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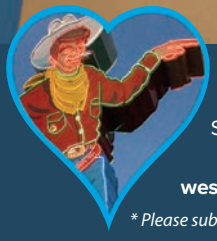
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80 Cover to Cover

Cover Photo: Rachid Dahnoun
Beams of sunlight penetrate the clouds over Lake Tahoe as a March storm approaches near Zephyr Cove.



NEVADA
MAGAZINE

MARCH/APRIL 2018
VOLUME 78, NUMBER 2

401 N. Carson St. • Carson City, NV 89701-4291
855-729-7117 • 775-687-5416 Ext. 3 • 775-687-6159 (fax)
Subscriptions and Customer Service: 775-687-0610
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Nevada Magazine, a division of the Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, is self-funded and dependent on advertising and subscription revenue.

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Subscriptions/Customer Service: Write to Nevada Magazine Subscriptions, 401 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701-4291, call 775-687-0610, or visit nevadamagazine.com. Please allow at least six weeks for subscription fulfillment or change of address.

Nevada Magazine (ISSN 0199-1248) is published bimonthly by the State of Nevada at 401 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701-4291. Copyright © 2018 State of Nevada. Subscriptions are $19.95 per year (international costs vary). Periodicals postage paid at Carson City, NV, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Nevada Magazine Subscriptions, 401 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701-4291.

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WEB EXTRAS



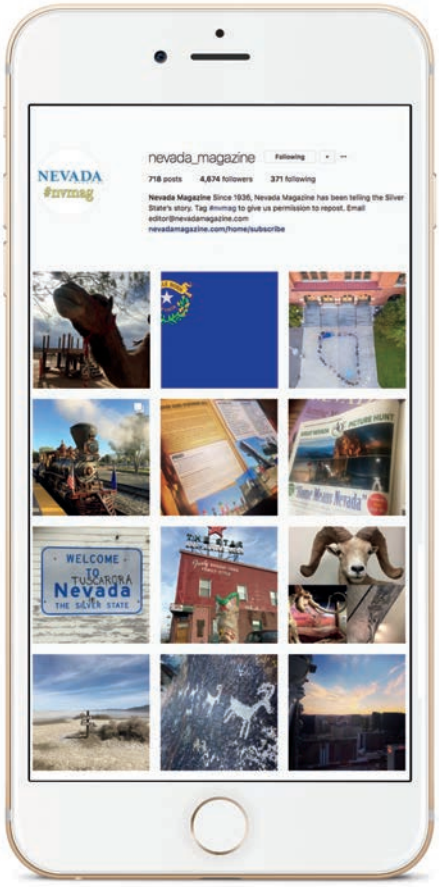


▶ In 1933, the first **drive-in movie theater** in the U.S. opened in New Jersey. During the drive-ins' heyday in the 1950-1960s, more than 5,000 drive-ins existed in the U.S. Today, that number has dwindled to less than 400, but two of those theaters still exist in Nevada. Take a nostalgic ride back to the dawn of the theaters, and see what they still have to offer today. **By Megg Mueller**



▶ **Yesterday: Will James & a Horse Called Happy:** Will James was a Canadian-born cowboy, writer, and artist who moved to Nevada in 1914. Before his career as a writer and artist, he spent time busting broncs. When he met a wild gelding named Happy, it changed his fortunes forever. Read their story, written by Anthony Amaral, which first appeared in our May/June 1980 issue.

FEATURED Instagram



Would you like to see your Instagram page featured in *Nevada Magazine*? Use #nvmag and let us know about your #Nevada adventure!

CHECK US OUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA!





FEATURED VIDEO

During a visit to Gold Butte National Monument, the staff of *Nevada Magazine* got a surprise you'd only find in the wilds of Nevada. Visit nevadamagazine.com/goldbutte to check it out.

Look for this icon throughout 2018 to find the stories that celebrate Nevada's trains and railroads.

The perfect season for wanderlust

When our associate editor, Eric Cachinero, and I travel, we are usually working on four-to-five stories for upcoming issues. It's a big state, after all, and our travels tend to cover a lot of ground, which takes us out of the office for a number of days.

I know, sounds perfect, right?

I've said before that my job is one of the greatest in the state, but reality can set in where the need to be in the office takes priority, and that's happened recently. It was six months between trips for Eric and me, and while I'm not complaining, I was gloriously reminded of how much I love Nevada when we went to southern Nevada in January.

Spring is around the corner, and there is no better time to get in your car and go somewhere. The weather is perfect, there are wildflowers abloom, and Nevada's wide-open spaces are longing for visitors. Day trips, weekend getaways, and longer adventures… take the time to do one or all, and be gloriously reminded why you love Nevada.

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Our trip took us to Las Vegas, Mesquite, and Gold Butte National Monument, and inside this issue you'll find a story about the resurgence of magic shows in Las Vegas, plus a gorgeous look at one of Nevada's three national monuments. Look for the magic on page 22, and Gold Butte can be found on page 56.

Our yearlong train coverage brings two stories this issue; the first is on the advent of the two rail lines that fought to be the first to lay tracks to Ryholite and the Bullfrog Mining District. You can find that story on page 64. The second is on the first train robbery in the West, which happened near Verdi and Reno; read about the heist on page 72.

For history buffs, we have a couple of stories about Nevadans who left their mark on our area. Sam Davis was a Comstock journalist who worked in newspapers and Nevada government until his passing. His story is on page 28. Snowshoe Thompson is a legendary figure who always fascinates. The tales of his heroism and selflessness are well earned, and you can read about them on page 34.

Another bonus about Nevada roadtrips is all the fascinating places and people that exist in between destinations. Cold Springs Station sits on The Loneliest Road in America, and this Nevada resort deserves a stop on anyone's itinerary. Read about this delicious and welcoming place on page 42.

It's easy for me to recommend roadtrips in Nevada; they are one of my favorite things to do. Spring is an incredible time to slow down, drive a new road, and visit a new site. I hope you're able to shake off winter's gloom and hit the road. I'll see you out there.

Megg Mueller, Managing Editor
mmueller@nevadamagazine.com

ERIC CACHINERO

LETTERS



SUPER SURFING

I accepted your kind invitation to peruse your January-February 2018 website stories and was led to several charming pieces. One needs to be reminded that winter is more than skiing and boarding, and I loved the bit about what to do in Carson Valley in the cold season (I admit I am partial, since I live there). And I laughed out loud at the twist in the lead paragraph to "Infinity Highway Opens." Congratulations on the wonderful photo of St. Mary's in the Mountains and the V&T on the cover of this issue, by the way. — **Joyce Hollister,** Genoa

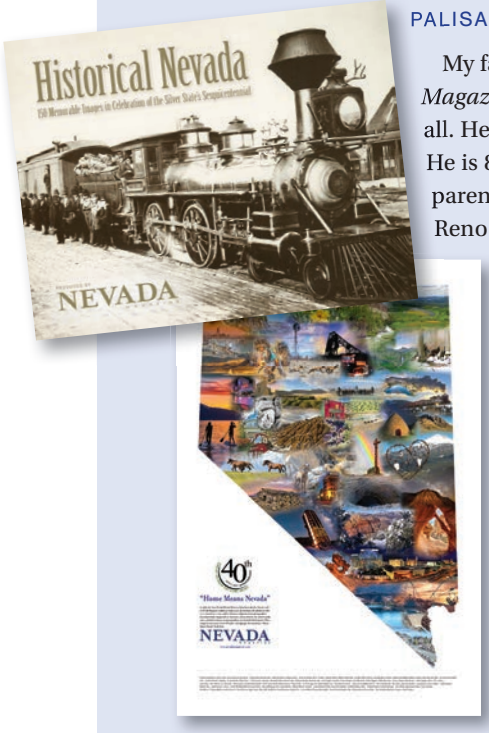
SOCIAL SWEETNESS

Thank you. This [January/February] was one of my favorite issues to date. — **Tami Force**, via Facebook

CALENDAR CONCERNS

You worked so hard to add a background layer on your 2018 Historical Calendar that you forgot to box the calendar to give it definition, and forgot the year on every page except the cover, which is hidden when hanging. As a person with limited vision it is a failure. — **George H. Myers**





PALISADE PROUD

My father, Clyde Biglieri, has been a loyal reader of *Nevada Magazine* for as long as I can remember. We still have them all. He has submitted photos that have been in your calender. He is 89 years old and very proud to be a Nevadan. His parents immigrated here in 1908. My father was born in Reno at an Italian Midwives home. His family was living in Palisade at that time as his father "Silver" (Serafino) was a coal tender on the Eureka Palisade narrow gauge railroad. They moved to Reno in 1933 when the railroad closed. He attended Reno High School where he fell in love with my mother, Shirley Van Meter. He recently received your book and beautiful photo map which we have framed and hung on his wall. He thinks everyone should have that poster. He loved the photo of Palisade in the book and could show me where his family home and root cellar were. He told me that he believes that he is the only surviving past resident of Palisade. Please keep up the good work. The arrival of each issue brings back fond memories for him. — **Sally Biglieri Loux**, via email

WE VALUE YOUR INPUT

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

CONTRIBUTORS

CHIC **DIFRANCIA**



Chic DiFrancia is a long-time Virginia City resident and freelance history writer. As a kid, he apprenticed in the printing trade where he hand-set type. He is currently documenting the history of the "Territorial Enterprise" newspaper, a part of which appears in this issue. ■ PGS. 28-33

BRANDON **WILDING**



Brandon Wilding is an ex noble grand humbug and the current historian for the Snowshoe Thompson Chapter #1827 of the Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus. As an aspiring historical Nevada figure, Brandon spends much of his time seeking out the way Nevada history really went down. He loves exploring Nevada with his beautiful wife, Whitney, and his three amazing children David, Anna, and Benjamin.
■ PGS. 34-41

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

TOURISM EFFORTS COME TOGETHER AT RURAL ROUNDUP

"Did you know Tonopah has some of the darkest and clearest skies in the country?"

Spring is here, and what a beautiful reminder it is of how lucky we are to live in Nevada. This season promises warmer weather and a chance to explore the great outdoors, inviting more tourists from around the world. As Chairman of the Nevada Commission on Tourism, I'm proud of the ongoing work being done to boost visitation numbers across the state.

In April, tourism professionals and volunteers will gather for the annual Rural Roundup, which will be held in Tonopah this year. The three-day conference is a chance to expand our work in promoting the rural treasures of the Silver State, ensuring we maintain a competitive edge. The Tonopah Convention Center is a perfect place to delve into this type of subject matter. The city has managed to successfully promote unique attractions and even gain national attention. Did you know Tonopah has some of the darkest and clearest skies in the country? It was rated the No. 1 stargazing destination in America by "USA Today," and the area attracts astronomy enthusiasts from around the world.

Rural Roundup attendees will explore how to put history to work, using tools from Nevada's State Historic Preservation Office. Many buildings, districts, landscapes, and sites in Nevada are symbols of our past. These can be used as economic tools to revitalize rural towns and draw in visitors. The city of Ely is a prime example of this. The Nevada Northern Railway National Historic Landmark is an experience that will take you back in time and allow you to truly immerse yourself in an important part of our culture and heritage as a state. Visit this spring and enjoy a narrated train ride with your family.

Another topic to explore at Rural Roundup will be photography trends and the use of drones to capture the sheer beauty of Nevada. A picture is worth a thousand words—and the Silver State has so much to tell. Just think of the spectacular spring wildflowers that will be on display in the coming months. From the Nevada side of Lake Mohave to the Jarbidge Wilderness of Elko County, hundreds of varieties are in bloom. What a sight to see! If we can utilize the latest technology to document these picturesque views, the possibilities are endless.

Nevada was recently named the top job-producing state in the country due to a 3.3 percent uptick over the last year. This tremendous accomplishment underscores the work being done to further our tourism efforts and attract visitors. While we continue to diversify our economy with new and innovative industries, tourism remains an integral part of who we are. Visitors can find entertainment and world class dining on the Las Vegas Strip or recreational activities and natural beauty in our rural counterparts. There is always adventure to be found across the Silver State.



SYDNEY MARTINEZ/TRAVELNEVADA



MATTHEW B. BROWN



BRYAN GOFF



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

STATE MAP



Cowboy Country Territory
Reno-Tahoe Territory
Pony Express Territory
Silver Trails Territory
Las Vegas Territory
Indian Territory (entire state)

Up Front

MUSEUMS

Rail Explorers program debuts in Boulder City

Riding the rails in southern Nevada has a brand new definition—and a new type of adventure for visitors and locals alike. Rail Explorers—specially designed pedal-powered two- and four-seat vehicles that ride on the tracks of the Nevada Southern Railway—are now available at the Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City through April.

Visitors can take a guided 4-mile, one-way ride from the railroad museum to Railroad Pass, where they are picked up by a special train and returned to the museum. The full experience lasts about two hours.

Human-powered "cars" were long a part of railroading, most notably handcars where operators stood and pumped a handle to propel them. The Rail Explorers resemble recumbent bicycles with comfortable seats, back rests, and pedals.

"The trip is quite easy," says Randy Hees, director of the Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City. "You are on a downgrade to Railroad Pass, so you can almost coast."



NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

Riders pedal a quad Rail Explorer during opening week of operations at the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Boulder City. The Rail Explorers come in two- and four-person models.

With safety in mind, riders are spread out on the track with up to 200 feet from one group to the next. One guide leads the pack, while another brings up the rear. The spacing is designed to allow participants to go at their own pace and enjoy the scenery and solitude of the ride.

The tours are held up to four times a day—10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., and 4 p.m.— Wednesday through Sunday. Tickets for a tandem bike are $85 for two people, while the quad bikes are $150 for four people. The cost also includes the return train trip and admission to the railroad museum.

Tickets can be purchased at the passenger platform or online at railexplorers.net. The Nevada State Railroad Museum is located at 601 Yucca St., Boulder City. For more information call 702-486-5952.



KLAUS NAHR

Notable Nevadans


Betty's Manhattan home

Betty Snyder was born in Manhattan in 1925, in a house that still stands today albeit looking a little different. Her life may seem ordinary, but the stories this Nevada native tells of living in some of central and northern Nevada's most iconic towns are the stuff of legend. Her fierce love of the Silver State brought this notable Nevadan to the attention of our Carrie Roussel, who sat down with Betty at her residence.



BETTY SNYDER

The Q&A session with Betty Snyder was anything but typical. Not a series of questions and answers, but instead 90 minutes of engaging, Nevada-steeped tales of Betty's life. Born March 3, 1925 in Manhattan, her life took her on a journey through Gabbs, Belmont, Reno, Babbitt, Hawthorne, Las Vegas, Yerington, and eventually the Carson Valley, where she has lived for 44 years.

Betty's roots come from Belmont. Her grandmother, Elizabeth Noonan Goldbach, lived in England and had to have her right arm amputated due to an accident as a young girl. The doctor who operated on her hired her to do tasks around the office, and when he moved to New York with his wife, Elizabeth stowed away in the rope barrel on the ship on which they traveled. When she was found, the doctor paid the 12-year old's fare and let her live with them in New York a while. Nana, as Betty knew her, ended up taking two covered wagon trips back and forth from New York to Nevada before settling in Belmont in 1881, where she met and married Charles Goldbach.


"Nana"

There they raised their children, including Betty's father, Harry. Harry met his wife, Hazel, while driving stagecoach from Tonopah to Manhattan. Betty was born in Manhattan, and the family settled into a homestead in Barley Creek, near Belmont. Harry was well-liked by the Shoshone Indians and spoke fluent Shoshone. The Shoshone helped him re-route a creek through his land and would bring the family pine nuts. As a jack-of-all trades and a miner, Harry had to follow the work, and the family moved to Round Mountain. They ended up back in Manhattan, and when Betty graduated high school at age 16 there were just three people in her class; one was her cousin.


Betty and family

Shortly after graduation, Betty moved to Reno to live with her sister while attending Reno Business College. Her friend was the top secretary in the class (Betty claims she was the class clown) and directly out of college nine of the graduating class traveled by bus to Las Vegas where they were hired by Basic Mining Manufacturing. They all lived together, and had no air conditioning, but Betty says they didn't know any differently. They had cold water, and took salt tablets due to the amount of sweating. Betty worked in Las Vegas for about seven months, which she says was enough.


Betty, right, and best friend in Las Vegas.

She was glad to move to Hawthorne where her brother lived, and ended up moving to the old townsite of Babbitt. Betty worked as the secretary for the Adjutant General of the Hawthorne Naval Base and reminisces, "He thought I was crazy. I was so full of life and had so much fun." Betty met her husband, Roy Johnson, in Hawthorne. They married in Fallon in 1943.

Following the work, Betty and Roy moved to Yreka, California, for a year while Roy drove logging trucks. Their son, Gary, was born and they moved back to Hawthorne, where daughters Bonnie and Donna were born, and then the family moved to Gabbs.

"We knew everyone in the state of Nevada at that time," Betty remembers fondly.

In Gabbs, Betty's dad, Harry, worked for the mine while Nana worked at the diner and Betty did the laundry for the diner. Harry was also the garbage man, the barber, and the local car dealer, which meant the family always had a new car. Betty found a spring in the hills, and she and her father built a structure so they could bottle the water and began selling it in town to replace the town's fluoride-saturated water.

From Gabbs, Betty and Roy went to Hawthorne for another year, and then Yerington. Betty was the head office gal at Grulli Motors for 10 years. After Betty and Roy divorced, Betty married Tom Snyder and moved to Minden, working for Dan Flammer Chevrolet Pontiac for 21 years. She always had a brand new car there, too, and says she always enjoyed her jobs in Nevada.

As for her favorite thing about Nevada, Betty turns to the history as well as the pride of being a Nevadan.

"There isn't an 'if' we like it, but a sense of ownership for all that Nevada has been through," she says. "There are so many things to tell people about Nevada, but I would emphasize the beauty. The blue skies, even on windy days, are just so beautiful."

It's no wonder that when asked about a favorite quote or motto, Betty beams as she slowly says, "Home Means Nevada."

Battle Born Buzz

Slot World Casino in Carson City has reopened under new ownership after a total makeover of the 27,000-square-foot facility. The business and property were purchased earlier this year by the owners of Bodines Casino in Carson City, the Carson Valley Inn in Minden, and Sharkey's Casino in Gardnerville. **slotworld.com, 775-882-7568**

Viva Aerobus, Mexico's ultra-low-cost airline, inaugurated its new international route from Mexico City to Las Vegas' McCarran International Airport. Daily flights began in December 2017. **vivaaerobus.com/en**

Executive Chef Charles Wilson has taken over as head chef for **Edgewood Tahoe**'s three restaurants following the retirement of Frank Stagnaro, the resort's executive chef for more than 25 years. **edgewoodtahoe.com, 775-588-2787**

Los Angeles culinary legend **Roy Choi** joins the Las Vegas dining scene in the fall of 2018 with the debut of a Koreatown-inspired concept. Located at the Park MGM, the restaurant is unnamed for now, but joins Choi's California restaurants which include Kogi BBQ, Chego!, A-Frame, Commissary, POT, and LocoL. **parkmgm.com**

The **Regional Transportation Commission** is beginning construction on bike lanes and a new multi-use path along Evans Avenue in Reno. The project will connect downtown Reno with the University of Nevada, Reno, and make the route easier and safer for bicyclists and pedestrians. **rtcwashoe.com, 775-348-0400**

Maverick Helicopters offers 2018 NASCAR attendees transfers to Las Vegas Motor Speedway (LVMS) for the Spring NASCAR Weekend on Saturday, March 3 and Sunday, March 4. LVMS will also host a Fall NASCAR Weekend in September. Helicopter transfers will be available on Saturday, Sept. 15 and Sunday, Sept. 16. **flymaverick.com, 702-261-0007**

CELEBRATION

Celebrate Reno's sesquicentennial in May

The City of Reno invites citizens of The Biggest Little City in the World, and all Nevadans, to celebrate Reno's sesquicentennial on May 9. The community event at Greater Nevada Field will occur during a Reno Aces baseball game, with first pitch scheduled for 6:35 p.m.



NATALIE LUMBO/CITY OF RENO

More event details are available at reno.gov/reno150, where you can also learn about the City of Reno's year-long 150th-birthday celebration, which kicked off in May 2017. Part of the year-long celebration, the Reno People Project has set out to nominate and award past and present residents who have made a significant, positive, and influential impact. Ultimately, 150 people will be recognized by May 9, 2018.

Reno was established on May 9, 1868. According to Online Nevada Encyclopedia: "The Central Pacific Railroad, which began construction in Sacramento in January 1863, reached Reno in May 1868. The location of the depot and a townsite in the meadows was particularly important, as it was to be the last major stop before westward trains made their way over the steep and rugged Sierra Nevada. Myron Lake sold more than 100 acres for a depot and town—and Reno was born." **reno.gov/reno150, 775-334-4636**



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In the middle of the Nevada desert lies a unique desert oasis, waiting to be discovered. Whether you've been before or not, there's a lot more to this multifaceted town than you might think. With an array of entertainment, recreation, gaming and dining, there's always something new to discover in Laughlin.

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Battle Born Buzz

- The **Vegas Strong Benefit Concert** raised more than $700,000 at the Dec. 1, 2017 all-star concert at T-Mobile Arena. Held in honor of the victims of the October 1 tragedy, the special event to benefit the Las Vegas Victims fund featured more than a dozen entertainers and drew a capacity crowd of 12,000 guests. **gofundme.com**

- The **Las Vegas Lights Football Club** has an annual guarantee of at least one roster spot reserved for a player with roots in Las Vegas. For its inaugural season, five players with Las Vegas roots have been signed to the club's preseason roster, and will compete to become members of the club's first regular season roster. **lightsfc.com, 702-728-4625**

- Clif Bar & Company has committed to become title sponsor of **RenoCross**, the cyclocross race known for a dozen years as CrossVegas. The race will take place on Sept.19, 2018 following the second full day of the Interbike show at Rancho San Raphael Park in Reno. **renocross.com, 303-684-9170**

- **The Mob Museum**, The National Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement, will reinvent the way guests experience history when it unveils "The Underground," a permanent exhibition dedicated to the history of Prohibition, in April. Guests will learn about Prohibition-era bootlegging and rum running. **themobmuseum.org, 877-438-2929**

- MGM Resorts International has announced that its WNBA franchise will be called the **Las Vegas Aces**. Las Vegas' first major professional basketball team—formerly the San Antonio Stars—will begin play in its new home in the 2018 season. **mgmresorts.com, 866-761-7111**

- **The Super Summer Theatre**, located at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, will close out its 2017-2018 season with Tennessee William's "Suddenly Last Summer." Performances will be held March 2-4, 9-11. **supersummertheatre.org, 702-579-7529**

CASINOS

Atlantis unveils five water fountains



It's likely that you'll hear it before you see it. The pop of a jet compressor, shooting water more than 40 feet into the sky, or the splash of it crashing back down into the basin below. Then you see it, the water weaving and swaying, programmed to move in time with music, with the fountains lit up and glowing from colorful LEDs. It's all part of Atlantis Casino Resort Spa's reimagined water fountains.

There are five fountains, with the main one featuring the dancing water show. Within it are three rings with the capability of shooting water from 10 feet to 40 feet. Every hour on the hour, guests can enjoy this show of dancing water set to classical music. The water show lasts for nearly three minutes. **atlantiscasino.com, 775-825-4700**

COMMUNITY

Las Vegas Community Healing Garden gets new partner



After the shooting that took 58 lives in Las Vegas on Oct. 1, 2017 Stonerose Landscapes designed a memorial garden that was constructed at 1015 S. Casino Center Blvd. The garden features a wall of remembrance, a grove of trees, shrubs, flowers, walkways, and benches—all to create something beautiful out of something horrific. The garden park was completed in three days.

