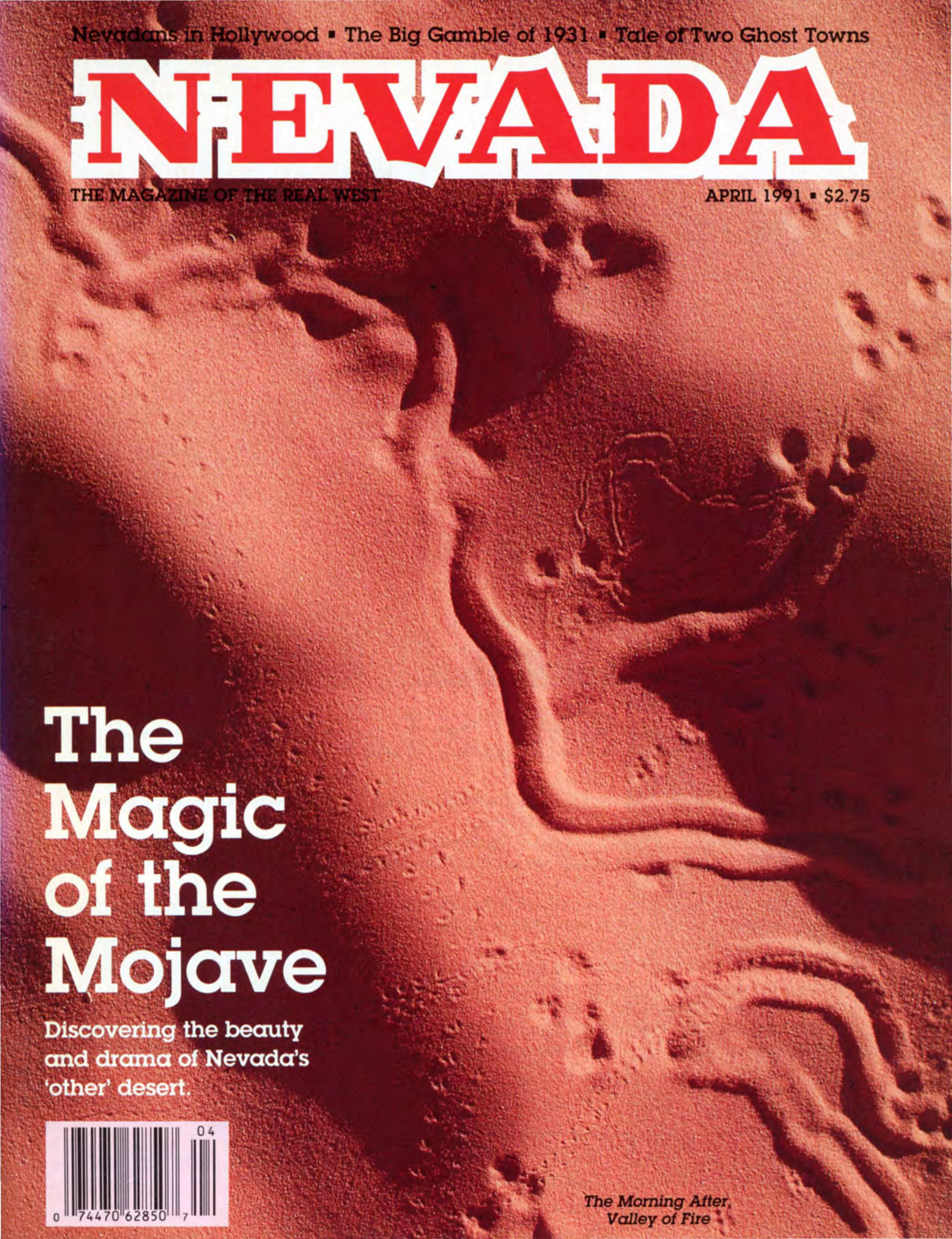
Nevadans in Hollywood ▪ The Big Gamble of 1931 ▪ Tale of Two Ghost Towns

NEVADA

THE MAGAZINE OF THE REAL WEST

APRIL 1991 ▪ $2.75



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The Morning After, Valley of Fire



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VOLUME 51, NUMBER 2

NEVADA

MARCH/APRIL 1991

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COVER PHOTO: *"The Morning After Valley of Fire" by Carolyn Fox, a merit award winner in Nevada Magazine's 1990 Great Nevada Picture Hunt.*

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GAMING HISTORY AND STAR MYSTERY

Defending Country and State

I am serving in the U.S. Army infantry and am currently deployed in Saudi Arabia. Because of our deployment my Sept/Oct '90 issue of *Nevada Magazine* just now reached me.

People tell me that, being from Nevada, I should feel at home in this environment. Now with my magazine in hand I can defend not only the beauty of the Nevada desert but my home state as well.

Believe me, the harshest part of Nevada's southern region is an oasis compared to the ground I've been sent to defend. Thank you for keeping me in touch with my home!

Sgt. Roger Paul Paterson
Operation Desert Shield

Timely Tip

I have long been a fan of Connie Emerson's writings for *Nevada Magazine*. Most recently, "The Fine Art of Fine Dining" (Nov/Dec '90) was a delight.

I recall reading long ago that "tip" originally meant "to insure promptness" · hence a gratuity was given to the maitre d' or waiter ahead of time.

Helen Hansen Ceideburg
Gardnerville

Mystery Stars and *Virginia City*

In the Nov/Dec Letters you had a photo from the 1940 premiere of *Virginia City* in which all but two movie stars were identified. I can identify the man on the far right. It was W.C. Fields.

Allice Phillips
Grass Valley CA

Regarding your photo of the unidentified *Virginia City* movie people: behind Errol Flynn is Gilbert Roland, and next to May Robson is Fred Stone. They are both mentioned in your first article of people who came on the train.

Harold Sloper
Las Vegas

First Meeting With Ronald Reagan

It was with great interest that I read the article on the 1940 premiere of *Virginia City* in the Sept/Oct *Nevada*.

I was at the University of Nevada, with the ROTC, and was thrilled to be chosen to help "guard" the motion picture stars on the train platform. I had the pleasure of talking with Ronald Reagan and Jane Wyman. In fact, I have a photo similar to yours with my face next to Mr. Reagan's.

After I left U of N, I moved to San Francisco, became involved in California politics, and was on the original

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committee to elect Ronald Reagan governor. I became well acquainted with him and Nancy Reagan and served as an advance representative for both of them. He later appointed me chief of protocol. As president in 1982, he appointed me vice chairman of the President's Council on Historic Preservation, and I served eight years in that office. Only last month I visited Ronald and Nancy Reagan in West Berlin, where we were all visiting.

Yes, the article brought back very pleasant memories.

(Dr.) Robert O. Johns
San Francisco, CA

Next Stop, Sun Valley

I enjoyed Dave Barnett's piece on the *Virginia City* premiere, as I always enjoy his film writings.

One clarification: Dave said that when the train carrying the celebrities departed from Reno, it headed "into the West, just like in the movies," and that it was a "westbound train." Actually, it headed north. The next stop for the train was Sun Valley, Idaho, where the celebrities were going for a few days of play

In fact, in 1987, Reno publicist Gail Suitor Chism located some surviving film footage shot by a Hollywood hanger-on of the train's departure from Hollywood, the parade in Reno, the celebrities in Virginia City, the trip to Sun Valley, and scenes in Sun Valley.

Dennis Myers
Reno

A Great Choice

Thanks for choosing my photo "Near Carrara" as a merit award winner in the Great Nevada Picture Hunt (Nov/Dec '90). Although I had been aware of the contest as a subscriber for several years, this was the first time I entered.

Compared to previous Picture Hunts, I was truly impressed with this year's top-notch images. As a professional photographer and a judge of similar contests, I know how these things can turn into pages of postcard views. I enjoyed the variety, everything from large format to snapshots—stylistically interesting enough for the serious, but not so aesthetically heavy handed as to discourage the beginner. Keep up the good work.

Irv Dierdorff
San Pedro, CA

Remembering Lincoln Fitzgerald

In the fine issue honoring Nevada's 60 years of legalized gaming, I was especially thrilled to read the article on



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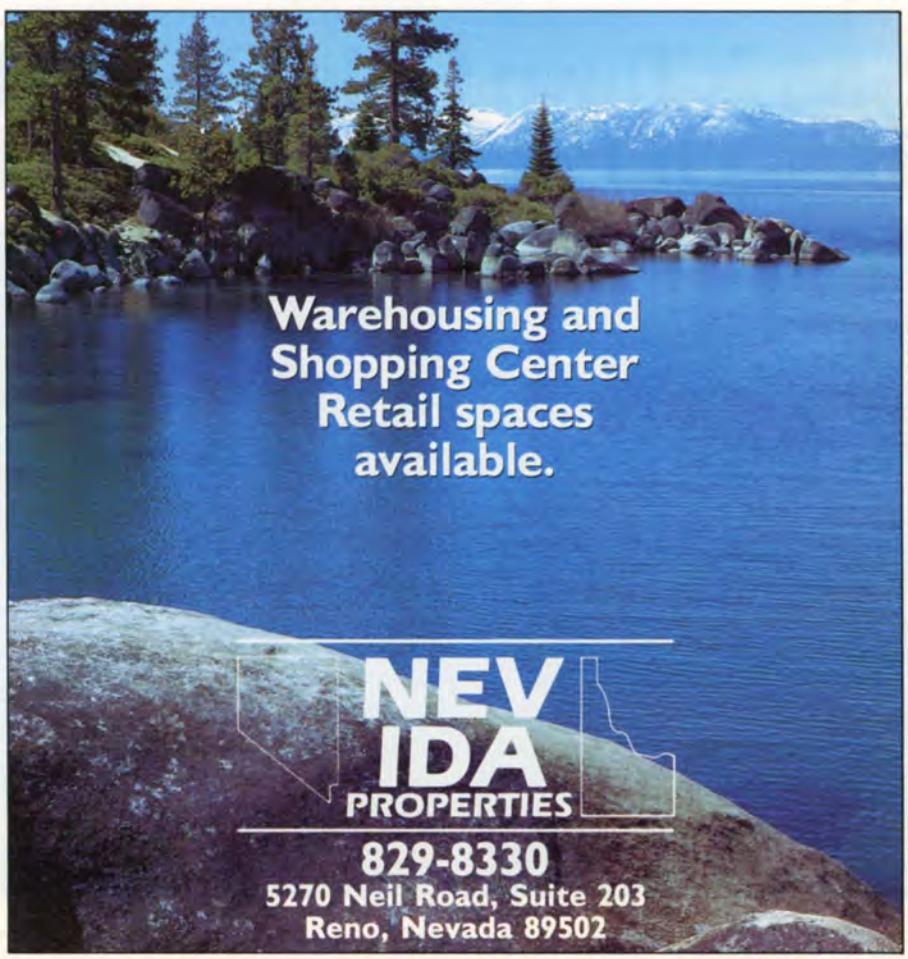
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Pappy Smith, a well-known figure to those of us who grew up in Reno in the '50s and '60s. I think Buddy Frank captured Pappy's genius and spirit and his familial way with his employees.

I was disappointed that there wasn't a little something about Lincoln Fitzgerald, the man who started the Nevada Club and later Fitzgerald's. My mother, Jane Cameron Cummings, worked for Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald at the Nevada Club for many years. In fact, when I was a very small girl, I was allowed to go in to see Mr. Fitzgerald every once in a while when my mother picked up her paycheck. She wouldn't allow me to go every week because Mr. Fitzgerald had a habit of giving the children of his employees silver dollars, and my mother did not want to take advantage of his generosity

I also knew firsthand about the love he held for his lovely wife and his marvelous affection for his dogs. In college I worked for him one summer, and he remembered my mother, "that cute little redhead" who was one of his best 21 dealers so many years before. During that summer he always stopped to talk to me and even gave me a silver dollar for old times' sake.

Jana Pendragon
Long Beach, CA

A Historic Situation

I need your Nevada Historic Calendars as soon as possible. I give my children a "filled-in" calendar every Xmas—a tradition begun when the eldest moved away. They all live in Nevada. I love your magazine and am delighted when I can read about Elbert Edwards, the man for whom my grandson's school is named, and my eldest son's friend in a chili cook-off.

Rosemarie Falkner
Racine, WI

State(line) of Confusion

In the Sept/Oct issue you ran an advertisement for the Primadonna Resort located in Stateline, Nevada, 40 miles west of Las Vegas on I-15.

Looking at a map, I see a Stateline located near Lake Tahoe. Are there two towns with the same name?

Peggy Hopkins
Columbia, SC

Yes, Hopkins. That's the original Stateline on the map, although some folks want to change the name to Lake Tahoe, Nevada. Meanwhile, the border town growing up around Whiskey Pete's and the Primadonna on I-15 has acquired the informal name Stateline. That's not to be confused with the venerable State Line Casino in Wendover of course.—Ed.

Collector Panics

Disaster Day! We are all doomed!

I received my copy of Sept/Oct '90 just before leaving on a trip to Japan. Since I didn't have time to read it then, I took it with me. All went well until I got caught by jet lag on the return trip. After reading the last article, I left it on the plane.

Although I hope this gave someone else a chance to enjoy your great magazine, it leaves a hole in my collection that dates back several years. I would therefore appreciate very much if you could send me a replacement.

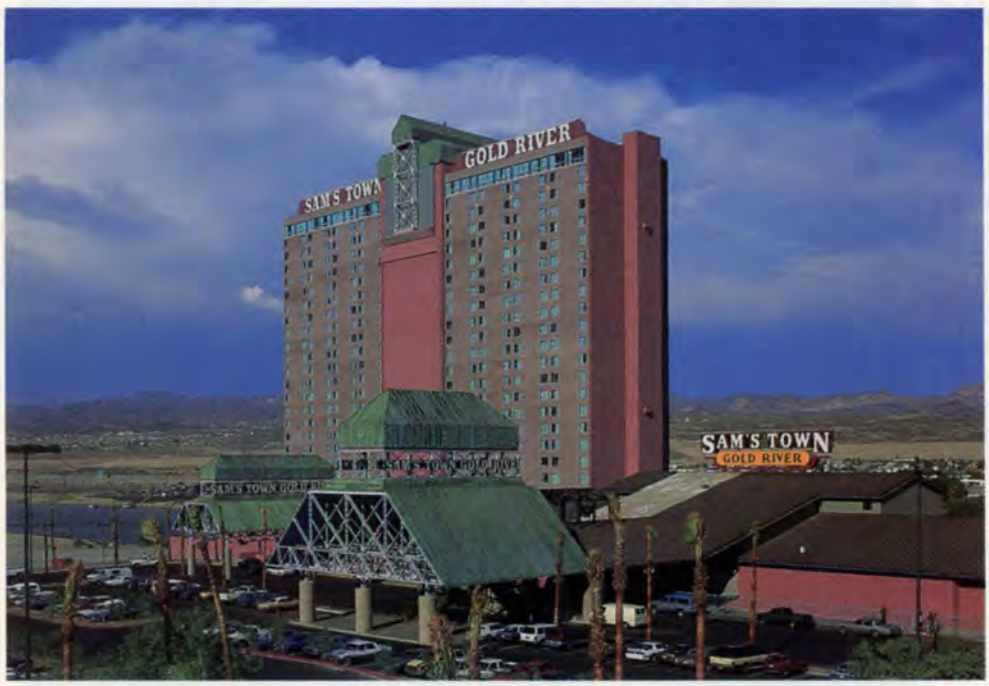
Harold W Moulton
Arvada, CO

Moulton, it's on the way. Other collectors (see box) will sympathize.—Ed.

Collector's Alert

A story is being planned about readers who collect back issues of *Nevada Magazine*. Collectors who would like to share their secrets and enthusiasm are encouraged to write us at Nevada Magazine Collectors, 1800 Highway 50 East, Carson City, NV 89710. Please include a daytime phone number.—*Ed.*

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NATURE'S HEADLINERS

Dolphins, birds, and a visitor from outer space.

LAS VEGAS

By Kate Butler

Dolphins on the Strip

Five bottle-nosed dolphins and a sleepy lagoon represent The Mirage's most unusual guests and most deluxe accommodations. Home to Banjo, Darla, Duchess, Merlin, and Sigma, the Strip hotel's $14 million dolphin lagoon has artificial coral reefs and saltwater pools similar to the dolphins' former quarters in Florida and Texas. While crowds of tourists watch, they swim and play, unconcerned about the $7,000 a day it costs to maintain their 1.5 million-gallon home.

The emphasis at the dolphin lagoon is on education. Guides conduct 15-minute tours for visitors, and a special program has been developed for schools.

The dolphins can be seen daily from 11 a.m. to dusk. Before 11 a.m. the facility is reserved for school groups. Admission is $3 for adults and children, free for children under three and school classes. There is a snack bar and a gift shop.

Birds in the Old Meadows

Spring is a good time for birders and other lovers of nature to visit the Las Vegas Nature Park, a quiet retreat in the middle of a busy, noisy city The 96-acre park is the largest remnant of the old Las Vegas meadows that gave the town its name ("Las Vegas" means "the meadows" in Spanish). Cottonwoods, mesquite, and a stand of lovely elms provide sheltered homes to birds as well as pigmy cottontails, non-poisonous snakes, and desert tortoises.

The berries of the mistletoe, which grow as a parasite on mesquite, attract the Phainopepla, a silky flycatcher that courts or nests at this time and can be seen in the tops of mesquite trees. Other birds to look for are the shy crissal thrashers, roadrunners, and mockingbirds.

Change is coming to Nature Park. Over the next five years Las Vegas will develop the park into a sports complex and rename it Corporate Challenge Park. A 20-acre section will be retained as a nature corner.

Nature Park is located at Mohave and Bonanza in northeast Las Vegas. For more information, call the Las Vegas Parks and Leisure Department (702-386-6297) during business hours.



Here's looking at you: A Mirage dolphin.

Photo: The Mirage

RENO-TAHOE

By Deborah Mawhar

Rock Star Lands in Reno

The Fleischmann Planetarium has a new visitor from outer space: the Quinn Canyon Meteorite. This dense space rock was discovered by a prospector in 1908 in the Quinn Canyon Range near Tonopah. For many years it resided at the Museum of Natural History in Chicago. Recently, planetarium director Art Johnson brought the meteorite back home to Nevada.

About a third of it remains for study at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. The space rock is made of iron and nickel, and its polished side looks like a chunk of stainless steel, about three feet long and 18 inches tall, weighing 2,200 pounds. Visitors can't touch it, but other exhibits are designed for handling.

Open daily, the Fleischmann Plan-



The Express: Making the grade to Reno.

etarium (702-784-4812) is on the University of Nevada, Reno campus next to the Nevada Historical Society and just north of Lawlor Events Center.

Fast Trains From the Coast

For a long look at mountain scenes you just can't get from a car window, you can ride the rails from the San Francisco Bay Area to Reno.

Amtrak's *Zephyr*—the name means breeze from the west—makes one trip daily over the Sierra. Departure time in Oakland is 10:40 a.m., in Sacramento 12:42 p.m. Arrival in downtown Reno is at 5:01 p.m. The elevated view from the lounge car brings historical sites up close, including gold diggings and Donner Lake, where the infamous Donner Party camped in the 1840s. Round-trip tickets for Monday through Thursday begin at $79. Ask about overnight packages when you call for reservations, which are recommended (800-872-7245).

The new Sierra 49er Express operated by Transcisco Tours offers an old-fashioned trip. Thirty-year-old train cars have been refurbished, and the chef on board creates gourmet meals that are included in the ticket price. An activities director keeps the company lively

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Photo: Transcisco Tours

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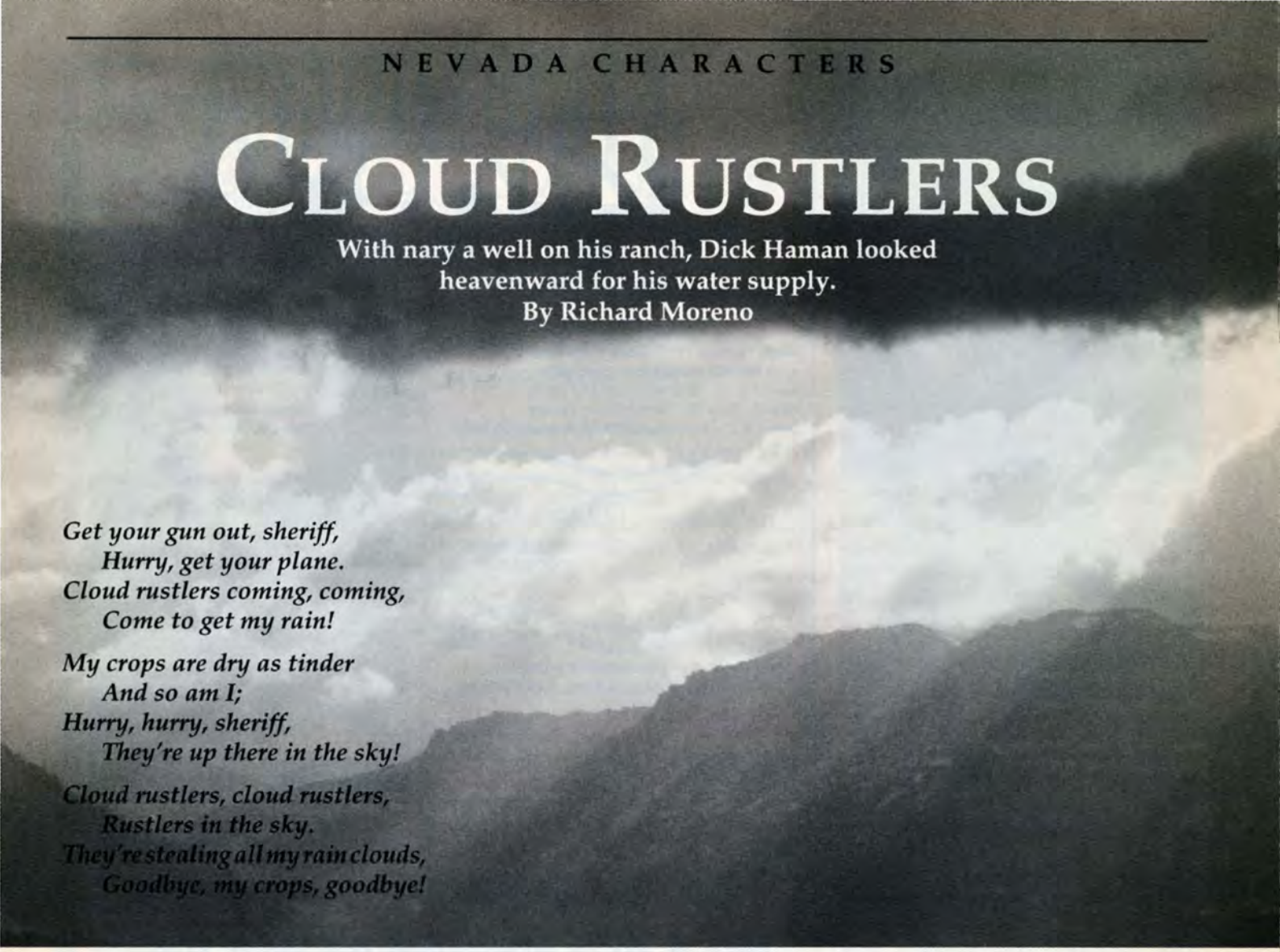
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CLOUD RUSTLERS

With nary a well on his ranch, Dick Haman looked heavenward for his water supply.

By Richard Moreno



Get your gun out, sheriff,
Hurry, get your plane.
Cloud rustlers coming, coming,
Come to get my rain!

My crops are dry as tinder
And so am I;
Hurry, hurry, sheriff,
They're up there in the sky!

Cloud rustlers, cloud rustlers,
Rustlers in the sky.
They're stealing all my rain clouds,
Goodbye, my crops, goodbye!

The above lyrics, written by folksinger Cinnabar Ike, were inspired by one of the more bizarre episodes in Nevada's water history. It began in December 1947 when rancher Dick Haman and his partner, Freeman Fairfield, filed a claim to all the water clouds passing over their 12,300-acre spread near Topaz Lake. The filing stirred up the usual controversies about water rights as well as some humorous bantering that stretched across the West and as far away as the shores of England. Considering the current five-year drought in Nevada, Haman's claim also indicates the lengths to which desert dwellers will go to get water.

In their application with the state's water engineer, the two claimants revealed their plan: "We intend to shoot the clouds by the latest methods known in starting rainfalls and snowstorms. Coaxing clouds to rain has recently been developed, after 300 years of known experiments by individuals, states, and countries."

While Haman and Fairfield's proposal sounds a bit Quixotic today, consider that in 1947 the idea that clouds were some kind of celestial cows waiting to be milked bordered on brilliant. Also, 1947 was a very dry year, and most ranchers were willing to do anything to get more water.

At the time Haman was a 35-year-old landscape architect who was co-owner and manager of the Rocking F Ranch just south of Gardnerville in Antelope Valley. A handsome, six-foot, seven-inch former University of Nevada football star—he once kicked the Wolf Pack to an upset victory over nationally-ranked St. Mary's—Haman had worked as a Hollywood movie studio artist and professional boxer before returning to Nevada.

Those who knew Dick Haman weren't a bit surprised that he would do battle for Nevada's skies. He had long had his head in the clouds.

"He was a dreamer. He was highly inventive and brilliant with entrepreneurial ideas," recalls Marion Haman Weinstock, who was married to him for 10 years and now lives in Reno.

"Of course, it was different back then. Today what you'd call an entrepreneur, people then would call a promoter."

Weinstock met Haman in 1943 after he purchased a small spread in Yerington. He was a tall, charming, athletic divorcee in his early 30s while she was a blushing 17-year-old schoolgirl who recently had been named Miss Lyon County Just like in the movies, it was love at first sight, and they were soon married.

"He was a wonderful character and fun to be around, although not always the best person to be married to," she says. "He could not always follow through on things, but he managed to keep life interesting."

Weinstock recalls that during their marriage Haman followed many muses. He started a pig farm that went

bust. He operated a fish hatchery and logging business that was destroyed by fire. He sold real estate and worked as a landscape architect.

"He designed many Reno subdivisions and clubs in Las Vegas and Lake Tahoe," she says. "In fact, he did the design work for the Flamingo Hotel for Bugsy Siegel.

"Bugsy took our design and went ahead and did it without paying us. Of course, you didn't argue with Bugsy Siegel."

Weinstock says her ex-husband also was a talented cartoonist. She remembers moving to Mexico for a year after Haman decided he wanted to be a writer a la Ernest Hemingway

"He would try everything that came to his mind," she says.

Haman helped Fairfield purchase the Rocking F Ranch in 1946 and signed on to manage the property He immediately faced a series of problems.

"There was actually no water or water rights on the property when we bought it," recalls Weinstock. "The property had been used for years by sheep ranchers who would take their herds through it to go from Smith Valley to Bridgeport."



Dick Haman was a charmer who dreamed of drawing water from the clouds.

Weinstock says that Fairfield, on Haman's advice, was able to purchase the land for very little because most people believed it was worthless.

She recalls that a stream ran through the property, but there was no legal right to draw water from it for the land.

But Haman wasn't the kind of man who was easily discouraged, not even after he fenced the property and sparked a war with local sheepherders, who were accustomed to using the land for grazing. Weinstock remembers that one of Haman's ranch hands was severely beaten and several sheepherders were shot during the dispute.

As the sheep war erupted, Haman turned his attention to farming. He looked longingly at the stream and then turned to the sky for inspiration.

In his water-cloud claim, Haman explained that scientists had recently succeeded in making rain by dropping dry-ice pellets into clouds. As he confidently told a *Reno Evening Gazette* reporter, "We plan to make rain with dry ice over the ranch next spring, and we want to make sure we have full legal

Photos: E.H. Opsitos, Marion Weinstock Collection (right)

rights to the water we produce. If the cloud is over our ranch and we drop the dry ice through it to make rain, we're certainly entitled to the water."

Haman admitted he wasn't sure what to do about rain that might fall on a neighbor's land. "It would still be our water," he said. "But we don't know yet how we could get it back."

Weinstock recalls how Haman walked into the office of State Engineer Alfred Merritt Smith and told a secretary that he would like to file for water rights. "She was filling out everything and asked him the source of his water. He said all the water that is above such and such property that he wanted the water rights to everything that goes above his property

"She took one long look at him and said, 'Pardon me?'

"Then she went back to [the state engineer's] office and told him. He came storming out of his office saying, 'Mr. Haman, what in the hell are you trying to do?'"



Haman and his wife Marion admire their daughter Renee.

The story hit the local papers later that week and then made the national wire services. The December 22, 1947 issue of *Time* magazine noted, "One Richard Haman, a ranch manager, last week filed a formal claim to the water in all the clouds passing over his 12,000-acre Rocking F Ranch near Reno. He was not cloud-cuckooland-crazy He intends, he explained, to sprinkle dry ice on some of the clouds, and he wants full title to the rain he may bring down, wherever it falls."

Two weeks after Haman's claim was filed, the United Press filed a tongue-in-cheek report about an indignant group called the Arizona Cloud Ropers, Inc. "That hombre makes me sore," said Nick Gregovich, president of the Ropers. "We're goin' right ahead with our plans to fly over to Nevada and California, drop loops over clouds, wrangle them to Arizona, and make them give down.

"Arizona Cloud Ropers, Inc., was organized for the purpose of getting even with California for trying to steal Arizona's share of the Colorado River's water," Gregovich said. "Nevada had better devote itself to the feudin' and fussin' of its divorcees and its gamblin' and stay out of the Arizona-California ruckus. As for Haman, we'll take him on any time, any place—in court or on the desert. Let him choose his weapons—lawyers or fire hoses at 20 paces. Or he can make it a dog fight over the clouds with exhaust pipes for guns."

There is no record of Haman's reply

It wasn't long before other folks began to see the comic possibilities in the budding cloud-seeding conflict. The Reno Chamber of Commerce jumped into the fray by sponsoring a series of cloud-seeding expeditions over Mount Rose. The chamber hired a plane and sprayed dry ice in the clouds in the hope of creating some snow to attract skiers and tourists.

Immediately after the cloud seeding—which had no apparent effect—the Salt Lake City Chamber of Commerce fired off a telegram threatening to file a lawsuit in federal court to stop Reno from "milking" clouds before they reached Utah. The Reno chamber responded with a call for a new tax to be levied on clouds passing over Nevada on their way to Utah.

The fracas attracted international attention. The *London Times* editorialized that the United States should nationalize moisture-bearing clouds and vest control over them with a "board of nebulous planners."

Local minstrels such as Cinnabar Ike sought to immortalize the episode in song. Ike's wish was granted; a copy of his music is on permanent file with the state engineer.

The cloud war escalated. Reno chamber president William Brussard packed a 12-inch snowball on an airplane headed to Salt Lake City and enclosed a note saying the snowball was sent "with deepest regrets that this is your share of the snow, at least at present."

Upon receiving the snowball, Salt Lake City chamber leader Gus Backman sniffed that it was "infinitesimal" and boasted that his city's ski resorts were reporting more than six feet of snow

Referring to the high-flying snowball, the *Nevada State Journal* noted that "disposal of the snowball was not announced. But it was generally agreed that it had no more chance of survival than does a snowball in—Nevada."

The dry ice dispute waned after a few months. State Engineer Smith noted in a February 1948 letter to the science editor of the Associated Press that "we have not as yet taken any action and it is quite likely that our attitude will be that this office has no jurisdiction in this matter. As a result of this application, there has been a great deal of comment in the newspapers of the West, some jokingly and some serious. It would seem that the clouds, being interstate in character, would come under the jurisdiction of the [federal] government."

Weinstock says the state engineer actually issued a temporary water right of the clouds over the Rocking F after Haman made his claim. "They had no reason to deny it," she says. However, she recalls that the cloud seeding never produced much water.

Additionally, Weinstock says that although Haman relished the attention, Fairfield grew tired of the publicity and harassing telephone calls. By 1949, he lost interest in both Haman and the cloud-seeding idea.

Ironically another of Haman's wild schemes did result in finding water for the property although it came too late for him to benefit from it. Haman hit upon the idea of using oil drilling equipment to find water on the land. He reasoned that Fairfield, who had made millions drilling oil in Long Beach,

Photo: Marion Weinstock Collection

California, could easily get the equipment.

