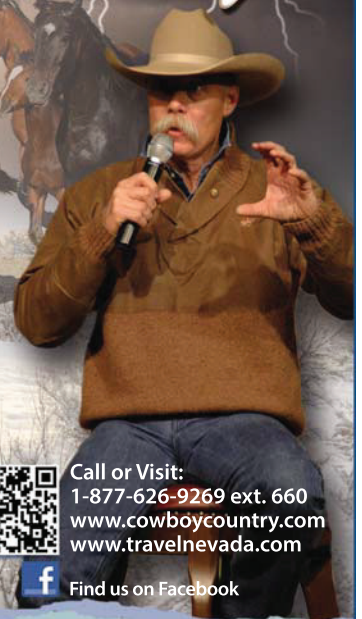
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ERIC CACHINERO

LOST CITY MUSEUM

EXHIBIT PAYS TRIBUTE TO ONCE-THRIVING TOWNS NOW IN RUINS.

BY JANET GEARY

Traveling to Mesquite—about 65 miles from Las Vegas on Interstate 15—takes you through a section of the beautiful Moapa Valley, but to really experience it, you need to take State Route 169 south and head to Overton.

Overton was originally settled in 1869, and was the location of the only store in the lower Moapa Valley. In the 1930s, the town of St. Thomas was submerged by water as Lake Mead was being filled, and the majority of its population relocated to Overton. After that, Overton developed as the main core of the business community in the lower Moapa Valley.

Be sure not to travel too quickly through this beautiful valley of horse properties and gorgeous vistas, though, or you will miss one of the Nevada State Museums hidden gems: the Lost City Museum.



JANET GEARY

LOST, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

In 1935, the museum was built atop the original archaeological dig where an active Anasazi community lived between 300 B.C. to A.D. 1150, part of which is preserved inside as an exhibit. The mission of the museum is to study, preserve, and protect prehistoric Ancestral Pueblo (Anasazi) and other cultural sites and artifacts of Southern Nevada.

The museum was listed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1996 and includes reconstructed Pueblo houses, and a well-stocked gift shop featuring Nevada treasures and books.



MATTHEW B. BROWN

Opposite page: Molly Fierer-Donaldson, Ph.D. (left) and Denise Sins create the museum's newest exhibit: "Ghost towns of Southern Nevada." This page: Recreated Pueblo houses give a glimpse into how early residents of the area lived.

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MATTHEW B. BROWN

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ERIC CACHINERO

LAND OF THE LOST

The boom and bust of the silver and gold strikes in Nevada are well-documented, but some of these towns have most unusual histories. Take St. Thomas for example: when Boulder Dam was built on the Colorado River, the residents of St. Thomas were forced out of their homes because the dam caused the Colorado River to flood the town. Now that Lake Mead's water level has fallen dramatically, you can see some of the remnants of the buildings that have been under water for 80 years.

The museum's latest exhibit studies all the lost cities in southern Nevada, focusing on the reasons these communities were established and why they no longer exist. From Caliente and Delamar following the Meadow Valley Wash south to the towns of St. Joseph and St. Thomas, then to Eldorado and down to the Colorado River, the exhibit highlights each town along the way, telling the story of its rise and fall. Whether it was because of a mining strike, the railroad's path, or a multitude of other reasons, the story of the ghost towns of the Moapa Valley will come alive with historical photos and well-documented stories written by Museum Curator and Archaeologist Molly Fierer-Donaldson, Ph.D.

Then, much like a graphic artist designs pages of *Nevada Magazine*, Denise Sins, exhibit preparator II, creates visual images

on the walls of the museum, using photos and artifacts donated by families of the pioneers that previously inhabited the areas. Many photos are from museum archives; however, they also comb the University of Nevada's photo collections as well as the state archives. The result is a riveting visual history lesson that will stay with the observer long after their visit to this unusual museum.

Museum Director Jerrie Clarke is excited about the new addition—set to open by Jan. 15—which is replacing the sesquicentennial exhibit that celebrated the state's 150th birthday.

"Even if you've visited the museum in the last year," she says, "it's worth another trip here just to see this new exhibit." ▾



ERIC CACHINERO

Above: The lives of the Pueblo Indians that lived on the land where the museum sits is faithfully recreated in the exhibits. Right: A tule duck decoy—Nevada's state artifact—is a replica of a 2,000-year-old decoy, which is now housed at the Smithsonian Institution.



The new exhibit of ghost towns in the area takes shape as the museum prepares to debut it in January.



allowed Delamar to be the third largest producer of gold in the state. It was the only town in Nevada that had a population of over 1,000 in 1906.