In November, 2017 Outside Las Vegas Foundation (OLVF) was brought on as the nonprofit partner of the Healing Garden to assist in the maintenance, planning, and activities at the garden. Together with Stonerose and other local companies, OLVF formed the LV Healing Garden Committee to ensure the garden's sustainability for years to come. **lvhealinggarden.vegas**


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Battle Born Buzz

The **Reno Aces** donated $303,046 to 650 groups in 2017. The team and staff focused on four key components for the donations: baseball development, community events at Greater Nevada Field, community outreach and in-game fundraising and awareness. **renoaces.com, 775-334-4700**

LATAM Airlines Brazil will begin nonstop seasonal service to Las Vegas from Sao Paulo in June. It is the first scheduled nonstop flight to Las Vegas from Brazil. **latam.com**

Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival launches its 2018 season July 6–Aug. 26 at Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, with productions of "Macbeth," Shakespeare's towering tragedy, and "Beehive: The 60s Musical," off Broadway's groovy retro-hit revue. **laketahoeshakespeare.com, 800-747-4697**

The Twilight Zone by Monster Mini Golf at Bally's Las Vegas is now open. The 10,000-square-foot parallel universe features an 18-hole, blacklight miniature golf course, a state-of-the-art arcade, Syfy Wedding Chapel, special event space, and bowling. **monsterminigolf.com, 702-558-6256**

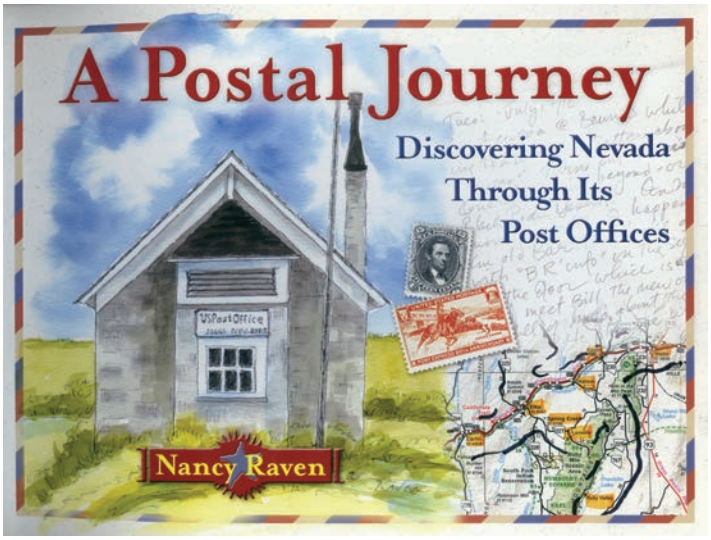
ALEXXA's Bar is now open inside Paris Las Vegas Hotel & Casino. Connecting to HEXX kitchen + bar, ALEXXA's features a sangria-theme with nine options to choose from, including sparkling sangria, cider sangria, and seasonal sangrias. **alexxasbar.com, 702-331-5100**

The first regular season home match for **Las Vegas Lights Football Club** (FC) at Cashman Field will double as the birth of an in-state rivalry. Lights FC will host Reno 1868 FC on March 24, at 8 p.m. **lightsfc.com, 702-728-4625**

The **Wilbur D. May Museum**'s latest interactive exhibition is "Hall of Heroes." This exhibition explores the history and science behind some of pop culture's favorite superheroes. See movie props, costumes, and memorabilia, and then put your own skills to the test. **maycenter.com, 775-785-5961**

BOOK REVIEW

'A Postal Journey' through Nevada



A new book by Minden resident Nancy Raven—"A Postal Journey: Discovering Nevada Through Its Post Offices"—takes a new approach to exploring the Silver State. A recent transplant, Nancy spent a little more than two years traveling around the state in search of 100 post offices, meeting people, taking photographs, and discovering the history of local post offices. It's a delightful look at the state in a new and very niche way. The book is part travelogue, part photo essay, and part history lesson. Nancy's watercolor paintings of sights from her 17 trips accompany many of the entries, and they add the perfect touch of whimsy.

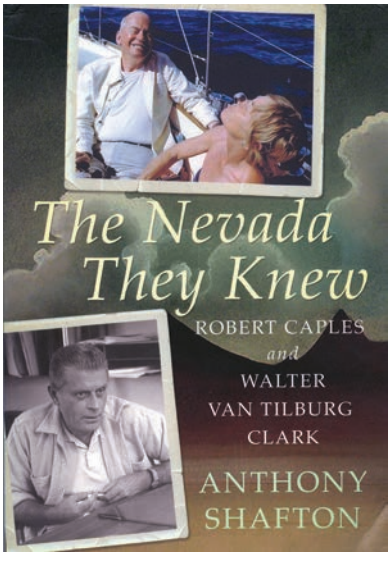
The book is more than just a recitation of facts, but is a personal project of the author as she undertook the journey as a means of discovering her new home. Photos of post offices past and present, anecdotal stories from along the way, and images of those people who make up rural Nevada are woven together in a thoroughly enjoyable tale.

The book is available at local northern Nevada books stores and online. **lizardsrockmusic.com**

NEVADA BOOKS

Fast friends

The friendship between Robert Caples and Walter Van Tilburg Clark is the subject of "The Nevada They Knew," a new book by Anthony Shafton. The artist and the novelist's relationship is examined with an eye to one of Clark's books, "The City of Trembling Leaves" that is based on their youthful friendship. Author Anthony Shafton traverses both the personal and factual storyline, revealing a story intertwined with history and his own life. **arcadiapublishing.com, 888-313-0044**



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NEVADA MAGAZINE'S
BEST of NEVADA
2018

21st Annual READERS' Poll
CAST YOUR VOTE

at
NevadaMagazine.com
– Voting ends April 13 –

Voting begins March 1. Results of the 21st Annual Readers' Poll will be published in the July/August issue of *Nevada Magazine, Events & Shows,* and on nevadamagazine.com.

Who's the BEST in NEVADA? You tell us!











LAS Vegas CONVENTION AND VISITORS AUTHORITY

Nevada Magazine would like to give a very special **THANK YOU** to the **Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority** for securing these wonderful travel packages.

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Nevada Magazine would like to express our overwhelming gratitude to all of these incredibly generous businesses for their contributions.

12 lucky voters will win a Las Vegas getaway package:

Must be 21 or older to win.

1

- **Caesars Palace** two-night stay at the Palace Tower, two **Qua Baths & Spa** day passes, dinner for two at **Gordon Ramsay HELL'S KITCHEN**
- **Grand Canyon Scenic Helicopter Airlines** visionary air tour for two *(Grand Canyon South Rim flight with hotel transfers)*
- **Neon Museum** tickets for two

2

- **Treasure Island Hotel & Casino** two-night stay with a strip view, two tickets to **Mystere by Cirque Du Soleil**, dinner for two at **Seafood Shack**
- **SpeedVegas** five-lap drive experience *(choose any car)*

3

- **Holiday Inn Club Vacations** two-night stay in a two-bedroom villa
- **Flightlinez Bootleg Canyon Zipline** daytime tour for two
- **Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville** $100 dining certificate
- **Divas Starring Frank Marino Show** tickets for two

4

- **Suncoast Hotel & Casino** two-night stay, buffet, and bowling
- **Casa Shenandoah Tour** tickets for two
- **The Australian Bee Gees Show** tickets for two

5

- **Golden Nugget Las Vegas** two-night stay in the luxury Gold Tower, show tickets for two to see a headliner performance
- **Dick's Last Resort - Excalibur Hotel & Casino** dinner for two
- **Mob Museum** tickets for two
- **Bell Limousine Transportation** travel for two

6

- **Plaza Hotel & Casino** two-night stay in a deluxe room, $100 dining certificate at **Oscar's Steakhouse**
- **Serenity Helicopters** tickets for two
- **Divas Starring Frank Marino Show** tickets for two
- **Bell Limousine Transportation** travel for two

7

- **W Las Vegas Resort** two-night stay with a cabana
- **Black Canyon River Adventures** rafting tour for two or four
- **Lip Smacking Foodie Tours** $250 gift certificate
- **Human Nature Jukebox Show** tickets for two

8

- **The Orleans Hotel & Casino** two-night stay, dinner for two at **Prime Rib Loft**
- **Pink Jeep Tours** off-road tour for two
- **Human Nature Jukebox Show** tickets for two

9

- **Trump International Hotel** two-night stay, $150 spa credit
- **Neon Museum** tickets for two
- **The Australian Bee Gees Show** tickets for two
- **Thunder Down Under Show** tickets for two
- **Bell Limousine Transportation** travel for two

10

- **Gold Coast Hotel & Casino** two-night stay, $150 spa credit
- **The Lion Habitat Ranch Sanctuary** tickets for two
- **Magic Mike Live Show** tickets for two

11

- **Dig This Las Vegas** Big Dig package for two
- **Silverton Casino** dinner for two at **Twin Creeks Steakhouse** *($100 value)*
- **Thunder Down Under Show** tickets for two

12

- **Pole Position Raceway Indoor Karting** certificate for up to 10 people

**Prizes are subject to change. No changes to packages will be allowed. Winner is responsible for transportation to Las Vegas and any additional costs. Must be 21 or older to win.*


VIRGINIA & TRUCKEE
CARSON CITY



LIZ HUNTINGTON



RACHID DAHNOUN



DAVID BRAUN



GLENN A. GIERCYCKI

Pages 18-19: "This was one of those 'wow' moments on an early morning walk in Virginia City, when the sun rose on The Comstock and made a spectacular view," says photographer Liz Huntington, who captured this shot of the Pullman cars at the Virginia & Truckee Depot.

Opposite page, top: Photographer Rachid Dahnoun captured this shot of passengers boarding a diesel train at the Nevada Northern Railway at dusk in Ely.

Opposite page, bottom: Sunsets at the Black Rock Desert can be astonishing, as evidenced by photographer David Braun's image. "It quickly became obvious that the sunset was going to be very dramatic, and I found that standing right on the railroad tracks offered the most interesting perspective."

Above: "Thomas the Tank Engine is on the right and a diesel locomotive is on the left," says photographer Glenn A. Giercycki, who snapped this photograph on The Comstock during the "A Day Out with Thomas" event. The adventure takes place in October, and allows guests to ride on the V&T with Thomas.

FACEBOOK GROUP CHOICE

Photographer Russell Colletta captured this shot in Eldorado Canyon, located in southern Nevada, during a spring wildflower bloom. "I heard the area was peaking and made the trip there one afternoon. This image was one of the last taken that day. I'm really glad I stayed to catch this warm spring light on the desert blooming."

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

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



RUSSELL COLLETTA



Merriam-Webster defines magic as "the use of means (such as charms or spells) believed to have supernatural power over natural forces." I appreciate the need for a concise definition, but magic exists in the world in so many forms I think in this case, the venerable dictionary has sold the concept a little short.

Magic in Las Vegas exists around every corner, on almost every stage. Traditional magic shows saw a heyday in the '80s and '90s, with names like Siegfried and Roy and David Copperfield ruling The Strip with sold-out shows and lavish productions. While it never disappeared, magic took a back seat for a couple decades with the rise of celebrity residencies and Cirque shows. Card tricks and disappearing rabbits were no longer cool.

And yet, with just the wave of a wand, magic has come back into vogue. While he doesn't use a wand in his act, magician Mat Franco has done as much as anyone to levitate the magic show back to its former heights. Mat first appeared in Las Vegas at the Riviera Hotel when he was just 15 years old. Fast-forward to 2014 when Mat became a star as the first magician to win the popular TV show "America's Got Talent."

Magic Casts a Spell over Las Vegas

Seeing is believing as illusionists and magicians reappear all over The Strip.

BY MEGG MUELLER



Mat Franco

CHRISTOPHER DEVARGAS

They Can Do MAGIC

RICK THOMAS

World-class magician and illusionist Rick Thomas dazzles guests for a two-night engagement at the South Point Showroom. For the past 15 years, Thomas performed hundreds of shows a year and has hosted world tours that span five continents. Thomas now tours the world performing illusions with a style unlike any other. Guests can expect a performance that blends innovative illusions, magic, music, and dance for an evening that will leave them in awe at the end of the show.



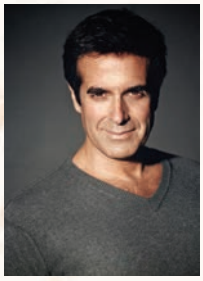
March 2-4: 7:30 p.m.
South Point Hotel
9777 S Las Vegas Blvd.
southpointcasino.com, 702-796-7111

PENN & TELLER

Penn & Teller debuted in Las Vegas in 1993 and have been performing at the Rio All Suite Hotel and Casino since 2001. They are currently the longest-running headliners to play in the same Las Vegas hotel. Known for their outrageous blending of magic and comedy, Penn & Teller's Las Vegas show skewers traditional hat-and-rabbit magic tricks with provocative, hilarious, and often amazing results. The dynamic duo continues their Las Vegas show, 21 years and counting. Penn & Teller's live show on any given night can also involve knives, guns, a fire-eating showgirl, and a cow.

Sunday–Saturday: 9 p.m.
Rio All Suite Hotel and Casino
3700 W. Flamingo Road
caesars.com/rio-las-vegas, 866-746-7671

DAVID COPPERFIELD

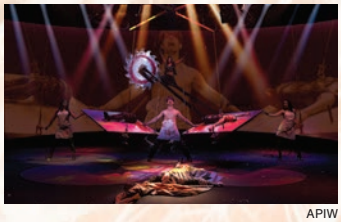


David Copperfield is a legendary showman who's been hailed by audiences and critics alike as the "greatest illusionist of our time." In addition to decades of television events, worldwide tours and a critically acclaimed Broadway show, Copperfield continues to confound and delight audiences with his unbelievable illusions and charming stories.

Sunday–Friday: 7 p.m.; and 9:30 p.m.
Saturday: 4 p.m.; 7 p.m.; and 9:30 p.m.
MGM Grand
3799 Las Vegas Blvd. South
mgmgrand.com, 702-531-3826

CRISS ANGEL

Based on Angel's hit TV show, "Mindfreak," which counted an audience of more than 100 million viewers in each of its six seasons on A&E, "Mindfreak Live!" showcases 90-minutes of the most spectacular, original and revolutionary illusions ever performed on stage. For 10 years, with a cast that includes talented specialty artists, Angel has brought his vision to life with a blend of heart-stopping original illusions, state-of-the-art animated LED lighting, RGB laser explosions, LED virtual worlds, 3-D immersive effects, pyrotechnic landscapes, live musicians/DJ, and much more. Angel recently announced the final performance of "Mindfreak Live!" will be Oct. 28.

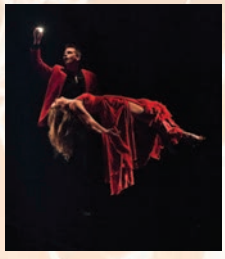


APIW

Wednesday–Sunday: 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
Luxor Hotel & Casino
3900 Las Vegas Blvd. South
luxor.com, 702-262-4400

'MASTERS OF ILLUSION'

"Masters of Illusion" delivers a mystifying and jaw-dropping performance at Bally's Las Vegas. Masterfully weaving a series of grand illusions with mind-blowing sleight-of-hand, and everything in between, the show features performances by magicians Jason Bird, Farrell Dillon, Greg Gleason, Chris Randall, and Tommy Wind. Each with their own extensive career in magic expertly showcased, this team of illusionists has joined forces to create an exciting and hilarious evening of entertainment that's fun for the whole family. Interlacing the magic vignettes together throughout the show is a group of talented male and female dancing assistants led by the mysterious "Woman in Red."



Wednesday–Monday: 7 p.m.
Bally's Las Vegas
3645 Las Vegas Blvd. South
ballyslasvegas.com, 877-603-4390

In 2015, Mat started his residency at The Linq Hotel and Casino, performing his show, "Magic Reinvented Nightly," in the theater that now bears his name. His show is funny and personal, without a lot of drama or excessive theatrics. He connects to the audience in an informal way, bantering and taking his cue from the audience. He retrieves an audience member's signed $100 bill from a huge pile of ramen noodle packs, despite letting the participant choose which one would be opened; another trick sees wine bottles and glasses move mysteriously back and forth from empty tubes; and yet another sees him on stage doing an amazing trick with coins when he suddenly appears at the back of the theater.

It's been a long road for Mat, but he took some time to chat with us about his show, living in Las Vegas, and the future of magic.

Your residency began in August 2015, and you moved to Las Vegas full time. Any surprises about living in Las Vegas? Do you feel at home now?

Having lived in Las Vegas for almost three years now, I'm constantly impressed with the great sense of community we have here. I suppose since the economy is driven so strongly by tourism, it lends itself to locals really taking care of each other. I tend to settle into new places fairly quickly, and Las Vegas has been no exception. It's an honor to be embraced by a city with such rich entertainment history, and it very much feels like home to me.

Your first big show was in Las Vegas as a kid of 15. What did it mean to you when The LINQ renamed its theater in 2017 for you?

It's really surreal. I entertain people to bring joy and happiness to the world in my own small way. To me, that is the real magic. Awards and recognition are unexpected bonuses; it's still hard to wrap my head around it all.

Your magic is done up-close-and personal with your audiences, and I know you watched your favorite magicians on VHS as a kid, studying their moves. How do you keep your magic secrets from your audience when you are so close to them?

I believe attention to detail is the key. The methods behind the magic are just a small, but important, part of the equation. Everything in the show is reviewed very closely under test conditions before it is seen by our audiences. It's worth it to put in the extra

effort, because our audiences deserve the best possible show and magical experience.

Where do you get ideas for new tricks?

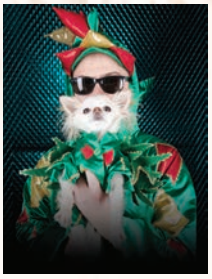
Inspiration can come from anywhere, even the most unlikely scenarios that take place in daily life. I imagine it's like songwriting, where an idea can come through in a dream, or while doing a mundane task. While it might only take an instant to get the spark of imagination, it's the weeks and months that follow which require the real work of figuring out how to make the impossible become possible. I usually start with a fun concept or theme that inherently has an impossible element to it, and then I try to reverse engineer how to make that idea come to life.

How long does it generally take to master a new trick? Who is your practice audience?

I have some signature pieces in the show that have been staples for me for the last seven or so years, but even those effects continue to evolve and improve over time. On average, I would say it takes several weeks or months of preparation before a new effect is put in front of my audience. I usually share new concepts with a close network of friends and

PIFF THE MAGIC DRAGON

Piff the Magic Dragon may bill himself as the Loser of Season 10 of "America's Got Talent," but the plucky British magician/comedian/genuine magic dragon has played to sold-out crowds on tour dates across the United States. Along with Mr. Piffles, the World's First Magic Performing Chihuahua, Piff performs at the Flamingo through the end of the year with a brand new show. Since its launch in November 2015, the Las Vegas show has been an evolving mix of greatest hits and new tricks from a repertoire that stretches more than 10 years.



Sunday–Saturday: 8 p.m.
Flamingo Las Vegas
3555 Las Vegas Blvd. South
flamingolasvegas.com, 702-733-3111

'INFERNO'

"Inferno," a fire spectacular that has taken Europe and Asia by storm has landed at Paris Las Vegas. The brand-new show is led by critically acclaimed European illusionist Joe Labero and the most exciting fire, pyro and aerial group in the world, The Fuel Girls, and features death-defying stunts, jaw-dropping illusions, and more fire than you can imagine. Labero uses mind-bending magic to tame nature's most powerful element through all-new jaw-dropping illusions. The Fuel Girls will dazzle with huge fire props including flaming swords and whips, crowns of fire, arena-scale pyro rings, dragon canes, pyro staffs, and spinning fire cubes, while manipulating the fire itself in death-defying floor and aerial acts.



Wednesday–Sunday: 9:30 p.m.
Paris Las Vegas
3655 Las Vegas Blvd. South
parislasvegas.com, 877-796-2096



They Can Do MAGIC Continued

'MURRAY THE MAGICIAN'
Direct from "America's Got Talent" and History Channel's "Pawn Stars," "Murray the Magician" is a family-friendly comedy magic show at the Planet Hollywood Hotel. Murray Sawchuck dazzled the judges and 22 million people as a finalist on "America's Got Talent" and currently stars in his own TV series, "Extreme Escapes." His show puts a premium on audience participation, so get ready to be part of the magic.

Sunday, Monday, Thursday, Saturday: 4 p.m.
Planet Hollywood Hotel
3667 Las Vegas Blvd. South
planethollywoodresort.com, 866-919-7472

XAVIER MORTIMER'S 'MAGICAL DREAM'
After gracing stages in more than 30 countries and most recently starring in Cirque du Soleil's acclaimed show "Michael Jackson ONE," French export Xavier Mortimer marks the first Cirque performer to launch a headlining residency on The Strip. Along with his unconventional cast of characters, Mortimer takes the audience on an adventure they won't soon forget. Spectators will be amazed by how the magic poetically unfolds through more than 14 acts in this wild dream. With the wonder of Mary Poppins, and the theatrics of Charlie Chaplin, this all-ages production transcends entertainment.

Sunday-Thursday, Saturdays: 7 p.m.
Planet Hollywood Hotel
3667 Las Vegas Blvd. South
planethollywoodresort.com, 866-919-7472

'ILUSIÓN MENTAL'
Get ready for the first Spanish-language-only residency show on The Strip. "Ilusión Mental" transports audiences into a realm of infinite possibilities. Enter a new universe with Santiago Michel, your guide through the secret doorways and hidden passages of the human mind. A 65-minute all-ages performance, "Ilusión Mental" casts the mind of the audience as the hero of the story unfolding onstage. From accurately determining if the audience is telling a truth or a lie to guessing exactly which celebrity they have in their heads to hypnotizing the most stubborn deniers of magic, Santiago Michel offers a rare and compelling glimpse into the supernatural.

Sunday, Monday, Thursday, Saturday: 5:30 p.m.
Planet Hollywood Hotel
3667 Las Vegas Blvd. South
planethollywoodresort.com, 866-919-7472

KRYSTAL THE MAGICIAN
The Golden Tiki Bar has gone retro, offering free tableside illusions by Krystal the Magician. Krystal was born and raised in Vegas and she grew up pulling pranks, which tied into a love of magic later on. "Other magicians have these wonderful backgrounds—they love to bring wonder into peoples lives, see a child's eyes light up for a magic trick, etc.," she says. "I just like tricking people." In high school, she bought a trick deck and got away with so much because of it, she now believes magic is the most acceptable way to be a jerk. She worked in magic shops, and stopped that a few years ago to perform full time. "I'm circulating some new tricks into my Tiki Bar set. I like using everyday objects; smartphones, rubber bands, and money tricks. Sometimes I'll teach people a good bar bet or two, if they ask," Krystal notes. "And the owner has said I'm not allowed to pick pocket any of the customers, so that's another great reason to come watch!"



Fridays, Saturdays: 8 p.m.
The Golden Tiki Bar
3939 Spring Mountain Road
thegoldentiki.com, 702-222-3196



Mat Franco

CHRISTOPHER DEVARGAS

family to get initial feedback. After that, it can take 50 or more trial performances in front of real people before the routine really finds itself. There is a lot of trial and error and small tweaks to get things to feel just right.

You have worked with cards, wine bottles, scarves, milk cartons, fire…is anything off limits?

Nothing is off limits! I tend to be fairly minimal in my use of props, because the show is really about my connection with the audience. However, I let the concept dictate what props are needed to achieve the desired magical effect. So, as a result of that, I have found myself doing some pretty crazy things, like magically appearing on a moving bus in New York City, or transporting myself in an instant across the world's largest observation wheel, the High Roller on the LINQ Promenade in Las Vegas.