After Fairfield severed his relationship with Haman, he decided to try the drilling plan. It worked, and Fairfield began pumping water from the ground, transforming the previously worthless property into valuable farmland.

"I think about it every time I go past there," Weinstock says. "There were thousands of acres that had absolutely no water, but Dick felt that it did, and he was right."

As with many things legal, Haman's cloud claim did not end with a thunderclap but dissipated in the bureaucratic ozone. In April 1953, State Engineer Hugh Shamberger canceled the application, saying Haman had failed to show the point where he intended to divert the water, as required by state law It was an ignominious end to a delightful footnote in Nevada water-rights history

When Haman died in 1968, Weinstock chose a line from the play "Man of La Mancha" to engrave on his headstone. It reads: "To every man his dream."

Richard Moreno is director of information and public relations for Nevada's Commission on Tourism.

Cloud Wars

Snow dispute was up in the air.

Three decades after Dick Haman's cloud-rustling plans evaporated, a Nevada cloud-seeding program again was creating problems with the neighbors. In 1985 residents of Nevada County, California, protested that Nevada's effort to meet its water needs was dumping extra snow on eastern California's roads. According to the *Reno Gazette-Journal*, the Californians said the cloud seeding resulted in higher snow removal costs, greater flood and avalanche hazards, reduced ski business, and increased road wear from tire chains.

The Desert Research Institute, a division of the University of Nevada, began cloud seeding in the Sierra Nevada in the late 1960s and has long disputed such claims. John Doherty DRI public information officer, says studies have shown cloud seeding increases precipitation 10 to 15 percent, which is about one inch in a one-foot storm. Last winter the DRI seeded clouds in 23 storms, beginning in October and ending in May

Cloud seeding is performed by twin-engine planes and ground-based generators that shoot billions of silver-iodide particles into storms. These microscopic particles produce ice crystals that grow and become snowflakes.

Not that Dick Haman was far off base with his dry-ice idea. Atmospherics, Inc., a Fresno, California, company, has used finely ground dry-ice pellets to disperse low-lying fog at Reno Cannon International Airport. The dry-ice pellets cool and freeze the fog droplets; then the frozen droplets turn into snowflakes that drop to the ground, punching a hole in the fog.

If there is no wind to blow the surrounding fog to the clear patch, the sun's warmth clears the fog. And the resulting precipitation is up for grabs.—*Maria Federici*

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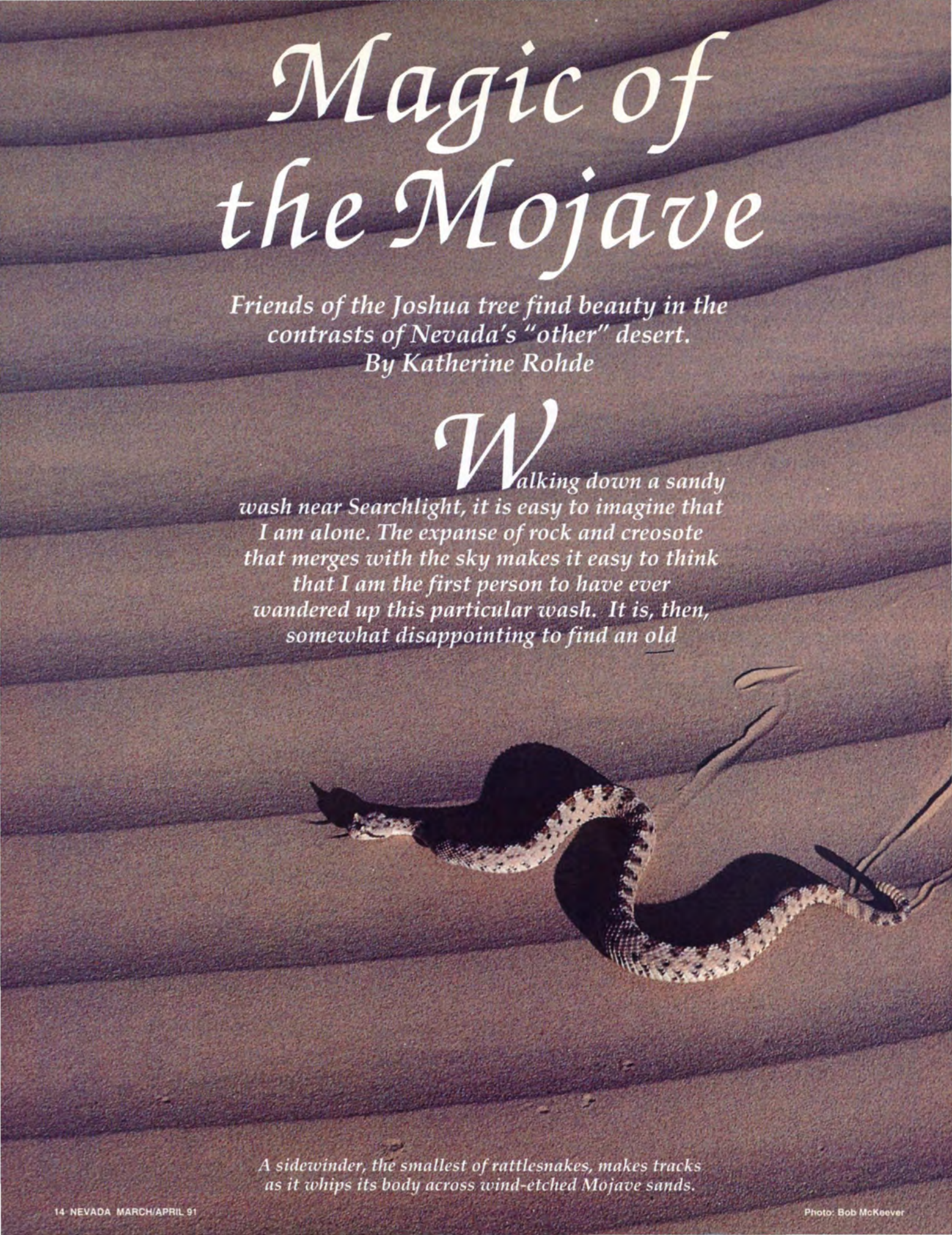
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Magic of the Mojave

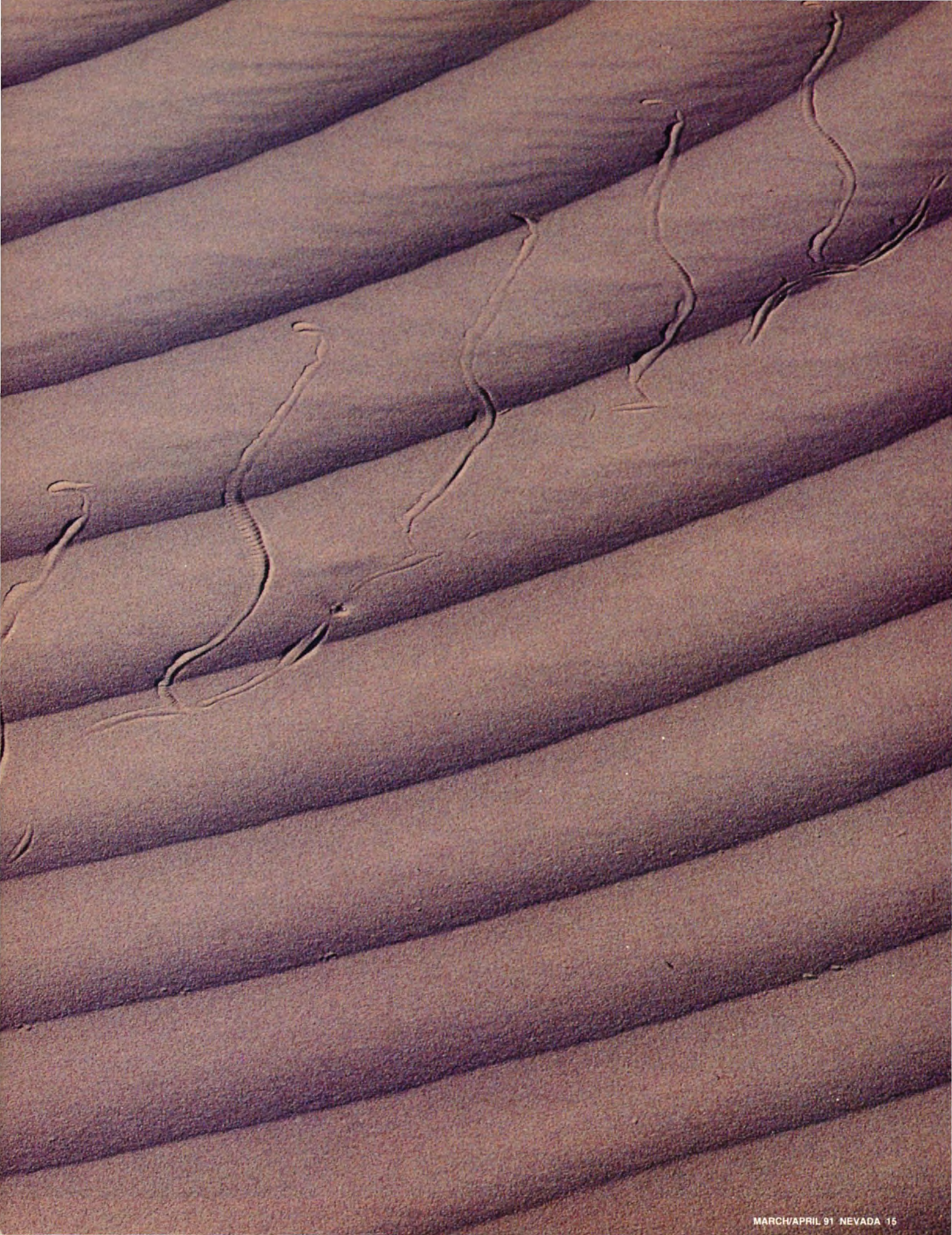
Friends of the Joshua tree find beauty in the contrasts of Nevada's "other" desert.
By Katherine Rohde

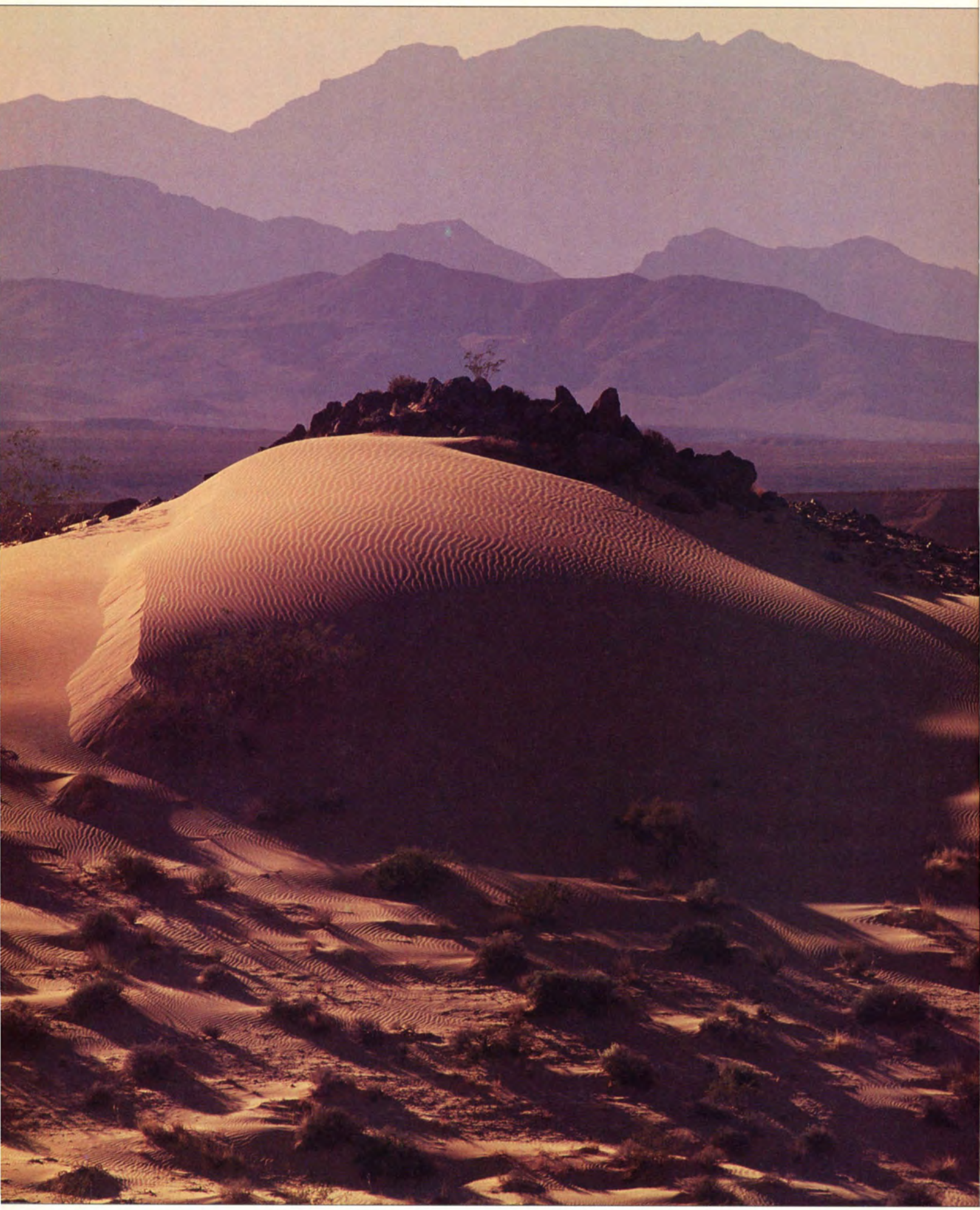
Walking down a sandy wash near Searchlight, it is easy to imagine that I am alone. The expanse of rock and creosote that merges with the sky makes it easy to think that I am the first person to have ever wandered up this particular wash. It is, then, somewhat disappointing to find an old



A sidewinder, the smallest of rattlesnakes, makes tracks as it whips its body across wind-etched Mojave sands.

Photo: Bob McKeever









The beautifully beaded Gila monster is a Mojave denizen (above). The big lizard is poisonous but protected—it's on the endangered list. Dunes and washes in the Moapa Valley show the effects of wind and water (left). A weakstem mariposa blooms (below).

aluminum can resting under a catclaw bush and later to meet a jeep bouncing down the wash. I am not alone after all.

The Mojave Desert is filled with this kind of paradox, but its contrasts are the very details that draw me to it. In the heat of a desert day, nothing moves. There is no sign of life, but a closer look reveals signs of a rich animal world. Tracks of lizards, quail, and kit foxes crisscross the sand. Each track is distinct and tells a story of life, even if the players have scampered off out of sight.



The sparsely spaced creosote bushes give no hint that the barren looking soil is actually a bed of seeds. Those seeds are just waiting for the right rainfall to dissolve their protective seed coats and release a burst of color as the annual wildflowers produce a brief, wild display across the landscape. The Mojave's spring wildflower show is exciting if only because it is so unexpected.

Contrasts—that is the Mojave Desert. In a world that is busy hectic, polluted, and growing smaller, the Mojave Desert gives the feeling of timelessness, clarity solitude, and space. Just over the hill from the neon lights and 24-hour activity of Las Vegas, the Mojave is. The buildings stop, and the desert begins.

Stand out on the Mojave in the evening. The earth is tilted, as the bajadas on the distant mountains slide into a valley that was once an ancient lake bed. The clarity of late afternoon has dissolved into the haze of that magic timelessness of evening. The browns and golds of the day fade into pink. Pink sky pink hills, as the light plays one last trick, capturing the bent rays of a sun tucked over the horizon.

It is ironic that a land with such a fearful reputation should be a mecca to people seeking beauty and peace. It is magical that seemingly barren piles of rocks and sand can burst into flower. It is awe-inspiring that a tranquil wash can become a raging torrent as a distant thunderstorm pelts the parched land with precious water. That is the Mojave.

Nevada is sometimes called the Great Basin State. The picture that most often comes to the mind when talking about Nevada is the sagebrush-covered expanse of the Great Basin Desert.

However, the southern tenth of the state is in the Mojave Desert, with the dividing line between the two deserts running approximately from Beatty east to Mesquite.

The Mojave, smallest of the four North American deserts, lies between the Great Basin and the comparative lushness of the Sonoran Desert, for which Arizona is known. Because it includes elements of its neighbors, some scientists argue that the Mojave is just a transition between the Great Basin and

Photos: David Muench (left), Bob McKeever (top and lower right)



the Sonoran. But it does have a distinct character and distinct flora such as the Joshua tree. For those of us who love the Mojave, the subtleties become immense, just like the desert itself.

Like the Great Basin, the Mojave lies entirely in the Basin and Range Province. Seen from the air, north-south trending mountain ranges alternate with valleys or basins that were once ancient lakes. A higher percentage of the Mojave is covered by mountains, whereas the Great Basin has a greater percentage of basins.

Sandwiched between the Sierra Nevada and the Rocky Mountains, the Mojave country lies in the rain shadow of these barriers that capture the moisture from the Pacific and Gulf of Mexico, wringing water from the clouds before they cross the ranges. This lack of moisture, coupled with a high evaporation rate, produces the desert conditions.

Much of the Mojave Desert lies between 2,000 and 4,000 feet in elevation, although it ranges from 5,000 feet to below sea level. Las Vegas, for instance, is about 2,200 feet in elevation; Laughlin is about 1,500, and Badwater in Death Valley is 282 feet below sea level. In general, the Mojave is a hot desert, with summer temperatures among the highest in the United States.

The Mojave also is the most arid of the North American deserts, with an



Petroglyphs were made by early inhabitants of the Lake Mead region (above). While it sculpts rock formations, water sprinkles flowers like the fragrant dune primrose (left).

average rainfall of less than six inches per year. In some places the average may be as little as two inches. That rainfall might come all in one storm, and then a year might pass before another drop falls.

Most people think of deserts only as vast waterless and lifeless wastelands.

Waterless? That is the irony of this desert. There may not be a drop of water to be seen for miles, but water shaped and continues to shape the landscape. Everywhere there is evidence of water's power: in the jagged, raw mountains, and the fresh gashes of the most recent flash flood. Some rocks were formed in the waters of ancient inland seas. The layers were lifted out of the waters, and the inner forces of the earth tilted and twisted them. Then water carved the land, creating canyons and arroyos. Over time, droplets, streams, and floods have torn down the mountains, filling valleys with thousands of feet of debris and leaving jagged peaks on the horizon.

The layers of rock often are laid open like pages of a book. Tilted and folded, the rocks form a tapestry of color, as in places like Valley of Fire and Red Rock Canyon. In such places there is no vegetation to hide the earth's secrets.

Sometimes woven among the sedimentary layers are dark intrusions of volcanic basalts and granites. The heat and pressure of the molten material changed the character of the original rock, creating the right environment for the growth of minerals and precious metals that would someday lure humans to this land.

Photos: Stephen Trimble (top), Bob McKeever (bottom)

To those explorers and pioneers who first ventured across the Mojave, the Joshua tree must have presented a strange sight. It is not hard to imagine early settlers struggling across the desert, trying to avoid the prick of cactus and mesquite, starved for the sight of a tree—anything taller than three feet. In the distance they catch a glimpse of tall, spindly forms that could only be trees.

Coming closer, they see trees that are like no other. The Joshua tree is a large member of the agave family. Named by Mormon pioneers who thought the plant looked like the Biblical Joshua raising his arms to heaven, the Joshua tree has filled the niche in the Mojave that trees would normally fill.

In some places, Joshua trees reach a height of 50 feet and are as dense as a pine forest. They can be showy too. Each spring the "branches" of the Joshua tree are tipped with large stalks of waxy white flowers and look like thousands of candles being lifted to the sky.

The Joshua tree has come to be the symbol of the Mojave Desert, and although the boundaries of the Mojave outline its range, it is usually only found at the higher edges of the desert.

Some of the most interesting relationships between plants and animals can be found in the Joshua tree stands.



The partnership between plants and the insects that pollinate them is a familiar story, but the activity of the yucca moth *(Pronuba sp.)* is more complex than most. While pollinating the Joshua's flowers, she is also ensuring that her young have food to eat when they hatch, because she lays her eggs inside the flower. Surprisingly, the Joshua tree of the late Pleistocene era was an important food source for the giant ground sloth. Researchers at Gypsum Cave near Las Vegas estimated that Joshua tree leaves accounted for 80 percent of the ground sloth's diet.

The Joshua tree, a symbol of the Mojave, was named by Mormon pioneers impressed with its upstretched stems. The Joshua's waxy white flowers bloom in spring (left).

Like plants and animals, prehistoric people learned how to adapt to this land of extremes. The Anasazi built towns and raised crops along the Muddy and Virgin rivers. About 1,000 years ago the Anasazi moved on. Only the remains of their pueblo homes and artifacts, like those shown at Overton's Lost City Museum, are left to cause us to wonder at how they could flourish in such harsh conditions. Later people such as the Paiute followed, leading a more nomadic existence. They passed over the land, making little impact to mar the magic. Their rock etchings add to the mystery of the desert.

Early prospectors, lured by the promise of gold and silver, came to exploit the gifts, yet fell under the desert's spell. Many stayed to spend the rest of their lives searching out its secrets. Unlike the native peoples, the prospectors left signs of their exploitations. Mine shafts, old timbers, and rusting trash piles litter the desert in places like Eldorado and Rhyolite. Yet even these alien elements add to the magic: They represent dreams of people

Photos: Stephen Trimble (top), E.H. Opsitos (bottom)

A Tale of Two Deserts

Nevada's two deserts, the Mojave and Great Basin, are highly distinctive. No road signs mark their dividing line, which is north of Beatty, but the motorist driving south on U.S. 95 will know the Mojave is ahead by the appearance of Joshua trees below Goldfield.

Although it is much smaller in area, the Mojave has more species of plants and animals than the Great Basin. Also, in the Mojave you're more likely to see such desert symbols as cacti, lizards, and scorpions. A comparison:



The Mojave, which covers most of southern Nevada, lies between the Great Basin and Sonoran deserts.

Mojave Desert

Area in Nevada: Approx. 10,000 square miles.

Elevation: 2,000 to 4,000 feet, lower in areas like Death Valley

Drainage: In southern Nevada, mostly the Colorado River drainage.

Climate: Mild with more than 200 frost-free days yearly Summer temperatures can reach 120 degrees.

Annual Precipitation: Four inches. In some locales more than two years may pass between rains.

Plant Life: The Mojave has 250 species of annuals, and 80 percent of those are endemic.

Trees: Joshua tree, mesquite.

Chief Shrub: Creosote bush.

Cacti: Beavertail, barrel, others.

Animal Life: Distinctive species include pupfish, desert tortoise, Gila monster, Mojave rattlesnake, roadrunner, and bighorn sheep.

Principal City: Las Vegas.

Population (Human): 800,000 in Nevada.

Great Basin Desert

Area in Nevada: Approx. 100,000 square miles.

Elevation: High desert, 4,000 to 7,000 feet.

Drainage: Interior river basins like the Humboldt.

Climate: Known as the cold desert. Frequent snows and freezing temperatures during the long winter.

Annual Precipitation: Four to 11 inches. Most moisture comes in winter and spring.

Plant Life: Plants must be able to survive aridity and cold as well as alkaline soils.

Trees: Piñon pine, juniper.

Chief Shrub: Sagebrush.

Cacti: Fewer than Mojave.

Animal Life: Distinctive species include pronghorn antelope, sage grouse, black-tailed jackrabbit, and Mormon cricket.

Principal City: Reno.

Population (Human): 300,000 in Nevada.

Today the Mojave has become a playground for thousands of people who are attracted not by gold but by climate and opportunity.

who came to understand and appreciate and adapt. They did not try to change the desert into something it is not.

Today the Mojave has become a playground for thousands of people who are attracted not by gold but by climate and opportunity They are enticed by the magic of wide-open spaces, the tranquility and solitude that they hope to find in contrast to the hectic, crowded worlds that they have created elsewhere.

However, in their search some people are marring the magic they came to find. Litter and trash dumped on the desert, endless artificial green lawns, and the scars of tire tracks have an obliterating effect. Unfortunately, the things they want to change in order to be comfortable are the very things that make the Mojave a special place.

This is a young land. It is sharp and jagged. There is nothing soft about it, until the light plays its magic and the features soften as dusk falls. Pinks deepen into purples, softening the sharp angles as the mountains melt into the velvety blackness of the night.

This is a harsh land. Witness the destruction of a summer flash flood, the massive boulders it carries, pulverizing everything in its path, once again changing the face of the land. Yet water is life-giving, and the gentle rains of winter will result in the carpet of spring wildflowers that turns the desert floor into an unmatched flower show

The Mojave is a land of solitude. It is not difficult to find a space in the desert where for miles there is not another soul. The wind whistles through the creosote. A lizard scoots across the sand, leaving tiny tracks. A cactus wren sings, unseen in her fortress of cactus spines.

This is solitude. This is the magic of the Mojave again, because you are alone, but not lonely The Mojave is timeless. The Mojave is nature at her extreme, and that will protect it.

Katherine Rohde, an avid Mojave explorer lives in Boulder City. She is chief interpreter at Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

Map: Cliff Glover



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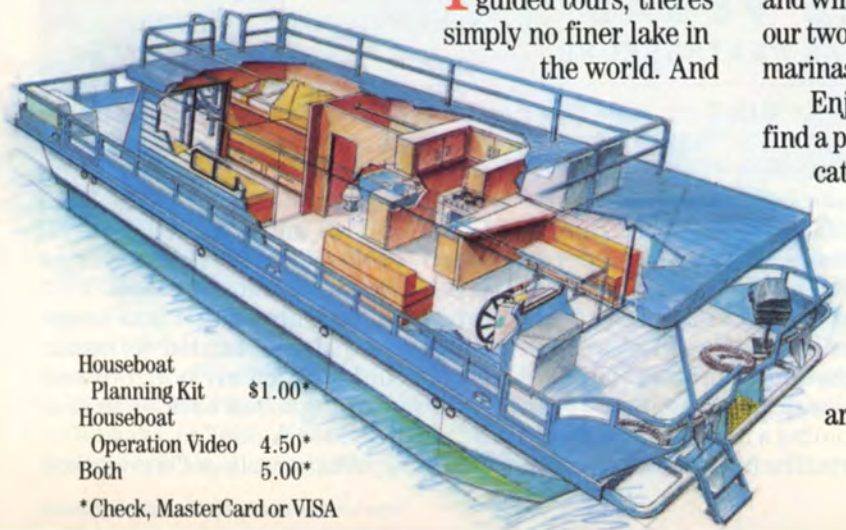




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From Here to HOLLY

Up-and-coming stars, these Nevadans have made the move from casino town to Tinsel Town.



Dino Esposito's single "Romeo" was number six on the pop charts.

There's no doubt that Las Vegas and Reno are entertainment towns. Their lounges, cabarets, and big rooms are studded with a galaxy of shining stars, not to mention the rising and falling variety

What some people might not realize is that Las Vegas and Reno are also places that performers come *from*.

Nowhere is this more evident than in Hollywood, where a constellation of young Nevadans—raised in cities where name entertainers are splashed across the marquees—are trying to turn into "names" themselves.

☆

LAS VEGAS

BY MIKE WEATHERFORD

☆ **DINO** ☆

When you mention "Dino" and "Vegas" in the same sentence, you've got to be talking about Dean Martin, right?

Not anymore. Ask anyone under 18 who Dino is, and they're more likely to start singing "Romeo" than "Everybody Loves Somebody "

Dino is the show business abbreviation for Dino Esposito, a Las Vegan who is becoming a regular name on the Top 40 charts. The new year began with "Gentle," the second single from his second album, "Swingin'," climbing both Billboard's singles and R&B charts. His last single, "Romeo," was a number-six pop hit.

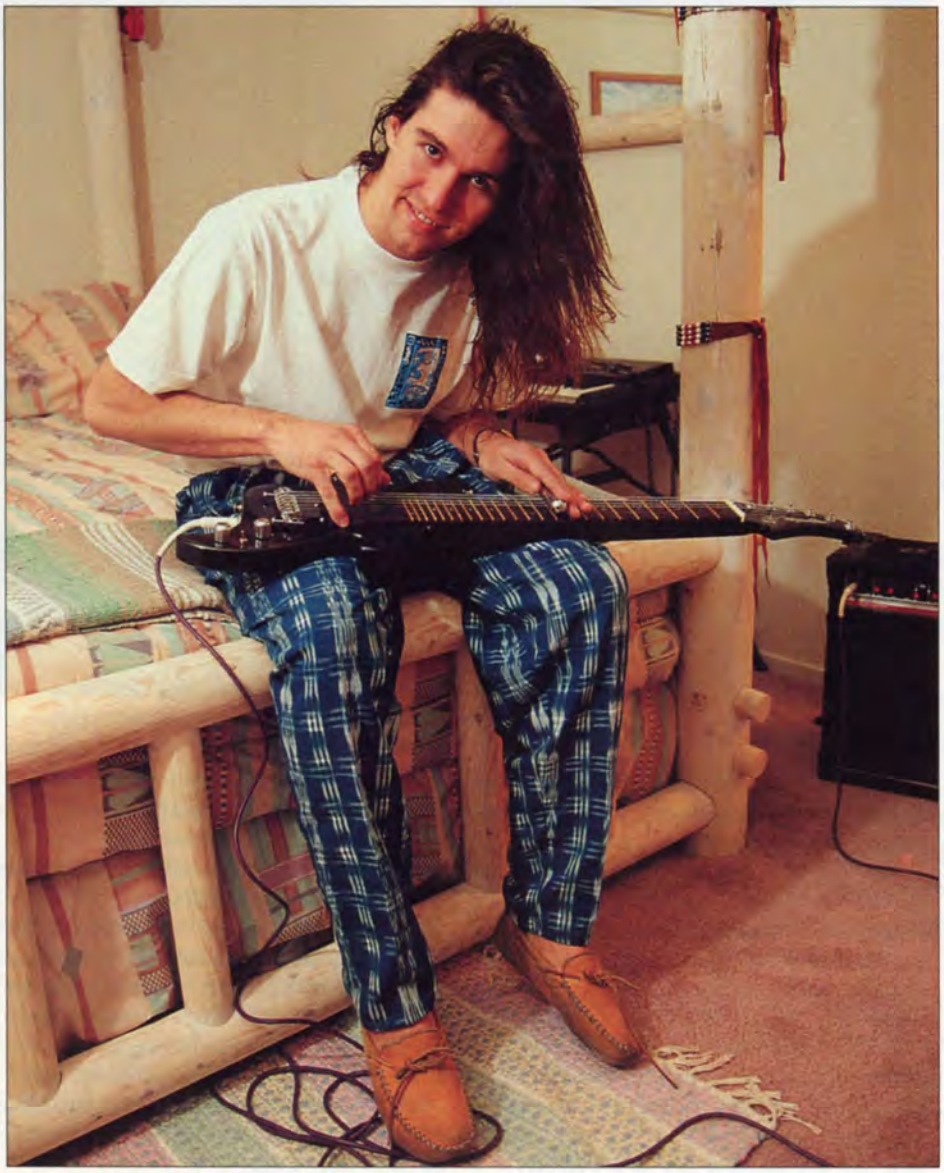
Esposito, 27, was born in Encino, California, but moved to Las Vegas from Connecticut with his family in 1977 He graduated from Valley High School in 1981 and attended the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, earning a B.A. in communications in 1986.

"I thought I'd better get into something else that was related to music, and I could broaden my horizons and have something to fall back on in case music didn't work out," he says.

During and after college Dino worked

Photo: Randee St. Nicholas/Island Records

Y WOOD



Las Vegas rocker Mark Slaughter once sang in a barbershop chorus.

as an announcer at several Las Vegas radio stations. He also put in time as a nightclub disc jockey, where he says he learned what makes people want to dance.

While working at community radio station KCEP-FM, Esposito got the demo tape of a song called "Summergirls" into the hands of a record company promotion man. Rather than playing the hotel lounges and trying to work his way up as a live performer, "I felt the way to do it was press your own record and get it happening that way " he says.