JANET GEARY



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Nevada State Capitol

MATTHEW B. BROWN

Carson CITY

A CAPITAL PLACE TO LIVE,
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BY MEGG MUELLER

When I was a youngster living in Reno, I used to think of Carson City as that town in between me and my sister in Los Angeles; the pedestrian-friendly 25-mph speed limit through the heart of Carson's downtown drove me crazy, as I was eager to keep moving.

Today, I proudly work in the Silver State capital city, and have first-hand knowledge why slowing down for this delightful town is a good idea. And while I'm late to the party, Carson's appeal is nothing new to those who live here.

"People may think it's a sleepy historic capital, but I like to think of us as a classic, contemporary capital with a rich history," Kyle Horvath, social media/communications manager at the Carson City Visitors Bureau, says. "Come on Halloween and Nevada Day weekend...there is nothing sleepy about this town."



Paul Laxalt Building, home of *Nevada Magazine*



Nevada State Museum

NEVADA STATE MUSEUM



Nevada State Railroad Museum

MATTHEW B. BROWN



Brewery Arts Center

MATTHEW B. BROWN

CHARLIE JOHNSTON



John C. Frémont



Kit Carson



CHARLIE JOHNSTON

Inset: John C. Frémont and his guide, Kit Carson, discovered the Carson Valley in 1844 when they were on an exploration of the Oregon Trail. Main photo: Abraham Curry—often called the father of Carson City—has a monument in front of the Supreme Court building on the Capitol Complex grounds.

BREAKING GROUND

In 1844, famed explorer John C. Frémont and his guide, Kit Carson, set out on their second expedition to map and describe the Oregon Trail, but a fateful detour south led them to Lake Tahoe and the surrounding valley. Frémont named the route Carson chose through the Sierra Nevada mountains—as well as the river flowing through the resplendent valley below—after his intrepid guide.

As the California Gold Rush was exploding, travelers passing through the then-named Eagle Valley discovered a different kind of riches in the verdant farmland, and soaring mountains. Abraham Curry arrived in 1858, and along with John J. Musser, Franklin Proctor, and Benjamin F. Green, began building the town and even earmarked 10 acres of land for the capitol building he envisioned. His foresight and fortitude came to fruition when Carson City was named territorial capital in 1861, then state capital in 1864.

The wealth of the Comstock Lode ran through Carson City as its strategic location between Lake Tahoe's lumber and the mining needs of Virginia City ignited the Virginia and Truckee Railroad. A branch of the United States Mint was built by 1870, and the capitol building shortly thereafter. While the population hit more than

4,200 in 1880, developments elsewhere in the northern part of the state and the decline of the mining boom saw the city's population dwindle. It didn't reach its boom year level until about 1960. But being a small town—at one time the nation's smallest capital—has never proved a problem for the people of Carson City.

SIZE ISN'T EVERYTHING

Joel Dunn is the Executive Director of the Carson City Visitors Bureau, and he's also a third-generation Carson City native. The small population was, to him, the perfect way to grow up.

"You were hard-pressed to meet a stranger while growing up in Carson City during the 1970s. With weekend gatherings of neighborhood friends for a game of kick-the-can and ending the day with a session of doorbell ditch, we had our own taste of Mayberry," Joel says. "By the time I was entering my teens, the population had doubled and the offerings of living in the Carson region became my playground."

That playground includes everything from outdoor recreation to the living history the city embodies. Visitors often come with the notion of one or the other; a ski trip or mountain bike vacation,

or a visit to the Nevada State Museum, the Governor's Mansion, or Capitol for a look at the area's history. That you can so readily find both in Carson is key to the area's popularity. For Kyle, having the mix is what he loves about the city.

"The year-round outdoor recreation opportunities, it's very easy to get around by foot or bike, and there are great trails throughout the city and open spaces," he answers when asked his favorite things about Carson. "And being so close to Lake Tahoe I can have multi-sport days, too."

"I have to live where there are a lot of outdoor activities, but if I had a second favorite it is the old historic architecture of the houses on the Blue Line walking tour and the government buildings. The historic downtown and west side is picture perfect and because we honor our history here, you can't help but feel connected to Nevada."



CARSON CITY VISITORS BUREAU

The Nevada State Museum is home to America's largest exhibited Columbian mammoth found in Nevada's Black Rock Desert.

A BIG BUCKET LIST

A day trip to Carson City could include the Nevada State Railroad Museum, with exhibits featuring railroad equipment and historical objects, including the locomotives *Inyo No. 22*, the *Glenbrook*, and a fully restored McKeen Motorcar. Or perhaps you'd prefer to see the sights from above the city; a hike or mountain bike ride along the Ash Canyon Trail will do nicely. A tour of the capitol and legislature buildings provides a window into the state's history and future. Maybe a dip in the Carson Hot Springs is what your trip needs; the 121-degree mineral waters were first discovered in 1849, and are still today a comfortable and soothing respite.