Magic is cool again, in no small part thanks to you. Where do you see the future of magic, say in the next 5-10 years?

Thanks for the kind words! I think it's important to keep magic fresh and current for modern audiences. I believe magic will continue to grow in the coming years because it's becoming even more of a unique novelty today. We live in a world where we can find the answer to just about anything with a quick online search. However, when you step into my theater in Las Vegas, I'm able to transport people into a special world where even google doesn't have the answers! The world loves and needs a good mystery, and I love facilitating that journey.

GET IN ON THE TRICK
Mat Franco's "Magic Reinvented Nightly"
3535 Las Vegas Blvd. South
Las Vegas, NV 89109
linq.com, 800-634-6441



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MORNING APPEAL.

VOL. 17. CARSON CITY, NEVADA: TUESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 5, 1880. NO. 24

MORNING APPEAL.

—FOUNDED BY—

HENRY R. MIGHELS.

Published every morning (Mondays excepted),

S. P. DAVIS, - - Editor

'30' is ticked off for Sam Davis

Sagebrush School journalist penned Silver State history.

BY CHIC DIFRANCIA

On March 18, 1918, the "Carson City Daily Appeal" carried a front-page obituary for its former publisher and editor, Samuel Post Davis. The headline read: "'30' Is Ticked Off For Sam Davis." Now archaic, "30" at the time was the symbol used by newsmen to indicate the end of a story. It might have been the end of Davis' life, but it began a legacy that has endured.

At the time of his death, Davis was one of the last members of a fraternity of writers known as the Sagebrush School. Sagebrushers were a distinct breed of newspapermen, who in addition to regular reporting penned some of the best short stories and poetry in the history of American literature.



First appearance of Sam Davis' name on *Morning Appeal* masthead

Carson City Daily Appeal

VOL. LV. 25 Cents Per Week

TO MAKE KNOWN THE RESOURCES OF NEVADA

CARSON CITY, NEVADA, MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1918

Five cents per copy No. 65

Believed In Washington Germans Will Not Precipitate Major Offensive On West Front

BRITISH MAKE SUCCESSFUL RAIDS ON GERMAN LINES

Also Gather In Number of Prisoners —Huns Make Several Attacks On French, But Are Repulsed With Usual Results

[By United Press]

LONDON, March 18.—General Haig reported today that the British had successfully raided South Acheving, imprisoning a number of Germans. Patrols also inflicted casualties east of Zonneboke. The Germans are keeping up artillery fire south of the Bapaume-Cambrai road, around Lenz and between Warneton and Zonneboke. Paris reports there is "strong artillerying" on the right bank of the Meuse and in Vosges. The French took prisoners north of Ailett, German raids failed northwest of Rheims and La Pomelle.

A Berlin Report

[By United Press]

BERLIN, March 18.—The war office states that twenty-two Allied airplanes and two captive ballons were downed on the west front yesterday.

"30" IS TICKED OFF FOR SAM DAVIS

Passes Away at His Ranch Home After Several Months' Illness



THE LATE SAM DAVIS

At 6 o'clock last evening word was telephoned to this city from his country home, north of town, that the sufferings of Sam P. Davis, one of the prominent figures of Western Nevada, had been brought to an end, when death quietly laid its hand on the famous litterateur, humorist and raconteur. His end was peaceful and he passed with a smile on his face.

Although the recent protracted illness of Mr. Davis followed the amputation of his right leg last August, preceded in July by a stroke of paralysis, had made the fatal termination expected for weeks past, still the announcement of his death caused a shock to the community.

The death of Sam Davis removes one of the last of that bright galaxy of luminaries who had much to do with the shaping of the newspaper life of the west.

Davis was known best as a humorist and poet, and his writings, such as "The Lure of the Sagebrush," "Battle Born" and "The Gleaners," are recognized works of literature.

For four years he was state controller for Nevada, and probably chiefly known as the author of "The History of Nevada," a reliable source of authority on all incidents which make up the history of this state. His popularity, both as a writer of poems, history and essays is unbounded and his death is received with much sorrow.

Two brothers of the noted writer have attained high positions in the literary world. "Bob" Davis, in New York, is editor of the Munsey magazines, and Will Davis is city editor of the Sacramento Bee, the largest publication in

Surviving Mr. Davis are the widow, Mrs. P. Roy, both of this city; two brothers, Robert H. of New York and William of Sacramento; one sister, Mrs. H. G. Shaw of San Francisco; two step-sons, Hal R. and R. R. Mighels of Carson; and one step-daughter, Mrs. Irvin G. Lewis.

The funeral will be conducted from the Episcopal church at 2 p. m. Wednesday, the Rev. H. H. Kelley officiating and the services at the grave under the auspices of the Knights of Pythias, of which order deceased was an active and longtime member.

"All Dolled Up"

The Western Union messenger boys appeared today in their new suits of blue, with brass buttons, etc., and as one of the boy's expressed it, they are "all dolled up."

THEIR CONCENTRATION OF TROOPS HAS REACHED LIMIT

In Other Lines, However, They Will Continue Hostile Preparations—Americans Now Occupy Places On Five Sectors and Constantly In Actirn

[By United Press]

WASHINGTON, March 18.—The war department's weekly war review, issued today, for the first time expressed an official opinion that Germany will not attempt a major offensive on the west front. It declared that although there was no slackening in preparations "it has become evident that the enemy will not launch an offensive unless forced to." It is stated that Germany's west front troop concentration has apparently reached its limit. The review also revealed the fact that American troops are "constantly in action." It declared that the raids now occurring would in the past "have been considered important engagements."

Washington Notes

WASHINGTON, March 18.—The railroad administration announced today that it would soon call for bids for $100,000,000 worth of equipment for forty railroad competitors. It will include 2,700 locomotives and 45,000 freight cars.

Review Refused

[By United Press]

WASHINGTON, March 18.—The Supreme court today refused to review cases convicted of using the mails to defraud. Dew was a divine healer.

Aska Investigation

[By United Press]

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Representative Steenerson of Minnesota introduced a resolution in the house today demanding an investigation of the conduct of the Tuscania's crew. He charged the crew deserted the vessel without attempting to save American soldiers.

Would Prove Handicap

[By United Press]

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Representative Hayes of California today attacked the war finance corporation bill in an hour's speech in the house and declared it was simply an ingenious camouflage to help privately owned big business." He declared it would handicap instead of aiding in the prosecution of the war.

EVERYBODY INVITED

Next Wednesday evening at Leisure Hour hall H. A. Lemmon, state chairman of the National Council of Defense, will speak to the people of this city on war-time work.

Don't fail to hear him as those who have had that privilege state it is well worth while.

Mrs. P. B. Ellis will follow with a talk especially to the women, and it is desired that a county chairman for the woman's division be elected that evening.

A few evenings later Governor Boyle, ex-Governor Oddie and A. Grant Miller, on their return from their tour of the southern part of the state, will hold a public meeting and the county council of the National Council of Defense be organized.

The high school children will be present at Wednesday evening's meeting and sing patriotic songs, some of which the audience will have the privilege of joining in.

Come, and bring your friends.

MORE BOYS GO

Frank Sullivan and Charles Ruf, two of the older boys at the State Orphans' Home, left last night by train for San Francisco to take examination for entrance into the engineers' corps.

Many friends and a large delegation from the home were at the depot to see the boys off and wish them god-speed. The boys are two manly young fellows and chock full of pep and enthusiasm. There is no doubt they will make good.

Miss Ethel Fletcher spent Sunday in this city with her parents.

SEIZURE OF DUTCH VESSELS DELAYED UNTIL TOMORROW

Time Will Be Given to Holland to Sign Up Agreement With the United States—70,000 Tons In American Ports

[By United Press]

WASHINGTON, March 18.—It is announced that with the non-arrival of official cables regarding Holland, American negotiations over the seizure of Dutch ships probably will delay seizure until tomorrow. The state department has indicated that Holland has not signed an agreement, adding that Holland is entirely opposed to the use of her vessels in the war zone. The department has received no reply from Holland and it is believed seizure was delayed to permit Holland to make a last minute agreement. When the seizure is made the navy will place reserves aboard the Dutch vessels and deliver them to the shipping board. Seven hundred thousand tons of Dutch shipping are now in the United States ports.

Holland Agrees

[By United Press]

THE HAGUE, March 18.—The Holland government has accepted the Allies' conditions for employment of Dutch shipping in munitions transportation.

LATEST BULLETINS

[By United Press]

PETROGRAD, March 18.—Leon Trotsky in an interview declared that Germany and Japan have an agreement to "divide Russia on the basis of mutual interests and "declared the Allies were committing a great error in assisting Japanese plans for the occupation of Siberia, and that America would be the first to regret the Allies' policy.

Heading for Harbin

[By United Press]

TOKIO, March 18.—Advices have been received that United States Ambassador Francis from Petrograd, with thirty-six Americans, Japanese and Chinese passed Omak March 9th headed for Harbin.

Big Acreage Increase

[By United Press]

SACRAMENTO, March 18.—Vice-Chairman Naftzger of the State Council of Defense has announced that the California wheat acreage increased 44,075 over last year. The total acreage reported is 101,470.

"Planned Deliberate Murder"

[By United Press]

VISALIA, Cal., March 18.—George Murry, special counsel, opened argument today in the trial of Mrs. Orlean Howe. Murry claimed the defendant deliberately planned murder. Mrs. Howe shrieked, "Oh God, I didn't mean it." Indications are the case will not reach the jury before tomorrow.

Arrested On Suspicion

[By United Press]

NEW YORK, March 18.—The department of justice today arrested Mme. Despina Davidevitch Storch, a beautiful Turkish woman, Baron de Beville, Mme. Charlotte Nix, and a man calling himself Count de Claremont. They will be deported on a suspicion of espionage.

Trial Postponed

[By United Press]

SAN FRANCISCO, March 18.—Superior Judge Dunne today postponed the trial of Israel Weinberg for the preparedness parade dynamiting until April 22d.

Declared a Falsehood

[By United Press]

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Commenting on Trotsky's charge that Germany and Japan had agreed to divide Russia the Japanese emlassy declared the "falsehood of the allegation is shown on the face of it."

FORMER RESIDENT PASSES

A long distance telephone message was received in this city last night announcing the death in San Francisco yesterday of Mrs. M. P. Hickey, a pioneer resident of Empire.

Deceased was the mother of Vivian Hickey, the widely renowned singer; of Loretta Hickey, now married and living in Reno, and Mildred Hickey and Herbert Hickey of this county.

Arrangements have been made to have the remains shipped to Empire for burial and they will pass through Carson on tomorrow morning's train from Reno.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY BALL

Tonight one of the most enjoyable events of the season will take place at Armory hall.

The annual St. Patrick's Day ball given by the ladies of St. Theresa's church is always looked forward to as a great event.

Armory hall has been beautifully decorated and the Carson band will furnish the music. Tickets have been placed at $1 a couple.

CARSON VALLEY MAN DIES

Yesterday occurred the death of E. Scossi, a well-known and prominent ranchman of Diamond Valley.

Deceased was 45 years of age and leaves to mourn his loss a wife and two children.

The funeral will be in charge of George Kitzmeyer and will be held from the I. O. O. F. hall in Gardnerville at 1 o'clock Tuesday afternoon.

Churchill County People Here

A large delegation of Churchill county citizens interested in the Churchill county Southern Pacific tax case before Judge Farrington, came in on the express this morning, among them being: J. C. Conniff, M. L. Wildes, J. M. Smither, George Burton, J. W. Sitton and George J. Kenney of Fallon, and V. Fulkerson, F. R. Hallock and C. G. Swingle of Hazen.

Miss Jack Hoopes has severed her connection with the Gray, Ried, Wright store and accepted a position with C. H. Matravers.

Mrs. Clarence McEwen and baby of Lakeview are guests in this city at the home of Sheriff Joe Stern.



A LIFE IN TYPE

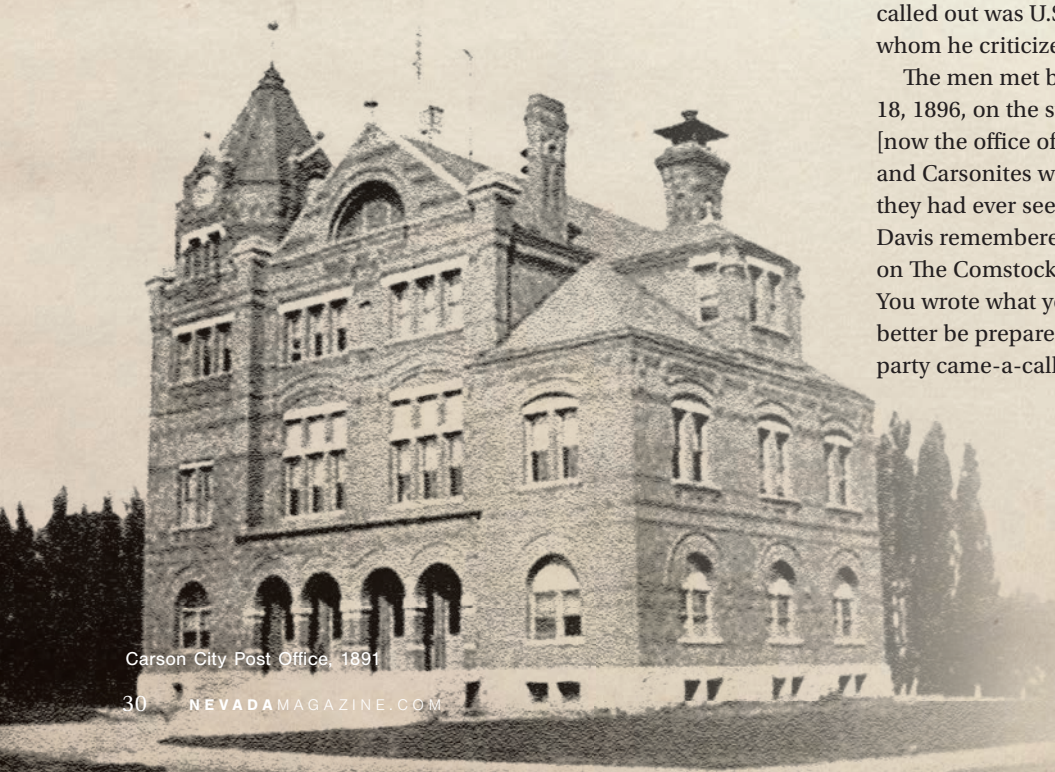
Born in Branford, Connecticut, in 1850, Davis began his trek westward at an early age and became a typeslinger for several newspapers before he became a writer. He was writing for a San Francisco newspaper in 1875, and when that paper folded he headed to Virginia City to write for the "Virginia Evening Chronicle." The "Chronicle" at the time was owned by Denis McCarthy, who a decade earlier had been journalist Joseph Goodman's partner at the "Territorial Enterprise."

Davis and McCarthy were stalwarts at the "Chronicle" as they exposed corruption and ill-gotten gains by some of the biggest mining interests on The Comstock. In all likelihood Davis would have remained at the "Chronicle" had it not been for the death of Carson City's "Morning Appeal" publisher Henry Rust Mighels on May 27, 1879.

Not only did Mighels leave behind a newspaper, but also his wife, Nellie, and four children. Nellie was no stranger to a newspaper composing room and could stick type with the best of the compositors at the "Appeal." Publishing a daily newspaper is not an easy task while raising four kids, and Nellie desperately needed an editor to manage the paper. Six months after her husband's death she hired Sam Davis for the job.

Sam and Nellie made a great team and eventually their platonic relationship turned more serious. Sam made it official on July 4, 1880, when he married his boss and became part owner of the paper. Their marriage produced two daughters, Lucy and Ethel. Sam remained at the helm of the paper for the next two decades, where he became a relentless watchdog for Ormsby County. The clashes he had with his adversaries both in print and with his fists are legendary. Sam called 'em as he saw 'em. One of the guys Sam called out was U.S. District Attorney Charlie Jones, whom he criticized for his handling of a bribery case.

The men met by chance on the morning of Nov. 18, 1896, on the steps of the Carson City post office [now the office of *Nevada Magazine*] where fists flew and Carsonites were treated to more action than they had ever seen in the columns of the newspaper. Davis remembered well his baptismal reporting days on The Comstock—it was called writin' and fightin'. You wrote what you dammed well-pleased, but you'd better be prepared to back it up when the offended party came-a-callin'.



Carson City Post Office, 1891

THE MORNING APPEAL

VOL. LXI | CARSON CITY, NEVADA, THURSDAY MORNING DECEMBER 25 1902 | NO. 73

THE FIRST PIANO IN CAMP, Or A Christmas Carol.

By Sam Davis.

The Appeal herewith presents a Christmas story, written some twenty-five years ago by S. P. Davis, when he was a resident of Virginia City.

As the story has been systematically revamped in various forms in different periodicals throughout the country, it is presented to the readers of the Appeal today in its original form.—Ed's. note.

In 1859—it might have been five years earlier or later: this is not history for the public schools—there was a little camp about ten miles from Pioche, occupied by upwards of three hundred miners, every one of whom might have packed his prospecting implements and left for more inviting fields any time before sunset. When the day was over, these men did not rest from their labors, like the honest New England agriculturist, but sang, danced, gambled, and shot each other, as the mood seized them.

One evening the report spread along Main street (which was the only street) that three men had been killed at Silver Reef and that the bodies were coming in. Presently a lumbering old conveyance labored up the hill drawn by a couple of horses, well worn out with their pull. The cart contained a ...

... Scores of men came to the place every day to assist.

"I'll put the bones in good order."

"If you want the wires tuned up, I'm the boy."

"I've got music to feed it for a month."

Another brought a pair of blankets for a cover, and all took the liveliest interest in it. It was at last in a condition for business.

"It's been showin' its teeth all the week. We'd like to have it spit out something."

Alas! there wasn't a man to be found who could play upon the instrument. Goskin began to realize that he had a losing speculation on his hands. He had a fidler and a Mexican who tarummed a guitar. A pianist would have make his orchestra complete. One day a three-card monte player told a friend confidentially that he could "knock any amount of music out of the piano if he only had it alone a few hours to get his hand in." This report spread about the camp, but on being questioned he vowed that he didn't know a note of music. It was noted, however, as a suspicious circumstance that he often hung about the instrument and looked upon it longingly, like a hungry man gloating over a beef steak in a restaurant window. There was no doubt but that this man had music in his soul, perhaps in his fingers'-ends, ...

... wild animal would have done. As meat and drink and warmth began to permeate the stranger, he seemed to expand and lighten up. His features lost their pallor, and he grew more and more content with the idea that he was not in the grave. As he underwent these changes, the people about him got merrier and happier and threw off the temporary feeling of depression which he had laid upon them.

"Do you always have your place decorated like this?" he finally asked Goskin.

"This is Christmas eve," was the reply.

The stranger was startled.

"December twenty-fourth, sure enough."

"That's the way I put it up, pard."

"When I was in England I always kept Christmas. But I had forgotten that this was the night. I've been wandering about in the mountains until I've lost track of the feasts of the church."

Presently his eye fell upon the piano.

"Where's the player?" he asked.

"Never had any," said Goskin, blushing at the expression.

"I used to play when I was young."

Goskin almost fainted at the admission.

"Stranger, do tackle it, and give us a tune! Nary man in this camp ever had the nerve to wrestle with that ...

... from the keys. His hands kneaded their hearts like dough, and squeezed out the tears as from a wet sponge. As the strains flowed one upon the other, they saw their homes of the long ago reared again; they were playing once more where the apple blossoms sank through the soft air to join the violets on the green turf of the old New England States; they saw the glories of the Wisconsin maples and the haze of the Indian summer, blending their hues together; they recalled the heather of Scottish hills, the white cliffs of Britain, and heard the sullen roar of the sea, as it beat upon their memories vaguely. Then came all the old Christmas carols, such as they had sung in church thirty years before; the subtle music that brings up the glimmer of wax tapers, the solemn shrines, the evergreen, holly, mistletoe, and surpliced choirs. Then the remorseless performer planted his final stab in the heart with "Home, Sweet Home."

When the player ceased, the crowd slunk away from him. There was no more revelry and devilment left in his audience. ...

CHRISTMAS CANDIES.

Whenever you want the finest of chocolates and bonbons you can get them at our store and all made in our own factory. A sample will compare with anything manufactured in the town either in workmanship, material or cleanliness. We extend an invitation to the public to visit our factory at any time any you will be convinced as to the truth of the above statement.

We have also a neat stock of holiday goods for Christmas tree decorations; just the thing you want for the children. They are all fresh and new. No shop worn goods.

Sugar has raised but we were fortunate in laying in a good supply befor the raise. We will give our patrons the benefit of our purchase and sell our fancy and plain mixed candy at the old price and all made in our own factory. We will give special prices to all churches or any public gathering where a quantity of goods are used.

Davey & Maish, Emporium Blck.

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We want you do inspect the goods if you don't purchase. REMEMBER that we give coupons free with each FIFTY Cent purchase. A handsome gold watch is to be given away.

I. Belcove's Jewel... Stor...

SERVING THE PEOPLE

Two years after his scrape with Jones, Davis gave up his position as editor to run for state controller on the Silver Party Ticket. He won the seat in the election of 1898, and was re-elected to the office again in 1902.

Throughout his career Davis penned some of the best short stories, poetry, and "quaints" written at the time. Quaints were short fictitious stories written to make readers believe what they were reading was true. Dan DeQuille of "The Territorial Enterprise" is credited as being the father of the quaint, but Davis' pieces about the imaginary "Wabuska Mangler" newspaper and its editor equaled the best work that ever came from DeQuille's pen.

Davis' poem, "The Lure of the Sage-brush" and his short story, "The First Piano In Camp, Or A Christmas Carol" are so ingrained in our culture that they are still being read today by Nevada school children.

Dynamic Davis Duo



ED BIERMAN

• Samuel Davis was largely responsible for the creation of the John Mackay statue located at University of Nevada, Reno. At the time of Mackay's death in 1902, Davis contacted Mackay's son, Clarence, in New York and was promised the financial backing for the enterprise. The iconic piece was sculpted by Gutzon Borglum at a cost of $30,000 and was dedicated on June 10, 1908. Borglum would later take on the greatest challenge in his career, when he and a team of carvers created Mt. Rushmore.

• Nellie Davis reported on the Corbett-Fitzsimmons heavyweight championship fight in Carson City on March 17, 1897. At the time it was not appropriate for women to attend such events, so Nellie used her maiden name for her byline and sold the story to a Chicago newspaper for $50.

The Lure of the Sage-brush

By Sam Davis

Have you ever scented the sage-brush
That mantles Nevada's plain?
If not you have lived but half your life,
And that half lived in vain.

No matter the place or clime
That your wandering footsteps stray,
You will sigh if you know of her velvet fields
And their fragrance of leveled hay.

You will loiter a while in other lands,
When something seems to call,
And the lure of the sage-brush brings you back,
And holds you within its thrall.

You may tread the halls of pleasure
Where the lamps of folly shine,
'Mid the sobbing of sensuous music
And the flow of forbidden wine.

But when the revel is over,
And the dancers turn to go,
You will long for a draft of the crystal streams
That spring from her peaks of snow.

You will ask for a sight of beetling crags,
Where the storm king holds his sway,
Where the sinking sun with its brush of gold
Tells the tale of the dying day.

And when you die you will want a grave,
Where the Washoe zephyr blows.
With the green of the sage-brush above your head,
What need to plant the rose?