"Summergirls" won him a deal with a subsidiary of Island Records, which turned him loose in the studio to produce his debut album, "24/7 "

The company showed its faith in Dino as producer by allowing him to record basically unsupervised. Veteran jazz-fusion producer Jeff Lorber helped polish the tracks but says Dino didn't need much help.

The first single, "I Like It," went to number seven on the Billboard charts, and a stint as opening act for New Kids on the Block helped young fans tie a face to the music.

Dino recently bought a house in Las Vegas and formed a production company, Onid, to produce his own material and demos for performer friends.

"Sometimes I write stuff that's maybe not suitable for me as an artist, but might work for a female singer or an instrumental jazz player," he says. "This will be a way for me to get my stuff out through other people and at the same time give these people a shot."

☆ MARK SLAUGHTER ☆

In most cases it would justifiably raise an eyebrow· the mayor of a large city proclaiming a day in honor of a long-haired rock star.

But when the rocker is Mark Slaughter, Las Vegas Mayor Ron Lurie can act with a clean political conscience.

Lurie would have a hard time finding a more enthusiastic spokesman for Las Vegas—including its school district and police force—than Slaughter, the rocker who wore a "Drugs Suck" T shirt in one of his videos.

Slaughter's wholesome image hasn't hurt his career as a rocker. It might have even helped it. By the time Lurie proclaimed last December 14 as "Slaughter Band Day" in ceremonies at the Hard Rock Cafe, Slaughter's band had sold 1.5 million copies of their debut album, "Stick It To Ya."

"That is amazing for me to think

Photo: Wayne C. Kodey/Las Vegas Review-Journal

Veronica Hart (Hamilton's *nom de ciné*) became known as a porn star who actually could act in the days when X-rated features had story lines that attempted to emulate their mainstream counterparts.

there's one million, five hundred people that are putting their money down," says Slaughter. "We're just very thankful."

Slaughter (his real name) insists he's unchanged by success, and his modest attitude makes you want to believe him. "Some people say, 'Well, now you're a rock star, Mark. I'm not a star. A star is something that shimmers in the sky and reflects light," he says. "I'm just a guy you could see at Smith's Food King. That's my life. I'm a regular guy."

Slaughter was born in Phoenix but grew up in Las Vegas and graduated from Chaparral High School in 1982. Even in high school, Slaughter was singing on the UNLV concert hall stage that would one day host the sold-out debut of his rock band. His high school vocal coach recommended he join the Las Vegas Gamble-Aires, a 60-member barbershop chorus.

As first tenor, Slaughter had one of the four highest voices in the competitive ensemble. "For a person who's learning how to sing, I'd say look into it," he says.

A contact he made while teaching guitar in a local music store led to an audition for a Los Angeles band called the Vinnie Vincent Invasion.

Slaughter toured and recorded with the band but eventually had a falling out with Vincent. He and bassist Dana Strum split to form their own band with the approval of Vincent's label, Chrysalis Records. They recruited guitarist Tim Kelly and drummer Blas Elias, and produced their debut album themselves.

"Up All Night"—an ode to Slaughter's Las Vegas lifestyle and his own insomnia—became an instant hit, buoyed by fans calling "Dial MTV" to request the video. A spring and summer tour with veteran pop metal band Kiss gave the band exposure and experience in front of arena crowds.

On the road the singer runs into the same stereotypes as most Las Vegas residents: "There's always a little girl by the bus who thinks I live in Caesars Palace, in one of the huge suites." But he always tries to set the record straight.

"What is Vegas to me? To me it's *Green Acres* with lights. Everybody knows everybody It has the friendliness you don't find in a big city but it still has the excitement of a big city "

Now the whole band lives within a stone's throw of each other in a new Henderson subdivision. Slaughter says their next album will be recorded nearby "I love Vegas so much I don't want to spend my time in Los Angeles," he says. "It's coming to the point where we don't have to be there. We're going to try to be here as much as we can, because this is our home."



Jane Hamilton says it's time to start working with the "big boys" in Hollywood.

☆ JANE HAMILTON ☆

Jane Hamilton is already twice famous in certain movie circles.

Late-night cable TV viewers might recognize her from a lot of movies most people don't admit they watch: *Wimps, Slammer Girls, Young Nurses in Love, RSVP Deathmask,* and *Delivery Boys*—those R-rated epics that keep wide-eyed cable subscribers entertained long after they've sat through the 13th airing of *Steel Magnolias.*

But those with even stronger tastes for low-budget thrills might notice that Hamilton looks a lot like Veronica Hart, the star of more than 35 X-rated features in the late 1970s and early 1980s, including *Amanda By Night, Roommates,* and *Wanda Whips Wall Street.*

Hamilton, 34, grew up in Las Vegas and graduated from Western High School at age 16. She attended the Uni-

Hamilton's favorites of more than 20 B-movies include *Cleo-Leo,* a comedy about a male chauvinist who turns into a woman, and *Deranged,* a knock-off of Roman Polanski's classic *Repulsion.*

versity of Nevada, Las Vegas as a theater arts major, performing in such highbrow fare as "A Thurber Carnival," "Marat/Sade," and "School for Scandal" before graduating in 1976.

That background would come in handy three years later when, after a stint in England, Hamilton went to New York to pursue acting and recording jobs. Neither panned out, but renting a room from an adult-film star did.

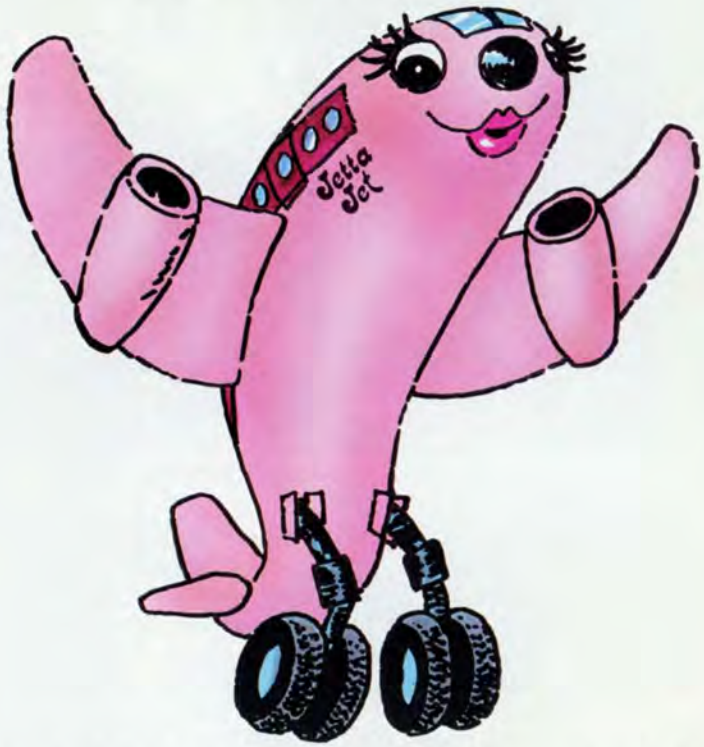
Veronica Hart (Hamilton's *nom de ciné*) became known as a porn star who actually could act in the days when X-rated features had story lines that attempted to emulate their mainstream counterparts. One film, *Roommates,* was even reviewed by New York critic Judith Crist.

"I guess I was lucky because I came in with a theater background," Hamilton says. "When you go in on those quick and nasty shoots, it's not a real place to learn acting."

Hamilton ended her hardcore days when she got married eight years ago. Her *Roommates* director, Chuck Vincent, had branched out into R-rated horror thrillers and softcore comedies, and he frequently used Hamilton. Her favorites of more than 20 B-movies include *Cleo-Leo,* a comedy about a male chauvinist who turns into a woman, and *Deranged,* a knock-off of Roman Polanski's classic *Repulsion.* "Mine's not quite a classic, but they liked it in Australia," she says with a laugh.

Hamilton also wrote and directed short films for the Playboy Channel and Femme Productions, a company that specialized in adult video from a woman's point of view She was reunited with two other UNLV graduates, Todd and Julie Tjaden, for a New York theater production called "Dial S for Sex," which Hamilton describes as

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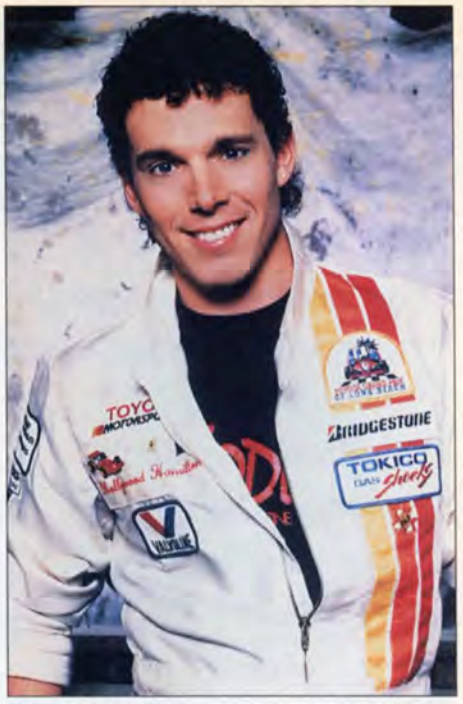
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Jim Jim Jackson (third from right) hasn't let starring with Arnold go to his head.



Tim Bello's deejay career is in high gear

"a black comedy about serial killers and phone sex."

But when Vincent folded his New York-based production last fall, Hamilton, husband Michael, and sons Christopher and Max moved to Los Angeles.

"It's time basically to start working with the big boys," she says. "A lot of the R-rated business has gone the way of the X. There's a glut of product, and you need a big name to get a distributor."

She's hoping the mainstream film and television industry will accept her in the footsteps of former porn queens Traci Lords and Ginger Lynn Allen. "I've made many more R-rated films than either of them but haven't worked on anything with as big a budget as they have.

"It would be nice to be looked upon as an actress first," Hamilton admits. "As Veronica, I came in with some kind of celebrity status. But at the same time most people don't take you seriously "

☆ JIM JIM JACKSON ☆

Remember the *Kindergarten Cop* movie ad? Arnold Schwarzenegger has Nevada's youngest star tucked firmly under his right arm.

Six-year-old Jim Jim Jackson is a real-life kindergartener at Parson Elementary School in Las Vegas when he's not in the movies. He says he wouldn't mind having Arnold in the classroom—"he would do best as a good teacher" but makes do with his current teacher, Thelma Vargas, and enjoys "working my numbers and stuff."

Jim Jim is the son of Jim Jackson, a Las Vegas electronics engineer, and his wife Stephanie, who came to Nevada in 1981 when she was stationed at Nellis Air Force Base.

By the time the youngster was three, "he was so outgoing," his mother says, that she thought of entering him in a talent show A friend recommended a baby contest, where Jim Jim (his grandmother first started repeating the name) finished in the top 25 of 750 entries. That led to modeling assignments such as a ski show

Because his birthday fell too late to enter him in kindergarten last year, the Jacksons decided to give Hollywood a try They met with three agents, and all three wanted to represent the youngster.

Jim Jim's first movie work was a small role in Robert Townsend's *Five Heartbeats*. Then he got a larger part in the Schwartzenegger comedy His favorite scene? The flour fight.

Which is not to say Jim Jim has let stardom go to his head. Sure, he would like to work with Bruce Willis ("he looks like Arnold's brother to me"). But when his mother took him to see *Kindergarten Cop*, Jim Jim was "excited to see himself at first, but he was bored by the time it was over," she says. At least some big kids asked him for his autograph afterward.

Mike Weatherford is an entertainment reporter for the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

☆

RENO

BY MICHAEL SION

☆ TIM BELLO ☆

It's a long way from pretending you're a disc jockey in your bedroom closet to having your voice beamed 25,000 miles into space and bounced off a satellite to blanket the earth.

But that's the route of Tim "Hollywood Hamilton" Bello, a prime time disc jockey on Los Angeles' hip KIIS-FM, who also has his own syndicated-via-satellite radio show

Of course, one might expect wonderful things from a guy literally raised in show biz. Little Timmy whose father, Al Bello, was a drummer, and mother, April Ames, sang with bandleader Harry James, "grew up backstage watching girls change clothes," according to his fond recollections.

It wasn't until he was 13 or 14 that Tim's disk jockey tendencies surfaced.

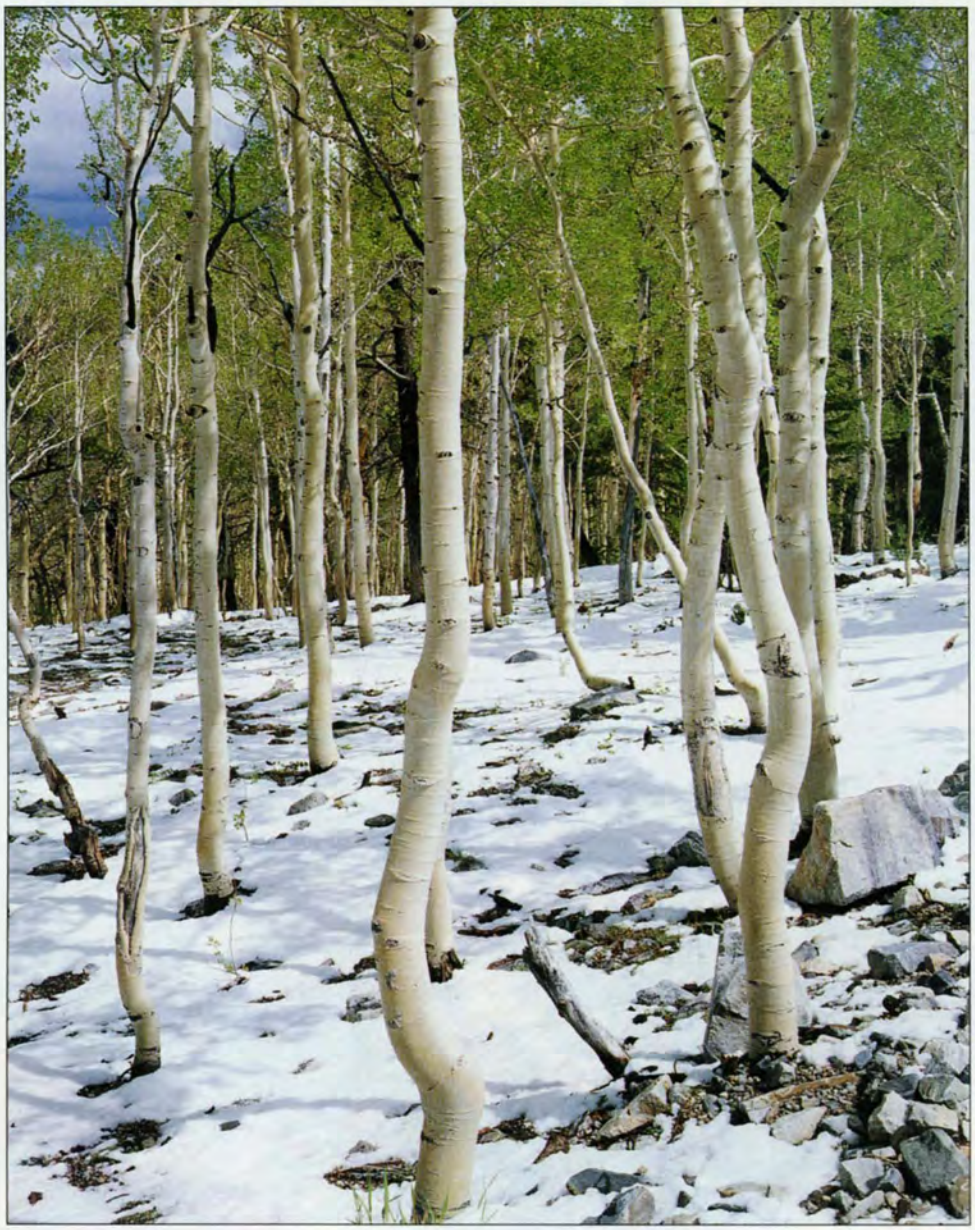
According to father Al (now a casino revue impresario), Tim cleared out the closet in his bedroom and moved his stereo and albums inside. Then he'd spin the records while announcing into a microphone.

It was a natural game of pretend. "He was always loose with his lips," says his father.

Thanks to his dad's connections, Tim got real jobs deejaying at teen clubs. Then he landed a Sunday shift at Reno's

(Continued on page 30)


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Roots

Wherever there's a creek or meadow in the mountains, there's usually a grove of aspens. The grove is formed as the trees' roots send out suckers, which in turn produce newly cloned aspens. Ed Cooper, a Sonoma, California, photographer, took this picture on Wheeler Peak after a late June snowfall.



Getting Your Goat

Mountain goats are difficult to photograph not because they are overly skittish but because they are such good climbers. The goats, first introduced to Nevada in the 1960s, live between 7,500 and 11,000 feet and like to climb steeper ridges than people normally do. Jerry Hulery, a Reno drywaller, was hunting deer in the East Humboldt Range, about 40 miles south of Elko, when he spotted these goats. They let Hulery hike within 20 yards and then gave him 30 seconds to shoot before ambling away



Mädchen Amick (right) ponders yet another strange plot twist with Twin Peaks *costars Peggy Lipton and Dana Ashbrook. Amick is a natural blonde (top right).*

HOLLYWOOD
(Continued from page 26)

old KCBN-AM (now KRNO).

"The rapid moving I've had in the business was all luck," says Bello, now 32 going on 16. "I think it's a little bit of talent. But there's probably a hundred people in Reno who are just as good. I think a lot of it is bull———g people."

From KLAV in Las Vegas to stations in New Jersey and Florida, Tim would tell each new boss how happy he was while secretly keeping tapes of his on-air work circulating at up to 50 stations nationwide.

That eventually landed him at WHTZ-FM in New York and then humungous KIIS-FM in Los Angeles.

Now the quick-witted, genial motormouth deejays the 6 to 10 weeknight shift at KIIS (pronounced, "Kiss") and also anchors the syndicated, live-via-satellite "Hangin' With Hollywood" show Sunday nights. (The show airs 6 to 11 p.m. on Reno's KWNZ-FM after March 17.)

"We've been live in the studio with Tom Cruise, Paula Abdul, Andrew Dice Clay W Axl Rose, and other Guns 'N Roses," he says.

Bello's appeal with youth is undeniable. As a member of the President's Council on Teen Drug Abuse, Bello was asked by the White House last year to put together a rally of 60,000 kids in Orange County Stadium in Anaheim.

When Mädchen Amick was 16, she talked her mother into letting her drop out of Reno's McQueen High School and financing her for a year in Hollywood.

"It was just wild meeting the guy" Bello recalls of George Bush. "I just couldn't believe I'm sitting there shaking hands with the President, and in the back of my mind I'm thinking, 'Why? Why am I talking to the President?'"

Still single, Bello says his accountant tells him he's making close to a million a year. "But I'm not seeing it. Every penny you make on your career you've got to put right back in."

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☆ MÄDCHEN AMICK ☆

Like Tim Bello, *Twin Peaks* star Mädchen Amick is surely destined to be the next big someone-or-other.

Also like Bello, Mädchen (the "a" is long, the "d" silent) was exposed to show biz at a tender age.

Her natural father, Bill Amick, was a traveling musician. Although her parents divorced when Mädchen was two, she would accompany her father from time to time on his trips, getting her fill of desert breakdowns, Midwest motel rooms, and road food.

"It was a lot of learning how to cope," she says.

The lessons appear to have paid off. When Mädchen was 16, she talked her mother, Judy and Judy's husband, Reno physician Bill Higgs, into letting her drop out of McQueen High School and financing her for a year in Hollywood. Mädchen's success in the college theater course at McQueen convinced her to give it a go.

The gamble paid off.

"It happened so fast," says her mother. "She has been working all the time. She was out there every day all day long, going to 'go-sees.'"

A month after arriving in Hollywood, Mädchen appeared in a video with Julio Iglesias. Modeling jobs and other music videos followed.

At present, Mädchen, now 20, is a regular on the David Lynch-directed TV series *Twin Peaks*. Amick puts her exotic cat eyes, long lashes, and full lips to dramatic use as waitress Shelly Johnson in the bizarre series.

The blonde-dyed-brunette also exhibited her serious mien in *I'm Dangerous Tonight*, a thriller co-starring





Kane Hodder in Friday the 13th, Part VIII *(left), and the actor unmasked.*

Anthony Perkins that aired on USA Cable last year. But Mädchen also possesses a flair for flip comedy In an NBC movie, *Till I Kissed Ya*, she played a California girl living in Texas during the *American Graffiti* era.

"She was the real bad girl. She thought she was hot," says Amick. "It was fun to play "

☆ KANE HODDER ☆

Kane Hodder, 35, accepts his Hollywood type-cast. "They look at me as a prolific killer," he says. "I have killed 85 people on film now, that's true. I'm trying real hard to get that 100 to get that Gold Machete."

There's really no such honor for stuntmen and portayers of monsters, but if there *were* a Gold Machete, Hodder would be a candidate.

He played hockey-masked zombie Jason in Parts VII and VIII of the *Friday the 13th* movie sequels. Other credits in his resume of 27 feature films and more than 50 TV episodes include *Texas*

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Former cowgirl Kat Simmons (above) now gets horse laughs on stage, while Ron Thomas hopes to star in Argentina in '92.

Chainsaw Massacre, Part III, Ghoulies Go to College, and the just-completed *Tipperary* with Kris Kristofferson.

"I kill Kris Kristofferson's wife and kids, and he gets a little [angry] at me about it," says Hodder. "I show up later to be sacrificed by a cult, and Kristofferson helps me. I have to plead for him to help me. It's kind of a tense scene, there. But in the end he helps me, because he's too much of a good guy "

The 6-foot-2 Hodder's career has taken off from the days in the mid-'70s when the former University of Nevada student would fall out of downtown Reno hotel windows as part of an Old West act called "Yesterday's Guns."

Kane's mother, Doris Hodder of Sparks, says her son always was the swashbuckling sort. The family lived for many years in the Marshall Islands in the Pacific, where Kane's father was in the U.S. Civil Service. Kane, says Doris, "was forever climbing water towers and swinging from palm tree to palm tree, and having a good time."

From "Yesterday's Guns" Kane went to Hollywood to stunt school. A year later he was dangling from a rope 100 feet above the base of two exploding towers in a TV episode of *Emergency.*

What a long, gory road it's been since.

☆ KAT SIMMONS ☆

Before she finally decided to plunge into show biz, Kat Simmons, 35, had been a special education aide at Yerington High School; a counselor for adolescent girls in Paradise, California; a dental office manager in Gardnerville; and a cowgirl—for two years—in Smith Valley

Finding herself divorced at 30, Kat remembers sitting in a restaurant with a friend, talking about life, and writing her goals down on the back of a place mat.

She decided to push herself to succeed at her secret passion, performing.

"I did not want to be 80 years old and sitting in a rest home watching Lucille Ball and Carol Burnett doing what I could do," she says.

Simmons had been a part of the Carson Valley Theatre Company in Gardnerville for six years. Coming from a large family of cutups—whoopie cushions were not unheard of at the dinner table—Simmons had turned most of those acting parts into comedic roles.

So when the Lakeside Inn at Lake Tahoe held an open mike competition, Simmons showed up.

"I didn't have one joke. I just told the same stories I'd been telling around the dinner table for years, just to friends and family "

She didn't win the competition, but the response was strong enough to send her packing for Los Angeles. After several misadventures breaking into the pro circuit, she landed a $50 gig before an older crowd at a fat farm in Murietta Hot Springs, California. From there, she's moved up the ladder and has been on the road for more than a year.

Her past is grist for her act. Like her days on the University of Nevada, Reno rodeo team: "I used to rope and brand and castrate—but I don't go to those bars anymore."

Having appeared on Fox-TV's *Comedy Night* with other young comics, Simmons is looking to break into sitcoms.

Her mother, Ruth Short, is still a bit dumbfounded.

"I guess she always just had this in the back of her mind," Short says. "She always had a natural wit. She used to tell our fortunes by putting on a bandanna, my long earrings, and gazing into a balloon."

The rest of the *Karate Kid* cast were taught their moves. But Thomas—who played the bully who breaks Ralph Macchio's leg—was a fourth-degree black belt who began his training at age 13 in Reno.

☆ RON THOMAS ☆

It wasn't until 12 days into the shooting of *The Karate Kid* that directors learned Ron Thomas actually knew martial arts. The rest of the cast, including star Ralph Macchio, were being taught their moves. But Thomas—who played the bully who breaks Macchio's leg—was already an expert.

A fourth-degree black belt in the Japanese art of jujitsu, Thomas had begun his training at age 13 at Unity Martial Arts in Reno. Thomas had also begun his acting in Reno at the now-defunct Junior Light Opera at the Pioneer Theater.

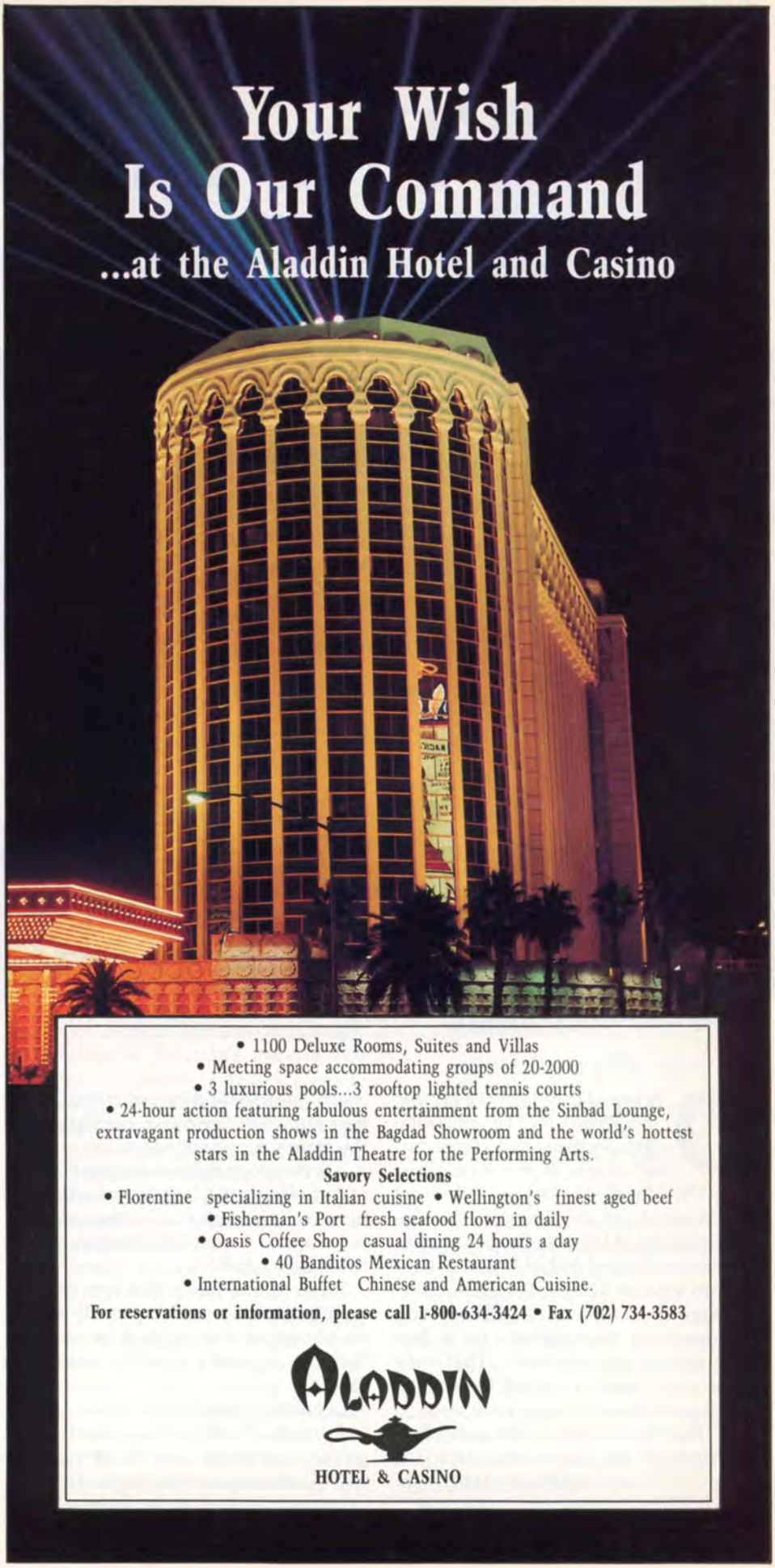
A role as a pirate in "Peter Pan" led to more roles. When the JLO director, Michael Harrah (nephew of casino magnate William F. Harrah), went to Hollywood to manage actors, he became Thomas' first manager.

"He's the one who led me in that direction," says the 29-year-old. At 16, Thomas commuted between Reno and L.A. to film the drama *Fyre*. He later spent two years at UNR before packing up and heading to Tinsel Town.

From the start Thomas has supported himself with acting and modeling jobs. His steady income came from portraying Conan the Barbarian and *Miami Vice's* Sonny Crockett in 20-minute exhibitions at Universal Studios. He's also a member of the U.S. national jujitsu team and was demonstration champion at the World Jujitzu Championships in North Carolina last September.

Thomas will have a jujitsu role in another big show—the 1992 world championships in Argentina.

Michael Sion writes for the Reno Gazette-Journal.





THE BIG GAMBLE

Sixty years ago Nevada's lawmakers shocked the nation by legalizing gambling. Why did conservative Nevada take such a revolutionary step? And why did it work?

By Jerome E. Edwards



Gamblers play faro at Reno's Bank Club. In 1931, George Wingfield (upper left) was the most powerful figure in the state.

During March 1991 the people of Nevada will celebrate the 60th anniversary of three crucial events in the state's history On March 11, 1931, the federal government let the contract for the construction of Hoover Dam, a project that helped stimulate Las Vegas' amazing growth. On March 19, 1931, Governor Fred Balzar signed a bill reducing the residency requirement for a Nevada divorce to six weeks. That very same day he also signed legislation that legalized gambling in the state.

Of the three events, the gambling bill proved the most important for Nevada's future, and the one that made March 1931 a turning point in the state's history Legalized gambling, more than any other activity was to give Nevada its unique tone and image. It was also to become wildly popular, providing for the state's economic salvation.

Yet the story behind the legalization of gambling is still largely untold, partly because contemporary observers did not supply much information about the legalization.

What can be said is that Nevada had certain qualities in 1931 that allowed it to recognize and protect an activity that was regarded in other states as a vice.

Legalized gambling was nothing new to Nevada. In 1869, the legislature legalized gambling over the governor's veto. Gambling became popular on the Comstock as well as in Tonopah and Goldfield during the mining rushes of the early 1900s. Gambling came to be accepted as part of the fabric of Nevada life. Indeed, George Wingfield, who was to dominate Nevada political and economic life for nearly a quarter of a century before his banks closed in 1932, got his financial start as a professional gambler, playing poker in the clubs.

But in 1910 the state turned its back on its raucous past by officially outlawing gambling. Pressure for this crackdown came from women's, educational, religious, and other reform groups. In 1915 the restrictions on gambling were relaxed to allow card games, but officially the state continued to forbid most forms of casino gambling.

Despite these regulations the atmosphere of Reno, Las Vegas, and smaller towns in Nevada remained surprisingly wide open, and the legislation of 1910

Photos: Nevada Historical Society



Business owners on the future site of Glitter Gulch hoisted a welcoming banner in front of the Union Pacific depot in 1931.

proved to be ephemeral. Life went on pretty much as it always had. Legal card games were available in the front rooms of clubs while everything else was in the back.

The voters of Reno endorsed those permissive practices when they elected E.E. Roberts mayor in 1923. During his campaign he declared, "I don't believe in prohibition or any kind of reform that takes from any man or woman their right to find happiness in their own way I would repeal all blue laws. I would make Reno the playground of the world." When Roberts ran for a third term in 1931, he was invited by the minister of the First Methodist Church to speak from the pulpit. In that speech, quoted in Robert Laxalt's *History of Nevada*, the mayor declared:

"You cannot legislate morals into people, any more than you can legislate love into the hearts of some professed Christians. You can't stop gambling, so let's put it out into the open. Divorce is the only solution where marriages are unhappy And if I had my way in this Prohibition year, I as mayor of Reno would place a barrel of whiskey on every corner, with a dipper, and a sign saying, 'Help yourself, but don't be a hog.'"