ELEVATED FAMILY FUN

Bring the whole family to Pahrump's Hot Air Balloon Festival. Enjoy balloon rides, the carnival midway, glow light show, food and fun. Feb. 26-28 at Petrack Park.
VISITPAHRUMP.COM

60 miles west of Las Vegas. 180 degrees different.

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NEVADA
A WORLD WITHIN.
A STATE APART.





The Governor's Mansion



Governor Brian Sandoval

CHARLIE JOHNSTON

Ready to head back indoors? Play at the Children's Museum of Northern Nevada, or take in the Nevada State Museum—housed in the original U.S. Mint building—it's home to the still-operational, original Coin Press No. 1, and America's largest exhibited Columbian mammoth found in Nevada's Black Rock Desert.

The list goes on and on. Whatever your pleasure, you can find your fill in Carson City, and if your tank runs empty, you'll easily find every kind of fare, from old-fashioned diners to exquisite fine dining. Not sure where to go? Ask a local and you'll likely be greeted with small-town hospitality.

"The people here are great. It's really easy to get into good conversation wherever you go," Kyle says. "It's diverse, too. Walking down the street you could pass the Governor, then a tattoo artist, and then a little old lady walking her dog. And everybody gets along!"

Joel agrees the locals are one of the city's best features.

"Although the population has more than tripled since my days growing up in Carson City, the community values have not changed," he says. "You will often be greeted with a sincere handshake or simply a held door followed by 'have a nice day.'"

Carson City's convivial community has something for every visitor...even the ones who aren't always clear just how large our state is. When asked about his favorite tourist comments, Joel's answer is one most Nevadans can relate to, even if visitors can't.

"The continued geographical confusion as to our proximity to Las Vegas is always amusing," Joel muses. ▀



Established: 1858
Population: 54,522
(census.gov)
Elevation: 4,802

CONTACT

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Carson City, NV 89701
visitcarsoncity.com,
775-687-7410

WORTH A CLICK

museums.nevadaculture.org
cmnn.org
gleneaglesrestaurant.com
thecrackerboxdiner.com



Nevada Magazine will visit one Nevada community per issue and present the town with a Tour Around Nevada plaque and commemorative cover. The towns covered are determined by reader vote! Send your vote to editor@nevadamagazine.com with the town and "Tour Around NV" in the subject line. Ely, Las Vegas, Reno, Tonopah, Minden, Gardnerville, Virginia City, Laughlin, Elko, and Carson City are excluded. Voting for the March/April 2016 issue closes Friday, Jan. 15.

Carson City: A Capital Place to Live

One more day. It's something many vacationers and travelers wish they had, but seldom take even when they do. It's no secret that we're all busy, and getting back home a day early can make getting ready for the week that much easier. But staying just one more day can mean the difference between a quick glimpse and a comprehensive experience. So take the time to live your adventure to the fullest, and do something special on your one more day. You owe it to yourself.

If you find yourself in Carson City and you're looking for a one-more-day idea, give these a try:

RECREATION

Kings Canyon: Kings Canyon provides spectacular views of the beauty that encases the city. Designated hiking trails and dirt roads weave throughout the hills, leading to many pleasant surprises including Kings Canyon Waterfall. A trailhead located at the end of paved Kings Canyon Road leads to the waterfall, which is about half a mile round-trip hike.

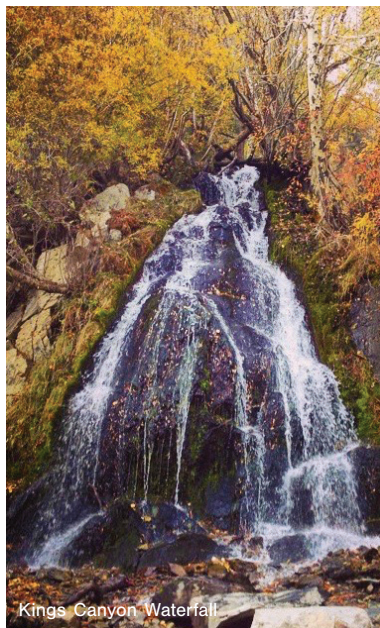
John D. Winters Centennial Park Complex: This 59-acre recreational facility graces the east side of town and offers seemingly endless room for activities. Softball fields, tennis courts, playgrounds, hiking trails, an archery range, and a golf course keep visitors satiated. Swing by to see how you can have fun here.

Ash Canyon: Ash Canyon is a popular destination for mountain biking in Carson City. Trails take riders through trees and along mountain streams. There is even a trail that connects Ash Canyon to Kings Canyon, providing plenty of track for an all-day ride.