Nellie Davis

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

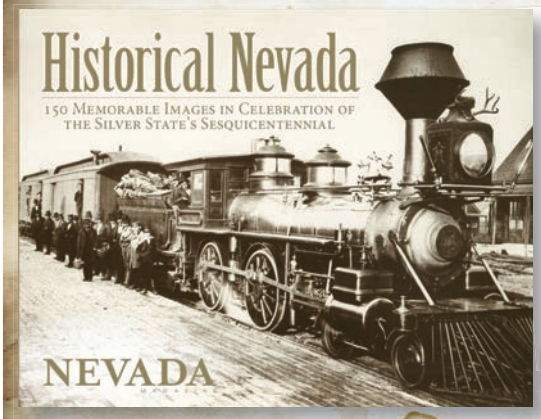
END OF AN ERA

Davis was in San Francisco in 1917 when he suffered a stroke. His condition was such that doctors had to amputate one of his legs to save his life. He knew his time was short and wanted to spend his remaining days at the Larkwood Ranch, that he and Nellie owned, just a couple of miles north of Carson City. Samuel Post Davis died there on March 17, 1918, a month shy of his 68th birthday.

Nellie Verrill Mighels Davis remained a prominent figure in Carson City after Sam's death. Earlier in her life she had been instrumental in organizing the American Red Cross in Nevada during the Spanish American War, and was a founding member of the Leisure Hour Club in Carson City. She outlived Sam by 27 years, dying in 1945 at age 100. The couple is interred in the Davis family plot at Lone Mountain Cemetery in Carson City. Their tombstone, a 9-foot obelisk, is located near the southwest intersection at Roop Street and Beverly Drive.

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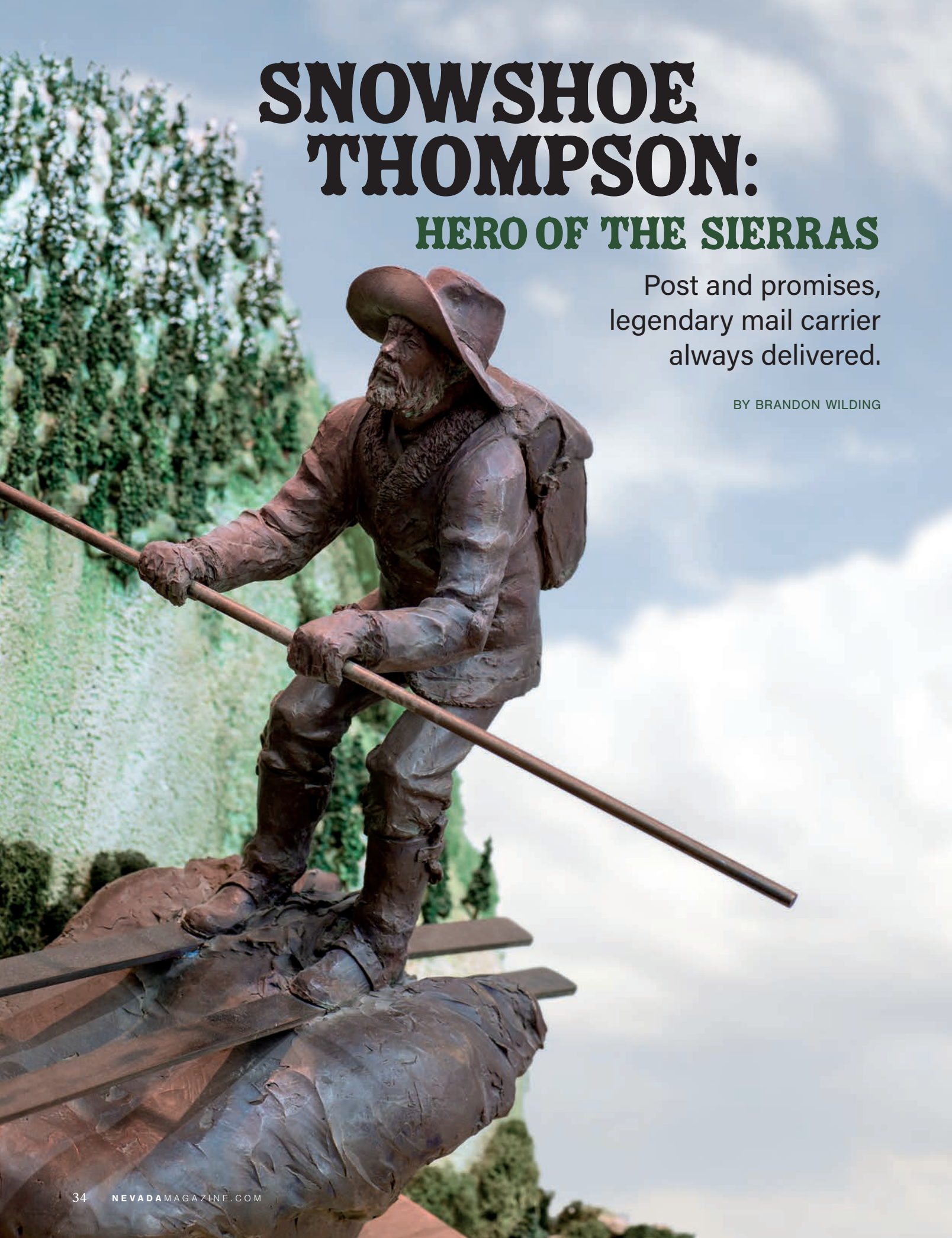
- *Tough Little Town on the Truckee*
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- *Reno Noir: 20th Century Sin City*
- *Riches from the Earth*
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—S.A. Kinsey, Genoa Postmaster



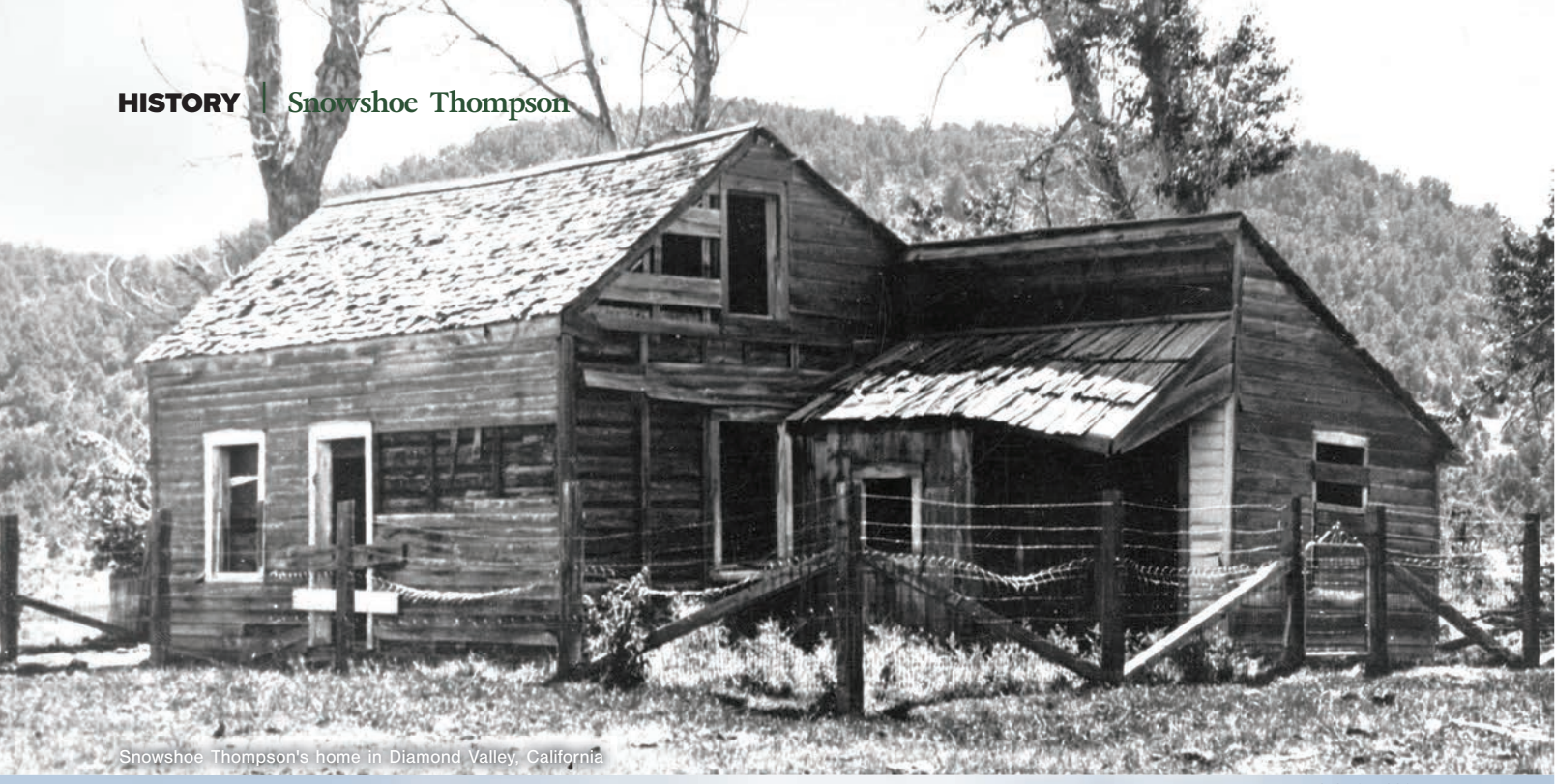
Snowshoe Thompson

EN LEGENDE ER FØDT (A LEGEND IS BORN)

Jon A. Torsteinsson Rue was born on the Rue Farm in Tinn, Telemark, Norway, April 30, 1827. He was born to father, Torstein Olsson Gallo, and mother, Gro Jonsdatter Einungbrekke, and was the youngest of his father's 14 and his mother's six children. Torstein was 68 when Jon was born and died two years later, leaving Gro to care for the family on the farm. She raised Jon as best she could in the mountains of Norway, but the long Norwegian winters and the wet summers of Telemark made farming difficult and the family struggled to make ends meet.

In spring 1837, Gro along with Jon—now age 10—set sail for America. After two and a half difficult months at sea, they reached New York on August 15. Upon their arrival, Gro would change their name to the more American moniker, Thompson. Historians believe that she chose Thompson simply because it was similar to Torsteinsson. Jon also took the Americanized spelling of his first name. For the next 14 years, John would travel around Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, and Wisconsin.

KIPPY S. SPILKER, PHOTO TAKEN AT THE CARSON VALLEY MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER



Snowshoe Thompson's home in Diamond Valley, California

NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

GO WEST, YOUNG MEN

In 1851, news of the California gold discovery reached John and he decided to make his way west with his half-brother, Thore. The two men drove a herd of cattle from Wisconsin to California. The trip west was a hardship for many pioneers, but not for John. He loved the adventure and found comfort in the challenges that lay beyond each horizon.

Like many others who traveled to the gold fields, John was disillusioned by dreams of riches. He spent a few years trying his luck, but always came up empty handed and would soon return to the life he had previously known. Ranching had always come easy to him, so he rented land along Putah Creek outside Sacramento and began to work the land. However, John missed living in the mountains that reminded him of Norway.

In fall 1855, John would find his escape back to the mountains in an article in the "Sacramento Union." The article requested a mail carrier that could carry the mail between Placerville, California, and Genoa during the harsh winter months, stating: "People Lost to the World; Uncle Sam Needs a Mail Carrier." The heavy snows and cold cut off communication for the people west of Salt Lake City and east of the Sierras from the rest of the world. A few brave men previously tried to do the job, but frozen limbs and death hindered success.



Recreation of inside of Snowshoe Thompson's house

KIPPY S. SPILKER. PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN AT THE DOUGLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, COURTHOUSE MUSEUM, GENOA

FASHIONING THE FUTURE

John did not fear getting lost in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. He considered them a narrow range and claimed that any man who kept his wits about him could make his way out. He is quoted as saying, "If a man is lost in the mountains, he should not wander uphill and downhill at random. By going steadily downhill he will eventually come to a stream which will lead him to civilization."

John would return to his roots and adopt a Norwegian form of transportation as a means of travel over the mountains. He began crafting a pair of snow skates out of straight pieces of oak. After cutting them into 4-inch wide, 10-foot long planks, he soaked the ends, steamed them, and then began bending and carving them into crude skis. There were other Norwegian communities in the west that were using similar snowshoes, but none were more famous than John for bringing this form of transportation to America.


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Some of Snowshoe Thompson's routes

KIPPY S. SPILKER. PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN AT THE DOUGLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, COURTHOUSE MUSEUM, GENOA

With leather straps holding his feet to the skis and a staff in his hands for balance, he began practicing in the mountains around Placerville. He also spent some time talking to people who were familiar with the mountains, so he could prepare for any problems that he may encounter. After a few weeks of practice, he made his way to Placerville and offered his services to the postmaster.

LIONHEART

In January 1856, John began his first trip over the mountains to Genoa. As he was leaving town, it is rumored that someone yelled out, "Good luck, 'Snowshoe' Thompson!" A new name and a legend were born. On a trip that took other men weeks, if they made it at all, Snowshoe made it from Placerville to Genoa in three days and returned in two. The 90-mile trip was often covered with 30 to 50 feet of snow and Snowshoe's bag often weighed 80-90 pounds. When blizzards would rage through the Sierras, he would simply find a flat rock and dance Norwegian folk dances until the storm passed.

For the next 20 years, Snowshoe Thompson would carry the mail to the people of Genoa, but he was so much more than a mailman. He often purchased things for the people of the community whether they could pay him or not. He once skied 400 miles in 10 days to save a man's life. He believed in his community and he loved the country that had become his home.

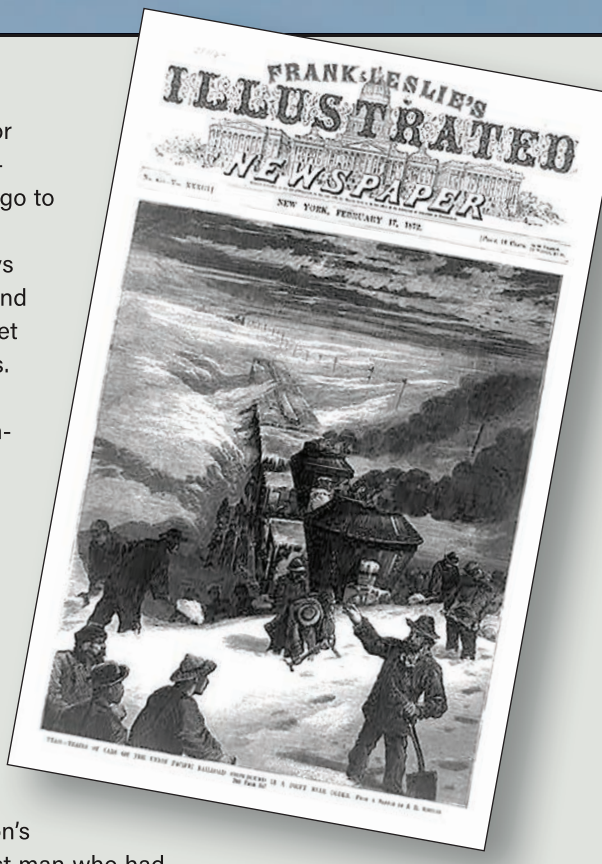
VENDER HJEM (RETURNING HOME)

On May 15, 1876, Snowshoe Thompson looked at his son and said, "Always be a good boy, Arthur. Mind your mother and be good to her." Those would be his final words before he succumbed to appendicitis that had developed into pneumonia. He died at his home in Diamond Valley—located about 10 miles south of Minden just over the California border—that he had farmed and loved for 17 years. John spent his whole life caring for the people around him and even in his final moments his love for family was evident.


Arthur Thompson

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY THE DOUGLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SNOWSHOE VS. IRON HORSE



In the months leading up to January 1872, John had been petitioning Congress for $6,000 in back pay that many believed was owed to him. After not receiving any response from Congress, he followed the advice of one of his friends and decided to go to Washington D.C. and meet with anyone who would listen to his request.

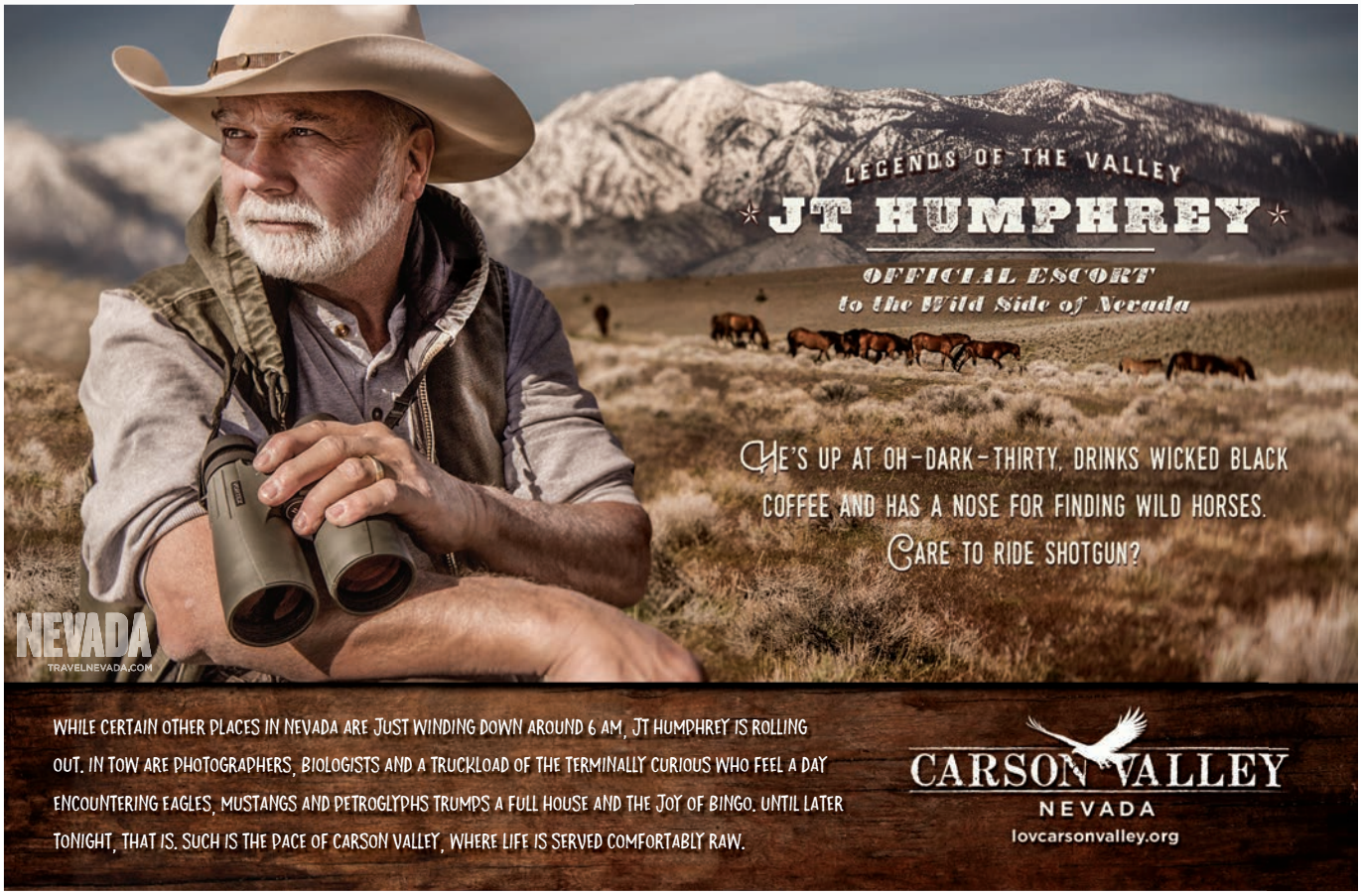
John boarded a train in Reno on January 17 and headed east. However, three days later, 35 miles west of Laramie, Wyoming, the train became stuck in a snowstorm and soon the heavy snowdrifts halted the trip. The men onboard spent a day trying to set the locomotive free with shovels, but the heavy winds continued to block the tracks. Four locomotives were then brought in to try and free the train, but to no avail.

John gave the following report to Dan DeQuille regarding the trip: "It was on Sunday that the four engines were tried and "found wanting." On Monday morning the wind was still blowing a gale, and the snow was still drifting badly."

Coming to the conclusion that the train would not be moving for a few days, John and a fellow passenger, Rufus Turner, decided to make their way to Laramie on foot. A few miles west of Laramie the two men found another train, but the fate of that train was much like the one that they had been on a day earlier. Turner soon gave up on walking and stayed in Laramie, but John was determined to continue his trip to Washington D.C.

Through wind and snow in temperatures that fell 15 to 35 degrees below zero, John continued another 56 miles to Cheyenne. There he would find a train free of the snow and continue his journey.

Upon arriving in Washington D.C., John's story of his trip spread around the nation's capital. A local newspaper would retell his journey and declare that he was the "first man who had ever beaten the 'iron horse' on so long a stretch."



SNOWSHOE THOM(P)SON

A TRUE PIONEER

"...There ought to be a shaft raised to Snow-Shoe Thompson; not of marble; not carved and not planted in the valley, but a rough shaft of basalt or of granite, massive and tall, with a top ending roughly, as if broken short, to represent a life which was strong and true to the last. And this should be upreared on the summit of the mountains over which the strong man wandered so many years, as an emblem of that life which was worn out apparently without an object..."

Attributed to: Dan Dequille,
Territorial Enterprise, May 19, 1876.
Dedicated this 10th day of July 1977,
as founded and endorsed Bicentennial Project,
by the Nevada members of the
Ancient & Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus

Left: Nevada members of the Ancient & Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus erected a monument to Snowshoe Thompson atop Carson Pass on July 10, 1977. Right: Snowshoe Thompson is buried in Genoa, and a marble headstone marks his resting place.



PHOTOS: ANNA WILDING

Four days after his passing, Comstock journalist Dan DeQuille would write the following in the "Territorial Enterprise:"

"...There ought to be a shaft raised to Snow-Shoe Thompson; not of marble; not carved and not planted in the valley, but a rough shaft of basalt or of granite, massive and tall, with a top ending roughly, as if broken short, to represent a life which was strong and true to the last. And this should be upreared on the summit of the mountains over which the strong man wandered so many years, as an emblem of that life which was worn out apparently without an object..."

No man sums up the spirit of the American West more than Snowshoe Thompson. He was a self-made man that took care of his family and the people in his community. He had a heart of gold that far outweighed any of the gold taken out of the mountains that he conquered. His spirit and love for his fellow man will forever shine down through the trees and reflect off the snows of the Sierras.



Diamond Valley, California

MERRY MULLER

YOUR HISTORY IS *OUR* HISTORY

and we'd like to share it.



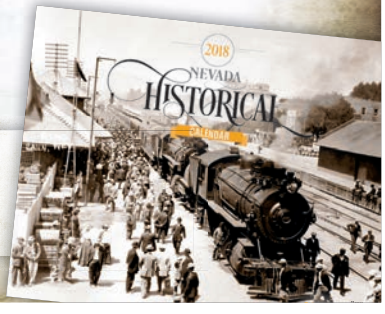
Carlin Dance Troup: This 1950s photo was taken inside the Frontier Lounge in Elko's Commercial Hotel. Pictured from L to R: Jerry Huston, LaVerne Plumb, Mike Giffey, Laurie Hyatt, Kay Brooks, Karen Mierhoff, Jacque Privitt, John Hyatt, Terri Gates, and Sterling Johnson.

Photo © Jerry Huston

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Copies will not be returned.
Please do not send originals at this time.