Some Nevadans agreed with Roberts' notion that gambling should be put back in the open. In 1925, a proposal to relegalize most forms of gambling was introduced in the legislature but failed in the Assembly by a nearly two to one margin. In 1927 during the next session, a relegalization bill passed the Assembly 22 to 12 but lost in the Senate nine to eight.

Such a bill did not appear in 1929, but by the 1931 session there was widespread talk that the time had finally come for legalized gambling. Further impetus was created by the heightening Depression, which was particularly devastating to Nevada's mining and livestock industries. Certain Nevada business groups, including the Las Vegas and Winnemucca chambers of commerce, thought legal gambling might stimulate economic activity and needed tax revenues for local and state governments. Why not make legal what was already available?

Al Cahlan, editor of the *Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal*, wrote on January 28, 1931, that "the best chance for this type of legislation is to get it thru before the opposition has an opportunity to form." The gambling bill was written well before it was given to an official sponsor in the legislature. Norman Biltz, then close to kingpin George Wingfield, later declared, "All the legal brains of the state of Nevada—I say all the principal ones—went to work to draft a gambling bill." Eventually first-term Assemblyman Phil Tobin from Humboldt County was prevailed upon to introduce the bill.

> 'A man gambles when he marries, and he gambles at whatever business he is engaged in,' Wingfield said. 'There's no difference between putting a pile on the wheel and buying a stack of stocks.'

Almost no one spoke in its favor, but the opposition, which might have attacked the bill on moral grounds, was ineffectual. The bill was opposed by the *Reno Evening Gazette*, the state's largest newspaper; by some women's and educational groups; and by representatives of the Mormon, Baptist, and Methodist churches.

The legislators politely listened and then passed the measure 24 to 11 in the Assembly and 13 to three in the Senate.

Photo: UNLV Library, UNLV Collection

Governor Balzar's immediate signature sealed what appeared all along to have been a prearranged deal.

As the *Gazette* spitefully commented, the legislature had been under the control of "aggressive lobbies." In retrospect it is obvious Nevadans did not demand the legalization of gambling, but for the most part they were not against it, either. Their support for legal gambling was to grow mightily over the years.

There is no doubt that George Wingfield, Nevada's most important business leader at the time, approved the relegalization, although, typically his support was neither direct nor public. He had begun his financial career as a professional gambler, and after years as a respectable businessman he perhaps did not want to direct attention to his own unconventional beginnings. But his closest political associates were supporters of the bill, and his friend, the governor, signed it.

Wingfield's own attitude toward gambling at this time was best expressed in an interview with journalist Basil Woon. "A man gambles when he marries, and he gambles at whatever business he is engaged in," Wingfield told Woon. "There's no difference between putting a pile on the wheel and buying a stack of stocks—except you have a better chance and bigger odds at the wheel."

As Reno's *Nevada State Journal*, which went along with the bill, stated, Nevadans 'prefer their liquor straight and a card game in the open. They refuse, as a state, to deprive themselves of what they regard as their rights.'

Perhaps it was the immensity of Nevada's landscape and its exceptionally low population that gave a person a sense of freedom, an abhorrence of the restrictions of traditional puritan morality. As the *Nevada State Journal*, which went along with the bill, stated, "Whether right or wrong, Nevada is still a place of wide open spaces. Its citizens look on life liberally· they are independent in thought and action."

The newspaper then got more specific: "They prefer their liquor straight and a card game in the open. They refuse, as a state, to deprive themselves of what they regard as their rights." Or as the historian Henry F. Pringle heard it said when he visited Reno in 1931, "Thomas Jefferson would feel more at home in Reno right now than in any other place."

Why was Nevada, of all the states, the one that would legalize casino gambling? One reason was the state's lack of people. In 1930 only 91,058 people lived on Nevada's 110,540 square miles. This was by far the lowest population for any state, barely one-third the number living in Wyoming, the next lowest.

Nevada's economy had been shaky typified by the boom-and-bust cycle ever since the state's admission to the union in 1864. With the onset of the Great Depression, rural Nevada appeared to be facing another bust.

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The swank Meadows opened in May 1931 with one of Las Vegas' first gambling licenses. Its band was called the Meadow Larks.

Yet by 1931 there seemed to be a way out: the selling of services that were either outlawed or hard to find anywhere else. Easy divorce had shown the way and better roads would encourage tourism.

Also, there was no big industry to oppose legalized gambling. Elsewhere big industry traditionally feared what gambling might do to its work force.

Nevada's low population had other peculiar characteristics that were conducive to the legalization of gambling. The state's mining and ranching heritage had created a special atmosphere that was open to legal experimentation with social forms outlawed elsewhere. Anne Martin, Nevada's great early leader for women's rights, argued in 1922 in an article in the *Nation* that the state had an unhealthy society because

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'It appears that practically one-half the men of Nevada, or nearly 20,000 out of our total population of nearly 80,000, are living under bad social conditions outside the home environment.'

it lacked a strong family environment. "It appears that practically one-half the men of Nevada, or nearly 20,000 out of our total population of nearly 80,000, are living under bad social conditions outside the home environment."

In Martin's view those lonely single men were vulnerable to certain vices:

"A characteristic Nevada sight, and to those who know its significance one of the most pathetic, is the large groups of roughly dressed men aimlessly wandering about the streets or standing on the street corners of Reno, Lovelock, Winnemucca, Battle Mountain, Elko, Wells, Ely, Tonopah, Goldfield, and other towns, every day of the year. They are in from the ranches and mines for a holiday with hard-earned money and the only place they have to spend it is in the numerous men's lodging houses, gambling dens, or brothels."

Analysis of the 1930 U.S. Census suggests that Martin's description was right on the mark. Nevada indeed was heavily male oriented, with 140.3 males per 100 females. This was by far the greatest disparity in numbers between the sexes in any state. Subtracting those individuals below age 20, the ratio of the number of males to females grows to 160.8 to 100. Among the states, Nevada in 1930 had by far the lowest percentage of males 15 years of age and older who were married—less than half. There simply were not enough women to go around. It also had, next to California, the lowest percentage of children in the population. It is certainly probable that this sexual asymmetry and the predominance of single adult males, gave Nevada's value system certain features that would have been less prominent in a more balanced, family-oriented population.



The Apache Club's wheel of fortune gave gamblers a spin for their money.

Then, too, church membership was low Statistics for religious membership are not always reliable, but the available figures suggest that Nevada's church membership of approximately 24 percent in 1930 was among the smallest in the nation.

Perhaps the statistics for individual denominations are more revealing because there was an enormous difference between religious groups' approaches to gambling. In 1936, by far the largest church in Nevada was the Roman Catholic, with 12,053 members. The Catholic Church has never stood particularly against gambling, nor did it take an active stance against Nevada's permissive divorce laws. Second in size was the Mormon Church, with 7,744 members. The Mormons were strongly anti-gambling but were not at this time an active political force in Nevada.

The largest Protestant denomination was the relatively tolerant Episcopal Church, with 3,557 members. The most militantly anti-gambling, anti-drinking churches were the Methodist and Baptist, but in Nevada they had only 927 and 1,193 members respectively So the population and religious composition of the state was unusually conducive to the permissive attitude that tolerated gambling.

Nevada was a different society, and this differentness helped allow gambling to be legalized at a time when bluenoses were clamping down on it everywhere else. The legalization in 1931 gave gambling a chance to grow, to develop and change, and to become something quite different from what it had started out to be. Its dynamism in time would produce a new institution, one that would always be in the process of recreating itself.

Jerome E. Edwards has taught in the history department at the University of Nevada, Reno since 1965. He is the author of Pat McCarran, Political Boss of Nevada *(University of Nevada Press, 1982) and is currently researching the history of the gambling industry in Nevada.*

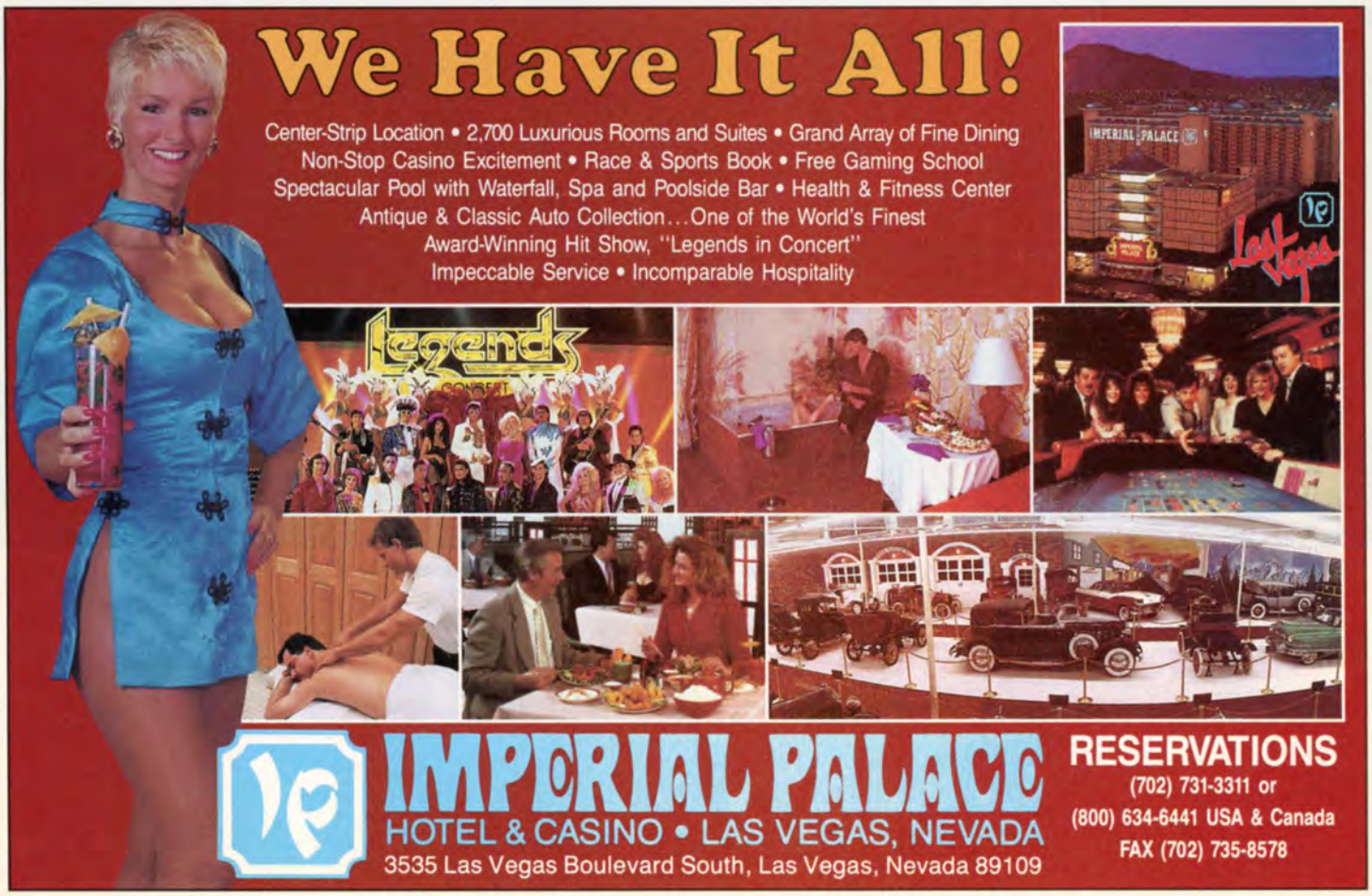


Photo: UNLV Library, Gladys Frazier Collection



Cow boss Guy Hudson, whose word is law for both cowboys and dudes, directs the herd across the Black Rock Desert.



Burnin' Daylight

As 40 sleepy dudes awoke each morning, they were reminded that the cow boss is God, and cattle come first.

By Terri Sprenger-Farley
Photos by Linda Dufurrena

Dawn on the playa of ancient Lake Lahontan looks much as it did before men crossed cattle over its flat white seabed, before men dreamed of routes to silver and gold, before men. But last May a different breed of drover came to the Black Rock Desert.

Forty riders from places like San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Satellite Beach, Florida, paid $1,000 each to follow 650 cattle over a dusty trail from Soldier Meadows, 55 miles north of Gerlach, to Ravensdale, 20 miles west of Susanville, California. For nine days they rode eight to 13 hours a day in the heat and wind, swallowing dust and complaints about sore muscles, searching for a West beyond John Wayne movies.

Spanish Springs Ranch owner R.C.



Riders on the range: Jerry "Mule" Wheeler on his customary mule (center) and cowboy Pete Faxon with a cheroot.

Roberts advertises this spring drive, which moves beef cattle from winter to summer grazing, not only as an "adventure vacation" but also as an authentic slice of history

The men and women who gathered at the Wheeler Ranch trail head were as mixed a cow crew as any assembled on the old frontier. They were ready for a new kind of vacation.

When she arrived, Carolyn Makin's cowboy hat was in a Mervyn's bag. Makin teaches kindergarten in San Jose, California. She said friends warned her against working cows.

"Fill your canteen with whiskey Carolyn. You'll need it," one told her.

But eight days later the teacher became a lesson herself when she rode straight up a nearly vertical hillside after a squalling calf.

"That female's makin' you guys look bad," said cowboy Pete Faxon, shaking his head.

"I did sort of like that," Makin said of the compliment.

Harold Johns, a cop from suburban Chicago, came armed with his own saddle and batwing chaps he'd stitched by hand. Johns fell into trail work as if born to it and became the cowboys' choice for backup.

'I loved the physical work and the cows I went back to the city and got so excited talking about cows—they just crack me up—that friends thought I was crazy.'

Kelley Harrison, a social worker from Florida; Tim Bates, a former football player from Gainesville, Georgia; and plumbing contractor Charlie Bennett, surgical assistant Lynn Backlund, and graphic designer Larry Zempel of Los Angeles had far different occupations in the real world, but they and a number of others settled into cow camp routine so thoroughly that Sacramento television crew members, helicoptered in to film vacationing urban professionals, spent much of their time whispering, "Is he real? Is she?"

Paying guests took San Franciscan Jayne Franklin for a genuine cowgirl, but the drive was only her second. Her first, last year, almost convinced her to chuck her city career for cowboying. Level-headedness prevailed over longing. But barely

"The first drive was a total fantasy " said Franklin fingering the fringe on her chinks, the short chaps worn by working riders. "I loved the physical work and the cows. I went back to the city and got so excited talking about cows—they just crack me up—that friends thought I was crazy

"Some people don't understand the need to push to your limit, to be in a position where you're a little uncomfortable and a little scared."

Franklin was wearing chinks because experience taught her she'd need them.



Although Jayne Franklin of San Francisco often was taken for a cowgirl, it was only her second drive.

Most of the paying riders only grudgingly packed cowboy clothes along with cameras and toilet paper. They thought the Western hats, bandannas, and chaps were "cowboy chic" and recommended by Spanish Springs to dress up the drive for vacation snapshots.

Twenty-four hours on the trail proved them wrong. For the novice cattle driver, appropriate gear was vital. Although buckaroos on the drive wore hats with shorter, flatter brims, guests found that even the widest brims couldn't shade city eyes. Although buckaroos kept their neckerchiefs neatly tied, guests learned that bandannas worn rustler-style, pulled up to cover nose and mouth, were their only



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defense against the dust that was raised by thousands of hooves. Chaps, short or long, might be tricky to buckle in 4 a.m. darkness, but they served as armor against high chaparral. And chaps helped keep pants clean.

"There's dust and dirt all over everything," said Harrison, who braided her long hair to slip under her hat. "Our jeans could just hold up the tent. They wouldn't have to stake it."

Dirt and rough terrain weren't the only signs of the drive's authenticity Cattle, and their needs, came first.

"Cattle work you do early," said Guy Hudson, the cow boss. "Cattle respond in the morning. They don't respond well in the afternoon."

If Hudson said cattle worked best in the morning, they did. The dudes noticed how the real hands accepted Hudson's directions, and they wondered why such independent men didn't chafe at what seemed to be high-handed decisions and drawling decrees.

Within a few days it became clear why they did. If the cow boss predicted rain, the herd would be wet before nightfall. If the cow boss rode his horse onto the trail in front of the lead cow, she might roll her eyes and toss her horns, but she stopped. And so did the 649 animals behind her.

"I never knew the cow boss was God," remarked Zempel. Out there, he was.

The cow boss decided when the herd would move out, and that was always early For the same price, guests could have vacationed in a Maui condominium, waking each morning to a melodious voice on the telephone.

Instead, they arose to the splitting of kindling and the crackle of fire at 4 a.m. and the voice of trail boss Don Koch a half-hour later.

"Boots on the ground! We're burnin' daylight!"

Even the most agreeable guests found rising before dawn a shock. But groans of "I hate cows" never slowed the day's cycle, and the smell of campfire coffee made emerging from dirt-floored tents possible.

Breakfast was steaming on a table, and soon bleary-eyed dudes had hunkered down around the campfire to eat. An hour later, in the time they might have enjoyed a glass of orange juice and read the *Honolulu Star Bulletin*, they'd brushed and saddled horses, ridden them to water, and watched day break over the Calico Mountains.

Hudson, wearing a dark brown duster, rode point on a stocky palo-

Even the weariest rider, staggering toward his tent at day's end, gritty with dust and eager to shuck off boots for sneakers, couldn't resist a peek into the mechanized chuck wagon.

mino. He set a pace suitable for the youngest calves, aiming the herd toward the next water hole. At midday he called for a rest, allowing time for separated calves to "mother up." Midday came when Hudson said so—as early as 11 a.m., as late as 2 p.m.

When the herd paused, Nacho the pack mule became the center of attention. Riders plundered the ice chests slung from each side of the mule's broad back. Most days the riders had sandwiches, soft drinks, and fruit in the saddle, sometimes leaning forward to give their desserts, invariably granola bars, to their mounts.

The herd crossed from Whiskey Springs to Pinto Flats, from Buffalo Camp to Hog Springs and Smoke Creek, rarely following a road. It moved over alkali flats as broad and smooth as a marble dance floor, through thorny brush so thick even the cattle moved in single file, and down ravines as steep as playground slides. The greenhorns swore they were performing stunts from *The Man From Snowy River* They screwed their eyes closed and trusted their lives to range-wise horses.

Red and white Herefords, milky Charolais, black Angus, gentle-eyed Brahmas, and sturdy longhorns comprised the herd of 650 animals bound for Spanish Springs' feedlots. Although the guests said the cows all looked the same at first, personalities emerged.

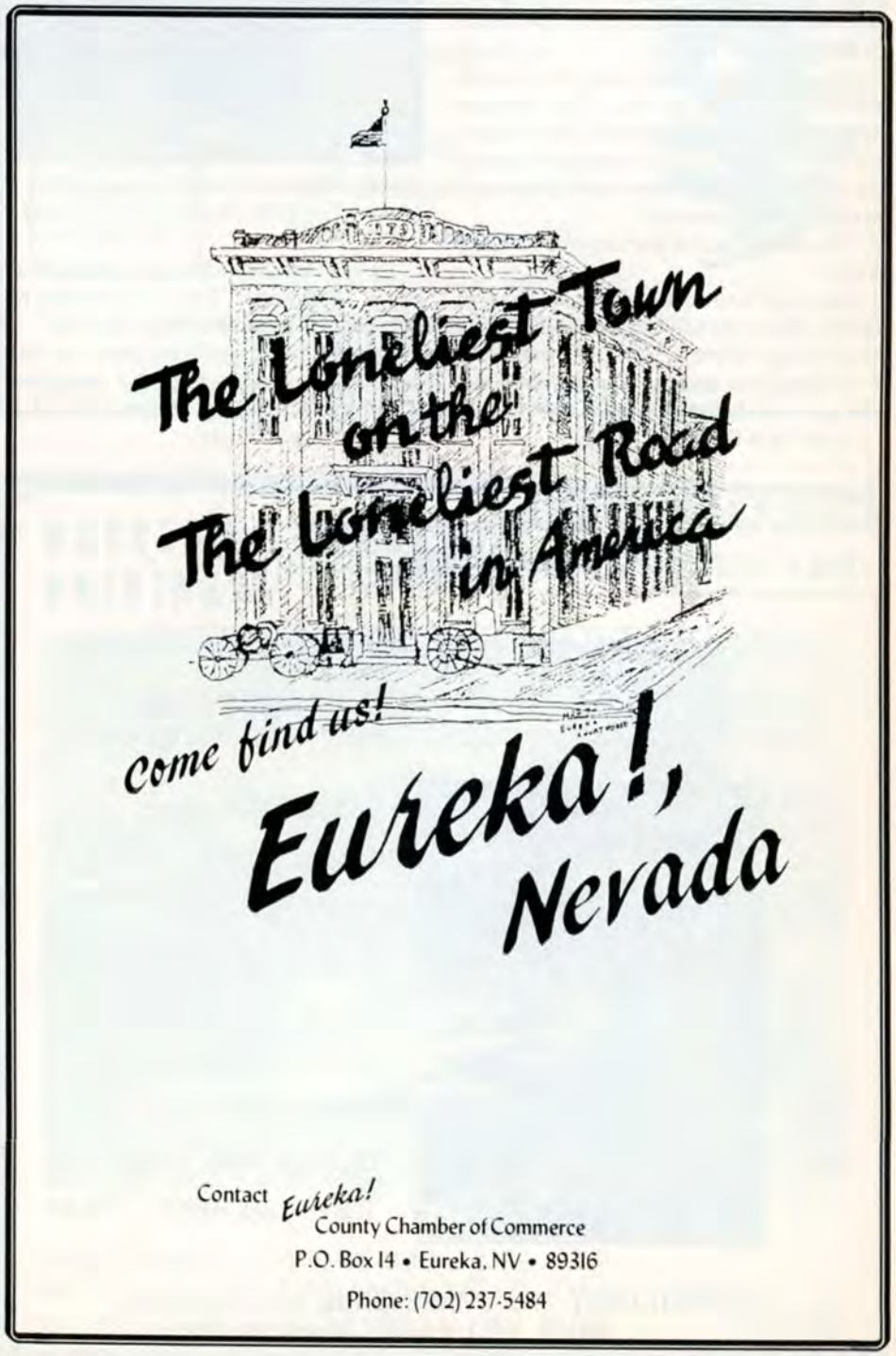
One brindle cow could be counted on to sprint for the brush as soon as a rider was two steps past. Nineteen calfless cows escaped for a girls' night out by slipping through a cordon of night riders. A black limousine-sized longhorn challenged a cowdog no bigger than a loaf of bread only to have the tiny canine, Blaze, jump up and nip her on the nose. The longhorn retreated while Blaze shivered and yapped with joy

The dirt and cattle were authentic, but Spanish Springs cooks served meals that old-time cowpokes never saw outside their dreams. At breakfast the cooks dished up ham or sausage gravy over fresh biscuits, slabs of pastry-sweet French toast, and mounds of grits with cheese and jalapeños.

Even the weariest rider, staggering toward his tent at day's end, gritty with dust and eager to shuck off boots for sneakers, couldn't resist a peek into the mechanized chuck wagon. Inside, port wine sauce simmered alongside sizzling bacon. Onions fell under the knife, while corn silk and husks flew through the air.

An hour later, after grabbing a fresh shirt and a beer, riders would watch marinated steaks and barbecued lamb turn on spits, sample soups full of sausage and vegetables, and anticipate fruit cobblers and chocolate cakes Dutch-oven cooked in the coals.

Headed by Squaw Valley restaurateur Eric Englund, the camp crew worked the clock around. Besides creating masterpiece meals—including a Mother's Day brunch with huevos rancheros and champagne mimosas—the crew pitched tents and dug pit toilets, made camp and broke it, all in weather as unpredictable as a side-



winder. They spent hours pounding tent pegs, fighting wind-whipped canvas, and still had the humor to leave guests, huddled dry and cozy within, with the good-natured admonition, "You girls need any more help, now just dial 911."

Most guest riders conducted their "real" lives inside air-conditioned offices, where desk calendars and secretaries help control inconvenient surprises. But Nature is unpredictable. And there is no way to plan for a cattle stampede.

"We were going across the lake bed," Judy Barr recalled later, "and the cattle and horses started sinking in up to their fetlocks."

The smooth white alkali flat turned out to be a crust of mud. The animals would take a step and sink. They'd take another and find their forelegs trapped in what Saturday afternoon Westerns would call quicksand.

Then some of the horses sank to their knees.

Barr and two others dismounted and led their horses toward the lake's more solid edge. Barr's horse floundered, knocking her face as she grabbed for the gear cascading from her saddle.

And then the herd turned.



Dudes stop near a road for lunch. From right: the author Lynn Backlund, Carolyn Makin, Tim Bates, and Kelley Harrison.

"It was the thunder of hoofbeats, all right," Barr said. "The cattle totally reversed direction and hightailed it."

But when the cattle reached the better footing, they placidly resumed walking. The stampede had ended as suddenly as it began.

Such hidden mud often seemed the only moisture to be found on the journey across the Black Rock.

Bureau of Land Management staffers had planned the herd's route to avoid delicate river areas fringed by cottonwoods and willows. Old springs

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At the end of one 90-degree day, Hudson told riders that he'd decided to spare animals the heat by breaking camp early. Wake-up time would be 3 a.m.

and water holes, mapped before four years of drought, had often dwindled or disappeared entirely.

"Cows on a good hot day will drink 30 gallons, maybe 40 if they have it," said Hudson. "Horses, a touch more."

Even if a water hole was a wallow with no place for animals to drink their fill, Hudson's job, to assure every cow and calf safe passage to the California border, didn't change. But cattle of the '90s had an advantage over their Old West cousins. Water and watering tanks were trucked in.

At the end of one 90-degree day Hudson told riders gathered at dinner that he'd decided to spare animals the heat by breaking camp early

Wake-up time was 3 a.m. "Get up, get dressed, and get goin' " he called.

While half the guests ate breakfast under a full moon, crouching close to the campfire to squint at pork chops and eggs, the other half caught and saddled horses.

"This was a challenging drive," Spanish Springs owner R.C. Roberts later admitted. He said that several guests complained the drive was too difficult, the trail too stark and demanding.

Most riders disagreed.

"You found out a lot about your fortitude out there," said Makin, the teacher. "Maybe some people didn't want to know "

Unlike city folks, cows don't run on schedule.

"The first day I couldn't stop looking at my watch, thinking, now my kids are getting up, now they're off to school," said Makin. "Pretty soon my thinking got simplified to, 'Gosh, when's lunch?'"

But even as their real world slipped away, as they sang "I'm An Old Cow Hand" to their horses, some guests craved order.

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"What are we doing? Where are we going?" a rider demanded, cutting his horse across the path of cow boss Guy Hudson.

"Just watch," Hudson said with a polite smile, never letting on that the dude had proven himself the ultimate boor.

The dudes came to see that real cowboys lived by a code. The rules emerged slowly, like a horseman drawing closer and closer.

The rules were simple and logical: Never pass another rider, and never ask the cow boss where you're going. Keep your position. A good hand never runs his horse; he rides at an extended trot if he's in a hurry. If you come to a gate that's open, leave it open. If it's closed, close it behind you. Take the coffee pot off its campfire hook, and you better be ready to pour for everyone in camp.

Range etiquette was just the beginning. Whispers suggested there might be a difference between cowboys and buckaroos.

Happy Trails

If you've always wanted to ride the range and you hanker for the sound of lowing cattle and the grit of dust between your teeth, the Spanish Springs Ranch of Ravendale, California (two hours north of Reno up U.S. 395) has several cowboy vacation possibilities, most with time on the Black Rock Desert. They include spring and fall roundups, spring and fall cattle drives, and a spring horse drive. The spring cattle drive, as described in the story, usually begins about May 10.

The guest ranch has other activities, from junior rodeos in the summer to sleigh rides and cross-country skiing in the winter.

For more information contact the Spanish Springs Ranch Information Center, 1102 Second Street, San Rafael, CA 94901 or call 800-228-0279 (800-272-8282 in California).

Another outfit with horseback vacations is the Cottonwood Ranch near Wells in northeastern Nevada. The Smith family offers pack trips (see *Nevada*, March/April '90), working cattle, fishing, and other ranch activities.

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'If you're asked to mend fence, if your boss doesn't accept your ability, pride keeps you moving on,' Burch shrugged. Pride, he admitted, is an occupational hazard.

"I could talk for three years, and you'd still just have to pay attention and get it," said Hudson, dapper even at nightfall in light shirt and dark vest as he sat near the fire. But he, Bill Burch, and Pete Faxon, horsemen from the Three Dot, tried to explain.

"Nevada is the last great buckaroo state, the last wide-open country " said Hudson. "Buckaroo outfits don't use corrals and squeeze chutes. The men are outside, a-horseback.

"There are probably only 20 ranches like that left in the country At least eight are in Nevada."

Burch, who rides with a grace that recalls paintings of California's early *vaqueros*, left the Midwest for cowboy country when he was 19.

"I was considered a good hand back there, but I was green as grass. I learned pretty quick that I had to toughen up or go down the road."

They explained that a buckaroo starts his horse in a gentle snaffle bit, graduates it to a hackamore, and doesn't rush it toward the spade bit it will wear, eventually From a distance, there's a flash of silver conchos on his gear. He usually wears a vest and a neckerchief and uses a reata—about 70 feet long—of hand-braided leather.

And a buckaroo rides in silence. Herding cattle from a distance, he rarely whoops or hee-yaws. His horse's presence and an upraised hand usually move the animals along. Even the most alert rider might miss the buckaroo's approach were it not for the ringing of his spurs.

"A buckaroo is proud of his skill and ability to use ropes and horses, and his ability to press on," said Burch. "More specifically you don't do fence."

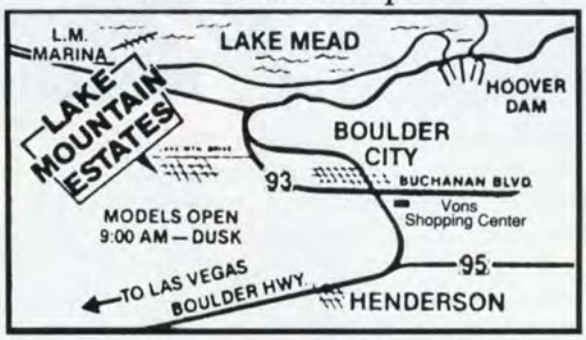
Mending fence, or performing any task which requires dismounting, divides cowboys from buckaroos.

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pride keeps you moving on," Burch shrugged. Pride, he admitted, is an occupational hazard.

"The boss can make you or break you," said Pete Faxon, at 21 the youngest of the Three Dot outfit. "Sometimes you just have to succeed to spite 'em."

The biggest threat to the life they love is, they agree, the changing face of the cattle industry.

"Cowmen used to own ranches," said Burch. "Now they're mostly owned by corporations and insurance companies."

At trail's end, the folks at the Spanish Springs guest ranch had prepared to pamper the dudes who finished the dusty drive, but a few found that one hour out of the shower, out of stiff boots and jeans, they yearned to be on horseback, watching the back ends of cattle stretch toward the horizon.

"When I was a kid watching Westerns, I always wanted to be the cowboy," said Judy Barr. "I went out to see if I could learn to drive cattle, and I did it. But what was even better was riding all day, without being fenced in."

After the celebratory steak dinner a group of guests, unwilling to give up the last day and go to bed, lingered in the Spanish Springs dining room to drink coffee they deemed far below camp standards. They listed the things they'll bring next time: bug repellent, flashlight batteries, sneakers, camera covers.

"Actually, I could have gotten away with far less," said Makin, and her fellow riders agreed.