Ash to Kings Canyon trail

DANNY MILLER



Kings Canyon Waterfall

ERIC CACHINERO

DON'T MISS

Epic Rides: Carson City Off-Road

June 17-19

visitcarsoncity.com, 775-687-7410

The inaugural Carson City Off-Road mountain-bike event offers backcountry mountain-bike courses that present spectacular views of Washoe Valley and Lake Tahoe. The 15-, 35-, and 45-mile singletrack courses can be completed by participants of all ages and skill levels.

WORTH A VISIT

visitcarsoncity.com

carson.org

carsoncitychamber.com

I dared her to climb that rock face.

She bet me we couldn't bike 100 miles.

A guy at the bar said to try a Picon Punch cocktail.

I can't remember who recommended the heli-skiing.

But man I'm glad we did.

Jenny & Mike, Adventurers
Lamoille Canyon

DON'T
FENCE
ME
IN

NEVADA A WORLD WITHIN.
A STATE APART.

See more Nevada stories on TravelNevada.com/NVMag

80 YEARS OF MEMORIES

May-October 1955 Cover: Smokey Bear takes a hike at Lake Tahoe. We've come close to deadline without a cover before; maybe that's what happened here.



WHOA!!

Nevada Magazine's first editor—Fred Greulich—was at the helm for 20 years. His replacement was Don Bowers, who stayed just shy of 20 years.

Where are they now?



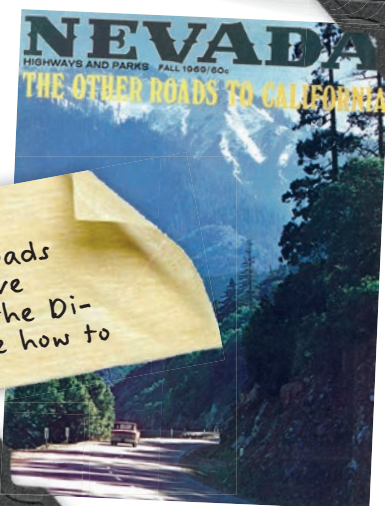
Rich's final cover



RICH MORENO

Publisher: July 1992-August 2006

Fall 1969 Cover: "The other Roads to California" oh how times have changed; today, as a part of the Division of Tourism, we tell people how to stay in Nevada.



Where do you work/live now?

I am director of content development at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Wash. However, I still keep my ties to Nevada. My newest book is "A Short History of Reno," published in October by the University of Nevada Press.

Have a favorite magazine memory?

My favorite memory was working for 14 years with such an outstanding staff.

A favorite story?

Nevada Magazine Editor Dave Moore asked me to write a story about the state's museums. We had written plenty of times about museums so I didn't want a rehash of what had already appeared.

I remember talking to Ron James—the former Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer—and mentioning I was struggling to come up with an angle. Ron said he had always wondered what was the weirdest thing found in every museum in Nevada. I immediately jumped on the idea. I found out the Nevada State Museum in Las Vegas has a pair of underwear once worn by a famous stripper, Lili St. Cyr; the Nevada Historical Society in Reno had a two-headed calf; and the White Pine Public Museum in Ely had an old boot containing the skeletal remains of a human foot. It turned out to be one of the best stories I ever had an opportunity to do for the magazine.



This photo of Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe first ran in the April 1948 issue.



“5 STARS”

“BEST PARADE EVER”

“SPECTACULAR”

“A MUST SEE”



The reviews are in. The 2016 St. George Area Parade of Homes is set to be the best event in our 26-year history. Experience the largest parade in the state, set amid a spectacular background of red rock landscape under the warmth of the sun in beautiful St. George. It's not just a parade—it's a break from the cold of winter into the first fun-filled vacation of the year. It's an experience for the young and old that simply won't disappoint. You'll want to experience every inch of all 28 homes this year.

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2016

Uncorked & ON TAPSM DINNER SERIES



Truly Uncorked

Don't miss out on these amazing events in 2016! In its 12th year, our wine dinner series has surpassed expectations, hosting some of the finest wineries from across the globe. The Cactus Creek Prime Steakhouse will host three of these dinners in 2016 alone.

Our popular beer dinner series will continue this year at the Branding Iron Café, which will include a four course meal with accompanying beer! We look forward to serving you!

Stay tuned for more details. For reservations, please visit www.bonanzacasino.com/reservations.

BONANZA CASINO'S
CACTUS CREEKSM
PRIME STEAKHOUSE

4720 N. Virginia St., Reno, Nevada | www.bonanzacasino.com



February 13, 2016
Speakeasy Ales & Lagers



March 7, 2016
PlumpJack Winery



July 16, 2016
Maui Brewing Co.



October 3, 2016
Chef Almir Da Fonseca
Culinary Institute of America,
Greystone



October 15, 2016
Angry Orchard



December 5 & 6, 2016
Nickel & Nickel