Email your photos to jcory@nevadamagazine.com or mail them to Historical Calendar c/o *Nevada Magazine*, 401 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701.
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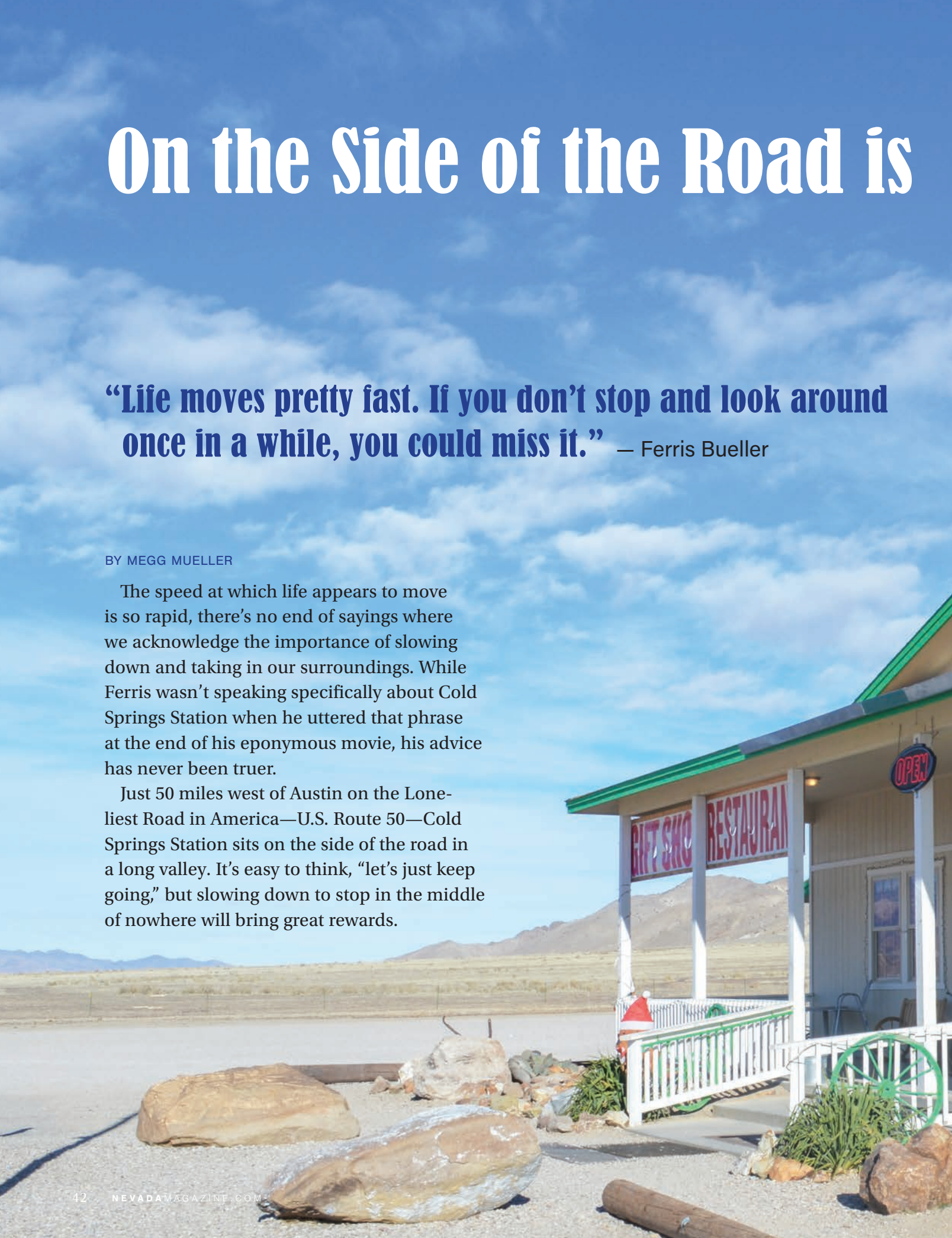
On the Side of the Road is

"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it." — Ferris Bueller

BY MEGG MUELLER

The speed at which life appears to move is so rapid, there's no end of sayings where we acknowledge the importance of slowing down and taking in our surroundings. While Ferris wasn't speaking specifically about Cold Springs Station when he uttered that phrase at the end of his eponymous movie, his advice has never been truer.

Just 50 miles west of Austin on the Loneliest Road in America—U.S. Route 50—Cold Springs Station sits on the side of the road in a long valley. It's easy to think, "let's just keep going," but slowing down to stop in the middle of nowhere will bring great rewards.



the Middle of Everything

Cold Springs Station offers perfect respite from the road.



ERIC CACHINERO



George McNeil

ERIC CACHINERO

"We closed escrow on Nevada Day 2017. For a couple of Nevadans, that was pretty cool."

A LIVING AND A HOBBY

George and Barbara McNeil have been going to Cold Springs Station for 20 years. Sometimes they traveled there three weekends a month, using the hotel and restaurant as a basecamp for hunting and ATVing with their kids. Both retired, the couple decided to follow their passion and bought the station when it came up for sale.

Despite having no experience running a hotel, RV park, or restaurant, the pair was convinced they had what it takes to turn their hobby into a way to make a living.

"We closed escrow on Nevada Day 2017," George says, smiling. "For a couple of Nevadans, that was pretty cool."

Missing the Nevada Day parade in Carson City for the first time in many years, the McNeils headed to the station to get to work. Cold Springs Station's previous owners were content with the status quo, but George and Barbara have plans to put their hobby on the map.

"We want to be known as a destination resort," George explains. "We are the best-kept local secret."

An expanded RV park, store, and a landscaped event and wedding area are just a few of the items on the 5-year plan. The new convenience store should be up and running in early 2018, and a revamped menu is already in the works. New lighting has enhanced the dining areas, and the entire facility has a family-friendly feel.



CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 BOB TREGILUS, USED HERE BY PERMISSION.

PERFECTLY PLACED PLEASURE

What won't change is the resort's idyllic location. Nestled between the Desatoya and Clan Alpine mountain ranges, Cold Springs Station is the ideal basecamp for hunters and back-road enthusiasts. Myriad trails run in the mountains surrounding the station, and they can be accessed right from the station so off-road vehicles never need to traverse the highway. George has 5,000 miles on his quad, and he estimates at least 4,000 of those miles have been logged in the area around the station.

Petroglyphs, cabins made of ammunition cases and glass, reservoirs, and some of the darkest skies ever await those in search of central Nevada's off-road treasures. George gladly offers directions and advice to the area he's come to call home.

While running the business is a new endeavor for the couple and has come with its share of challenges—"We've definitely run out of things a couple times," George notes—the benefits far outweigh the challenges.

"I wake up in the morning and I walk to work. In the evening, I walk home, and get to look at all of this," George says, gesturing to the indelibly Nevada 360-degree view surrounding his home.



ERIC CACHINERO





PHOTOS: SALLY HANRAHAN



PHOTOS: ERIC CACHINERO

STOP AND STAY AWHILE

When you walk into Cold Springs Station, a bright and surprisingly large dining room, gift shop, and friendly bar, decorated with animal trophies hung by local hunters, greets you. The original bar burned in 2008, and the current one was built in 2010. Clean and homey, the atmosphere invites you to linger while the menu is a total invitation to indulge.



In our travels, I've come to learn that after the first bite, a head bob is Eric-speak for "perfection."

As earlier noted, the McNeils are in the process making some changes to the menu, but one thing that won't change is the local meat they get from Fallon. A half-pound burger, affectionately named the "Pony Bob" Express—after one of the area's most famous Pony Express riders—is covered in thick bacon, melted cheese, farm-fresh lettuce and tomatoes. It's enough to cause the famous head bob of my associate editor, Eric Cachinero. In our travels, I've come to learn that after the first bite, a head bob is Eric-speak for "perfection."

Homemade potato salad accompanies my patty melt, which is simply perfect from first bite to last. The potato salad had me at first glance; bits of thick-cut bacon blend with the tang of pickles and the creamy potatoes so well, I find myself scraping the lettuce garnish to extract every savory taste.

Breakfast and dinner are also available, making Cold Springs something of an anomaly on Highway 50. You can get a real meal here just about any time of day. If you're just zipping through, car-ready snacks and drinks are available but I heartily advise you to stop and enjoy a tasty meal. If you're lucky enough to be staying for the night in one of the rooms or cabins, or overnighting in your RV, an adult beverage may be in order. A surprisingly fat selection of beers—domestics, crafts, and more—awaits, along with some delightful wines and an eye-popping choice of whiskey, scotch, and other spirits. If you can't stay, designate a driver because George claims this is a "good Nevada bar."

"You won't need to ask for a double," he says.

TAKE THE TIME

On a mid-January Wednesday, traffic is slow along America's Loneliest Highway, but a handful of folks stop at Cold Springs Station. Some stay for lunch, wandering through the gift shop for mementos of their journey, while others grab a snack and look at the history that lines the walls. Located along the route of the historic Pony Express, memorabilia in cases and along the walls is come by honestly.

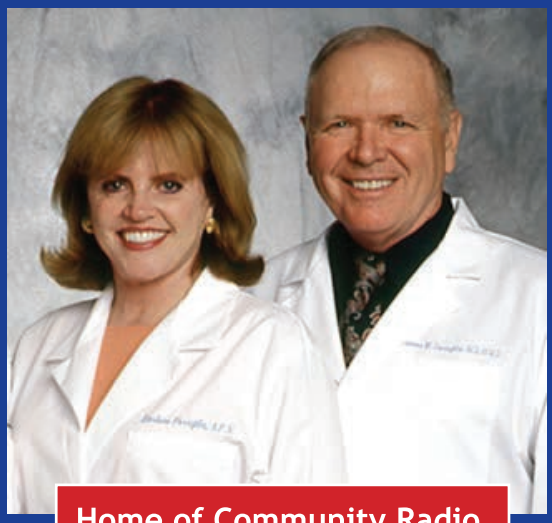
Stopping for a meal is the perfect introduction. Ask George and Barbara about the area as you enjoy a hearty dinner, stock up on souvenirs, and dare to try one of George's single-pour drinks. It's a good first start while planning your next visit to Cold Springs Station. There's a lot more here than meets the eye when you're flying by on the highway.

PULL OVER

Cold Springs Station
52300 Austin Highway
Fallon, NV 89406
cssresort.com, 775-423-1233


"WHERE THE ROAD ENDS, NEVADA BEGINS."
- David Low, Park Ranger
Spring Mountain Ranch
"Curiosity takes me off the trail every day.
Just when I think I've seen it all, I walk a little farther
and spot something new.
I find the real Nevada.
Let my story be the beginning of yours."
TravelNevada.com/MarNVMag
DON'T FENCE ME IN
NEVADA

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641 NEVADA PRESERVATION SOCIETY
704 NEVADA'S COWBOY COUNTRY

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TELEVISION PBS

2701 KNPB CHANNEL 5

BEER YOGA

HOFBRÄUHAUS LAS VEGAS



JOIN HOFBRÄUHAUS LAS VEGAS FOR SOME STRETCHING AND SUDS.

Don't nama-stay in bed all day! Instead, come out for beer yoga monthly at Hofbräuhaus Las Vegas. Enjoy a fun afternoon with friends and a cold one while taking part in an hour-long yoga class taught by certified yoga instructor Jacqueline Reinhardt.

Beer yoga classes are held once a month on Sunday afternoons. Classes are $20 each and come with one bottle of your choice of Hofbräu beer. Those who sign up in advance online are guaranteed a spot in the class. Guests may also purchase a ticket in person at Hofbräuhaus Las Vegas. Yogis of all fitness levels are encouraged to attend. It is recommended that you bring your own yoga mat.

Then, after your down dogs, it's time to get down with vegan, vegetarian, and gluten-free dining options at Hofbräuhaus Las Vegas, including vegan schnitzel, vegan frankfurters, cucumber salad, Bavarian salad platter, and classic Caesar salad.

And don't be afraid to enjoy an additional bottle, pint, or stein of beer after class. Drinking beer at Hofbräuhaus Las Vegas is guilt-free because, like all German beers, their beer adheres to the Bavarian Purity Law of 1516. This means that for more than 500 years, all beer from Germany is natural and you will not find any chemicals, preservatives, or fake process enhancers, such as artificial enzymes or yeast nutrients, or cheap sources of starch like rice and corn. So whether it's blond, dark, light, or bold, all beers at Hofbräuhaus Las Vegas are wholesome and delicious, and only feature barley, hops, yeast, and water. Prost!

WHERE
Hofbräuhaus Las Vegas

WHEN
March 11

CONTACT
702-853-2337

WORTH A CLICK
hofbrauhauslasvegas.com

LAS VEGAS SHOWS

KID ROCK





AMERICAN SINGER-SONGWRITER BRINGS SOUTHERN ROCK TO SOUTHERN NEVADA.

Along with the release of his new album, "Sweet Southern Sugar," Kid Rock is hitting the road for his "Greatest Show On Earth Tour 2018," produced by Live Nation. The tour makes a stop at Mandalay Bay Events Center Saturday, March 24 at 7:30 p.m. Rock fans can expect the same high-energy experience as Kid Rock's previous shows, but with brand new tracks from his latest album.

"Sweet Southern Sugar" is Kid Rock's first album recorded in Nashville and features his spontaneous summer releases "Greatest Show On Earth" and "Po-Dunk," as well as recent single "Tennessee Mountain Top." The album ranges from country to classic rock, with a little rap sprinkled in between and highlights his armory of talent, which transcends a single genre.

Kid Rock burst onto the music scene in 1998 with his "Devil Without a Cause" album and hasn't looked back. From hit singles like "Bawitdaba" and "Cowboy" to "Picture" and "All Summer Long," the recording artist has blazed his own trail in the music world, having sold more than 26 million albums to date. He holds the Michigan record for most tickets sold with 150,000 for a run of 10 consecutive sold-out shows, and recently set the Little Caesars Arena attendance record in his hometown of Detroit with 86,893 attendees in six sold-out shows. Kid Rock remains at the center of media attention in regards to his musical and personal ambitions, leaving his mark in a multitude of genres.

WHERE
Mandalay Bay Events Center

WHEN
March 24

TICKETS
mandalaybay.com, 702-632-7777
Starting at $49.50

WORTH A CLICK
kidrock.com

ALSO AT THE MANDALAY BAY
"Michael Jackson ONE," ongoing



MUST SEE

ROGER DALTREY

Hard Rock
March 7, 10
hardrockhotel.com, 702-693-5000

Roger Daltrey, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member and founder of the iconic rock band The Who, returns to The Joint at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino for two nights with special guest Leslie Mendelson on Wednesday, March 7 and Saturday, March 10 at 8 p.m. Daltrey is joined on stage by current Who band members Simon Townshend, Jon Button, Scott Devours, Loren Gold, and Frank Simes.

Leslie Mendelson returns with "Love & Murder"—the singer-songwriter's first new album in eight years. A stirring work imbued with emotional depth and poise, the effort is the long-awaited follow up to her Grammy Award-nominated debut, "Swan Feathers." It's an apropos title, reflecting the dichotomy between the dark and light she encountered in those years between.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Global superstar **Justin Timberlake** is making his highly anticipated return to the stage with "The Man Of The Woods Tour." The North American outing comes to T-Mobile Arena Saturday, April 14.

t-mobilearena.com 702-692-1600

Six-time Grammy Award-winner, Golden Globe Award-winner, and Academy Award-nominee superstar entertainer **Lady Gaga** is bringing her one-of-a-kind talent and creativity to the stage at Park Theater at Park MGM for a two-year, multi-date love affair with Las Vegas. Dates and times are to be determined.

parktheaterlv.com 844-600-7275

HOTTEST SHOWS

DEMI LOVATO
MGM Grand
March 3
mgmgrand.com
877-880-0880

SPRING NASCAR WEEKEND
Las Vegas Motor Speedway
March 3-4
lvms.com
800-644-4444

RICKY MARTIN
Monte Carlo
March 15, 17-18, 21, 24-25
montecarlo.com
702-730-7000

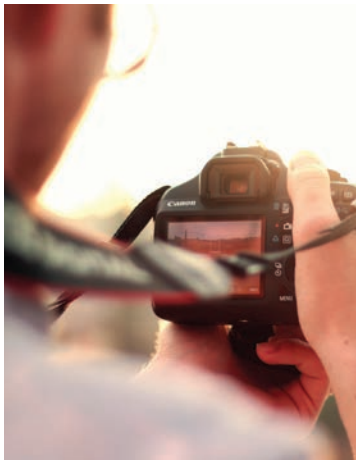
KENNY CHESNEY
Hard Rock
March 16-17
hardrockhotel.com
702-693-5000

SEBASTIAN MANISCALCO
The Colosseum
April 15
thecolosseum.com
866-227-5938

LAS RAGEOUS
Downtown Las Vegas
April 20-21
lasrageous.com

NICK SWARDSON
The Mirage
April 27
mirage.com
702-792-7777

MEL BROOKS
Wynn
April 27-28
wynnlasvegas.com
702-770-9966



March 6-11

SHOOTING THE WEST

Winnemucca
shootingthewest.org, 775-623-3501

The Shooting the West photography symposium returns to Winnemucca March 6-11, and promises another year of exciting workshops, lectures, and demonstrations for photographers of all skill levels. The event has showcased some of the West's biggest names in photography, bringing the latest trade techniques and secrets to attendees.



March 17

BALL BREAKER SALOON CRAWL

Virginia City
visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-847-7500

The fun doesn't stop with the food at Virginia City's Rocky Mountain Oyster Fry. The Ball Breaker Saloon Crawl happens during the renowned festival, allowing guests to sample and purchase specialty drinks at a discount. Participants are entered into a raffle and receive their first beer free.

MARCH

Feb. 28-4 WINNEMUCCA RANCH HAND RODEO

Winnemucca Events Complex, Winnemucca
ranchhandrodeonv.com, 775-623-5071

1-11 SNOWFEST!

North Lake Tahoe
tahoesnowfest.org, 530-583-7167

5-10 BIG SKY BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Reno Events Center, Reno
roadtoreno.com, 775-335-8800

9-11 MONSTER JAM

Reno-Sparks Livestock Events Center, Reno
monsterjam.com

10 ROB SCHNIDER

MontBleu, Stateline
montbleuresort.com, 775-588-3515

10 SHAMROCK SHUFFLE BEER WALK

Elko
exploreelko.com, 775-738-4091

10-11 3D INDOOR ARCHERY CHALLENGE

Winnemucca Events Complex, Winnemucca
winnemuccaeventscomplex.com, 775-750-5658

16 DANCING WITH THE STARS: LIVE!

Grand Sierra Resort, Reno
grandsierraresort.com, 775-789-2000

16-17, 23-24 "SHREK THE MUSICAL"

Henderson Pavilion
hendersonpavilion.com

16-18 HENDERSON ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Henderson Events Plaza, Henderson
cityofhenderson.com, 702-267-2323

16-18 "THE SOUND OF MUSIC"

Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno
pioneercenter.com, 775-686-6610

17 BOYZ II MEN

Grand Sierra Resort, Reno
grandsierraresort.com, 775-789-2000

17 ROCKY MOUNTAIN OYSTER FRY

Virginia City
visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-847-7500

17 THE ISLEY BROTHERS

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

24 PUDDLE OF MUDD

Cargo, Reno
cargoreno.com, 775-398-5400

24-25 SILVER STATE CHILI COOKOFF

Petrack Park, Pahrump
visitpahrump.com



Rocky Mountain Oyster Fry

DUANE BLOOD



LAUGHLIN RIVER RUN

Laughlin
laughlinriverrun.com,
949-502-3434

As the largest gathering of motorcycles in the western U.S., the Laughlin River Run returns for another year of high-octane fun. This year's event features a custom bike show, two poker runs offering a host of prizes, concert series, and the ever-popular Ms. Laughlin River Run contest.

April 25-28



TITANIC: THE ARTIFACT EXHIBITION

Luxor, Las Vegas
luxor.com,
702-262-4000

Did you know that the history of Clark County is tied to the *Titanic*? A relative of U.S. Senator William A. Clark—of whom Clark County is named after—lost his life aboard the infamous ship, losing a host of early gambling chips, jewelry, and other essentials. The items are now on display in the exhibit, among other artifacts.

Ongoing

APRIL

1 WELLS EASTER EGG HUNT

Wells
wellsnevada.com, 775-752-3540

2 AIR SUPPLY

Harrah's Lake Tahoe, Stateline
caesars.com, 800-427-7247

6 THE CLAIRVOYANTS

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

6-7 GREAT VEGAS FESTIVAL OF BEER

Downtown Las Vegas
greatvegasbeer.com

7-8 WHITE PINE WEEKEND

Ely
elynevada.net, 800-496-9350

8 LINCOLN HIGHWAY CAR SHOW

Austin
austinnevada.com, 775-964-2200

11 PORTUGAL. THE MAN

Grand Sierra Resort, Reno
grandsierraresort.com, 775-789-2000

11-15 CLARK COUNTY FAIR & RODEO

Logandale
ccfair.com, 888-876-3247

13 MARSHALL TUCKER BAND

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

13-15 "CABARET"

Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno
pioneercenter.com, 775-686-6610

20 "RAIN – A TRIBUTE TO THE BEATLES"

Grand Sierra Resort, Reno
grandsierraresort.com, 775-789-2000

20 TYLER HENRY, HOLLYWOOD MEDIUM

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

21 311

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

26-28 RENO JAZZ FESTIVAL

University of Nevada, Reno
unr.edu/rjf, 775-784-4046

28-29 VIRGINIA CITY GRAND PRIX

Virginia City
visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-847-7500



Virginia City Grand Prix



‘HALL OF HEROES’

WILBUR D. MAY MUSEUM IN RENO WELCOMES SUPERHEROES OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES.

The Wilbur D. May Museum in Reno unmasked its latest interactive exhibition: “Hall of Heroes.” This exciting exhibition celebrates and explores the history and science behind some of pop culture’s favorite superheroes. See movie props, costumes, and memorabilia, and then put your own skills to the test to discover your superpowers. “Hall of Heroes” features dozens of interactive stations designed to test powers of the body, elements, mind, and more. Visitors of all ages will love this exhibit that combines science and science-fiction. “Hall of Heroes” also includes the 1966 George Barris Batmobile and interactive Batcave, photo ops with life-sized characters, TARDIS from “Doctor Who”, dioramas covering comic books to movies, a wind tunnel, Superman phone booth, games, puzzles, and much more.

Located within Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, the Wilbur D. May Center is managed by the Washoe County Community Services Department and continues to receive generous support from the Wilbur May Foundation.

“Hall of Heroes” costs $9 for adults, $8 for children (ages 3-17) and seniors, and is free for children younger than 3. The exhibit runs through April 15.

ARTIFACTS & ARTISTRY

“DESIGN ZONE”
DISCOVERY Children’s Museum, Las Vegas
Through April 29
discoverykidslv.com, 702-382-3445

“JAMES TURRELL: RODEN CRATER”
Nevada Museum of Art, Reno
March 10-Jan. 6, 2019
nevadaart.org, 775-329-3333

“A THIN LINE”
Left of Center Art Gallery, Las Vegas
March 17
leftofcenterart.org, 702-647-7378

“WWII NUCLEAR INTELLIGENCE & ESPIONAGE”
National Atomic Testing Museum, Las Vegas
April 13
nationalatomictestingmuseum.org, 702-794-5151

WHERE
Wilbur D. May Museum, Reno

WHEN
Through April 15

INFO
775-785-5961

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THROUGH THE LENS: Gold Butte National Monument

A paradise found in the furthest reaches of the state harbors magical discoveries for intrepid travelers.