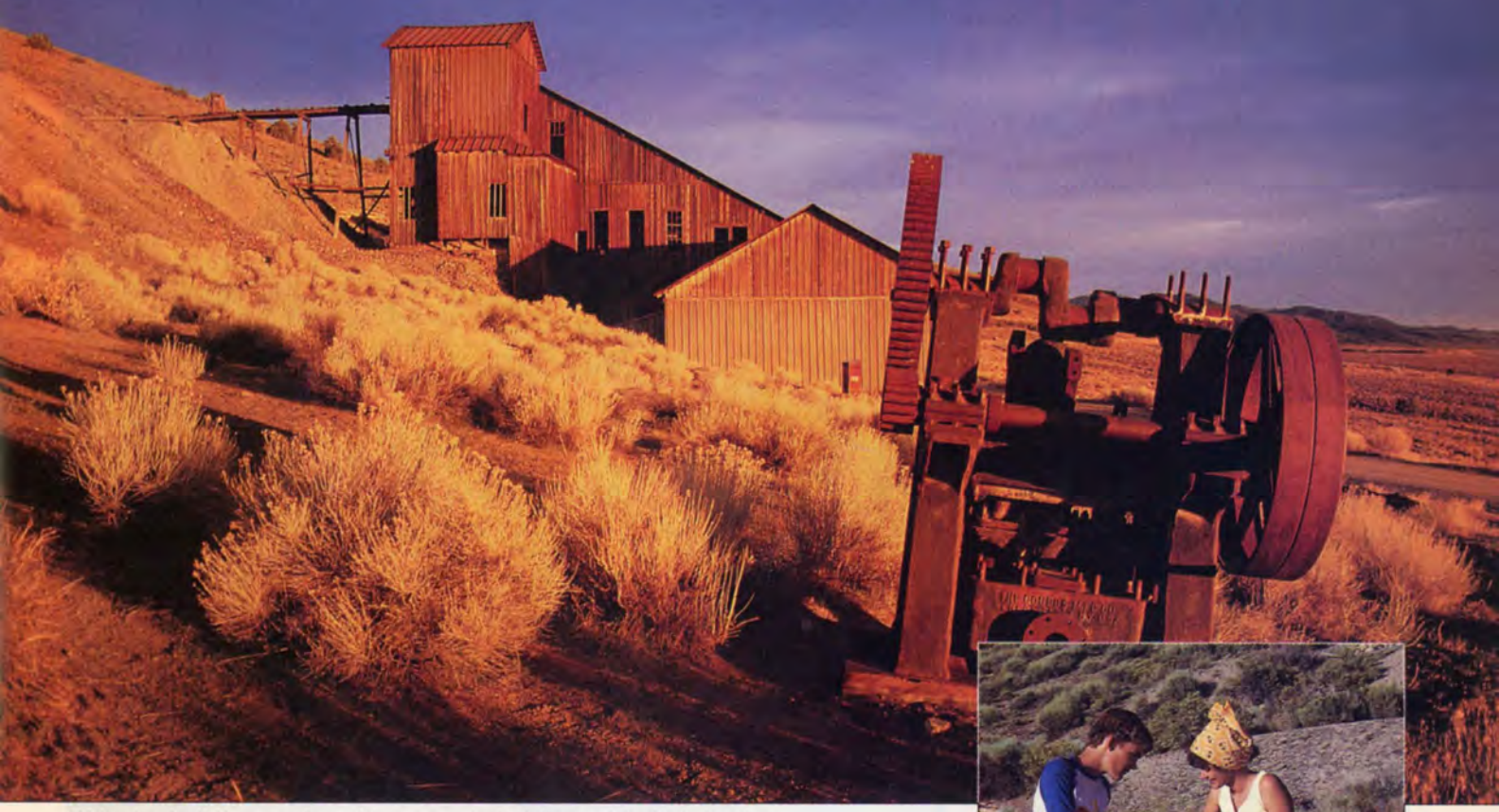
"Getting up at 3 a.m. wasn't that bad," shrugged Harrison. Even the confusion and vague instructions of the drive's first days, they decided, had been productive.

At seven the next morning—what they'd regarded just two weeks before as dawn—the same group sat in a van headed back to the Reno airport and reality Not until then did Harold Johns describe a scene he'd watched from under his tent flap: Three cowboys, dressed in dusters and oilskins, had stood silently around the dying campfire after everyone else was in bed.

It was quiet in the van except for the cars whizzing past on the freeway, until one dude nodded and smiled.

"It's kind of nice just to know they're out there."

Terri Sprenger-Farley is a Verdi freelancer whose heroes have always been, and still are, cowboys.



Old mine buildings and machinery remind visitors of Berlin's heyday.



BACK TO BERLIN

The ghost towns of Berlin and Grantsville tell tales of silver mines and sea monsters.

By Jim Grogan

There is a ghost town in Nevada where the spirits of miners and pioneers mingle with present-day tourists and shades of unimaginable antiquity

At first there isn't much to see—a few small houses, some outbuildings, the mill on the hill. But the houses are neat and well maintained and sit comfortably overlooking the vast valley to the east. The outbuildings are not tumbledown, either. Rather, they look as if they have simply been closed for an extended weekend. The mill has been recently repaired.

This is the town of Berlin, and rather than see it crumble into the desert floor, the state of Nevada decided to preserve it as a park that also includes a major paleontological site.

Part of Berlin's charm stems from the fact that there are no Ye Olde Bottle Shoppes here. There are no bars. The tourist could not purchase a sample of Real Gold Ore even if he wanted one. There is not a T-shirt for sale anywhere. There is no litter in the streets.

Instead, there is a town that gives a modern-day visitor an idea of what it was like to work and dream in the Nevada desert in the days when the land's only resource was silver.

This quiet backwater, 23 miles east of the central Nevada mining town of Gabbs, is the history of Nevada in miniature. Not just recent history, either, but history that stretches back farther, almost, than one can imagine.

Although the area is now quiet, in 1863 it was the site of fevered activity after gold and silver were discovered in West Union Canyon. Within a year three towns had sprung up and were prospering: Ione, north of what is now Berlin; Grantsville to the south; and, in a canyon a mile southeast of Berlin, the town of Union.

By 1867 the area was home to more than 1,500 people and had schools, a newspaper, and more than 50 businesses.

But, as has been the case throughout Nevada's history, the ore gave out and the people moved on. The 1880 census listed Grantsville as having 475 residents, and Union had virtually disappeared.

In 1895 the district flowered again with a low-grade silver-lead strike, and Berlin sprang up, built in part with

Photos: Sid McCammond (above), Gayland Anderson (right)

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Some of Berlin's homes and mine buildings look as if they never were abandoned.

lumber salvaged from the ruins of Union. But again, the ore petered out and the mine closed. By the late 1920s the district was a ghost.

But in 1928 Professor Siemon Muller, while exploring West Union Canyon at the behest of Stanford University, made a discovery that would put Berlin back on the map. High on the walls of the canyon, directly above the old town, he found the remains of sea monsters.

Ichthyosaurs, as these monsters are properly called, were huge aquatic reptiles that lived 160 to 220 million years ago. They reached a length of 55 feet or more, and with dagger-sized teeth these ancient reptilian whales ruled the Mesozoic oceans.

Although Muller reported his find in 1929, no work was done in the area until 1953, when Professor Charles L. Camp of the University of California at Berkeley began excavations. In 1955 the Nevada Legislature, seeking to preserve the fossils for future generations, created Ichthyosaur State Park.

Today the park includes a large portion of West Union Canyon and covers the old Berlin townsite as well.

The state engaged an old-time resident, Firmin Breuner, to share his knowledge of the area, and signs, written by Breuner, enable the visitor to form a good picture of what the town looked like when it was producing.

A couple of miles farther up West Union Canyon lie the ruins of Union. Situated in a narrow tree-lined defile,

Photo: Kay McCammond

it is cool and inviting, the perfect place to spend the afternoon exploring what remains of the town. Sadly, that is not much. The adobe bricks of the more substantial buildings have melted back into the desert from whence they came, and the wooden structures have long since been plundered to erect newer dwellings or burned for firewood.

The picnic area at the north end of town was Camp's base camp during his excavations, and his cabin still stands, although boarded up and awaiting restoration.

Directly up a hill from the cabin is the fossil building, where the mineralized skeletons of several ichthyosaurs can be inspected.

About half a mile from the fossil building is a well-maintained campground with running water and sanitary facilities. It sits on a low ridge, where one can view Ione Valley and the mountains to the west.

But the district's most delightful feature is south of the park on private land. This treasure is Grantsville.

It squats in Grantsville Canyon like a loyal dog that has almost given up hope that his master will return, but was told to wait until he did.

Mining activity has continued sporadically in the area, and there is evidence that the hills above the town are still being worked. Claim notices abound on the canyon walls and further up the canyon.

As one enters the foot of the canyon, the corrugated tin shell of the old mill rises out of an enormous mine dump on the left. The mine office sits below

A bit further, among the ruins of the town proper, is an old red brick schoolhouse. It offers a good view of the canyon as well as a roof over your head should it rain while you're exploring. Although the inside is in pretty good shape, it has somehow acquired the distinctive Nevada litter of abandoned major appliances. Don't try to clean them out, though; in a few years they will have the same air of quaint dilapidation as the rest of the place.

The area also has a few old shacks, some rock walls, and—another reason the area is still being used—a stock pond.

The lower canyon is another story however. The ruins of rock and adobe houses, stores, dugouts, cellars, and a well can plainly be seen. It isn't until one has descended as far as one can go, wandering around trying to find the alignment of streets, that it becomes apparent how large the settlement was in its heyday The entire canyon floor was built up, a city in its time and place.

The townsite has not been heavily vandalized, and there is enough left to provide days of intriguing exploration.

A warning: The town sits on private land. Ranching and mining continue in the area, and people depend on the townsite for their livelihood. If you didn't bring it, don't take it. If you did bring it, please do take it, and leave the place as you found it as a courtesy to both the owners and the next visitors.

Above the canyon looms Grant's Peak. There are rough roads leading to the top, but don't attempt them without a four-wheel-drive vehicle, a shovel, and a friend or two to clear the way in front. It is just about as fast to hike to the top, where a heavily windswept campsite awaits. The view from the top of Grant's Peak is stunning and well worth the climb.

Grantsville is not the place to bring your motorhome. It is a place to stomp around with a pair of stout boots, tent, canteen, and sense of wonder.

Jim Grogan of Zephyr Cove discovered his first ghost town while spending a summer in Goldfield when he was "just a sprout." He runs the photo labs at Caesars and Harvey's at Stateline, Lake Tahoe.



10 GREAT

MOJAVE JAUNTS

The lure of the Mojave is revealed in these trips out of Las Vegas.
By Katherine Rohde

Spring is a great time to explore the Mojave Desert of southern Nevada (see page 14). Wildflowers are in bloom, and the mild weather is perfect for camping and touring. Within an hour's drive of Las Vegas are numerous places that show off the Mojave's unique character. Here are 10 of the best:



Sandstone explorers find all sorts of views at the Valley of Fire.

1 Geology Exposed. A good starting point is the visitor center at Lake Mead National Recreation Area halfway between Boulder City and Hoover Dam. After you review the displays and books, the rangers can point you to the North Shore Road, which winds along the lake toward Valley of Fire, Overton, and Interstate 15. The drive is a classic in terms of scenery and exposed geology For example, red Aztec sandstone is revealed at the Bowl of Fire and the Redstone picnic area, which has a quarter-mile nature trail.

2 Vegas Views. Here's how to enjoy room service and desert views at the same time. First, get an east facing room high up in a tall Las Vegas hotel like the Hilton or Tropicana. One evening at sunset, have dinner by the window You have to be quick, but if you look east and south, you can see some nice alpenglow Just when the valley gets dark, the mountains turn pinkish-orange as the sun's last rays are refracted in the sky It's the desert at its most velvety

3 Water Views. You can spot hot springs and sometimes bighorn sheep when canoeing or rafting down the Colorado River below Hoover Dam. From the water, Black Canyon is ruggedly beautiful, and the washes emptying into the river illustrate the region's drainage. Trips are offered by private companies, or you can bring your own raft or canoe. For information, contact the National Park Service at Lake Mead's visitor center, 702-293-8906. There are river trips available at Laughlin, where you also can ride the free casino shuttles across the river.

4 Cholla Forest. East of Searchlight, as you drive down to Cottonwood Cove on Lake Mohave, you'll see a surprising cholla forest that extends for acres. Scientists aren't sure exactly why the teddy bear chollas have thrived in this spot. It could be the soil, elevation, and the cacti's tendency to grow in colonies, but whatever the reason, the sight is worth a roll of film.

5 Mount Charleston. Driving up Kyle or Lee canyons on Mount Charleston you rise from about 2,400 to 7,000 feet in elevation. The ride takes you from creosote desert to Joshua trees at the Mojave's higher elevations, past piñon and juniper trees, and up to ponderosa pines. Hiking to the top of Charleston, at 11,912 feet, you pass bristlecones and windswept tundra. It is typical in desert mountains to move up out of the desert and find coniferous forests—not exactly what you'd expect to encounter.

6 Cactus Garden. Visit the cactus garden at Ethel M Chocolates in Henderson. You can see not only cactus from the Mojave but also species from other deserts, like the saguaro of Arizona's Sonoran Desert, all the while munching delectables from Ethel M's candy shop.

7 Bajadas. When you drive on the loop road at Red Rock Canyon west of Las Vegas, you're driving upward on a bajada. Formed by alluvial fans, bajadas in the Mojave cause an unusual visual effect—they make the landscape seem to tilt.

8 Joshua Trees. For another spectacle of nature, take a drive on the Joshua Highway (a.k.a. State Route 164 or the Nipton Highway) west of Searchlight. There's a dense stand of Joshua trees that put on a flowery show during spring bloom.

9 Beatty Country. Just west of Beatty, the picturesque decay of the mining town of Rhyolite is an example of the desert reclaiming its own. To the west is Death Valley. There, borax, a product of ancient floods and droughts, was a major lure for early Mojave prospectors.

10 Valley of Fire. Because of its sandy soil, this state park has remarkably healthy creosote and bursage communities growing amid its red-rock formations. The creosote here is full and green. Mouse's Tank is an example of the water pockets that are the lifeblood of desert animals.

Katherine Rohde of Boulder City is chief interpreter at Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

Photo: Kay McCammond

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On the Cover: Subaru Gold Nuggets Kids Cross-Country Ski Race at Royal Gorge. Photo by David Madison

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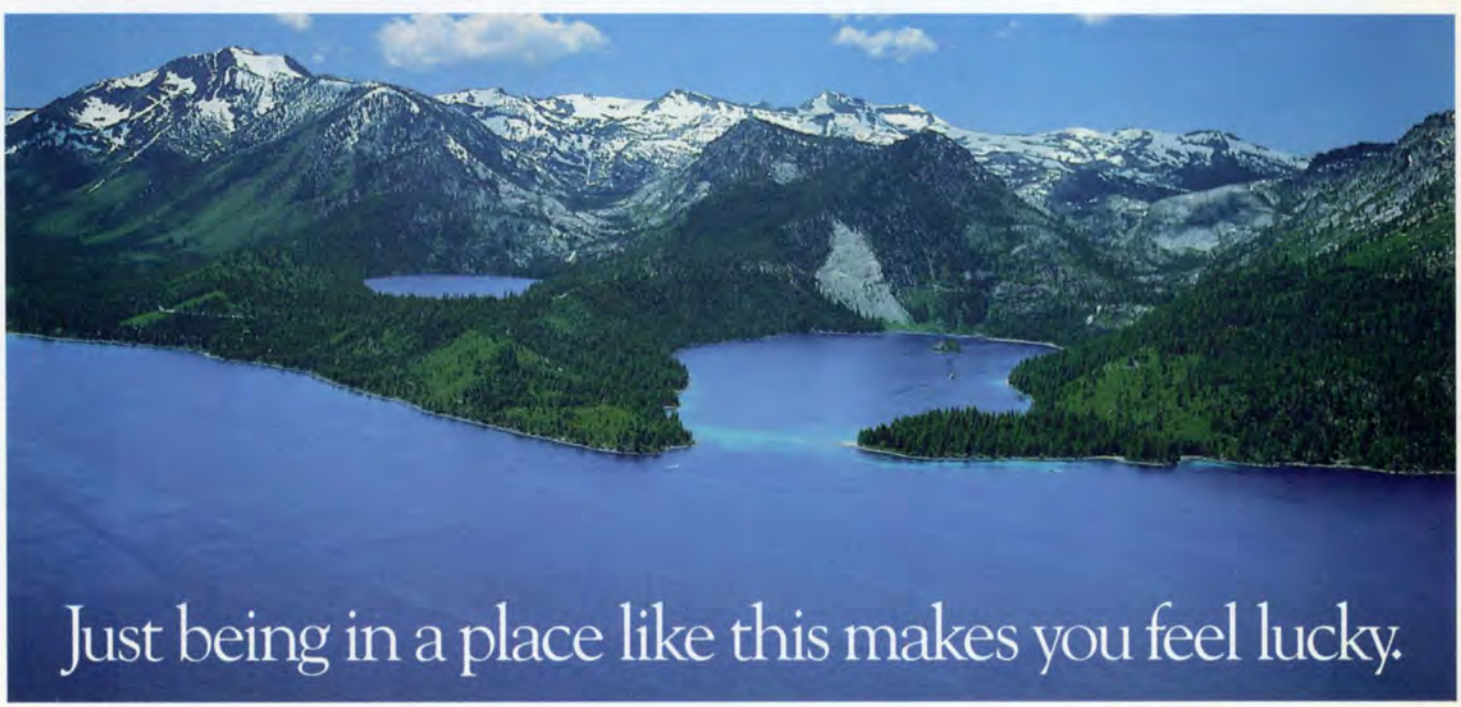
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The area code is 702 throughout Nevada. All 800 numbers are toll-free.

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STATE AND NATIONAL PARKS

Nevada Division of State Parks: Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710; 687-4387
Death Valley National Monument: Death Valley, CA 92328; 619-786-2331
Great Basin National Park: Baker, NV 89311; 234-7331
Lake Mead National Recreation Area: 601 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; 293-8907

MORE CAMPING AND HIKING

Bureau of Land Management: Box 12000, Reno, NV 89520, 785-6402; Box 26569, Las Vegas, NV 89126, 647-5000; 1523 Hot Springs Rd., Suite 300, Carson City, NV 89701, 885-6000; Box 831, Elko, NV 89801, 738-4071
Humboldt National Forest: 976 Mountain City Hwy., Elko, NV 89801, 738-5171
Toiyabe National Forest: 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431, 331-6444; 550 E. Charleston, Las Vegas, NV 89104, 477-7782 (for Mount Charleston area)

FISHING AND HUNTING

Nevada Dept. of Wildlife: Main: 1100 Valley Rd., Reno, NV 89503, 688-1500; Southern Nevada: State Mail Complex, Las Vegas, NV 89158, 486-5127
Pyramid Lake: Pyramid Lake Fisheries: Star Route, Sutcliffe, NV 89510, 673-6335

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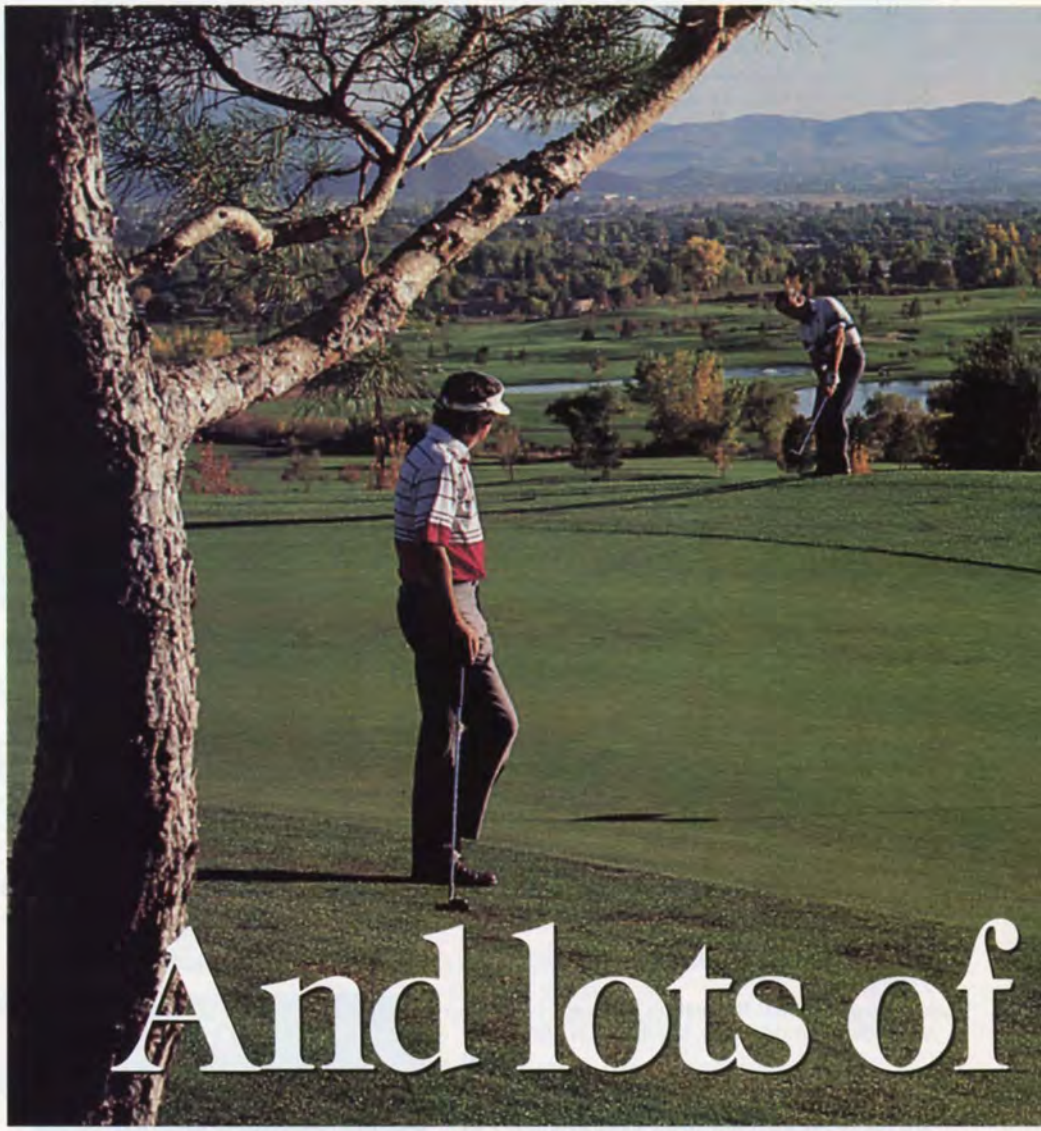
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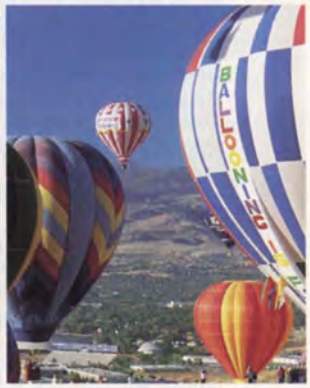
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NEVADA EVENTS

Las Vegas





Traditional blues artists Cephas and Wiggins (above) kick off the Craft Fair and Rib Burn-Off May 17 at Sunset Park in Las Vegas. The power and excitement of off-road racing is shown during the Nissan 400 Desert Race (right) outside Las Vegas March 1-3.

HOT LINES

Charleston Heights Arts Center: films, art exhibits, chamber music, 386-6383

Fern Adair Conservatory of the Arts: ballet, musicals, theater, 458-7575

Nevada Division of State Parks: hikes, tours, stargazing, campfire programs at 21 parks statewide, District VI, Las Vegas, 486-5126

Reed Whipple Cultural Center: concerts, film festivals, melodramas, 386-6211

UNLV Baseball: 3/8-10 v. LSU; 3/19-20 v. United International Univ.; 3/22 v. Loyola Marymount; 3/23-24 v. Illinois; 4/1-2 v. UNR; 4/5-7 v. UC Santa Barbara; 4/16-17 v. New Mexico State; 4/19-21 v. Cal-State Fullerton; 4/30-5/1 v. Arizona State; 5/3-5 v. Univ. of Pacific; Roger Barnson Field, 739-FANS

UNLV Concerts: music and dance, 739-3101

For chamber of commerce and convention center phone numbers, see page E-4

EVENTS

March

Art Exhibit, thru 3/2, recent paintings by Mary Ann Bonjorni of the UNLV Art Dept., Barrick Museum of Natural History, UNLV 739-3381

"Fool For Love," thru 3/2, comedy, 8pm, Sunday matinee at 2pm on 2/24, Clark County Community College Theatre, North Las Vegas, 644-PLAY

Moscow Circus, thru 3/3, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV 739-3900

Best of Nevada Camera Club Exhibit, thru 3/10, juried exhibit of members' best for 1990 plus Nevada Camera Club's Photographer of the Year exhibit, Flamingo Library, 451-2132

Winthrop Davis: Photographs of Southern Nevada and the Dam, thru 3/23, exhibit of photographs taken during the early 1930s, including shots of Boulder Dam workers, migrants' camps, and early Las Vegas, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 486-5205

Desert Treasures Mineral and Mining Show, thru 3/24, Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955

World War II and the Emergence of Modern Las Vegas, thru 12/1, an exhibit of the major events on the "home front" in Las Vegas during World War II—the founding of Nellis Air Force Base, a major defense plant in Henderson, and the emergence of a resort industry at war's end, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 486-5205

Powerlifting Competition, 3/1, Mirabelli Community Center, 386-6359

Hoover Dam Square Dance Festival, 3/1-2, 18th annual, on Sat. dance on Hoover Dam from 9-10am, workshop and dancing at Elton Garrett Junior High School, Boulder City, 293-4918

Southwest Collector's Gun Show, 3/1-3, convention center, Henderson, 565-2171

Nissan 400 Desert Race, 3/1-3, second annual off-road race in the desert northeast of Las



Vegas involving four laps over a 100-mile course; on Fri. Contingency Row (tech and safety inspection) takes place on Fremont Street from 8am-5pm; on Sat. race starts from the Las Vegas International Speedway; more than 300 vehicles expected to enter, 361-5404

Powers and Company Craft Festival, 3/1-3, Cashman Field, 386-7100

Art Exhibit, 3/1-31, paintings by Lelah and Harry Clementson of Logandale, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

Very Special Arts Southern Nevada Festival, 3/2, a celebration of the arts; theme is "Celebrate the Magic," includes visual, dance, music, drama, workshops, performances, and exhibits; participation is open to everyone, Clark County Community College, North Las Vegas, 598-1976

Kite Karnival, 3/2, workshops, judging in categories of homemade kites, Kite Flite, entertainment, Freedom Park, 386-6297

Lung Run for Clean Air, 3/2, 5-K run and 1-mile fun run/walk for clean air; American Lung Assn. of Nevada, Las Vegas, 454-2500

America's Living Folk Traditions, 3/2-5/21, a major exhibition from the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, NM, includes performing artists and craftspersons, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 486-5205

UNLV Jazz Ensemble I, 3/3, 2pm, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 739-3801

Sierra Wind Quintet, 3/3, 7:30pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3801

Arizona Queous '90, 3/3-31, 50-piece, three-dimensional works, mobiles, and traditional, Las Vegas Art Museum, Lorenzi Park, 647-4300

Art Exhibit, 3/3-31, miniatures exhibit and works by local elementary-school children, Las Vegas Art Museum, 647-4300

The Work of Art in the Age of Perestroika, 3/18-4/14, 17 Soviet artists explore the effect of glasnost and exposure to the West on a younger generation of artists; exhibit deals with topics such as Soviet avant-garde, feminism, popular culture from the Stalin era, decay of Soviet mass culture, Nevada Institute for Contemporary Art (NICA), Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery, UNLV 739-3751

Alixia Bailey Photography Exhibit, 3/4-29, Alta Ham Fine Arts Building, UNLV 739-3801

University Wind Ensemble, 3/5, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3801

"Confessions of a Nightingale," 3/7 Ray Stricklyn as Tennessee Williams, 7pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

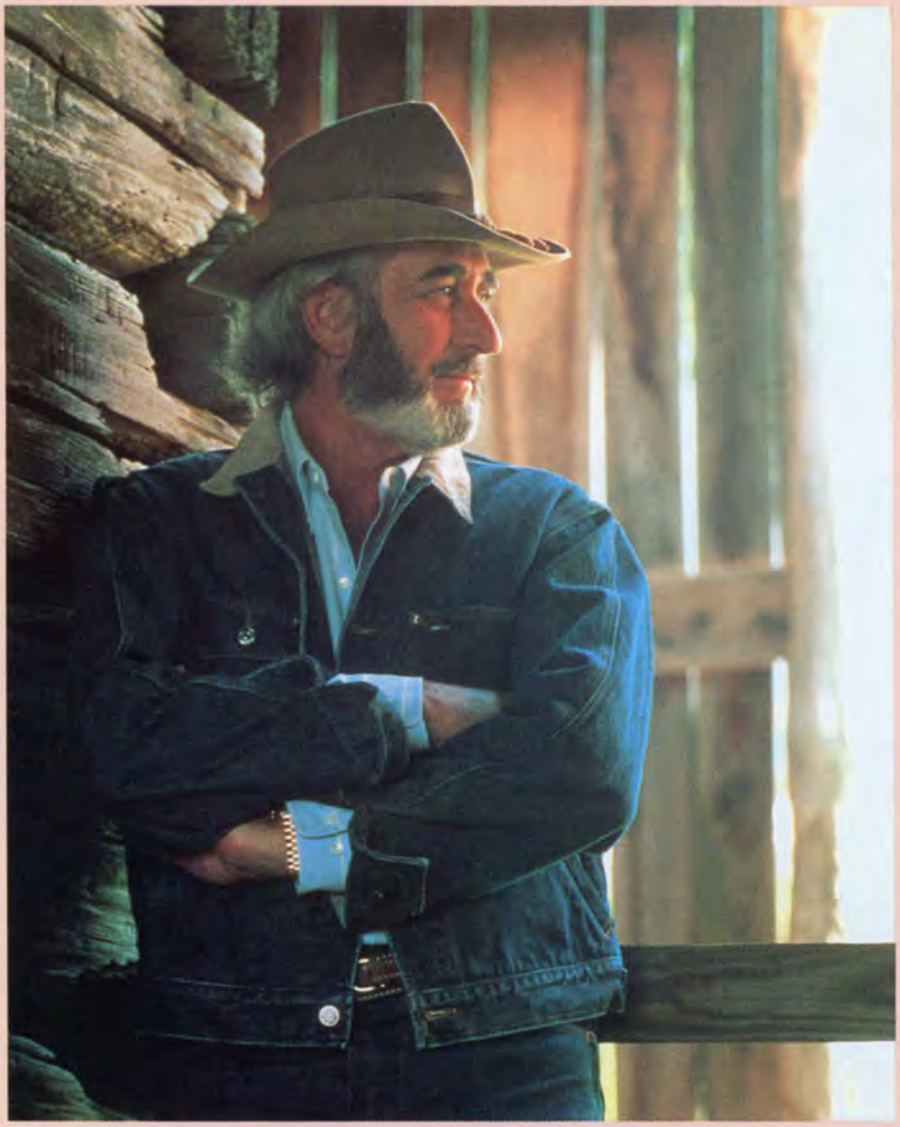
"Are You Now or Have You Ever Been?" 3/7-10 and 3/13-17 Eric Bentley's docudrama on the infamous House Committee on Un-American Activities hearings in the 1950s; 8pm Wed.-

__Reminder:__ To confirm dates and times, use the phone number listed with each event. For out-of-state callers, the area code is 702 throughout Nevada. For hotels' toll-free phone numbers, call 800-555-1212.

Photo: Trackside Photo

Down-Home Don

By Jackie Brett



Unpretentious country musician Don Williams likes to think before he acts.

Don Williams is the quiet man of modern country music. He's shy, unassuming, unpretentious, and laid-back. After a question he pauses thoughtfully before he slowly constructs his answer. Personally and professionally, he's careful about trying to do the right thing.

"I guess that's one of the things I constantly strive for," he said, "to do what's right and to be fair. I don't like conflicts of interest. I don't like—we're going to do this one thing, and on the surface it looks like were going to do this—but if you really dig down and think about it, the undercurrent is something else.

"I just try to walk all the way around a situation and look at it from every angle. Then I try to do what's right after I've examined it," he explained.

Part of living up to his philosophy is not making quick decisions. Williams told a story about his two boys, Gary and Timmy. As children they would confront their dad with things that needed fast decisions.

"Kids are great at that. When they did that to me two or three times, I sat them both down and said, 'From now on when you want to do something and you come to me and there's not enough time to think about it, the answer will automatically be no. So we got that sorted out pretty early."

His boys are grown now. Gary is 28 and Timmy is 24, and both are interested in music. Gary plays drums and Timmy plays lead guitar.

Is Williams going to give them the parental hand-up in the industry?

"I think the only way I would do anything would be if they came to me and said, 'Daddy do you think you could whatever?' Then we would have to sit down and talk about that. And, if I determined that what they really wanted me to do was the 'right thing to do, I would. But that hasn't happened so far because we've taken an attitude with it. If it's important enough to them, they'll get out and make it happen. Then it will really mean what it should to them."

Williams is a disciplined man with high standards for himself and his family. His marriage to Joy his constant companion, has lasted 31 years.

Williams isn't afraid of hard work. His home in Nashville is a 100-acre working farm, where his work is never done. At his winter home in Hawaii, he relaxes completely and does whatever strikes his fancy.

Musically he's equally devoted even though he's tried several times in the last 10 years to get out of the business. He would happily do without the interviews, the agents, the managers, the record companies, and the road work.

"But as far as making records and writing, if all that was removed I think I'd feel a hole in my life," he said.

"I feel very responsible to my music. My constant hope in what I do is that whoever the listener is feels something. I think we have to learn again to pay attention to each other. I think in a lot of ways we're losing that."

After a quarter of a century in music, more than 40 singles, 22 albums, and five certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America, it's safe to say his music has had an impact.

Williams is not flamboyant. He sits on a stool on stage, cradles his guitar, and sings mostly ballads. The lyrics are clear because his baritone voice is slow, easy, stress-free, and uncluttered. He makes you think about love and life.

Another Williams trademark is the cavalry-style Stetson that he's had for more that 10 years.

"The one I've worn for several years now is a duplicate. The original one (given to him by people at 20th Century Fox when he was making *W.W. and The Dixie Dancekings*) was stolen and I got it back after a week and a half. Stetson was really gracious to me and told me that if I would bring the original out to their factory, they would cut one as close as possible to the same dimensions as the original."

Williams may be wearing a duplicate hat, but his music and beliefs are distinctly original.

Don Williams performs with Crystal Gayle at the Las Vegas Hilton April 18-28.





Held annually for more than 20 years, the Clark County Fair is a blue ribbon event. The April 11-14 celebration will be in Logandale, 60 miles northeast of Las Vegas. The fair offers all the traditional favorites: a carnival with rides, a livestock show, and, of course, cotton candy.

Sat., 2pm Sun., Black Box Theatre, UNLV $7 739-3801

Home Show, 3/8-10, Cashman Field Center, 434-0843

Jerry N. Uelsmann Photo Exhibit, 3/8-4/6, Barrick Museum of Natural History, UNLV 739-3381

American Dream Festival and English Leather Calendar Girl National Finals, 3/9, Stardust, 732-6111

Waverly Consort, 3/9, music from the 12th-18th centuries with historical instruments, 8pm, $17.50, $25, $45, and $90, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3801

Volleyball Mania and Racquetball Tournament, 3/9, co-ed round robin-style, North and South Gym, UNLV 454-2500

Invitational Choral Festival, 3/9, outstanding high school and college choirs from the Southwest will perform, $3, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3801

University Dance Theatre Spring Concert, 3/9-10, jazz, modern, and ballet, 8pm Sat., 2pm Sun., $8 general, $5 children, students, and seniors, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 739-3801

Masters of Bluegrass, 3/10, concert featuring Josh Graves, Kenny Baker, Jesse McReynold, and Eddie Adcock, 2 and 7pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

Las Vegas Symphony, 3/11, with pianist Robert Taub, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3420

Desert Inn LPGA International Golf Tournament, 3/13-17, women's pro tour event, Desert Inn Country Club, 733-4288

"A Lovely Light," 3/14, Marion Ross (Marion Cunningham on television's *Happy Days*) plays Edna St. Vincent Millay in Dorothy Stickney's play, 7pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

"All My Sons," 3/15-17 3/21-24, and 3/28-31, drama, Las Vegas Little Theatre, Spring Valley Library, 383-0021

New World Brass Quintet Concert, 3/16, 7:30pm, $6, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3801

Brigham Young University Folk Dance Performance, 3/16, Cashman Field, 383-0500

St. Patrick's Day Celebration, 3/17, silver anniversary (25th), parade, block party, and Irish Village, Fremont St., 363-7178 or 735-2713

Pierce Emata Piano Concert, 3/17 afternoon recital and tea, auditorium, 2pm, LAWPD Building, 600 Nevada Highway, Boulder City, 456-6695 or 294-5058

"Mexico Romantico," 3/17 New York's Repertorio Español in a nostalgic revue of romantic Mexican music from the 19th and 20th centuries, 2pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

"Celebration of Life," 3/17 musical, Classics According to John Henry, United Way Services, Cashman Field, 798-6877

1990-91 Division I NCAA West Regional Women's Basketball Championship, 3/21-23, four of the nation's top 16 Division I women's

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Photos: Kate Butler





Patriotism abounds during Henderson's Industrial Days (left) in April. Chi Chi Rodriguez (right) won the 1990 Las Vegas Senior Classic.

basketball teams will vie for a spot in the 1991 Final Four; the final game will be nationally televised on CBS live from the Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV 739-3900

"Mornings at Seven," 3/21-24 and 3/27-31, comedy, UNLV's Senior Theatre Program, $3, Helen J. Stewart School, 739-3801

Summer Sports Show Spectacular, 3/22-24, Cashman Field, 386-7100

Corporate Challenge, 3/23-4/27 four-week olympic-style competition includes 26 athletic events; local companies vie for being number one in settings other than the workplace, City of Las Vegas Dept. of Parks and Leisure Activities, held at various locations throughout Las Vegas, 386-6297

Mozart Concert, 3/24, in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Mozart's death, the Musical Arts Chorus and Orchestra will perform Mozart's "Requiem Mass in D minor" and "Ave Verum," 3pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 451-6672

April

Art Exhibit, 4/1-30, works by Jerry Mitchler of Overton, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

"Candide," 4/4-7 and 4/10-14, comic operetta, $7 Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 739-3801

Concert, 4/5, famed flute soloist from Ireland, James Galway, performs with the renowned chamber orchestra I Solisti Veneti, 8pm, $25, $35, $62.50, $125, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3801

Golden Memories Car Club Spring Fling 1991, 4/5-7, convention center, Henderson, 454-5543

"You Can't Take It With You," 4/5-7 4/9-13, comedy, New West Stage Company, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 876-6972

Native American Arts Festival, 4/5-28, Indian arts and crafts on exhibit and for sale, craft demonstrations, speakers, and dances, Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955

"Men Dancing," 4/6, Greg Lizenbery performs a solo dance program that features the creative genius of eight modern dance choreographers, 8pm, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

Opus Dance Concert, 4/7 and 4/14, Opus Dance Ensemble of Las Vegas is comprised of professional dancers from leading Strip production

CASINO NOTES

•The **Flamingo Hilton Las Vegas** turned 44 years old on December 26. Opened in 1946 by infamous mobster Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel, the hotel has evolved from a 105-room resort built "in the middle of nowhere" on Highway 91 heading to Los Angeles to a 3,530-room Strip hotel.

•Last winter the late Benny Binion was inducted into the Poker Hall of Fame at **Binion's Horseshoe.** Several well-known Hollywood movie actors attended the ceremonies. Binion, who passed away on Christmas Day in 1989, came to Las Vegas in 1946. He is credited with developing the game of poker into a respectable international pastime through the promotion of such major tournaments as the World Series of Poker and the Hall of Fame Poker Classic.

•In November, the **Stardust** celebrated the topping off of the hotel's new 32-story tower, the tallest building on the Las Vegas Strip. More than 60 company executives and members of the press took the manlift to the roof to watch as a huge pine tree was lifted to the roof by crane, marking the end of major construction. By April 1, 1991, when the tower is completed, the Stardust will be the ninth largest hotel in the world, with 2,500 guest rooms.



The late poker legend, Benny Binion.

•The **Gold Coast** has opened its all-new child care center, triple the size of its previous facility and with a staff big enough to care for 51 youngsters. The center is open 9 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week, and is staffed by a group of 14 licensed and trained caretakers. The Gold Coast provides this care at no cost to patrons of the resort. The center features numerous toys and entertainment devices, including various crafts, television, a VHS with children's movies, and a hand-crafted puppet theater. It also has a listening center equipped with earphones so that children can listen to music and stories.

•Ripley's Believe It or Not!, Robert Ripley's collection of oddities from around the world, is now offering free admission to active military personnel and their families. Located in the **Four Queens** in downtown Las Vegas, Ripley's is open daily from 9 a.m. to midnight Sunday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Photo: J.R. Martin (top right)

shows, 10th concert season, Tropicana Hotel's Tiffany Theatre, 732-9646

Wynton Marsalis Concert, 4/8, 7:30pm, $17.50, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3801

UNLV Chamber Chorale, 4/9, 7:30pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3801

Clark County Fair, 4/11-14, carnival, livestock show, rodeo events, home arts exhibits, Lamanite Generation performance, fairgrounds, Logandale, 60 miles north of Las Vegas, 398-FAIR

Henderson Industrial Days, 4/13-21, community-wide event with parade, carnival, concert, beauty pageant, talent contest, chili cookoff, softball tournaments, and car show, Henderson, 565-8951

Las Vegas Symphony, 4/15, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3420

Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig, 4/17 8pm, $25, $35, $62.50, $125, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3801

Industrial Days Dance, 4/19, convention center, Henderson, 565-2085

UNLV Jazz Ensemble II, 4/19, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3801

Musical Arts Singers Concert, 4/21, love songs down through the centuries with madrigals and contemporary ballads, 3pm, Christ Church, Episcopal, 2000 S. Maryland Pkwy., 739-3801

"Baba Yaga," 4/22-25, Russian folktale, program at elementary schools in Laughlin, Sandy Valley, Indian Springs, and Logandale by the Tears of Joy Puppet Theatre, call for schedule, 455-7340

Stephane Grappalli, 4/23, jazz violinist, 7:30pm, $12.50, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3801

"Sir Isaac's Duel," 4/24-28, original comedy by Rand Higbee, an award-winning UNLV M.F.A. playwright, $3, Black Box Theatre, UNLV 739-3801

"Baba Yaga," 4/26, Russian folktale, Tears of Joy Puppet Theatre, North Las Vegas Library, North Las Vegas, 649-2363

Gregg Bielemeier in Concert, 4/26-27 avant-garde concert of post-modern dance, $8 general, $5 children, students, and seniors, Studio Theatre, Room 302, McDermott Physical Education Complex, UNLV 739-3801

"Social Security," 4/26-28 and 5/2-4, comedy, Clark County Community College Theatre, North Las Vegas, 644-PLAY

Richie Cole and Alto Madness, 4/27, jazz, 8pm, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

Desert Winds Invitational Band Festival, 4/27 Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3801

International Food Festival, 4/28, ninth annual, 22 ethnic organizations participating, food, drinks, cultural entertainment, raffle, Lagun Onak Las Vegas Basque Club, Las Vegas Convention Center, 361-6834 or 363-0676

World Series of Poker, 4/28-5/16, 22nd annual, the world's best poker players gather to compete for $6 million in a series of poker games; the new world champion is guaranteed at least $1 million, Binion's Horseshoe, 382-1600

Las Vegas Senior Classic, 4/29-5/6, Senior PGA golf tournament, Desert Inn Country Club, 733-4288

Vienna Chamber Orchestra with Philippe Entremont, 4/30, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3801

May

Art Exhibit, 5/1-31, works by Maria Wurtz of Logandale, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

POCA Las Vegas Fun Rally, 5/2-5, gathering of owners of Pantera sports cars, highlight is car display on Fremont St. on Sat. from 5:30-

Star In A Winning Roll.



LAS VEGAS

ALWAYS ON THE MONEY

SHOWGUIDE

Aladdin, 736-0240: "Alakazaam," revue, indf.
Bally's, 739-4567: *Celebrity Room:* Earth, Wind, and Fire, 2/28-3/3; Al Jarreau, 3/7-9; George Carlin, 3/14-18; Dean Martin, 3/21-23; The Oak Ridge Boys, 4/4-10; George Carlin, 4/11-15 and 5/9-13; Tom Jones, 4/25-5/8; Rodney Dangerfield, 5/16-22; Andrew Dice Clay, 5/23-26; Dean Martin, 5/30-6/1; *Ziegfeld Theatre:* "Jubilee!" indf. (dark Wed.); *Catch a Rising Star:* comedy/variety club, indf., (starring Brett Butler, Lee Allan, and Tim Cavanagh thru 3/4)
Barbary Coast, 737-7111: Entertainment TBA
Bourbon Street, 737-7200: New Orleans Jazz, indf.
Caesars Palace, 731-7333: Joan Rivers, 2/27-3/4; David Copperfield, 3/6-11 and 3/13-18; The Judds, 3/27-4/1; Jay Leno/Mary Wilson, 4/3-8; The Pointer Sisters, 4/17-22; David Copperfield, 4/24-29 and 5/1-6; Clint Black, 5/8-13; The Pointer Sisters, 5/22-27
California Hotel, 385-1222: Entertainment TBA
Circus Circus, 734-0410: Free circus acts, 11am-midnight
Continental, 737-5555: "Sex Over 40," indf. (dark Sun.)
Desert Inn, 733-4566: Franki Valli and the Four Seasons/Paul Revere and the Raiders, 3/7-27; Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers, 5/2-15; Joan Rivers, 5/16-6/5
Dunes, 737-4741: Earl Thomas Connely/Lacy J. Dalton, 3/25-31; The Good Fellas Tour starring Al Martino, Eddie Fisher, and Charlie Callas, 4/8-21; Latin Week with Tierra El Chicano, 4/29-5/5; Sawyer Brown, 5/21-27
El Rancho, 796-2222: Entertainment TBA
Excalibur: 597-7600: "King Arthur's Tournament," indf. (dark Sun.); nightly lounge entertainment
Fitzgeralds, 382-6111: Nightly entertainment
Flamingo Hilton, 733-3333: "City Lites," stage spectacular, indf. (dark Sun.);
Four Queens, 385-4011: The Original Drifters, 3/26-4/7; Monday Night Jazz, indf.,
Gold Coast, 367-7111: Sorta Dixie Jazz Band, indf.
Golden Nugget, 386-8100: Tanya Tucker thru 3/1; Yakov Smirnoff, 3/7-11; Don Rickles, 3/14-18
Gold Strike Hotel, Jean, 477-5000: Entertainment TBA
Gold Strike Inn, Boulder City, 293-5000: Entertainment TBA
Hacienda, 739-8911: "Fire and Ice," indf. (dark Mon.); Redd Foxx, indf. (dark Mon.)
Holiday, 369-5222: Rocky Senne's "Keep Smilin' America," revue, indf. (dark Sun.), headlining Glenn Smith thru 3/2; Dick Contino, 3/4-4/6; Bob Anderson, 4/8-5/11
Imperial Palace, 794-3261: "Legends in Concert," indf. (dark Sun.)
Lady Luck, 477-3000: "Luck Is a Lady," revue, starring The Walkers, indf. (dark Thurs.)
Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5755: Bill Cosby, thru 3/10; Temptations/Four Tops, 3/12-31; Wayne Newton, 4/2-14; Don Williams/Crystal Gayle, 4/18-28
Maxim, 731-4300: Comedy Cabaret, indf. (dark Sun.)
The Mirage, 792-7777: Siegfried and Roy, magic spectacular, performances three out of four weeks every month, call for dates and times



Former Supreme Mary Wilson appears with Jay Leno at Caesars Palace April 3-8.

Nevada Landing, Jean, 387-5000: Entertainment TBA
Paddlewheel, 734-0711: Entertainment TBA
O'Sheas, 733-3111: Entertainment TBA
Palace Station, 367-2411: Entertainment TBA
Peppermill Resort, Mesquite: 346-5833: Entertainment TBA
Ramada Hotel San Remo, 739-9000: Entertainment TBA
Rio Suite Hotel, 252-7727: Li'l Elmo and the Cosmos, thru 3/3; Earl Turner, thru 3/17; Two for the Show, 3/5-17; Freddie Bell, 3/19-4/7; Barbara Graham, 3/19-31; Billy Preston, 4/19-20; Sergio Alberti, 4/30-5/19; Sneak Preview, 5/7-26; Earl Turner, 5/21-6/9
Riviera, 794-9301: Frank Sinatra, 3/21-24; Paul Anka, 5/16-19; "Splash," production show, indf.; "Crazy Girls: Fantasie de Paris," revue, indf.; "An Evening at La Cage," revue, indf. (dark Tues.); "An Evening at the Improv," comedians, indf.
Sahara, 737-2111: "Boy-Lesque," indf. (dark Wed.)
Sam Boyd's Fremont, 385-3232: Nightly entertainment except Mon.
Sam's Town, 456-7777: Nightly entertainment
Sands, 733-5453: Melinda, the First Lady of Magic and Her Follies Revue, indf. (dark Mon.)
Tropicana, 739-2411: "Folies Bergere," indf. (dark Thurs.); "Comedy Stop," comedians, indf.
Union Plaza, 386-2444: "Bedfull of Foreigners," starring James MacArther, comedy, indf.
Vegas World, 383-5264: Reflections of Sinatra starring Duke Hazlett, indf.; Memories of Elvis starring E.P. King, indf.; Marty Allen and Steve Rossi, indf.; (dark Thurs.)
Westward Ho, 731-2900: Liz Damon/Paul Delicato, indf.
Whiskey Pete's, on I-15 at the California-Nevada border, 382-4388: Live entertainment

Laughlin

Colorado Belle, 298-4000: Nightly entertainment; Big Band Bash every Sun.
Edgewater, 298-2453
Flamingo Hilton Laughlin, 298-5111: "Broadway Varieties," revue, Sun.-Thurs., pop music Fri.-Sat., Big Band music Sun. afternoons
Harrah's Del Rio, 298-4600: Entertainment TBA
Ramada Express, 298-4200: Entertainment TBA
Regency, 298-2439: Piano bar
Riverside Resort, 298-2535: Jim Nabors, 3/8-9; Mel Tillis, 3/13-17; Sawyer Brown, 3/28-30; Tanya Tucker, 4/5-6
Sam's Town Gold River, 298-2242: Live entertainment nightly

8:30pm, headquarters is Union Plaza Hotel, 386-3043

Home Improvement Show, 5/2-5, Las Vegas Convention Center, 871-7945

Dance in the Afternoon, 5/3, UNLV Department of Dance Arts presents the junior and senior projects of dance majors, featuring jazz and modern choreography, the best of Broadway by the musical theatre class, tap, and the UNLV Ballroom Formation Team in a popular medley of dances, free, Studio Theatre, UNLV 739-3827

A Salute to Nellis Air Force Base by the Performing Arts Center, 5/3, jazz artists Billy Taylor and Ramsey Lewis in concert; Air Force art, history, and recruiting displays, and community booths, 7:30pm, $17.50, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3801

"The Cocktail Hour" 5/3-5, 5/9-12, and 5/16-19, drama, Las Vegas Little Theatre, Spring Valley Library, 383-0021

Nevada Fine Arts Trio Concert, 5/4, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3801

Spring Jamboree and Artisans Fair, 5/4-5, arts and crafts show food booths, auction, children's activities, free entertainment, Gazebo and Wilbur parks, Boulder City, 293-2034

Helldorado Art Show, 5/5-26, juried and judged show of Western art, Las Vegas Art Museum, 647-4300

"West," 5/9-12 and 5/15-18, theatrical vignettes depicting the American West from its origins to today; an original production by playwrights from UNLV's graduate program, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 739-3801

Southwest Art Show, 5/10-12, Cashman Field, 386-7100

"The Magic in Me," 5/11, Children's Creative Dance Lab, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3801

Sixth Clark County Artists Show, 5/11-12, fine arts exhibits and sales (no crafts), Gazebo Park, Boulder City, 293-2138

Ribs and Blues Concert, 5/17 traditional blues artists Cephas and Wiggins and the Charlie Musselwhite Band, kick-off to the rib burn-off on 5/18-19, Sunset Park, 455-7340

Open Co-ed Volleyball Tournament, 5/18, Stewart-Mojave Sports Center, 386-6563

Craft Fair and Rib Burn-Off, 5/18-19, handmade crafts, barbecue cook-off competition and ribs, continuous live music, free children's activities, and classic car exhibit, adults $2, children $1, toddlers free, Clark County Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Sunset Park, 455-8200

Food Fandango, 5/23, food festival, Western Emporium parking lot adjacent to Sam's Town, 456-7777

Southwest Collector's Gun Show, 5/24-26, convention center, Henderson, 565-2171

Las Vegas Helldorado Days, 5/24-6/2, includes Professional Rodeo Cowboys Assn. championship rodeo, two-day trail ride, Helldorado Shoot-Out Golf Tournament, parade, street dance, chili cook-off, horse auction, Whiskerino Beard-Growing Contest, crowning of Helldorado Queen, 10-K run, and an art auction, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV 870-1221

COMING EVENTS

Boulder City's Damboree and Parade, 7/4, 293-2457

Jaycee State Fair, 9/28-10/6, Las Vegas, 457-8832

Art in the Park, 10/5-6, Boulder City, 293-2034

Las Vegas Invitational Golf Tournament, 10/9-





PREVIEW

Soviet Stars: The Next Generation

The Nevada Institute for Contemporary Art (NICA) presents "The Works of Art in the Age of Perestroika" March 18-April 14 at the Donna Beam Gallery University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Curated by Phyllis Kind of the Phyllis Kind Gallery in New York and Moscow-born art historian Margarita Tupitsyn, the show explores the effect of *glasnost* and exposure to the West on a younger generation of Soviet artists. According to Tupitsyn, "This exhibition unites representatives of important vanguard manifestations of alternative movements of the 1980s."



Maria Konstantinova's "Sleep Quietly."

The exhibition of 17 Soviet artists addresses issues of emancipation as well as the changes resulting from *perestroika* as they pertain to artists and the work of art. Such topics reflected in the works are feminism, the Soviet avant-garde, popular culture from the Stalin era, the shortage of art materials, the decay of Soviet mass culture, and the advent of consumerism.

The years of suppression on the country's artistic community is apparent in their art. Gorbachev's economic reforms and the Sotheby's auction staged in Moscow in July 1988 introduced the ritual of capitalist art marketing. In one day, a nonwritten but stable hierarchy of unofficial art circles was overthrown. Soviet art works, by becoming available to and dependent on the free market, plunged into the world of consumerable objects. The paradoxical result is on the one hand, an opportunity for personal expression, but on the other, the uncomfortable and strange newness of a free market system.

Never before has an exhibit of Soviet art of this significance visited Las Vegas. NICA will offer an education program for the general public and school children through tours and lectures.

One of the artists said of his American experience, "The discovery of the plurality of socio-cultural conditions and the reflection of it in representation is perhaps the most important achievement to date of the artists associated with the age of *perestroika*."

The public is invited to an opening reception and lecture by curator, Margarita Tupitsyn, curatorial consultant for the Guggenheim Museum in New York and the Institute for Contemporary Art in Boston, to be held March 18 at the Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery UNLV For information and tours call 702-739-3751.—*Arlene Blut, the Nevada Institute for Contemporary Art.*

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North Las Vegas Fairshow and Hot Air Balloon Races, 10/25-27 642-1944
National Finals Rodeo, 12/6-15, Las Vegas, 731-2115
Boulder City Christmas Parade, 12/7 293-2034

TOURNAMENTS

March

Poker, thru 3/4, Four Queens, 385-4011
Slots, 3/4-6 and 3/11-13, Binion's Horseshoe, 382-1600 ext. 7668
Slots, 3/5-8 and 4/9-12, Holiday Casino/Holiday Inn, 369-5088
Slots, 3/10-12 and 4/28-30, Imperial Palace, 794-3160
Slots, 3/10-13, Bally's, 739-4413
Slots, 3/18-21, Stardust, 732-6111
Slots, 3/24-27 Desert Inn, 733-4444
Slots, 3/25-28, Caesars Palace, 731-7485
Keno, 3/31-4/2, Caesars Palace, 731-7478

April

World Cup of Thoroughbred Handicapping, 4/3-7 Caesars Palace, 731-7777
Slots, 4/3-7 4/10-14, and 4/17-21, Westward Ho, 731-2900
World Series of Poker, 4/28-5/16, Binion's Horseshoe, 382-1600

May

Slots, 5/5-8, Bally's, 739-4413
Blackjack, 5/20-23, Stardust, 732-6111

MUSEUMS

Boulder City

Boulder City/Hoover Dam Museum: 9-5 daily, 444 Hotel Plaza, Boulder City, 294-1988

Henderson

Clark County Heritage Museum: 8-5 Mon.-Fri., 9-5 Sat.-Sun., 1830 S. Boulder Hwy., 455-7955

Las Vegas

American Museum of Historical Documents: 10-6 Mon.-Wed., 10-9 Thurs.-Fri., 10-6 Sat., 12-5 Sun., 3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., privately owned, 731-0785
Guinness World of Records Museum: open daily, 2780 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 792-0640 or 792-3766 (business office)
Imperial Palace Auto Collection: 9:30am-11:30pm daily, 794-3174
Las Vegas Art Museum: 10-3 Tues.-Sat., noon-3 Sun., Lorenzi Park, 3333 W. Washington Ave., 647-4300
Las Vegas Museum of Natural History: includes the Wildlife World Art Museum, reopens in January 1991, 384-3466
Liberace Museum: 10-5 Mon.-Sat., 1-5 Sun., 1775 E. Tropicana, 798-5595
Lied Discovery Children's Museum: 10-5 Tues.-Wed. and Fri.-Sat., 10-9 Thurs., noon-5 Sun., 833 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 382-KIDS
Nevada State Museum and Historical Society: 11:30-4:30 Mon.-Tues., 8:30-4:30 Wed.-Sun., Lorenzi Park, 486-5205
Old Las Vegas Fort: 8-2 Sat. and Mon., noon-3 Sun., Las Vegas Blvd. N. at Washington (entrance from Cashman Field parking lot B only), 382-7198
Ripley's Believe It or Not!: 9am-midnight Sun.-Thurs., 9am-1am Fri.-Sat., Four Queens Hotel, 385-4011
Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History: 9-5 Mon.-Fri., 10-5 Sat., UNLV 739-3381

Mesquite

Mesquite Museum: 9-5 Mon.-Fri., occasionally open on Sat., call ahead, 31 W. Mesquite Blvd., 346-5705

North Las Vegas

The Planetarium: 2-8 Thurs.-Sat., Clark County Community College, 644-5059

Overton

Lost City Museum: 8:30-4:30 daily, ancient Pueblo culture, 397-2193

Searchlight

Searchlight Historic Museum: (Satellite of Clark County Heritage Museum) 9-5 Mon.-Fri., 9-12 Sat., Searchlight Community Center, 200 Michael Wendell Way, 455-7955

__Reminder:__ To confirm dates and times, use the phone number listed with each event. For out-of-state callers, the area code is 702 throughout Nevada. For hotels' toll-free phone numbers, call 800-555-1212.

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Reno-Tahoe







With spring approaching there's plenty of things to do with the kids. The Subaru Gold Nuggets Kids Ski Race is March 16 at Royal Gorge (left). The works of watercolorist Verne Horton (top right) will be shown at Genoa Courthouse Museum May 4-June 10. Kids of all ages are invited to a hands-on exhibit of Leonardo da Vinci (bottom right) invention replicas at the Ormsby Library in Carson City through April 7

HOT LINES

Festivals at Tahoe: information on North Shore festivals throughout the year, 916-583-7625

Nevada Division of State Parks: hikes, tours, stargazing, and campfire programs at 21 parks around the state, District II, Carson City, 687-4379

UNR Baseball: 3/1-2 v. USF; 3/5 v. Sonoma State; 3/15-16 v. San Diego; 3/19 v. Eastern Oregon; 3/22-23 v. St. Mary's; 3/26 v. Chico State; 3/28 v. Western Oregon, 4/9 v. Sacramento State; 4/16 v. California; 4/19-20 v. Santa Clara; 4/22-23 v. Fresno State; 4/30 v. UC Davis; 5/3-4 v. Loyola-Marymount; 5/10-11 v. Pepperdine, Peccole Field, UNR, 348-PACK

UNR Music Department: concerts, recitals, 784-6145

For chamber of commerce and convention center phone numbers, see page E-4

EVENTS

March

U.S. National Senior Winter Games, thru 3/3, downhill and cross-country ski racing, ice skating competitions, Diamond Peak at Ski Incline, 832-1177 or 831-4440

Art Exhibits, thru 3/10, in the Main Gallery: The Garden Within exhibit features West Coast photography; in the Casazza Gallery: The Human Element exhibit features black-and-white photography from the BankAmerica Corporation art collection, Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Art Exhibit, thru 3/21, multi-media installation of art and robotics by San Francisco artist Wendy Oberlander, XS Gallery, Western Nevada Community College, Carson City, 887-3108

Leonardo da Vinci Exhibit, thru 4/7 replicas of inventions in a hands-on format to be manipulated and enjoyed by children and da Vinci fans of all ages, Ormsby Library, Carson City, 887-2244 or 885-6341

A Most Excellent Adventure: Hands On Exhibit for Kids of All Ages, thru 5/1, Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 687-4810

Passing Through: Documents of the Road West, thru 6/30, exhibition interprets travel through Nevada from immigrant trails through transcontinental highways, Nevada Historical Society, 789-0150

Moonlight Serenade: Nevada Opera's Annual Auction and Gala Evening, 3/1, takes opera lovers back to the era of Big Band music with the Al Shay Orchestra providing the swinging sounds, 6pm, Harrah's Reno, 786-4046

"Light Up the Sky," 3/1-2, 3/8-10, and 3/15-16, comedy, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Concerts in the Atrium, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, and 3/29, free classical music performances, noon-1pm, Sierra Arts Foundation event, Airport Gardens, 1325 Airmotive Way, 329-1324

Photos: David Madison (left), Verne R. Horton/"Buddies" (top right)



During the Tahoe Localman Triathalon survival skills, including putting on tire chains, chopping wood, and shovelling snow, are tested.

SNOW JEST AT SNOWFEST

North Lake Tahoe and Truckee's Snowfest, the largest winter carnival in the western United States, celebrates its 10th year March 1-10. There will be 150 separate events—ski races, parades, arts, cultural events, indoor sports, concerts, dances, ice carving, snow sculpture, snowman building, pageants, fireworks, and plenty of great food.

And then there's the offbeat.

Take, for example, the Dress-Up-Your-Dog Contest, the Tahoe Localman Triathlon, or, new this year, the Snowfest Polar Bear Swim. Yes, people will actually swim the waters of Lake Tahoe, which can be cold even in summer.

"The Polar Bear Swim is an event we've wanted to do for some time," says Snowfest director Judy Friedman. "It fits our 'something for everyone' theme." In this case, the "something" for non-polar bears may be watching with a warm beverage in hand from the deck of Gar Woods Grill and Pier in Carnelian Bay host and headquarters for the swim.

The swim is slated for 2:30 p.m. Saturday March 2 immediately preceding the Gar Woods Rock Skipping Contest, Shark Bite and Chicken Wing Fling.

Skills of a different sort are on display at the Tahoe Localman Triathlon, the perfect event for men and women skilled in survival arts of the High Sierra. In a race against the clock, competitors must install tire chains, stack firewood, and shovel a barrel full of snow. The fast-paced action makes the Localman Triathlon a great spectator event, too. This year's competition is set for 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 6 in the parking lot of Homewood Ski Area on Tahoe's west shore.