BY MEGG MUELLER



Formations in the area known as Little Finland are the result of sandstone hardened and shaped by wind and water erosion. About 150 to 200 million years ago, sandstone deposits were covered by younger sand dunes and solidified. About 10 to 16 million years ago, the stone uplifted and groundwater left minerals that clung to the rocks and hardened, causing harder patches, which erodes at different speeds.

JEFF SULLIVAN



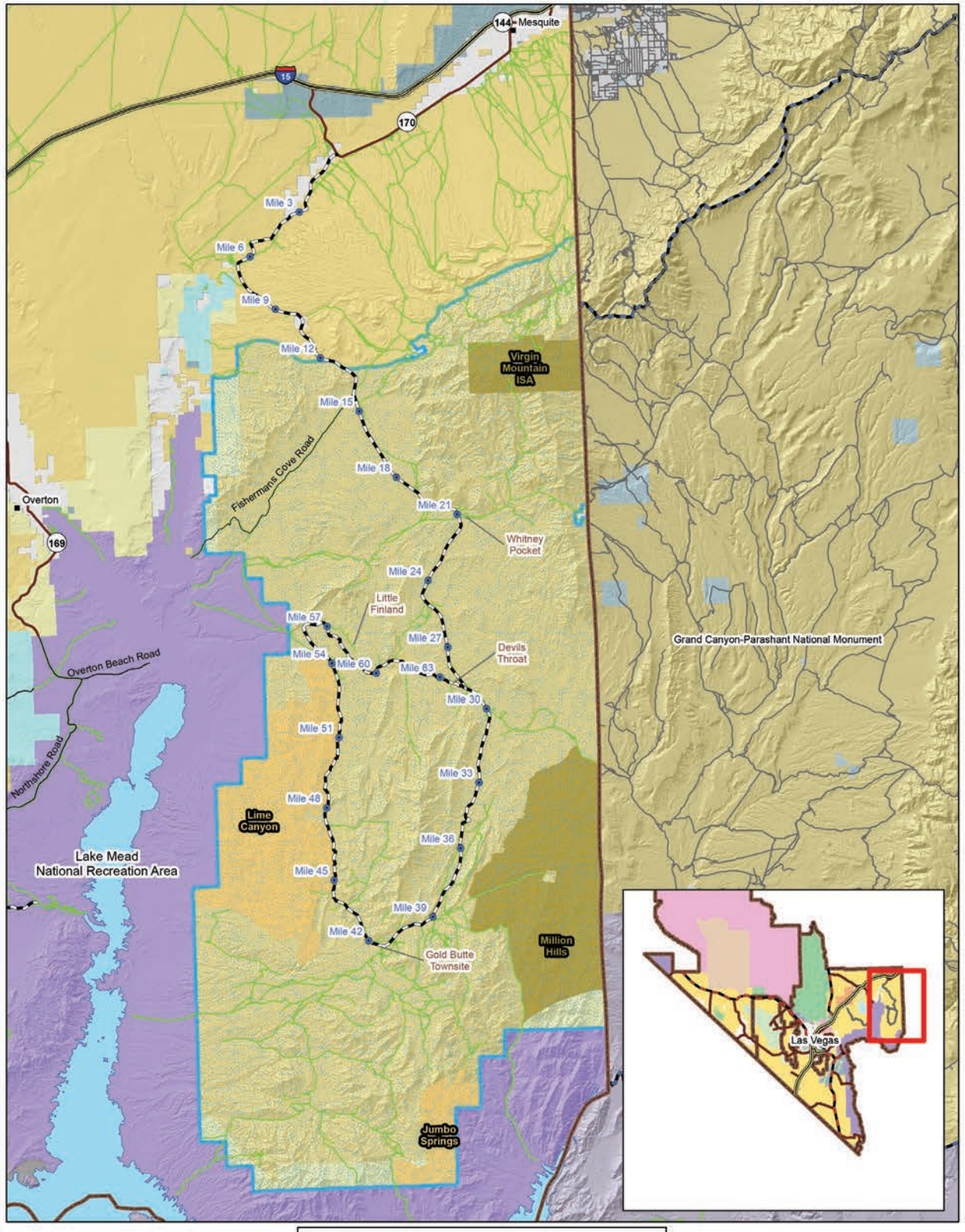
PHOTOS: MEGG MUELLER

There's a spot in Gold Butte National Monument where if you stretch your arms out wide, reaching your fingertips to their furthest extent, it seems as if you can almost touch Lake Mead and the Grand Canyon at the same time. It's the southern apex of a landscape that encompasses the wealth of southern Nevada's beauty and its arid, teeming desert.

This is no mirage, however. Gold Butte is anything but fleeting or imaginary. It is nearly 300,000 acres of spectacular sandstone structures; surprising pockets of juniper, oak, and pinyon woodlands where you'd least expect them; granitic mountains rising high into azure skies; and miles and miles of dirt roads. Or it could be described as it was on a recent outing—something akin to heaven.

Top: The eastern edge of Lake Mead is 10 miles from Gold Butte National Monument. Bottom: Efflorescence—the process of salt crystals evaporating from the sandstone—causes the white coloration on the rocks.

Gold Butte National Monument



Legend

- City Location
- Mile Marker
- SNDO Field Office
- Gold Butte Backcounty Byway

Route Designation

- Open
- Lake Mead
- Grand Canyon - Parashant
- Gold Butte National Monument
- BLM Wilderness
- BLM Wilderness Study Area

SNDO Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- National Park Service
- Nevada State
- Local Government
- Private

N W E S

0 2.5 5 Miles

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Top: Springtime wildflowers give the landscape of succulents and shrubs vibrant color. Bottom: Petroglyphs are found at many sites throughout the monument.

Depending on the season you choose to visit (skip mid summer if you're smart) bighorn sheep or wildflowers may greet you. Roadrunners are plentiful, as are reptiles of all sizes and shapes, including Nevada's state reptile the desert tortoise. Keep an eye out for this slowpoke on roadways; he always has the right of way.

JEFF SULLIVAN

KURT KUZNICKI



PHOTOS: ERIC CACHINERO

Left: The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) left its mark on Gold Butte. Right: At Whitney Pockets, the CCC built a dam to catch rainwater for ranching, and also built storage rooms into the sandstone alcoves.







ERIC CACHINERO

WHAT COMES AROUND...

With so much space to explore, where does one begin? Thankfully, the Backcountry Byway—a roughly 90-mile loop from State Route 170 near Bunkerville—offers the easiest way to see some incredible geologic features in the span of a day. A couple of caveats: One day is barely enough to skim the surface of the Backcountry Byway, let alone Gold Butte. Grab a camper or tent, load up the ATV, and take your time uncovering this remote treasure. And, "easiest way" is a relative term; this is Nevada after all. The loop is a mix of sort-of paved, maintained dirt, river washes, and the like, so this trip is for high-clearance 4WD vehicles only. A Chevy Tahoe served admirably, but always prepare to stay the night when you least expect it by having water, food, warm clothing, gas, spare tires, etc. It's the Nevada way.

Top: An outcropping known as First Rock is one of the first sandstone stops on the Back Country Byway.

Bottom: A large parking lot is available, and the view from high on the rocks reveals a caravan of ATVs exploring the monument.

PHOTOS: MEGG MUELLER

DON'T MISS THIS BEAUT

To get to the byway from Las Vegas, take Interstate 15 east toward Mesquite. Take the Riverside Exit 112—State Route 170—heading south. The byway is marked and starts just pass the Riverside Bridge.

Gold Butte National Monument
friendsofgoldbutte.org, 702-208-8377
blm.gov, 702-515-5000



Many hiking trails exist throughout the monument, but few are marked so staying with a group is a good choice.



PHOTOS: KURT KUZNICKI

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NEVADA A WORLD WITHIN. A STATE APART.



PANORAMIC VIEW OF BULLFROG, NEVADA

BY FRANK WRIGHT

This story first appeared in the July/August 1992 issue of Nevada Magazine.

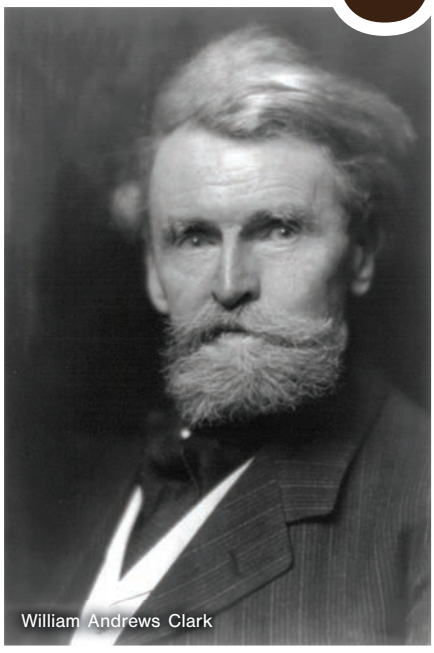
In 1905, two railroads began making a mad dash across the desert north of Las Vegas. The object of the race was to capture the heart and gold of the booming Bullfrog Mining District in central Nevada. It also proved to be a clash between two empire builders of the first stripe.

THE Race TO Bullfrog



F.M. "Borax" Smith

Two of America's captains of industry clashed in this desert railroad battle.



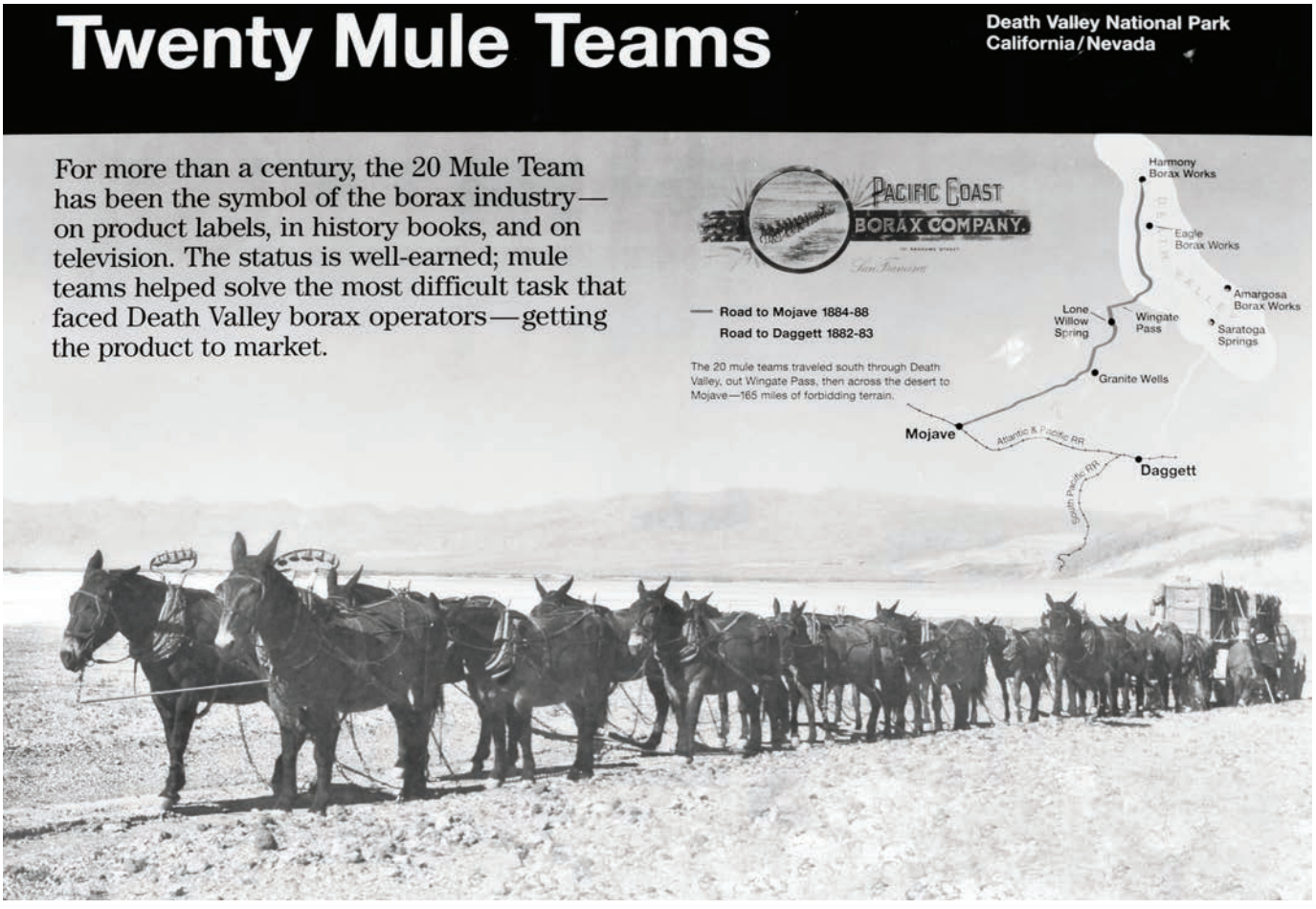
William Andrews Clark

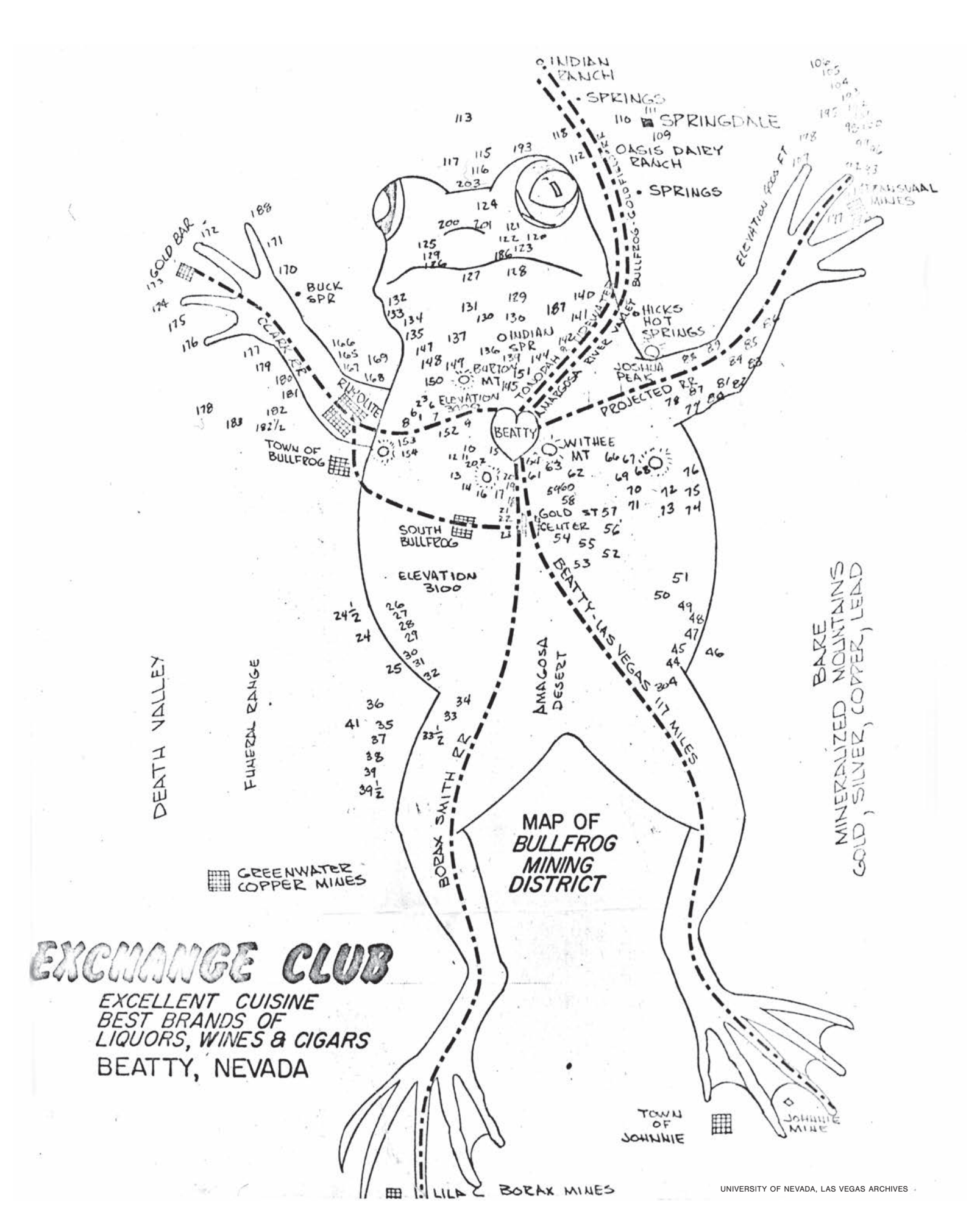


William Andrews Clark was a U.S. Senator from Montana who had made a fortune in mining and finance. Clark had just brought his San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad through southern Nevada, creating the town of Las Vegas in the process.

His rival was F.M. "Borax" Smith, an equally formidable character whose Death Valley borax dominated the world market with its "20-mule team" trademark.

Both Smith and Clark had sensed the potential rewards of a railroad connecting the new mines at Rhyolite and other Bullfrog camps with southern California. At first the two men were drawn together as comrades in commerce, but soon their paths parted, and they embarked on a fierce competition to bring rails to Rhyolite.





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DEEP VEIN OF COMPETITION

Their rivalry had its roots in the central Nevada mining boom that began with the Tonopah silver discoveries in 1900. Two years later, prospectors uncovered a vein of rich gold ore to the south, and Goldfield was born. Soon the Bullfrog District near Beatty added fuel to the mining fever. Rhyolite, the district's most important city, sprang up in January l905.

Las Vegas valley was also the scene of frenzied activity. In January 1905, a small ceremony involving the “driving" of a thumb-tack-size gold spike marked the completion of Clark's San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad. The following May, a public auction of lots established the town of Las Vegas.

Meanwhile, Smith, Clark, and others began efforts to connect the Bullfrog District to the larger rail network. The advantage seemed to lie with the Tonopah and Goldfield Railroad (T&G), which already provided a link to the transcontinental line at Reno. Philadelphia investors, who controlled the T&G as well as most of the important Tonopah mines, organized the Bullfrog Goldfield Railroad (BG). Because of internal problems, however, the BG didn't begin laying rails until May 1905.

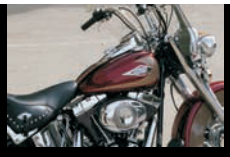
It was too late. Smith and Clark, determined industrialists both, had already left the gate.

Acquaintances of the two rivals described Smith and Clark in almost identical terms. Each was said to be "not a large man" but an "imposing figure." The handlebar-mustachioed Smith and the bristly-bearded Clark were both proud of their rough-hewn origins. Smith transported the wood cabin he built while serving as a woodcutter near Candelaria to his lavish estate in Oakland, California. Of Pennsylvanian Clark, the “Las Vegas Age” rhapsodized that "he has not spent his life in the strife of Wall Street, but on the wind-swept plains ... He has remained in close kinship with the people of the west."



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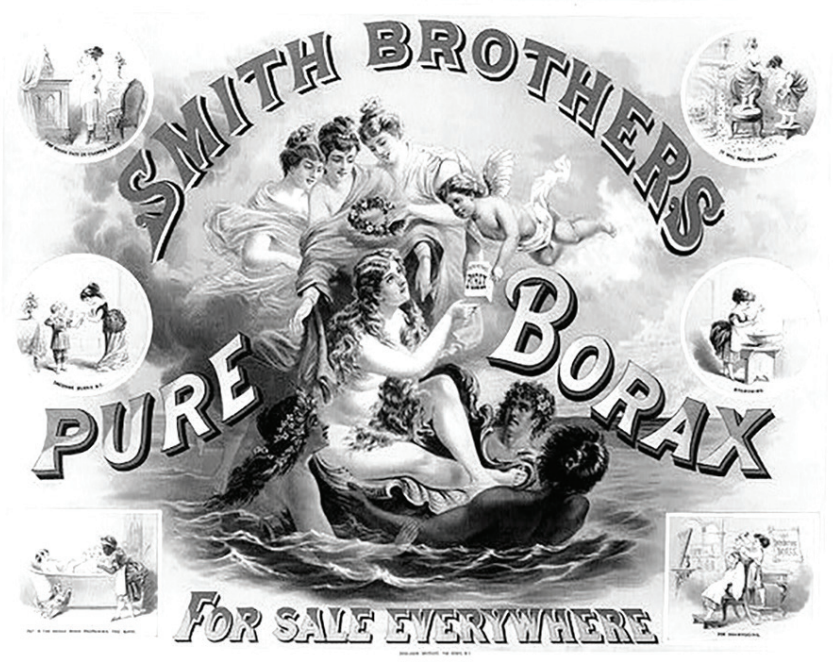
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Smith's fortune derived from almost single-handedly developing the borax industry in America. While laboring as a woodcutter at the western Nevada mining camp of Candelaria in 1872, he discovered borax deposits at nearby Teel's Marsh.

Even the routes that brought the two men together in 1905 offer curious parallels. Twenty-one-year-old Francis Marion Smith left his native Wisconsin in 1867 to knock around the mining camps of Montana, Idaho, and Nevada. William Andrews Clark had arrived in Montana in 1863 by a more circuitous route—law school at Iowa Wesleyan, school teaching in Missouri, and mucking out mines in Colorado.



Each man had made his initial fortune in mining. Clark amassed enough money from placer mining in Montana to turn to merchant banking. From such activities as buying and selling gold dust, milling lumber, mining copper, and trading in flour and tobacco, his financial empire eventually expanded to include a large wire works in New Jersey, a sugar processing plant in Southern California, and the enormously profitable copper mines near Jerome, Arizona.

Smith's fortune derived from almost single-handedly developing the borax industry in America. While laboring as a woodcutter at the western Nevada mining camp of Candelaria in 1872, he discovered borax deposits at nearby Teel's Marsh. Working with William Coleman of the Pacific Borax Company, he put together and built up the giant Pacific Coast Borax Company (PCB) by 1890. This was done in part by opening a New York office to promote the multiplicity of uses—from soap- to glass-making to whatever use the then little-known mineral could be put. Six years later, the firm went multinational through a merger with an English company. By then, PCB controlled roughly 85 percent of the domestic market, and its "20-mule team" identity was familiar worldwide. As a corporate titan, Smith was a force to be reckoned with.

Clark was no slouch, either. His vast fortune and power paled beside that of E.H. Harriman of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific, yet he had battled Harriman to a draw in building a rail link between Los Angeles and Salt Lake City. The so-called "Clark-Harriman War," fought in the field with pickaxes and shovels as well as in the courts, between 1900 and 1905, ended with Clark and Harriman each controlling 50 percent of the new San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad.

Meanwhile, Clark had engineered his election as a U.S. Senator from Montana. Although he was first elected by state legislators in 1899, the Senate balked at seating him because of extensive fraud and bribery in the election, a practice that was not unusual in the days before the direct election of senators. Undeterred, Clark obtained re-election in 1901 and was duly seated.