In the popular Dress-Up-Your-Dog Contest dog owners from hundreds of miles around somehow manage to persuade their pets to don homemade costumes each year at the Old Brockway Golf Course in Kings Beach. Event organizer and local vet Dr. Gregg Townsley says he never ceases to be amazed at the creativity of pet owners and the patience of their animals, who compete in categories such as "Celebrity Look-a-Like." This year's dress-up begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 9.

Snowfest formally kicks off Friday evening, March 1 with a torchlight ski parade and fireworks at Squaw Valley. It runs daily through Sunday, March 10 with closing ceremonies at Boreal Ski Area atop historic Donner Summit. For a complete schedule of events and more information on what is truly one of the most unique winter carnivals in North America, call Snowfest headquarters in Tahoe City at 916-583-7625.

Photo: Deacon Chapin



PREVIEW

Go Fly a Kite

Stunt kite team ballet, Rokkaku (a Japanese kite fight), competitions for children and adults, and five- and 10-kilometer runs are among the activities slated for the fourth annual Reno International Kite Festival, April 6-7 at Rancho San Rafael Park in Reno. A free kite building workshop directed by internationally known kite master Leland Toy will be held the evenings of April 4-5 at a location to be announced.

Last year 25,000 people attended and 480 kite enthusiasts entered contests.

The open-category contests have $100 first-place prizes: giant newspaper kite, smallest kite, largest kite, most foolish kite, most beautiful kite, and bull's-eye game.

Contests for children 12 and younger include a kite race (the first 100 children registered receive a free kite), India fighting kite keep-away, most beautiful kite, candy drop, and workshop kite. The entry fee for each contest is $1.

Two popular spectator events, the stunt kite team ballet and the Rokkaku, will be held both days.

The festival is produced by the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority and is open free to the public. For more information call 702-827-7636.

Photo: Syd Brown

Reno's International Basque Bash, 3/1-3, Reno Livestock Events Center, 786-1131

Shrine Circus, 3/1-3, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Snowfest Winter Carnival, 3/1-10, 10th anniversary of largest winter carnival in the Western U.S. with more than 150 events, includes torchlight ski parade, Dress-Up-Your-Dog Contest, Localman Triathlon, Miss Sierra Snowfest Pageant, Tahoe City street dance and fireworks display, children's penny carnival, River Ranch snowman building contest, Snowball Open golf tournament, various locations throughout North Lake Tahoe and Truckee, 916-583-7625

Monoliths, Megaliths, and Monuments, 3/1-31, paintings by Betty Mills, Artist's Co-Op Gallery, 329-3590

Art Exhibit, 3/1-4/1, sculpture and drawing by Robert Brady; prints by Wayne Horne, Sheppard Gallery, Church Fine Arts Complex, UNR, 784-6658

Lions Annual Crab Feed, 3/2, all-you-can-eat from 5-8pm, dancing until 11pm, $17, Chateau, Incline Village, 831-1834

Reno Chamber Orchestra Concert, 3/2, 8pm, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 826-0880

Myelin Project Ski-a-Thon, 3/2, Mount Rose, 849-0704

Hope Valley Cross-Country Wildlife Ski Tour, 3/2, with wildlife biologist Steve Lannoy, Sorensen's Resort, 916-694-2203

The Great Ski Race, 3/3, 15th annual, 30-K race from Tahoe to Truckee, Tahoe Nordic, 916-583-0484

Eagle Medal Ski Races, 3/3, Tahoe Donner, 916-587-9444

Introduction to Cross-Country Skiing Park Program, 3/3 and 3/10, two-mile tour on easy terrain, includes instruction, meet at 10am, Grover Hot Springs Pool parking lot, 916-694-2248

Nevada Winter Special Olympics, 3/5-7 Diamond Peak at Ski Incline, 832-1177 or 827-2111

Monster Truck Spectacular, 3/8-9, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Alpine Meadows Family Ski Challenge, 3/9, dual giant slalom, 916-583-4232

Jose Cuervo Games of Winter, 3/9, treasure hunt, snow volleyball, cardboard box race, open to public, must be 21, 10am, Squaw Valley, 916-583-6985

Ski, Health, and Fitness Expo, 3/9, Tahoe Donner Cross-Country, 916-587-9484

Doctors' Wives of Washoe County 40th Annual Rummage Sale, 3/9, 8am-4pm, Reno Livestock Events Center, 825-8965

Incline Family Fun Days, 3/9-10, ski and golf events, Diamond Peak at Ski Incline, 832-1120

Tandy Beal Dance Company, 3/10, unique blend of music, song, and dance, sponsored by the Comstock Arts Council, 7:30pm, Virginia City Middle School, 847-0311

Jimmie Heuga Express, 3/10, ski-a-thon and giant slalom race to benefit Multiple Sclerosis Society, Sugar Bowl, 916-426-3651

Coors Rocky Mountain Sparkling Water 15-K and 25-K Cross-Country Ski Race, 3/10, Tahoe Donner Cross-Country, 916-587-9484

Volks Ski Tour, 3/10, volksmarch covering an easy to moderate course of 10-K, 9am-5pm, Tahoe Nordic, 916-583-0484

Jeep Eagle Ski Race, 3/10, Sierra Ski Ranch, 916-659-7519

The Joy of Skiing and Eating Gourmet Cross-Country Ski Tour, 3/10, guided tour, Northstar, 916-587-0273

Coca-Cola Cup, 3/10, ski race, Mount Rose, 849-0704

Police Winter Games, 3/10-14, downhill and cross-country events, Northstar, 916-562-1010

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NIGHTLIFE

Sick Jokes

By Guy Richardson



Pam Matteson is alive and sometimes feeling well on the comedy circuit.

Everything Pam Matteson has she owes to her mother. Really. Matteson is a singing comic impressionist who does everyone from Cher to Jimmy Cagney but what you remember most is her non-singing brassy Noo Yawk burlesque of her mom.

Her mother, says Matteson, also made her a hypochondriac. Matteson's mom sends her daughter disease-of-the-month articles from supermarket tabloids, and, worst of all, medical books. "You just don't send medical books to a hypochondriac," moans Pam. Even when the healthy among us read a collection of symptoms, we are often suddenly struck by a similarity between the sick and ourselves. Same with Pam, but worse. "For a while there," she said, "I had the symptoms of an enlarged prostate."

Her mother is a comic bit, but Matteson insists she's also real. "It's all true," she laughed. "My mother, she's like very negative." Pam's mother saw Pam on *The Tonight Show*, where Pam did her mother act. How brutal was it? Pam laughed again. "When I went home, all my mother said was 'I don't tawk like that. "

According to Pam, her mother does too tawk like that, but for Pam it's profitable. She's appeared multiple times on *The Tonight Show*, been on *Evening at the Improv*, *Hollywood Squares*, and numerous other TV shows. She's also becoming a Nevada staple, headlining comedy clubs and opening in main rooms.

She does 30 singing impressions, including a truly bizarre thing where Cher lifts weights with her tongue—something that must be seen.

Matteson began in comedy in 1981, when she was in the touring company of "Annie." When the show reached Los Angeles, Matteson was bored stiff doing the same lines night after night. She auditioned for *The Improv*. "I got in easy because I was one of the stars of 'Annie.'" She's never looked back. "Actors are egomaniacs to work with—now it's just me. I like comics better than actors—comics are supportive. They'll watch my act, give me jokes."

Mom also gives her jokes, if inadvertently. Retelling those jokes on stage, and making fun of her mother, is what psychiatrists call empowering and the rest of us call getting even.

"You do have a power up there on stage," Matteson says. "There's no one to argue with you. Sometimes it will backfire—you say something and the audience will walk out. You never know if an audience will love you or hate you."

Matteson has a dark side that doesn't show often on stage, she says. That dark side is why she loves screaming comic Sam Kinison. "He says things that people think, but don't say. The comics who don't do that are safe, generic comics. Exciting is going over the boundary."

In her own way, Matteson pushes that boundary. "I do believe there's a bit of sickness within us all," she said. She uses a bit in her act about Tourette's Syndrome, a mental condition that causes sufferers to yell obscenities. Staying within her sidewalks-of-New-York character, Matteson talks about Tourette's and then says, "It's kind of boring to me because I grew up in New York City—and I thought *everyone* had Tourette's."

That's as far as she goes on stage. One can see a darkness in her humor, but all humor is aggressive. She likes Andrew Dice Clay—likes the man, that is. "I've known him for years, and he's one of the nicest people. What he does on stage is an act to make a lot of money." Clay's act she finds somewhat boring, again because she grew up in New York and heard it all on the streets. "You don't have to go see him," she said. "If he's found a way to succeed, more power to him."

Clay may be all put-on act, as Matteson says. Her off-stage life, however, and her on-stage character are intertwined. From years of listening to her mother look at bruises and say "I hope it's not leukemia," Pam's learned to look for the worst: "I'm on a date with a guy he's kissing my neck, and I say, 'Do you feel a lump?'"

Hey it's a living.

Pam Matteson appears at Caesars Tahoe March 15-16.

Corporate Ski Challenge, 3/11-16, 11th annual, includes giant slalom and downhill racing, clinics and training runs in both disciplines, extracurricular competition off skis, and parties and prizes, Alpine Meadows, 916-583-4232

Capital City Concert, 3/13, second annual Reno Philharmonic concert in Carson City, $10 general admission in advance, $12 at door, $7 for seniors and students; if attending pre-concert party at Governor's Mansion and concert, the cost is $30, community center, Carson City, 883-1976

Concert, 3/14, UNR Wind Ensemble and Washoe County Honor Bands, 7:30pm, free, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 784-6525

Early Days Skiathalon, 3/15, includes the Snowshoe Thompson Ski Race on old wood skis, Sierra snowshoe race, and barrel stave race, Sierra Ski Ranch, 916-659-7519

Fitzgeralds St. Patrick's Day Celebration, 3/15-17 Irish entertainment, World's Largest Leprechaun, genuine Blarney Stone drawings, Irish arts and crafts fair; most events located at the Reno Arch, which will be decorated green, 785-3300

Art Exhibit, 3/15-4/28, ceramic sculpture by Mark Gordon, Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

An Evening of Food and Wine Appreciation, 3/16, with wine humorist Micki Voisard, Tahoe Donner Cross-Country, 916-587-9484

Sierra Silk Showcase, 3/16, ninth annual competition for high school flag teams, color guards, and drill/dance teams, 7:30pm, $3, Old Gymnasium, UNR, 784-6525

Bull-O-Rama, 3/16, Reno Livestock Events Center, 827-5960

Jeep/Eagle One-Kilometer Challenge/Fun Race, 3/16, Kirkwood, 209-258-6000

Subaru Gold Nuggets Kids Ski Race, 3/16, fun race over an obstacle course, hot chocolate for everyone, 2pm, Royal Gorge, 916-426-3871

Ski A Peak, 3/16, guided tour, Hope Valley Cross-Country, Sorensen's Resort, 916-694-2203

Gelande Jump Competition, 3/16-17, pro and amateur skiers jump over 100 feet for prizes and money, Sugar Bowl, 916-426-3651

USSA Slalom Race, 3/16-17, Squaw Valley, 916-583-6985

Subaru California Gold Rush 50-K and Subaru California Silver Rush 25-K, 3/17 part of the Great American Ski Chase and one of the premier ski marathons in the West, 9am start, $25-$35 entry fees, Royal Gorge, 916-426-3871

St. Patrick's Day Celebration, 3/17 ski events, Mount Rose, 849-0704

Winter Railroading in Sierra, 3/17 a talk and slide show followed by driving to the train depot in downtown Truckee to view a demonstration of snow removal equipment, Donner Memorial State Park Museum, 916-587-3841

Snowbird Medal Ski Races, 3/17 Tahoe Donner, 916-587-9444

UNR Symphonic Band Concert, 3/21, 8pm, free, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 784-6525

Antique Show and Collectors Fair, 3/22-24, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Fiesta Del Sol, 3/23, at Euer Valley Cookhouse, Tahoe Donner Cross-Country, 916-587-9484

Nevada Opera Assn. Concert, 3/23, $10, free refreshments, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 786-4046

Echo to Kirkwood Cross-Country Ski Race, 3/23, point to point race covering 14 miles of rugged back-country, course climbs 1,300 feet to the crest of the Sierra and then descends to Kirkwood, post-race celebration, Kirkwood, 209-258-6000

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CASINO NOTES

•The California Legislature recently presented a resolution of gratitude to **Harrah's Lake Tahoe** for their substantial earthquake relief efforts during the aftermath of 1989's Loma Prieta earthquake. Last December, the resort casino donated more than $100,000 in cash and vital emergency supplies to the American Red Cross of the Bay Area and to the multitudes of people driven from their residences in the hard-hit Watsonville area. Harrah's hosted two benefit concerts featuring entertainer Bill Cosby. The two sold-out shows provided $100,000 for the Red Cross to aid quake victims.

•**Bally's Reno** has been undergoing a $1 million renovation of the property's hotel and casino areas. More than 170,000 square feet of new carpeting has been laid and walls painted. Bally's also is installing a guest video information system with terminals throughout the building.

•There are some new developments at **John Ascuaga's Nugget** in Sparks.

Guests can now enjoy at home the same choice beef that has given the casino its reputation for fine dining. The Nugget's Gold Trim Beef is available at Nugget Meat Packers, 250 Edison Way in Reno. Or, you can place your order through the Nugget Gift Shop. As gift packages, the steaks can be mailed to any address within the continental U.S.

A total-concept beauty salon and skin-care center opened recently on the fifth floor of the hotel tower. "This will be another fine addition to our health-spa complex and will be particularly appreciated by our guests as well as local residents," said Tonnis Lubbers, the Nugget's chief executive officer.

The Steak House is being remodeled. The room will reopen under a new name—the Steak House and Grill—and a totally new look.

•The **Gold Dust West Casino-Lodge** finished a $5 million refurbishing project last fall. Located at Fifth and Vine streets in Reno, the Gold Dust has a new restaurant and 106 renovated guest rooms.

•Dim Sum, an exhibition of appetizers in Chinese cuisine, is debuting at **Harvey's**. Dim Sum, a generic name for hundreds of different bite-sized morsels, literally means "a delight of the heart." The Far East tradition revisited by the hotel's Seafood Grotto features a variety of creative appetizers and light lunch selections brought to customers at their table from a rolling service cart.



Top chefs present delicacies at the Chef and Child Culinary Salon April 13-14.

Socks, 3/23, dance, community center, Carson City, 882-3206

Rodelle J2 Slalom, 3/23-24, Diamond Peak at Ski Incline, 832-1177

Spring Carnival, 3/24, carnival games on deck and fun races on the slopes, Tahoe Donner Clown, Tahoe Donner, 916-587-9444

Introduction to Ski Skating, 3/24, three-hour clinic, intermediate or advanced level skiers only, meet at Sugar Pine Point State Park ski area parking lot, 916-525-7982

Special Olympics, 3/25-28, Special Olympians compete in regional finals; athletes participate in slalom, giant slalom, and cross-country events, Kirkwood, 209-258-6000

Historical Lecture, 3/26, highway historian Lyn Protteau will present a slide show entitled "From Coast to Coast: The Opening of the Lincoln Highway," 7pm, Nevada Historical Society, 789-0190

Chorus of the Comstock, 3/28, barbershop quartet, 8pm, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Easter Guided Cross-Country Ski Tour, 3/31, Northstar, 916-587-0273

Discovery Blind Sports International, 3/31, race for blind skiers, Kirkwood, 209-258-8375

Spring Carnival, 3/31, Easter bunny on skis, Tahoe Donner, 916-587-9424

Easter Bunny Jubilee, 3/31, Easter egg hunt, family bunny hop egg race, bunny social, and bunny food, Royal Gorge, 916-426-3871

April

Art Exhibit, 4/4-5/3, Nevada artists respond to the varying facets of the fragile and varied Nevada environment, XS Gallery, Western Nevada Community College, Carson City, 887-3108

Carson Valley Chukar Club Annual Fundraiser, 4/5, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 588-3511

Art Exhibit, 4/5-23, annual UNR student exhibi-

tion, Sheppard Gallery, Church Fine Arts Complex, UNR, 784-6658

Reno Chamber Orchestra Concert, 4/6, 8pm, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 826-0880

U.S. Ski Team Sports Celebrity Classic, 4/6-7 Alpine Meadows, 916-583-4232

American Shorthorned Cattle Sale, 4/6-7, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Backcountry Ski and Lunch Tour, 4/7, Northstar, 916-587-0273

The Super Cities Walk for Multiple Sclerosis, 4/7 15-K walk in and around the Reno and Sparks area; fundraiser for National Multiple Sclerosis Society, walk begins at Deer Park in Sparks, 329-7180

Fete Du Printemps, 4/7 ski to picnic prepared by Wilderness Lodge chef, $28 includes trail pass, by reservation only, Royal Gorge, 916-426-3871

Silver Sage Rabbit and Cavy Breeders Show, 4/13, fairgrounds, Gardnerville, 265-2012

Chef and Child Culinary Salon, 4/13-14, on Sat. cold food platter show and ice carving competition, chefs on parade food sampling; on Sun. $40 sitdown gala dinner, American Chef Assn. High Sierra Chapter fundraiser for local schools, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 882-1626

Western Americana Gun, Knife, Coin, and Jewelry Show, 4/13-14, Peppermill, 689-7161

Annual Old Timer's Party, 4/14, end of season barbecue and events, Mount Rose, 849-0704

Steel Rails Across the Silver State Lecture, 4/16, by Kyle Wyatt, Asst. Curator at Nevada State Railroad Museum, 7pm, Nevada Historical Society, 789-0190

"Don Giovanni," 4/18 and 4/20, Mozart's tale of the ultimate seducer, Don Juan, Nevada Opera's tribute to the bicentennial of Mozart's death, performance done with English Simultext, Nevada Opera, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 786-4046

"HMS Pinafore," 4/18-20, Virginia City Muckers, 8pm, Virginia City Middle School, 847-0311

Nevada State Good Sam Samboree, 4/18-21, fairgrounds, Gardnerville, 782-4224

Violin Concert, 4/19, with Leland Chen, community center, Carson City, 882-3436

"The Road to Mecca," 4/19-20, 4/26-28, and 5/3-4, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Silver State Automobile License Plate Collectors Assn. Show, 4/19-20, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Basque Singing Festival, 4/20, CVIC Hall, Minden, 782-2898

Shakespeare Performance Festival, 4/20 and 4/27 middle and high school students perform scenes and cuttings from Shakespeare's plays in 20 to 30 minute showcases, 8:30am-3pm each Sat., public welcome, free, Redfield Proscenium Theater, UNR, 851-5640

Carson City Chamber Orchestra, 4/21, featuring bassoonist Yoshiyuki Ishikawa and music from Eastern Europe, 7:30pm, $6, community center, Carson City, 883-4154

Northern Nevada Band Festival, 4/24-25, middle school and high school bands, free performances each evening by the UNR Symphonic Band and UNR Wind Ensemble, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 784-6525

Jake and Annie Rose Concert, 4/25, traditional American music, 8pm, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Harpsichord with Jennifer Paul, 4/26, 8pm, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Art Exhibit, 4/26-6/16, "Water in the West," photography exhibit, Sheppard Gallery Church Fine Arts Complex, UNR, 784-6658

Walk America, 4/27 20-K walk along scenic route, fundraiser for the March of Dimes, food, entertainment, starts and finishes at Wild

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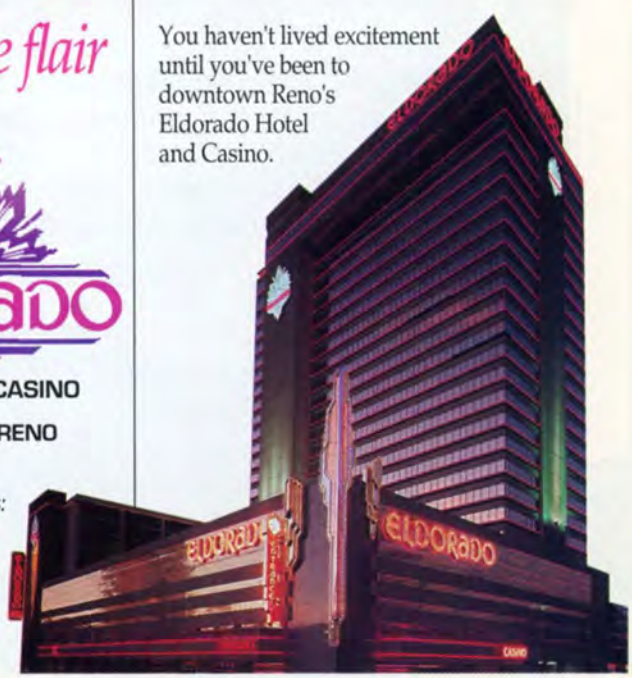
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SHOWGUIDE

Bally's Reno, 789-2285: Entertainment TBA
Bill's Lake Tahoe, 588-2455: Entertainment TBA
Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515: *Circus Maximus:* Santana, 3/1-2; Jerry Seinfeld/Pam Matteson, 3/15-16; Joan Rivers/Neil Sedaka, 3/22-23; Dolly Parton, 3/29-31; *Caesars Cabaret:* Playboy's Girls of Rock 'n Roll, indf. (dark Tues.); Laff Trax, indf., (starring Carrie Snow, thru 3/3; Dr. Gonzo, 3/18-24)
Carson City Nugget, 883-3854: Entertainment TBA
Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711: Whiskey Ridge, 2/27-3/10; Passion, 3/12-24; Silver State Band, 3/26-4/7; The Act, 4/9-21; Tommy Bell, 4/23-5/5; The Motifs, 5/7-19; Inside Out, 5/21-6/2; *Cabaret Lounge:* Live entertainment Mon.-Sat., oldies records by request Sun.
Circus Circus, Reno, 329-0711: Free circus acts, 11am-midnight
Crystal Bay Club, North Tahoe, 831-0512: Entertainment TBA
Eldorado, Reno, 786-5700: Dae Han Sisters, thru 3/10; Danny Marona, 3/12-31; Honolulu, 4/1-28; Pat Collins, 4/2-7; Rob Hanna's Salute to Rod Stewart, 4/9-28; Gary and Sandy, 4/29-5/5; Sons of the Pioneers, 4/30-5/5; The Diamonds, 5/13-6/2; Doug Kershaw, 5/14-19; Tony Tillman, 5/20-6/2
Fitzgeralds, 785-3300: Perfect Circle, 3/1-10; Marty Davis, 3/11-17; Ohana, 3/11-24; Stormy Weather, 3/18-31; Passion, 3/25-3/31; Passion, 3/25-4/7; Reta and the Wizz Kidz, 4/1-14; Tommy Bell, 4/8-21; Whiskey Ridge, 4/15-18
Flamingo Hilton Reno, 322-1111: Just For Laughs, Comedy Club
Harolds Club, Reno, 329-0881: Entertainment TBA
Harrah's Reno, 329-4422: *Headliner Room:* Jay Leno, 4/19-21; Roy Clark, 5/17-19; *Casino Cabaret:* The Buck Ram Platters, thru 4/4; Zasu Pitts Memorial Orchestra, 3/27-4/1; Frederic Apcar's "Zing!" revue, indf.
Harrah's Tahoe, 588-6606: *South Shore Room:* "A Chorus Line," thru 3/4; The Temptations, 3/8-10; Johnny Mathis, 4/25-28; Barbara Mandrell, 5/3-5; The Oak Ridge Boys, 5/17-19; Jay Leno, 5/22-26; *Stateline Cabaret:* The Guess Who, 3/1-6; Jack Mack: The Group, 3/8-13; Rob Hanna Salutes Rod Stewart, 3/15-20; Bill Medley, 3/22-4/3; Papa Do Run Run, 3/28-4/2; Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles, 4/4-17 and 4/11-17; Roomful of Blues, 4/5-10; Zasu Pitts Memorial Orchestra, 4/26-5/1; "Bottoms Up '91," revue, thru 3/26; "Bare Essence," revue, 4/11-8/28
Harvey's, Stateline, 588-2411: *Emerald Theater:* Danny Marona, 5/17-28; "Risque Business," indf.; *Top of the Wheel:* Ron Rose Sound, indf.; Inside Out, thru 3/3; E.M.C., 3/4-10; Reta and the Wizz Kidz, 3/11-24; The Act, 3/25-4/14; Liaizon, 4/15-5/5; *Emerald Bar:* Checkmates/Gina Eckstine, thru 3/3; Zella Lehr/Jonathan, 3/4-17; Second Wind/Brian and the Dominos, 3/18-4/7; Steel Breeze/Inside Out, 4/8-28; Mid Life Crysis/Then and Now, 4/29-5/12; Get Ready/Briefcase Blues Band, 5/13-15; Zella Lehr, 5/20-6/2
Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe, Incline, 831-1111: Entertainment TBA
John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3304: *Celebrity Showroom:* Mel McDaniel, Carvalho's Exotic Bird Revue, thru 3/6; Sha Na Na/Mat Plendl, 3/7-20; Boxcar Willie, 3/21-4/3; Janie Fricke, 4/4-17; T.G. Sheppard/Dan Menendez, 4/18-5/1; T. Graham Brown, 5/2-8; Michael Martin Murphey, 5/9-22; Forester Sisters, 5/23-6/5; *Casino Cabaret:* John L. Ritter and the Castle Rock Band/Steel Breeze/Ricky and Bobby and Rex, thru 3/3; Bear Creek/Ricky and Bobby and Rex, 3/4-17; Rob Quist and Great Northern, 3/5-17; Sneak Preview/Ricky and Bobby and Rex, 3/18-31; Southern Reign, 3/19-31
Lake Tahoe Horizon, Stateline, 588-6211: *Grande Lake Theatre:* Coors Legendary Ski Show, 3/15-17, 4/12-14, and 4/26-28; *Golden Cabaret:* "Passion," revue, indf.
Lakeside Inn, Stateline, 588-7777: JJ Bryant, 3/1-2, 3/5-9, 4/16-20, 4/23-27 5/21-25, and 5/28-31; The Exchange, 3/1-3, 4/29, 5/2-6, 5/9-12, 5/27 and 5/30-31; Abba Zabba, 3/4, 3/7-11, 3/14-17, 4/15, 4/18-22, 4/22, and 4/28; Phoenix, 3/12-16; E Z Money, 3/18, 3/21-25, 3/28-31, 4/8, 4/11-14, 5/13, 5/16-20, and 5/23-26; Castle Rock, 3/19-23 and 3/26-30; Twilight Zone, 4/1 and 4/4-7; Gentlemen of Jazz, 4/2-6, 4/9-13, 5/7-11, and 5/14-18; Flashback, 4/30-5/4
Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890: Entertainment TBA
Peppermill, Reno, 826-2121: St. Romain, 3/4-10 and 4/22-28; Tanzania, 3/4-17; Cameron, 3/4-17 and 4/15-18; The Wrays, 3/11-24 and 5/6-19; E.M.C., 3/18-31 and 5/13-26; Double Edge, 3/18-31; Tommy Bell, 3/25-4/7; Johnny Baron and the Bel Aires, 4/1-7; Silk, 4/1-14; David Proud, 4/8-21; The Lelands, 4/22-5/5; Sneak Preview, 4/29-5/5; Brian and the Dominos, 5/6-12; Wildcard, 5/13-26; Band on the Run, 5/20-6/2; Cameron/John L. Ritter and the Castle Rock Band, 5/27-6/9
Ponderosa, 786-6820: Nightly entertainment
Reno Ramada, 788-2000: Entertainment TBA
Sharkey's Nugget, Gardnerville, 782-3133
Tahoe Biltmore, North Tahoe, 831-0660: Rock 'n' roll bands
Topaz Lodge, Topaz Lake, 266-3339
Western Village, Sparks, 331-1069: Entertainment TBA



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Downhill skiing can be a real cliffhanger for experts, as at Squaw (left). Nordic skiing offers scenic thrills at Diamond Peak and other areas.