A PLAN GOES OFF TRACK

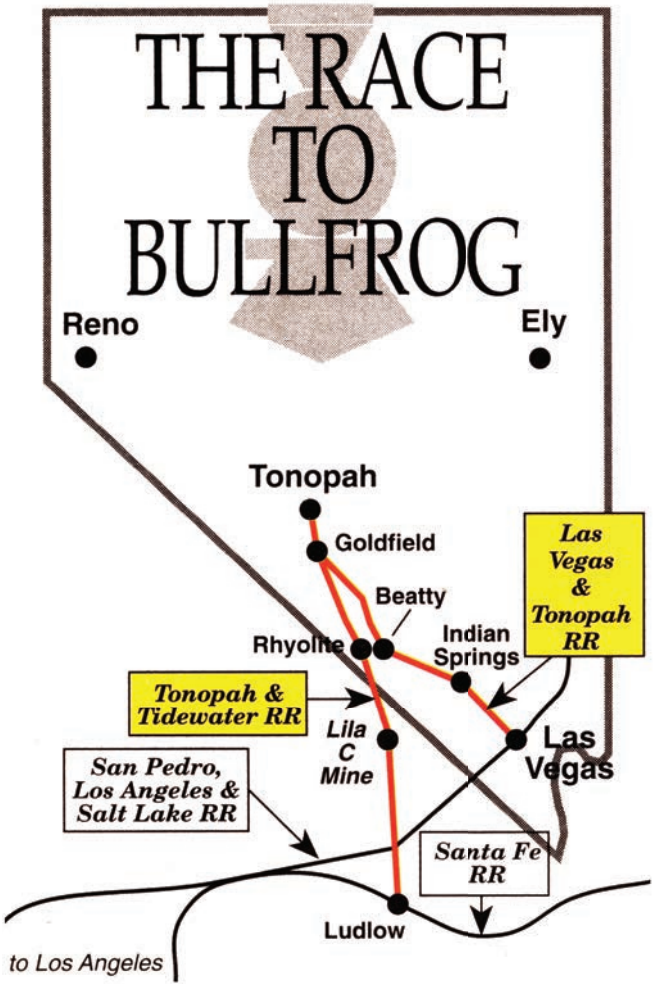
The two men's race by rail could be said to have begun with a chance meeting at San Francisco's posh Pacific Union Club in April 1905. Smith told the senator that he needed to build a railroad immediately. Some of Smith's borax deposits were about to give out, so he had to turn to his undeveloped Lila C Mine on the edge of Death Valley. Rails from Ludlow, California, on the Santa Fe Railroad to the Lila C would replace the picturesque and reliable, but slow, 20-mule teams. The new line was the Tonopah and Tidewater.



Clark proposed an intriguing alternative. Smith could connect his Tonopah and Tidewater (T&T) to the Clark line at Las Vegas instead of reaching farther south to the Santa Fe. The curves and grades would be easier and the distance considerably shorter. Clark also promised that he would match the Santa Fe's price on the delivery of rails and ties.

Satisfied that he had struck a mutually advantageous deal, Smith promptly sent surveying and grading crews to Las Vegas, and work began on the grade northwest to Indian Springs. But Clark had outmaneuvered Smith. The first hints of a double cross came when Clark workers began surveying an auto road parallel to the T&T grade. Although the road quickly proved a fiasco as the autos kept breaking down, there was a more serious omen—Clark was charging Smith considerably more than he had promised for the delivery of rails and ties. The final wrench in Smith's plans came in August, when Clark's representatives refused to allow the T&T a connection to their road at Las Vegas.

Was Clark's San Francisco proposal a deliberate ploy or simply a change of heart occasioned by visions of his own road? Historians are uncertain. Whatever the answer, Clark's new Las Vegas and Tonopah Railroad (LV&T) began extending the partially graded T&T route in December, while the T&T reverted to Smith's original plan and began laying tracks north toward Death Valley from Ludlow.









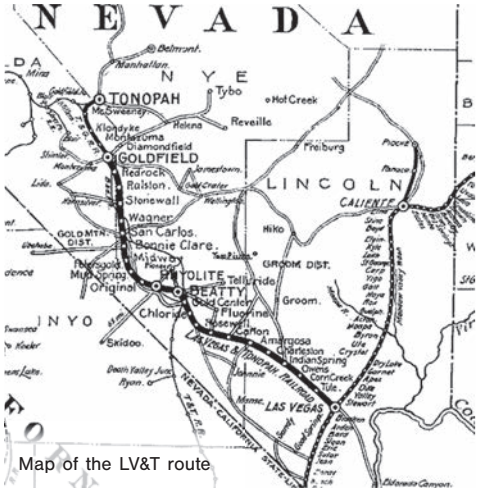
Both roads made swift progress at first. The LV&T reached Indian Springs by February 1906, and Smith completed 75 miles of track by May. From Indian Springs, Clark had clear sailing and reached Beatty—the Bullfrog District's distribution center—in October. Smith's crews still had to negotiate 12 arduous miles of Amargosa Canyon south of Tecopa.

Even though the two roads had begun almost simultaneously, the Smith-Clark race to Bullfrog was soon over. The first LV&T locomotive pulled into Rhyolite—where the old LV&T depot still stands—in December 1906 while T&T crews were still battling the heat in the canyon.

In Amargosa Canyon, members of Japanese and Mexican work crews met tragic ends; the "Goldfield News" reported that workers were "dying off like flies." The T&T didn't reach Tecopa until May 1907 and only made connections with the Lila C Mine in August, nearly a full year after starting. When the T&T finally reached the outskirts of Beatty in October, the LV&T was already completing its line to Goldfield.


Rhyolite LV&T depot

ERIC CACHINERO



Map of the LV&T route

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

Clark may have won the race, but it turned out to be an empty victory. The LV&T made a profit only in its first year. The effects of a national financial panic struck Nevada mining camps in late 1907, and the rich ore veins at Rhyolite proved shallow and were already petering out. Clark's LV&T was virtually forgotten during the war years of 1914-18, and it was officially shut down after the war.

The LV&T did achieve, however briefly, the first and only interior rail link between Las Vegas and Reno, though it took five railroads to span the distance. The linkup was completed when John and Arthur Brock's Bullfrog Goldfield Railroad limped into the Bullfrog District in June 1907.

Borax Smith may have been the last to arrive, but he had the satisfaction of outlasting the others. Even after the Lila C ores gave out in 1914, the Smith route had an edge over the LV&T. The T&T, touted as "The Nevada Short Line," had taken over the operation of the financially troubled Bullfrog Goldfield Railroad and had a more direct route to the coast for Goldfield freight.

As the Goldfield ores also gave out, the T&T gradually faded, and the BG folded in 1928. The development of Furnace Creek Inn in Death Valley by Pacific Coast Borax provided some tourist income for the T&T in its declining years, but it too finally ceased operation in 1940.

The railroading ambitions of Smith and Clark left other legacies besides their race to Bullfrog. Smith's T&T opened borax country to the traveling public, and that led to the establishment of Death Valley National Monument in 1933. Clark's mainline created Las Vegas—back then, a dusty division point in the desert—and today his name is honored by Nevada's most populous region, Clark County.



Frank Wright was curator of education at the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society in Las Vegas.



Bullfrog Goldfield RR locomotive #3, built by Baldwin Locomotive Works in December 1906

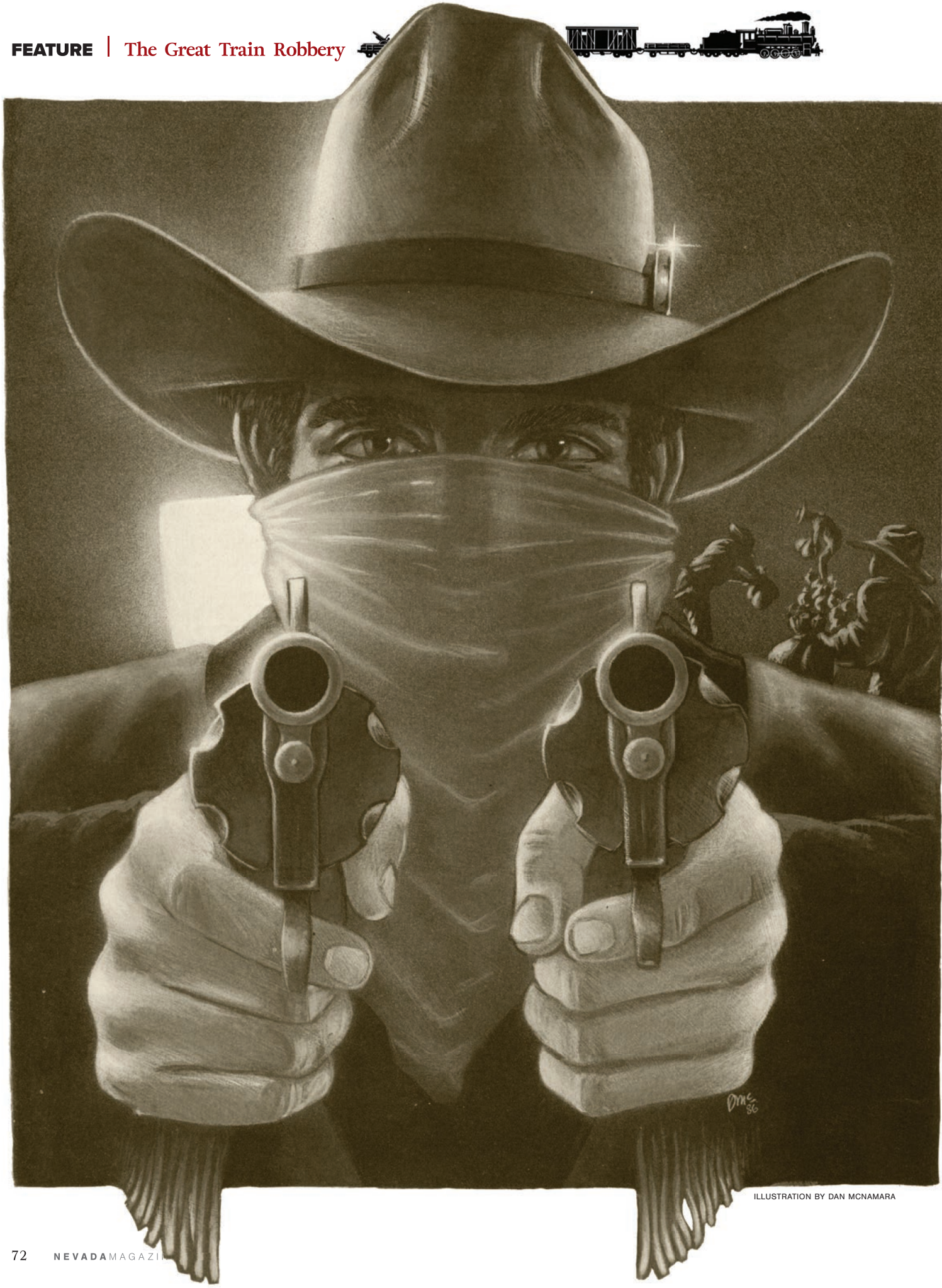
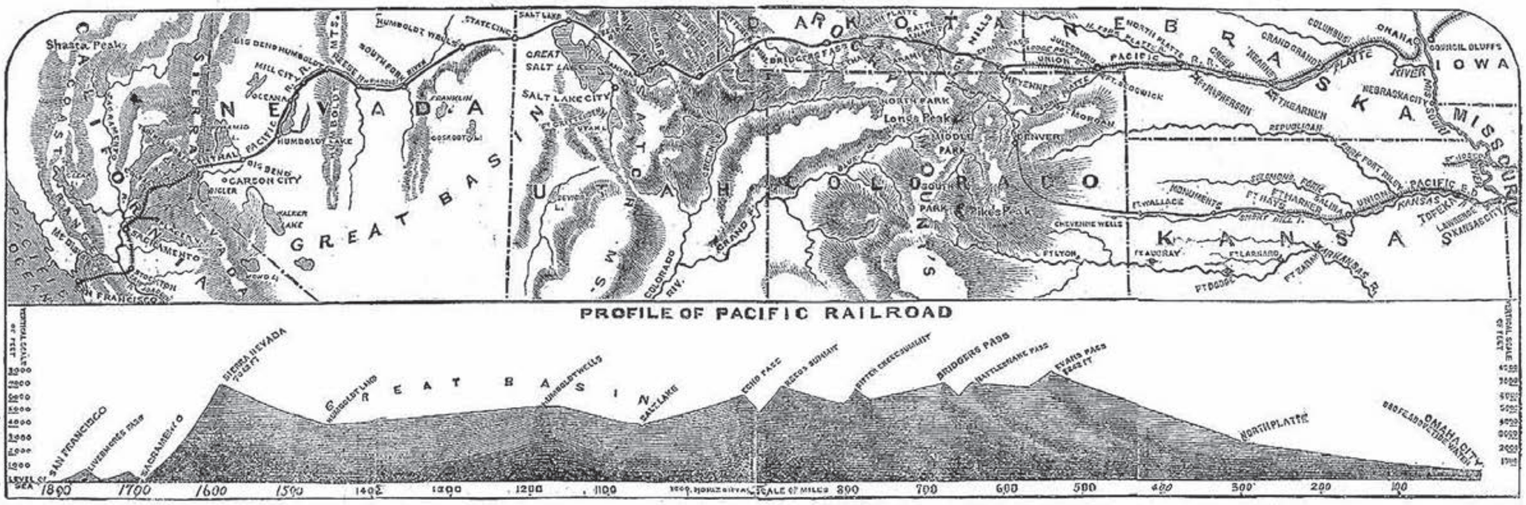


ILLUSTRATION BY DAN MCNAMARA



CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD—MAP AND PROFILE MAP OF THE LINE FROM OMAHA TO SAN FRANCISCO.—[DRAWN BY C. H. WELLS.]

HIGHWAYMEN

Nevada outlaws conducted the first train robbery in the West.

BY ERIC CACHINERO

Just two and a half short years after the Central Pacific Railroad arrived in Reno, an engineer found his forehead on the business end of at least one six shooter. Rather inconveniently for the engineer, the man whose trembling finger danced on the trigger had a glimmer of gold in his eyes and wasn't in the mood for digging it from the ground. The fairly immediate threat of lead passing through his body must have come as a surprise to the engineer, considering that during the time leading up to this moment, the line had operated unscathed, and had acted as a major artery bringing lifeblood and commerce to the burgeoning West.

But the source of life was not without leaches. Shortly after supplies, wealth, and success began sailing across the Sierra, this seemingly ordinary train was interrupted by a group of diabolical defectors with dastardly designs who saw an opportunity to feast, sinking their fangs into the success of the West. And deep they sunk around midnight on the frosty Nov. 4, 1870 near Verdi, when some $41,600 in gold was pinched during the first—but certainly not the last—train robbery of the old West.





ROAD AGENTS

When the Reno-bound engine slowed at the small station in Verdi (then Hunter's Crossing), the gang that boarded didn't immediately brandish the pistols from their jackets and begin the stickup; that happened several minutes later. They also didn't immediately hold the engineer, Henry S. Small, at gunpoint and force him to trick the Wells Fargo guard, Frank Marshall, to simply open the door to the loot; that also happened later. What happened at that moment in history in Verdi is that Sunday school teacher, livery owner, and notorious Comstock capitalist and hustler "Smiling" Jack Davis—along with his band of thieves—calmly boarded the eastbound train.

Where exactly the train was when pistols were drawn and demands were made isn't known, but most believe the heist happened just six miles west of Reno. As former State Archivist and Nevada Historian Guy Rocha detailed in his August 2000 article titled "The Verdi Train Robbery Didn't Happen in Verdi," "Quietly boarding the train around midnight in Verdi, the robbers hijacked the engine and express car just east of town, setting the rest of the train adrift."

It is at that place the loose engine and express car encountered the bandits' barricade of boulders and rail ties on the tracks, and the train screeched to a halt; It's there that tens of thousands of dollars in gold coins were shoved into boots and sacks for the getaway; And it's there that a group of highwaymen rode off in the night in separate directions with almost more riches than they could hold, without a single shot fired.

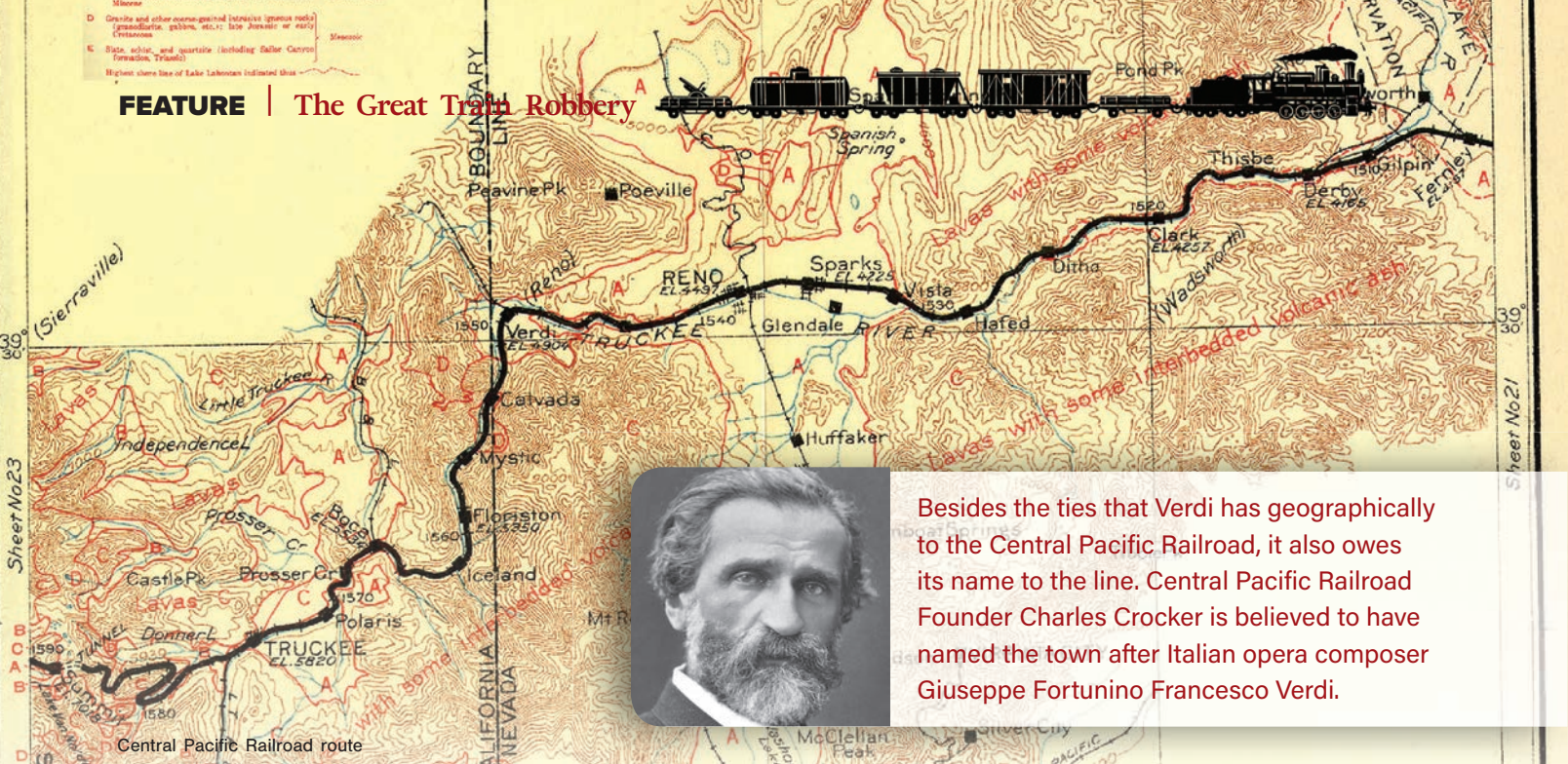
This photo collage depicts some of the robbers and lawmen involved in the Great Train Robbery; however, several names are spelled differently, and several key players are omitted. For example, history has led to the spelling of John Squires name being spelled sometimes as "Squeers." In addition, E.N. Parsons is missing entirely from the lineup, and is replaced by C.T. Roberts, and James Kinkead has been digitally added to the original image.



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Central Pacific Railroad route

Besides the ties that Verdi has geographically to the Central Pacific Railroad, it also owes its name to the line. Central Pacific Railroad Founder Charles Crocker is believed to have named the town after Italian opera composer Giuseppe Fortunino Francesco Verdi.

CRIMINAL COHORT

The unit's ringleader, Davis, would later admit that he couldn't figure out why a robbery such as his hadn't been attempted sooner. He would come to find out that it may have been because the Wells Fargo guards prided themselves on their deadly abilities to defend their payloads since the days of stagecoach robberies began. Their motto, "By God and by Wells Fargo," showed they meant business, but the gang of curmudgeonly road agents assembled by Davis were sworn to solemn loyalty and were prepared to square up with the toughest of lawmen.



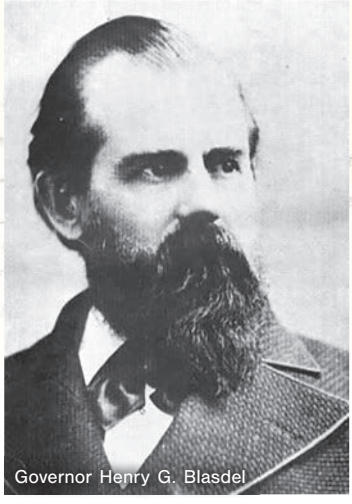
WELLS FARGO

Davis' first three assembled men went by the names of Tilton Cockerell, John Squires, and E.N. Parsons, and were all men he knew from shady stage robberies in the past. Another rider named Sol Jones was recommended by a friend to join the team, as was James Gilchrist—a poor miner with the least experience of the bunch.

A man named J.H. Chapman was also an accomplice to the crime. While the group of outlaws laid in wait for the train they would eventually rob, Chapman delivered a coded letter alerting them to the gold. Chapman learned that the Central Pacific's train No. 1, the "Overland Express," was carrying the payroll for workers of the Yellow Jacket Mine in Gold Hill from Oakland to Reno. Once he confirmed the rumor, he telegrammed a message to Sol Jones that read, "S. Jones. Send me sixty dollars, if possible and oblige, Joseph Enrique." It's believed that the "sixty" meant either the treasure was only guarded by six men, or that the treasure was worth $60,000. Regardless, the telegram told Davis and his men it was time to strike.

ONE BY ONE

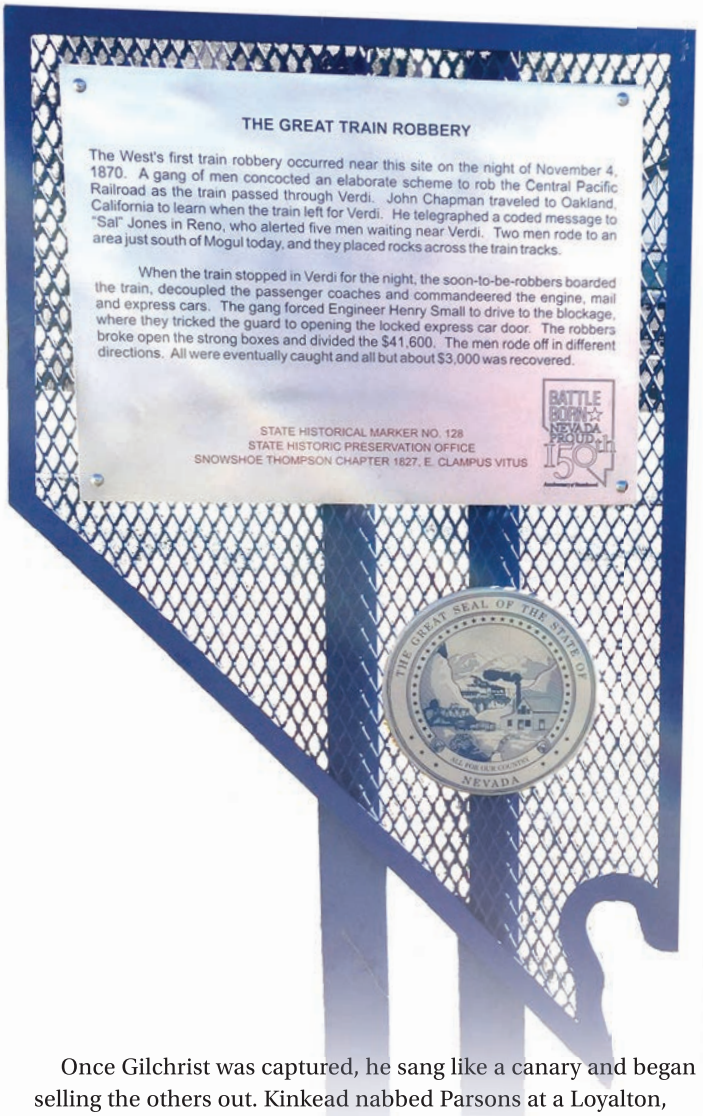
Not a single drop of blood was shed as the bandits rode away in the night, and the red-faced lawmen and politicians wasted no time pursuing justice. Bounties included $10,000 from Wells Fargo, $20,000 from Nevada Governor Henry G. Blasdel, and $500 from the U.S. Post Office thrown in for good measure. Though many sought the outlaws, it would be Washoe County Undersheriff James H. Kinkead who would put on the toughest chase.



Governor Henry G. Blasdel

History maintains that Kinkead rode out to the robbery site the day after it occurred to search for clues. The search lead his attention to a boot print in the snow much smaller than others—made from the kind of boot that gamblers typically wore. Kinkead knew that no railroad man would wear a boot of this fashion, and that it must have belonged to one of the bandits, so he followed the tracks all the way to a hotel in Sardine Valley, California, some 10 miles west of Verdi.

Though the robbers had split in all different directions after the heist, eventually Parsons, Squires, and Gilchrist reconvened, and found themselves in the same Sardine Valley hotel. Parsons and Squires, being the more experienced of the trio, woke early and left at daybreak, leaving the inexperienced Gilchrist to awaken to the sound of Undersheriff Kinkead questioning the innkeeper about the robbery. It was then only a matter of time before Gilchrist made a run for it, but was quickly apprehended by Kinkead and led to a Truckee, California, jail.

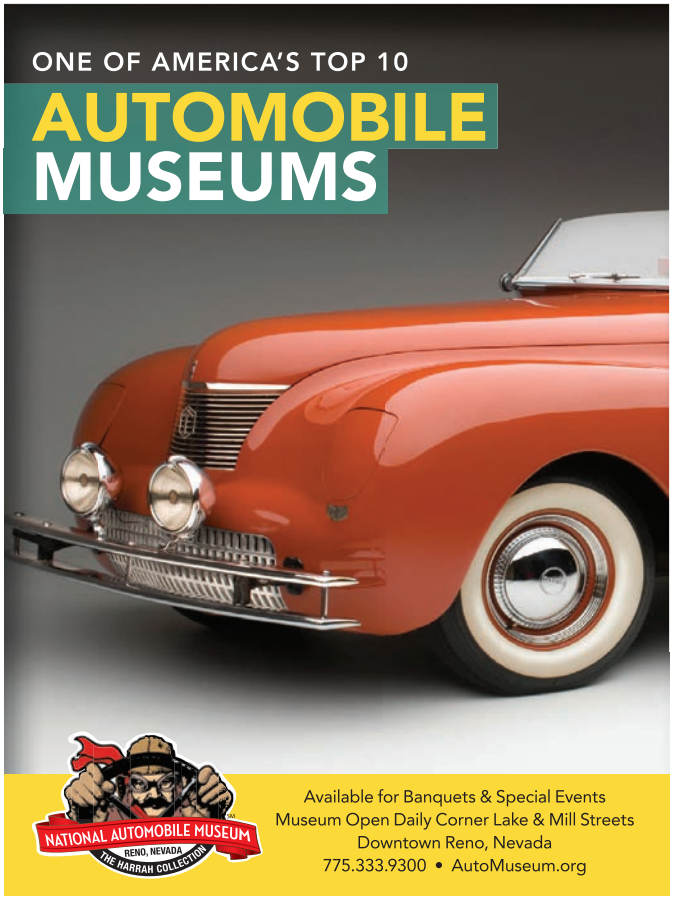


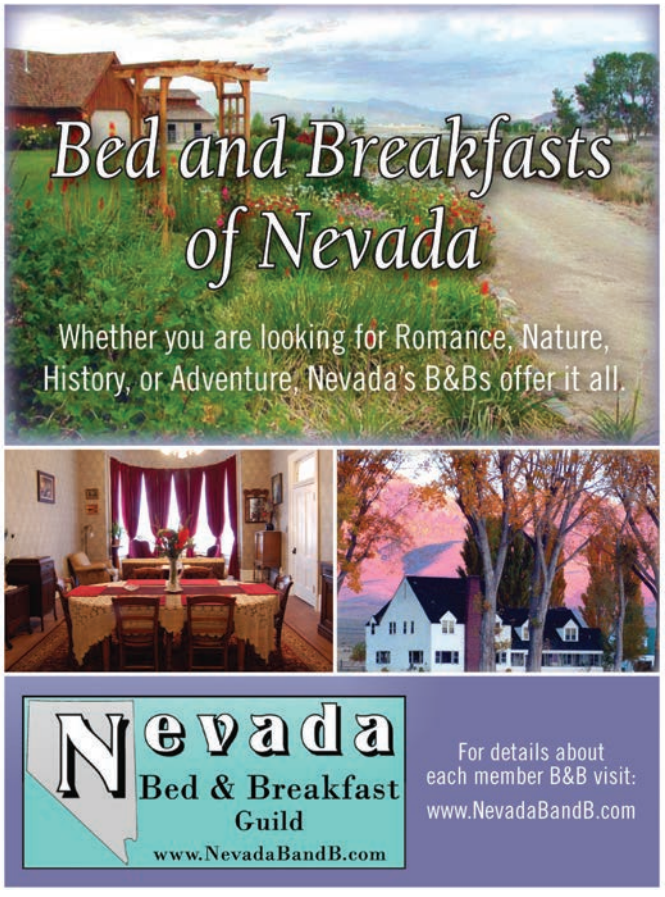
Once Gilchrist was captured, he sang like a canary and began selling the others out. Kinkead nabbed Parsons at a Loyalton, California, hotel, and he also bagged Squires while he hid out at his brother's ranch. Cockerell was arrested by a different lawman in a saloon north of Reno, as was Sol Jones, who was taken from the home of a gambling buddy. Even the messenger Chapman was arrested as he headed to a saloon for a celebratory drink.

Justice would come to hit ringleader Davis like double-aught buckshot. Instead of hiding out like the others had done, "Smiling" Jack Davis showed himself all around The Comstock, hoping to show he had nothing to hide. The day would come, however, when a deputy would place a still gloating Davis under arrest, and bring him in front of Virginia City Chief of Police George Downey. Davis further maintained his innocence, even when Downey made a bet with Davis that he had captured one of Davis' robbers. When Davis asked where the captured robber was, the police chief simply pointed directly at Davis. An article in the "Territorial Enterprise" would claim that on that day, "Davis' smile, which was generally brilliantly white, turned blue."

LOST AND FOUND

Though Gilchrist and several of the accomplices less involved walked free because of their testimonies, the others were not so lucky, and would be spending years in the Nevada State Prison. Davis got 10, Chapman got 18, Parsons and Squires each got 20, and the least lucky of the bunch, Cockerell, got 22.





Every great train-robbery story includes a prison break, and this one is certainly no exception. About a year after sentencing, Cockerell, Chapman, Parsons, and Squires brawled bloodily during a riot at the prison, eventually escaping and taking off into the hills, once again racing for freedom. For most, their stint was even less successful than the last, and they were rounded up quickly. Parsons, though, managed to remain free for five years before being recaptured. Davis, meanwhile, sat back and watched the break happen, not getting involved. He was released after serving three years of his sentence for good behavior.

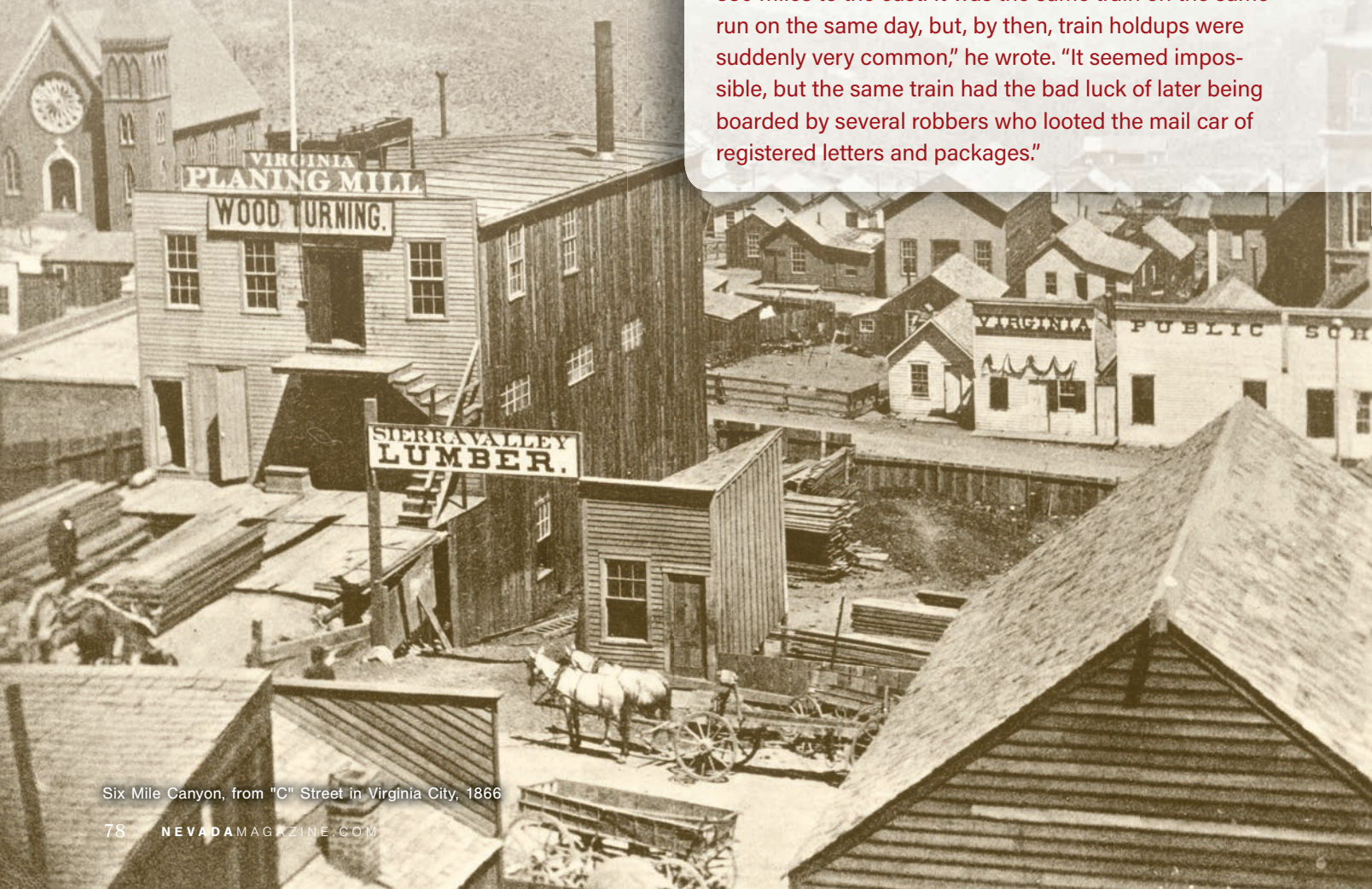
Then by either bad luck or revenge, he was killed two years after his release, shot in the back by none other than a Wells Fargo guard carrying a shipment of gold.

It's rumored that while most of the gold from the robbery was recovered, Davis stashed away $3,000 before his initial capture, and the secret of its location died. Many searched the hills of Six Mile Canyon and banks of the Truckee River after his death, though the gold has never been recovered.

If you decide to pursue the lost gold and end up finding it, plan on laying low and heed the lessons learned by the desperados: don't hide out in a saloon or a hotel. These establishments are notorious for getting outlaws nabbed. And surely if "Smiling" Jack Davis were alive today, he'd tell you to watch your back, for frontier justice always finds those who deserve it.

On Nov. 5, 1870, the "Territorial Enterprise" printed the following: *"The Great Robbery,—All the talk upon the streets to-day is of the great robbery on the railroad, between Reno and Verdi, last night. It is believed here that the robbers got in the vicinity of $150,000. Chief Downey, Sheriff Cummins, Officer Lackey and other officers and detectives left this city early this forenoon for the scene of the robbery. Wells, Fargo & Co. offer $10,000 reward for the recovery of the treasure, or any part of it, and the arrest and conviction of the robbers. Under the head of telographic will be founding an account of the robbery, as sent us from Reno. It is probably correct, though it differs much from the stories told on the streets. We are informed that near a hundred men are out in pursuit of the robbers."*

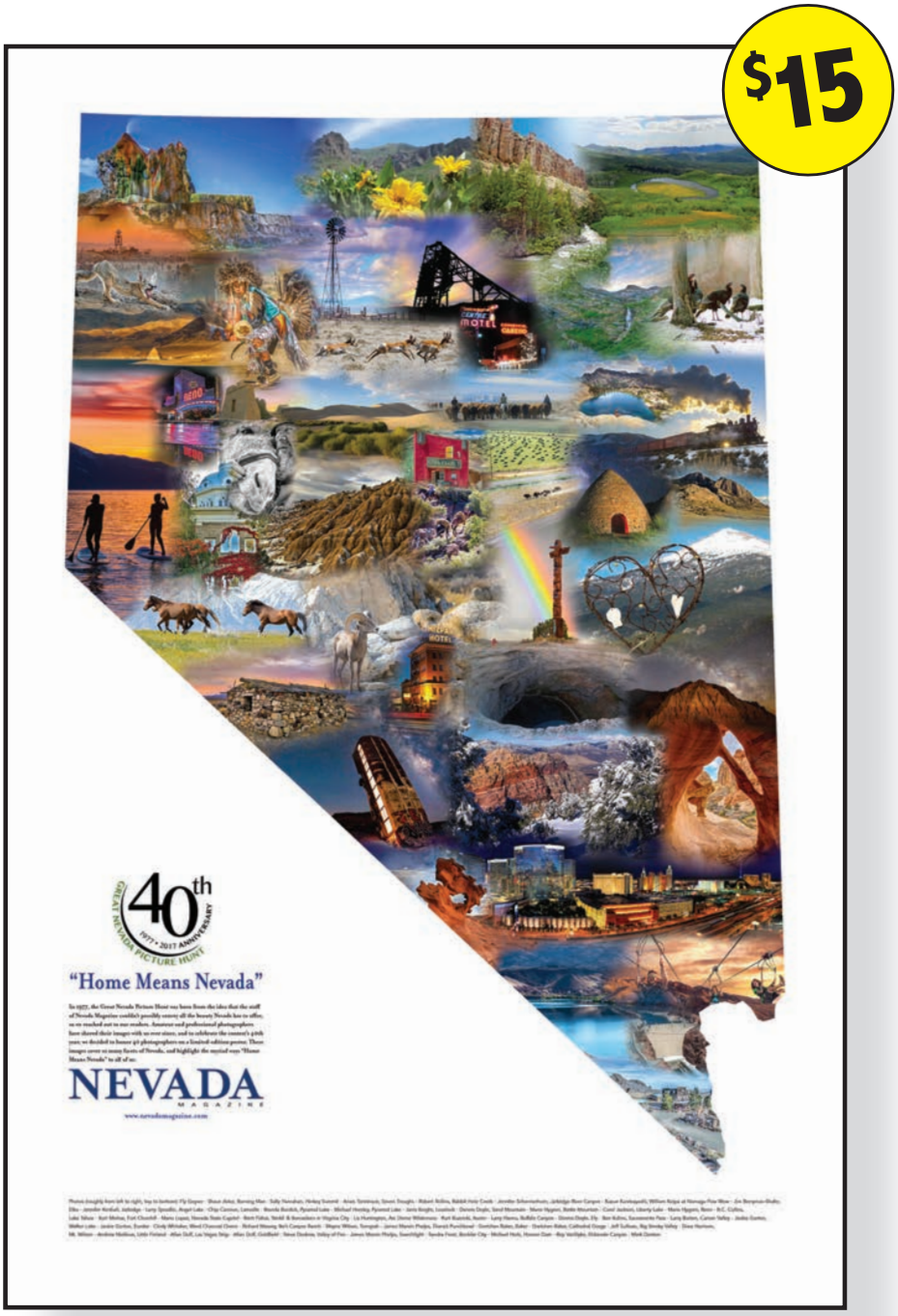
History maintains that after the initial Great Train Robbery, the same train was robbed once more on the same day. Nevada Historian Howard Hickson detailed the event in his 2002 article titled, "Robbed Twice on the Same Day." "The second heist was just 20 hours later, 380 miles to the east. It was the same train on the same run on the same day, but, by then, train holdups were suddenly very common," he wrote. "It seemed impossible, but the same train had the bad luck of later being boarded by several robbers who looted the mail car of registered letters and packages."



Six Mile Canyon, from "C" Street in Virginia City, 1866

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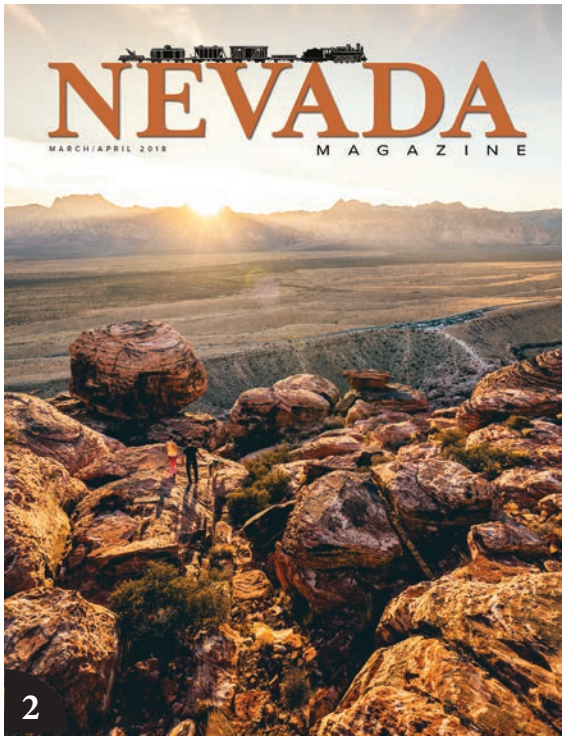
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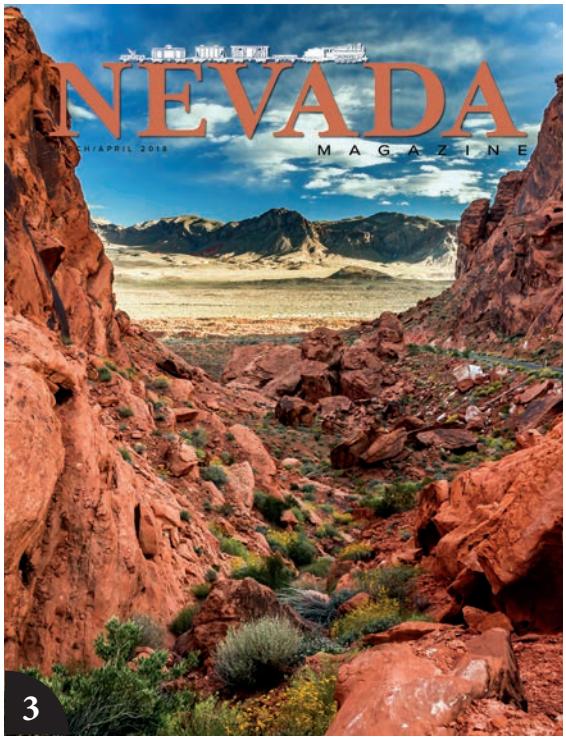
COVER TO COVER

Choosing a cover photo is one of the hardest things the staff at *Nevada Magazine* does. We get amazing submissions, and to pick just one is no mean feat. This year, we thought we'd share some of the images that almost made our cover, but due to our democratic process, fell just short of the top spot.

We're curious what our readers think; which cover would you have chosen? Send us an email to **editor@nevadamagazine.com** and tell us which photo is your favorite (number 1 is the current cover). We also have a poll running on our Facebook page where you can vote, so head to **facebook.com/NevadaMagazine** to cast your vote.



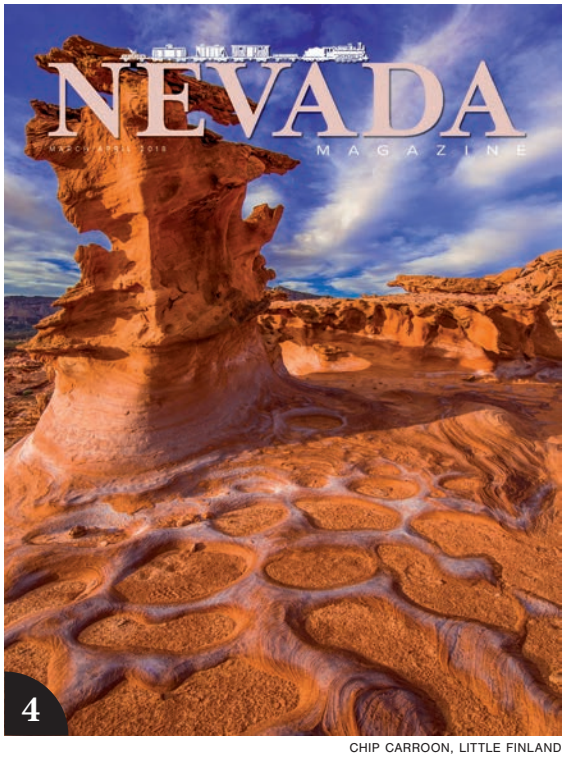
ALBERT BAKER, CALICO BASIN



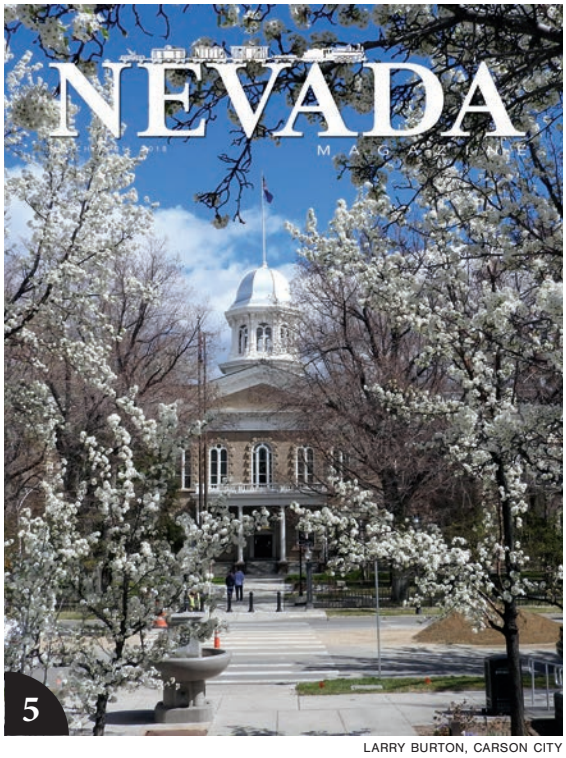
ANDERS SORENSEN, VALLEY OF FIRE

While many people agreed with our cover choice, Melody Hoover's photo submission for our January/February issue won our Facebook poll. Congratulations to all who submitted!





CHIP CARROON, LITTLE FINLAND



LARRY BURTON, CARSON CITY

If you'd like to have your photographs considered for the cover of *Nevada Magazine*, please visit **nevadamagazine.com/photographer** to learn about our photo-submission process.

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