Waters in Sparks, 323-4107

Angus Cattle Show and Sale, 4/28-30, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Early Documents of the Great Basin Lecture, 4/30, by Lee Mortensen, librarian at NHS, 7pm, Nevada Historical Society, 789-0190

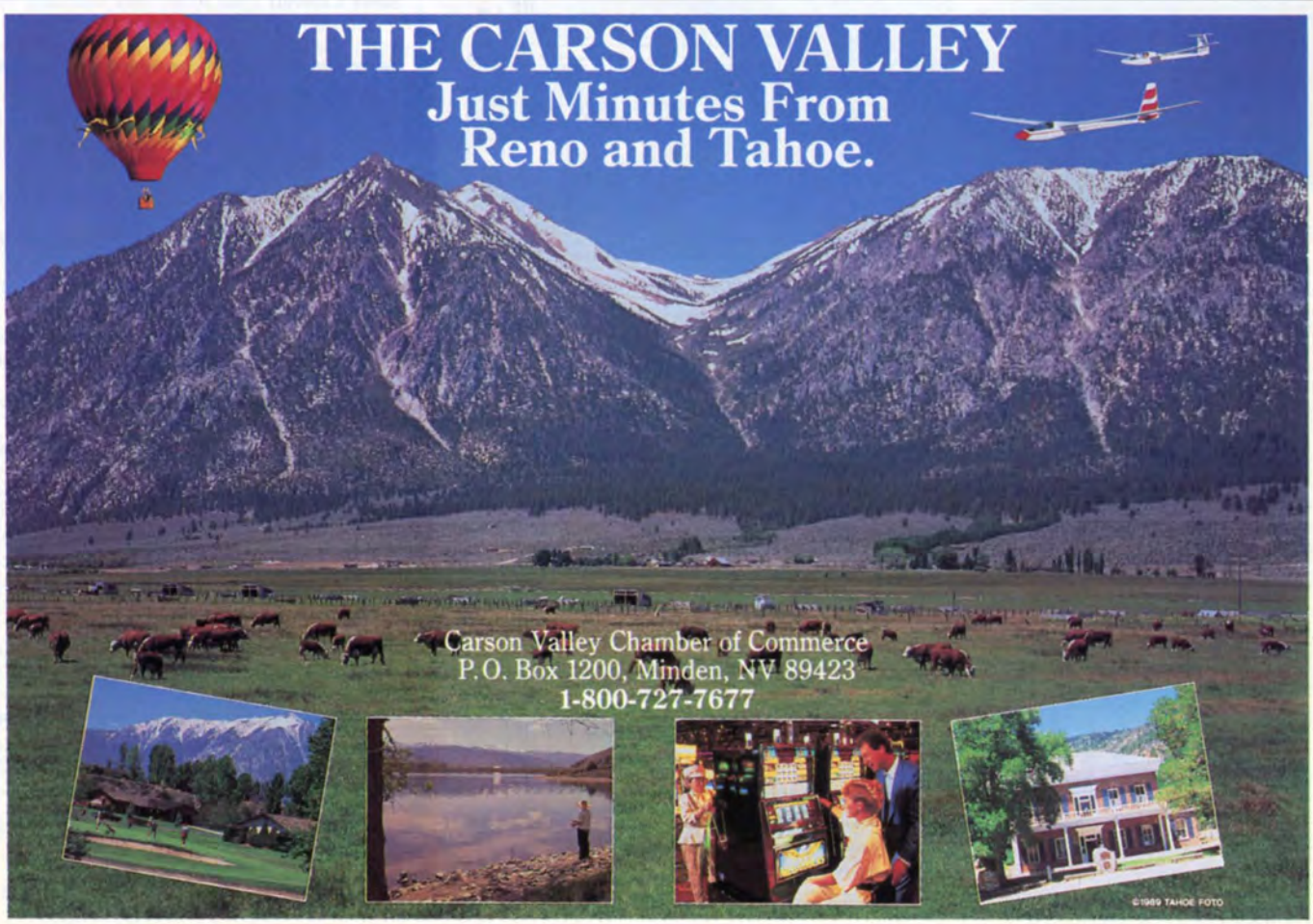
May

Silver State Square and Round Dance Festival, 5/3-5, 44th annual, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 322-0027

"Carson Capers," 5/3-5, musical variety show performed by local talent, for the entire family, 8pm, community center, Carson City, 883-1976

Nor-Cal Miniature Horse Show, 5/3-5, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Chili Cook-Off and Cinco de Mayo, 5/4, Virginia City, 847-0311



Photos: Hank de Vré/Squaw Valley (left), Diamond Peak (right)

Alpine Meadows Open Snowgolf Tournament, 5/4, played on the mountain with tennis balls, bring your own golf club or borrow one from Alpine Meadows Ski Area, 916-583-4232

Art Show, 5/4-6/10, original watercolors by Nevada artist Verne Horton, Courthouse Museum, Genoa, 782-4325 or 782-2518

Cinco do Mayo Celebration, 5/5, Victorian Square, Sparks, 353-2284

Nevada Junior Livestock Show, 5/8-12, Reno Livestock Events Center, 784-6118

Seventh Annual Student Art Show, 5/9-31, XS Gallery, Western Nevada Community College, Carson City, 887-3108

Reno Chamber Orchestra Concert, 5/11, 8pm, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 826-0880

Virginia City Grand Prix, 5/11, mountain bike race, 5-mile loop through the town, held in conjunction with the motorcycle grand prix on the same weekend, USA Promotions, Virginia City, 208-726-7454

Motorcycle Grand Prix, 5/11-12, motorcycle racing in Virginia City and surrounding hills, 847-0311

The Image of Nevada Through Literature Lecture, 5/14, by Wilbur Shepperson, chairman of the Dept. of History at UNR, Nevada Historical Society, 789-0190

Arabian Horse Show, 5/14-19, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Comstock Preservation Weekend, 5/17-19, historical plays, tours, Silver Tea, reception, grand seasonal opening of Fourth Ward School Museum, Virginia City, 847-0311 or 847-0975

Reno Chamber Orchestra Concert, 5/18, 8pm, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 826-0880

Annual Snowshoe Thompson Day Celebration, 5/18, exhibits, refreshments, entertainment reflecting the Old West and in honor of this historical figure, Courthouse Museum, Genoa, 782-2518

National Antique Guns and Arms Show, 5/18-19, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 827-7662

AKC Retriever Field Trials, 5/25-26, Little Mondeaux Gun Club, Genoa, 782-5512

Steam-Up, 5/25-27 operation of historic steam locomotive on one-mile loop of track, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 687-6953

Steve Crowell Trio, 5/30, easy listening, 8pm, community center, Carson City, 883-1976



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COMING EVENTS

Around the World With Buttons Show, 6/5, Reno, 323-4675

Kit Carson Rendezvous Wagon Train, 6/6-7 Reno to Carson City, 687-4507

Kit Carson Rendezvous, 6/7-9, Carson City, 885-7491

Carson Valley Days, 6/7-9, Gardnerville/Minden, 782-8144

Stewart Indian Museum Powwow and Arts and Crafts Fair, 6/15-16, Carson City, 882-1808

Reno Rodeo, 6/24-30, 329-3877

World Soaring Championships, 6/24-7/14, Minden, 786-8505

Fourth of July Celebration, 7/4, Carson City, 882-3206

Carson Valley Heritage Day, 7/13, Minden, 782-8144

Capital City Fair, 7/25-28, Carson City, 883-7442

Hot August Nights, 8/1-4, Reno, 829-1955

Carson Valley Fair and Junior Rodeo, 8/2-4, Gardnerville, 782-8144

Nevada State Fair, 8/7-11, Reno, 322-4424

Carson Valley Fine Arts and Crafts Street Celebration, 8/17-18, Minden, 782-8144

TOURNAMENTS

March

Blackjack, 3/8-11, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300 ext. 3610

Keno, 3/9, Harrah's Reno, 786-3232

Video Poker, 3/11, Harrah's Reno, 786-3232

Photo: John Ballweber

Keno, 3/15, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711
Dice, 3/15-17 Peppermill, 689-7100
Slots, 3/16-18, Peppermill, 689-7282
Slots, 3/17-19, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300 ext. 3610
Slots, 3/19-21, Eldorado, 786-5700
Keno, 3/22-24, Peppermill, 689-7290
Slots, 3/24, Harrah's Reno, 786-3232
Blackjack, 3/26, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711
Baccarat, 3/27-31, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515 ext. 6615
Slots, 3/29, Club Cal-Neva, 323-1046
Slots, 3/29-31, Bally's Reno, 789-2015

April

Poker, 4/1-7 Peppermill, 826-2121 ext. 4525
Keno, 4/7-8, Eldorado, 786-5700
Slots, 4/7-10, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300 ext. 3610
Video Poker, 4/15, Harrah's Reno, 786-3232
Slots, 4/16-18, Eldorado, 786-5700
Keno, 4/19 and 5/17, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711, ext. 623
Slots, 4/28, Harrah's Reno, 786-3232
Slots, 4/28-30, Harvey's, 588-2411
Blackjack, 4/30 and 5/30, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711, ext. 608

May

Slots, 5/3-5 and 5/12, Peppermill, 689-7282
Slots, 5/7-7 and 5/27-30, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300 ext. 3610
Blackjack, 5/10-12, Peppermill, 689-7100
Video Poker, 5/13, Harrah's Reno, 786-3232
Slots, 5/14-16, Eldorado, 786-5700

MUSEUMS

Carson City

Nevada State Archives: 8-5 Mon.-Fri., 3579 Hwy. 50 E., 687-5210
Nevada State Museum: 8:30-4:30 daily, 600 N. Carson St., 687-4810
Nevada State Railroad Museum: 8:30-4:30 Wed.-Sun., S. Carson St. at Fairview Dr., 687-6953
Stewart Indian Museum: 9-4 every day, 5366 Snyder Ave., 882-1808
Warren Engine Co. No. 1 Museum: 1-5 Mon.-Fri., 111 N. Curry St., 887-2200

Genoa

Genoa Courthouse Museum: 10-4:30 daily May 15-October 15, closed during winter, 782-4325

Reno

E.L. Wiegand Museum of Art: 10-6 Tues.-Sat., noon-4 Sun., 160 W. Liberty, 329-3333
Fleischmann Planetarium: 8-5 and 7-10 Mon.-Fri., 10:30-5 and 7-10 Sat.-Sun., UNR, call 784-4811 for schedule of shows
Harolds Club Gun Collection and Museum: 10-10 daily, 329-0881
Hawkins House: art museum, 10-4 Tues. and Thurs.-Fri., 10-8 Wed., 12-4 Sat.-Sun., 549 Court St., 329-3333
Liberty Belle Slot Collection: 11-11 daily, 4250 S. Virginia St., in Liberty Belle Saloon and Restaurant, 825-1776
Mackay School of Mines Minerals Museum: 8-5 Mon.-Fri., UNR, 784-6988
Nevada Historical Society: 10-5 Tues.-Sat., and noon-5 Sun., 1650 N. Virginia St., 789-0190
UNR Anthropology Dept. Research Museum: 9-1 Mon.-Fri. Sept.-May, open all year by appointment, UNR, 784-4686
Wilbur D. May Museum: 10-5 Wed.-Sun., 1502 Washington (Rancho San Rafael Park), 785-5961
William F. Harrah Foundation National Automobile Museum: 9:30-5:30 daily, 10 Lake St. So., 333-9300

Sparks

Sparks Heritage Foundation and Museum: 1-4 Wed.-Sun., 820 B St., 355-1144

Virginia City

Comstock Firemen's Museum: 10-4 daily May-Oct., closed during winter, 847-0717
Fourth Ward School Museum: 10-5 daily May-early Nov., closed during winter, 847-0975
Julia C. Bulette Red Light Museum: 7:30-9 daily, 847-9991
Mackay Mansion: 10-6 daily June-Oct., 11-5 daily Nov.-May, 847-0173
Mark Twain Museum: 10-6 daily, 847-0525
Museum of Memories: 9:30-5 daily, 847-0454
Nevada Gambling Museum: 10-6 daily, 847-0789
The Castle: 11-5 daily Memorial Day-Oct., closed during winter, 847-0275
The Way It Was Museum: 9:30-5 daily, 847-0766
Wild West Museum: 9-5 daily, 847-0400

A Reminder: To confirm dates and times, use the phone number listed with each event. For out-of-state callers, the area code is 702 throughout Nevada. For hotels' toll-free phone numbers, call 800-555-1212.



Rural Areas



Laura Spitzer plays (indoors) with the Northern Nevada Concert Orchestra in Elko April 20.

HOT LINES

Nevada Division of State Parks: District III office in Fallon: 867-3001; District IV office in Elko County: Northfork 6493; District V office in Panaca: 728-4467

For chamber of commerce and convention center phone numbers, see page E-4

A Reminder: *To confirm dates and times, use the phone number listed with each event. For out-of-state callers, the area code is 702 throughout Nevada. For hotels' toll-free phone numbers, call 800-555-1212.*

RURAL EVENTS

COVERED WAGON TERRITORY

March

Winnemucca Crazy Quilters Show and Convention, 3/2, raffle, sale, Dollmakers of Humboldt County display, convention center, Winnemucca, 623-4266

Wells Chariot Racing, 3/10 and 3/17 noon, chariot track, Wells, 752-3355

Slot Tournament, 3/14-16, State Line Casino, Wendover, 664-2111

PREVIEW

A Nevada Sampler

"A Common Thread," an exhibition by Nevada's fiber and textile artists, will be traveling throughout the state this year after opening at Elko's Northeastern Nevada Museum in March.

The juried portion of the exhibit presents a lively tapestry—a Nevada sampler—as diverse and unique as the state.

The contemporary works were juried by internationally known fiber artist and teacher Lia Cook of the California College of Arts and Crafts. Cook selected 31 pieces from more than 200 submitted. Although the Nevada artists represented remain conservative in their approach, the finalists give us a lively variety of Nevada cultural experiences—ethnic, folk, and traditional—to enjoy.

An African-American improvisational quilt by 103-year-old Frances Sheppard of Las Vegas is the showstopper. Sheppard's work is entitled "Four Block." This artist drew national attention in 1987 when, at the tender age of 100, her quilt "Who'd a Thought It?"—which she said was inspired by a Las Vegas waterbed commercial—stole a San Francisco show. It has since become the featured quilt and title piece of a two-year Smithsonian traveling exhibit on this vibrant ethnic medium.

The Native American works were curated by University of Nevada, Reno anthropologist Kay Fowler. They include the exquisite work of Washoe elder Joann Martinez, daughter and granddaughter of legendary Nevada basketweavers Sadie Joe Smokey and Manta Smokey. Also of special note is the first-time-shown work of Sandy Eagle, a Shoshone-Paiute artist. Eagle is presenting her miniature split-willow woven fetish baskets. She collects supple willows in wetland areas and then splits the fiber by mouth, which is the ancient tribal custom. Eagle's work is incredibly detailed. Every other weave is complemented with a cut glass bead, and tiny feathers have been woven into the rim of the basket.

Other Native American artists showing are the noted Northern Paiute hus-

Photo: Richard Stephens







Samples of fiber and textile art from "A Common Thread" exhibition are: (clockwise from top left) "Tea Time" by Kim Kennedy, "Callas" by Nancy Williamson, rawhide braiding by Randy Stowell, and beaded willow baskets by Norm and Bernie DeLorme. After opening in Elko, the exhibition will tour the state.

band and wife team of Norm and Bernie DeLorme. Merlin and Davin George of Stillwater show their duck decoys. These brothers have relearned the ancient art of crafting decoys from tules, and their work is masterful.

Andrea Graham, folklife coordinator for the Nevada State Council on the Arts, brought to the show interesting examples of northern Nevada buckaroo art—the rawhide braiding of Randy Stowell of Cherry Creek, horsehair braiding and hitching by Tuscarora's Roni Schutte, and *mecates* (ropes made from twisted strands of different colored horse manes) fashioned by her husband, Larry Schutte.

"Tea Time" by Las Vegas artist Kim Kennedy gives a soft new palette to a Matisse-inspired tapestry Kennedy weaves the soft desert colors of the Southwest into an intriguing portrait.

Two of Susan Gottsacker's pieces were selected for the juried exhibit. It is easy to see why her hanging "Lily" merited the Hand Weavers Guild of America Merit Award. Gottsacker, who lives in Reno, used the ancient Balinese dying process known as "ikat" to selectively dye silken lengths, which she then interwove with fine copper wire. The piece literally shimmers. In Gottsacker's second piece, "Grandmother's Flower Garden," we look through a window into a garden of delicately and painstakingly tatted flowers.

Polly Peacock's abstract-expressionist quilt "Saved for Something Special" is a fun piece in which vibrantly colored hand-painted sections are juxtaposed with bold 1960s Pucci-inspired prints.

"Callas" by Reno artist Nancy Williamson is a richly decorative woven tapestry of Calla lilies viewed up close. Williamson brings a sophisticated sense of color to this piece and an almost operatic drama to the flowers, not unlike the late diva Maria Callas.

Since the days of the ancient druids, women artists have excelled in the textile arts, finding both expression and companionship in gathering together to spin, weave, or, later in our American heritage, to quilt.

"A Common Thread" was sponsored by the Northeastern Nevada Museum of Elko and the Reno Fiber Guild and was funded by the Nevada Humanities Committee, the Sierra Arts Foundation, the City of Las Vegas, First Interstate Bank, Newmont Employees Association, Las Vegas Fiber Arts Guild, Valley Bank, Barrick Gold Strike Mines, Harrah's, and Fitzgerald's Hotel-Casino. Mary Lee Fulkerson chaired the show committee.



The exhibition's dates are:

March 7-April 20, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko.

May 1-June 7, Central Nevada Museum, Tonopah.

June 16-August 21, Reed-Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas.

September 3-October 19, Fourth Ward School Museum, Virginia City.

October 25-December 28, Nevada Historical Society Reno.

—Andria Daley

Photos: Karen Wesner, Blanton Owen (bottom right)



Marley's Ghost (above) gets audiences in the spirit of things at the Desert Oasis Bluegrass Festival, April 27-28, at the fairgrounds in Fallon.

Shooting the West III (The Nevada Photography Experience), 3/15-17 works by John Running, Stephen Trimble, Annie Griffith Belt, C.J. Hadley, Cliff Segerblom, Ansel Adams, and Edward Weston; presentations, exhibits, and workshops by Nikon, Canon, Kodak, Waldenbooks, the Camera Bag; bring three of your best photos, convention center, Winnemucca, 623-6388

St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Feed, 3/16, Community Hall, Lovelock, 273-7105

Chamber of Commerce Dinner, 3/16, fundraiser, community center, Lovelock, 273-7144

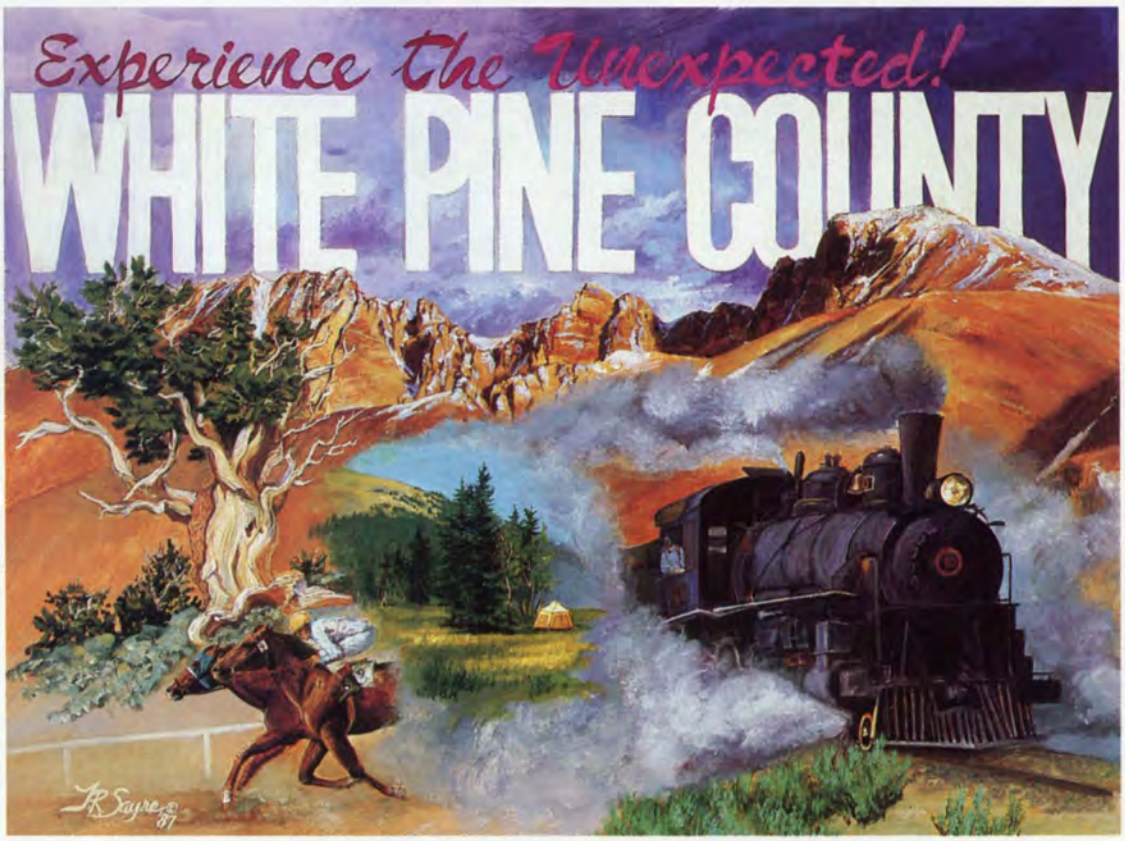
Eagles Crab Feed, 3/23, community center, Lovelock, 273-7144

Intercollegiate Mining Competition, 3/29-30, Elko, 738-4091

Easter Social, 3/31, Easter egg hunt, pot luck luncheon, McDermitt Community Hall, McDermitt, 532-8742

RURAL EVENTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE BRISTLECONE CONVENTION CENTER:
P.O. BOX 958
ELY, NV. 89301
(702) 289-3720



GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK, NEVADA

Photo: Charissa L. Drengson/Sage Arts

Children's Easter Egg Hunt, 3/31, Courthouse Park, Lovelock, 273-2792

April

Pink Ladies Dinner Dance, 4/6, community center, Lovelock, 273-7144

Basque in the Glory of Nevada, 4/11-12, rural tourism seminar, convention center, Winnemucca, 687-4322

Wendover Spring Fling Mountain Bike Race, 4/13, 14.5-mile mountain bike event; classes for all ages and abilities, both racing and touring; race course features rolling, gentle hills with a scenic overlook of the Bonneville Salt Flats, lots of prizes, USA Promotions, Wendover, 664-3414

"Side By Side," 4/20, featuring famous musical duos, special guest Laura Spitzer, 7:30pm, $8 adults, $5 students and seniors, Northern Nevada Concert Orchestra Assn., convention center, Elko, 738-4186

May

Jackpot Cinco de May Days, 5/3-5, first annual celebration, piñatas, flea market, Mexican buffets, drinks, and music, throughout Jackpot, 755-2321 ext. 6709

1991 Home, Garden, and Recreation Show, 5/4-5, convention center, Elko, 738-7135

PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY

March

An Evening With the Arts, 3/9, fifth annual fundraising dinner and silent auction with art and other items donated by local artists and businesses, Churchill Arts Council, community center, Fallon, 423-1440

Hidden Cave Tour, 3/9, meet at 9:30am, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677

Bristlecone Chariot and Futurity Races, 3/9-10, fairgrounds, Ely, 289-8877

White Pine County Fine Arts Festival, 3/26-27 school bands and choirs perform, White Pine High School Gymnasium, Ely, 289-4811

Chamber of Commerce Easter Activities, 3/30, Easter egg hunt at City Park, free matinee at theater, Ely, 289-8877

April

Horse Sense, 4/13, traditional cowboy band performs songs, stories, and poems of the West, Churchill Arts Council, Gallagher's Livestock Sale Barn, Fallon, 423-1440

Hidden Cave Tours, 4/13 and 5/11, meet at 9:30am, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677

Desert Oasis Bluegrass Festival, 4/27-28, traditional, folk, and bluegrass music, some of the bands featured are Marley's Ghost, Sidesaddle, Brushy Peak, and Horse Opry; workshops, crafts, concessions, fairgrounds, Fallon, 423-7733 or 423-4556

May

Special Occasion Faire, 5/3-4, handcrafted gift items made by local talent, demonstrations, free, 4-9pm Fri., 9am-6pm Sat., community center, Fallon, 867-3576 or 423-4556

Eureka High School Rodeo, 5/5-26, fairgrounds, Eureka, 237-5645

Richie Cole and Alto Madness, 5/11, jazz, Churchill Arts Council, community center, Fallon, 423-1440

Nevada Northern Railway Museum Opening Weekend Celebration, 5/25-26, the *Ghost*

SHOWGUIDE

Covered Wagon Territory

Elko: Commercial Hotel, 738-3181. Red Lion, 738-2111. Stockmen's Hotel, 738-5141

Jackpot: Cactus Pete's, 755-2321: *Gala Showroom*: The Diamonds, 3/1-3 and 3/5-10; Michael and Blue Suede, 3/12-14; Ronnie Milsap, 3/15-16; Mahoney's Irish Express, 3/17 and 3/19-24; Louie Fontaine and the Rockets, 3/26-28; Mel McDaniel, 3/25 and 3/30-31; Danny Marona, 4/2-7 and 4/9-14; Doug Kershaw, 4/16-21 and 4/23-28; The Drifters, 4/30-5/5 and 5/7-1. Horseshu Casino, 755-2331

Wendover: Nevada Crossing, 664-4000. Peppermill, 664-2255: Tammy Allen and RSVP, 3/4-17; EMC, 3/11-17; Band on the Run, 3/18-24; The Wrays, 3/25-4/7; Lelands, 4/8-21; Freeway 4/22-5/5; Starfront, 5/6-19. Red Garter, 664-2111. Silver Smith, 664-2231 ext. 709: Nightly entertainment. State Line, 664-2221 ext. 698: Nightly entertainment

Winnemucca: Winners Hotel, 623-2511

Pony Express Territory

Battle Mountain: Owl Club, 635-5155

Fallon: Fallon Nugget, 423-3111

Yerington: Casino West, 463-2481. Dini's Lucky Club, 463-2868: Ent. on weekends

Pioneer Territory

Pahrump: Saddle West Casino, 727-5953

Tonopah: Station House, 482-9777

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Hawthorne, NV 89415

Train of Old Ely steam engine will run on the Keystone Route into the historic mining district of Ely at 2:30 and 4:30pm on Sat. and 10:30am and 1pm on Sun.; the *Highliner* diesel runs on the historic Hiline railroad towards McGill at 6:30pm on Sat., East Ely, 289-2085

Nevada Challenge Open Road Race, 5/26, world's fastest open road race, Highway 318, Ely, 289-8877

PIONEER TERRITORY

March

Fossil Shelter Tours, ranger leads tours and discussions of 225 million-year-old ichthyosaur fossils, call for times and days, Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, 867-3001

El Capitan Fishing Derby, thru 4/27 prizes for heaviest cutthroat trout caught since 11/1/90, Walker Lake, Hawthorne, 945-5854

Girl Scout Jamboree, 3/9, convention center, Hawthorne, 945-5854

Pahrump Chamber of Commerce Spring Trade Show, 3/23, crafts, arts, businesses, door prizes, refreshments, 10am-4pm, Saddle West Convention Center, Pahrump, 727-5800

Mark Twain Visits, 3/23, reading of popular Mark Twain works by Twain impersonator McAvoy Lane, 7pm, free, convention center, Hawthorne, 945-5896



Arm wrestling and other old-fashioned contests are popular at Jim Butler Days in Tonopah.

April

Bustos Wickiups: The Archaeology of an 18th Century Shoshone Pine Nut Camp, 4/1-19, traveling display supplied by the Nevada Humanities Committee; program focuses on the Bustos Wickiup site which consists of five juniper log structures constructed between A.D. 1750-1800, Mineral County Museum, Hawthorne, 945-5142

Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay Race, 4/20-21, law enforcement officers run from Baker, CA, to Pahrump, and then on to Las Vegas, Pahrump Valley Chamber of Commerce, 727-5800

"A Common Thread," 4/30-5/31, second biennial traveling juried exhibition of fiber art by Nevada artists, Central Nevada Museum, Tonopah, 482-9676



May

Life Cycle of a Rock, 5/4, slide show explaining the geologic processes that created Cathedral Gorge, 7:30pm, free, Cathedral Gorge State Park Amphitheater, 2 miles northwest of Panaca via U.S. 93, 728-4467

Wildflower Slide Program, 5/11, 8pm, free, Cathedral Gorge State Park Amphitheater, 728-4467

Wildflower Walk, 5/12, join park ranger on short hike, wear comfortable hiking shoes and bring canteen of water, 9am, free, Cathedral Gorge State Park Amphitheater, 728-4467

Armed Forces Day, 5/13-20, parade, crafts show in park, booths, Lions Club old-fashioned barbecue, quilt display, military ball, fireworks, Hawthorne, 945-5896

Discover Nature With Your Preschooler, 5/16, dress warmly and bring picnic lunch, 9:30am, free, Cathedral Gorge State Park Group Area, 728-4467

Edible and Useful Plants of Eastern Nevada, 5/18, slide program, 8pm, free, Cathedral Gorge State Park Amphitheater, 728-4467

Lincoln County Homecoming, 5/24-27, Caliente, 726-3333

Jim Butler Days, 5/24-27, annual celebration with parade, state championship mining contests, ethnic foods, arts and crafts contest, dances, barbecues; at Central Nevada Museum Jim Butler display, 1pm, 3pm, and 5pm slide shows, and display of Jim Butler Days' garters and pins for every year from 1970 to the present, Tonopah, 482-3859 or 482-9676

Moonlight Hike, 5/25, join ranger on short hike from the campground to the "caves" area, wear long pants, closed-toe shoes, and bring flashlight, 8pm, free, Cathedral Gorge State Park Amphitheater, 728-4467

Photo: John H. Lehr

MUSEUMS

Covered Wagon Territory

Northeastern Nevada Museum, 9-5 Mon.-Sat., 1-5 Sun., 1515 Idaho St., Elko, 738-3418
Marzen House Museum, 9-2 Mon.-Fri., 1:30-4 Sat.-Sun., Lovelock, 273-7213
Humboldt Museum, 10-4 Mon.-Fri., 1-4 Sat., Winnemucca, 623-2912

Pony Express Territory

Nevada Northern Railway Museum, 8:30-4:30 daily, May 27-Oct. 1, closed during winter, East Ely, 289-2085
White Pine Public Museum, 9-5 Mon.-Fri., 10-4 Sat.-Sun., 2000 Aultman St., Ely, 289-4710
Eureka Sentinel Museum, open April 15-Oct. 13, hours vary, call 237-5484, Eureka
Churchill County Museum and Hidden Cave, 10-4 Mon.-Wed. and Fri.-Sat., noon-4 Sun., 1050 S. Maine St., Fallon, 423-3677. For Hidden Cave tours call Carson City BLM, 885-6000
Lyon County Museum, 10-4 Sat., 1-4 Sun., Yerington

Pioneer Territory

Mineral County Museum, 11-5 Mon.-Fri. May-Sept., noon-4 Mon.-Fri. Oct.-April, Hawthorne, 945-5142
Lincoln County Museum, 9-5 Mon.-Sat., 10-5 Sun. (closes from 12:30-1:30 for lunch), closed during winter, Pioche, 962-5207
Central Nevada Museum, 12-5 Tues.-Sat., Tonopah, 482-9676

RURAL COMING EVENTS

Pigeon Race, 6/7, Jackpot to Bay Area, 755-2321
Winnemucca Basque Festival, 6/8-9, 623-2225
Founders Day Celebration, 6/14-15, Silver Springs, 577-2008
Gridley Days, 6/14-16, Austin, 964-2200
Twin States Stampede, 7/4-5, McDermitt, 582-8269
Silver State Invitational Rodeo, 7/4-7 Fallon, 423-4674
National Basque Festival, 7/5-7 Elko, 738-3295
All-Indian Stampede, 7/19-21, Fallon, 423-2544
Pioneer Days Celebration, 7/20, Panaca, 726-3333



Phlox and wildflower programs are springing up at Cathedral Gorge State Park.

Photo: Lewis Brockus

Nevada's Cowboy Country

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1991 EVENTS CALENDAR

JANUARY
Wells: Invitational Chariot Races
Elko: Cowboy Poetry Gathering

MARCH
Winnemucca: "Shooting the West II" A Nevada Photography Experience

MAY
Wells: N.A. Pony Express Championship
Winnemucca: Barrel Futurity & Derby
Winnemucca: Old Timer's Team Roping

JUNE
Winnemucca: Mule Show & Races
Elko: Western Heritage Festival
Winnemucca: Basque Festival
Lovelock: Portuguese Festa
McDermitt: Red Mountain Indian Pow Wow & Rodeo
Elko: Mining Exposition

JULY
Elko: National Basque Festival
Jackpot: Hollerin' Contest
McDermitt: Twin States Stampede
Jackpot: Annual Home Built Airplane Rendezvous
Elko: Silver State Stampede

AUGUST
Lovelock: Frontier Days
Winnemucca: Nevada Open Horse Show & Futurity
Wendover: Air Races
Wendover: Bonneville Speed Week

LABOR DAY WEEKEND
Winnemucca: 9th Annual Buckaroo Heritage Western Art Round Up, Winnemucca Rodeo & Tri-County Fair
Elko: Elko County Fair & Livestock Show, Pari-mutuel Racing

SEPTEMBER
Winnemucca: Thoroughbred, Quarter Horse & Mule Pari-mutuel Racing; Ranch Hand Rodeo
Battle Mountain: Covered Wagon Days Trail Ride
Wendover: World of Speed

Write or Call: Nevada's Cowboy Country, 50 Winnemucca Blvd. West, Winnemucca, NV 89445 (702) 623-5071

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DINING GUIDE

The following Nevada dining directory includes current magazine advertisers. Each listing gives sample dishes, whether breakfast, lunch, or dinner (B, L, D) are served, and accepted credit cards. Price ranges refer to typical entree price per person: up to $10 ($), $11 to $20 ($$), $21 to $30 ($$$), and more than $30 ($$$$). To phone from out of state, the area code is 702 throughout Nevada.

BOULDER CITY

Gold Strike Steak House—Between Boulder City and Hoover Dam, 293-5000. Steaks, lobster, veal, and daily specials. D. $-$$, major.

LAS VEGAS

AMERICAN

Circus Circus/Skyrise—734-0410. Prime rib, steak and shrimp. B, L, D. $, major.

Flamingo Hilton/Flamingo Room—733-3111. Seafood salad bar, fresh fish of the day, veal cutlet Viennoise. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

Flamingo Hilton/Lindy's Deli—733-3111. Grilled Reuben, New York steak, marble cheesecake. B, L, D. $, major.

Rio Suite/All American Bar and Grille—252-7777. Mesquite grilled steak and seafood, American beers and wines. D. $-$$$, major.

Rio Suite/Beach Cafe—252-7777 Pasta and seafood specials daily, night owl specials. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

Rio Suite/Carnival Buffet—252-7777. Bountiful selection. B, L, D. $, major.

Rio Suite/Sonny's Deli—252-7777. Authentic New York deli style sandwiches and salads. L, D. $, major.

Sam's Town/Mary's Diner—5111 Boulder Hwy., 454-8073. '50s flair, blueplate specials served 24 hours. B, L, D. $, major.

Sam's Town/Smokey Joe's 24 Hour Cafe & Market—5111 Boulder Hwy., 456-7777. Barbecue specialties served 24 hours. B, L, D. $, major.

Sam's Town/Uptown Buffet—5111 Boulder Hwy., 454-8048. B, L, D. $, major.

Stardust/Tony Roma's—732-6111. Ribs and chicken. D. $, major.

Tropicana/Tropics—739-2800. Chicken, steak, fresh seafood. D. $$, major.

CAJUN

Holiday Casino/Joe's Bayou—369-5000. Shrimp Creole, blackened catfish, Memphis-style barbecue. D. $-$$, major.

FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

Bally's/Gigi—739-4651. Cote de veau nouveau chasseur mormard grille, beurre fondu. D (closed Mon-Tues.). $$$$, major.

Caesars Palace/Bacchanal—731-7110. Seven-course Roman banquet. D (closed Tues.-Wed.). $$$$, major.

Caesars Palace/Palace Court—731-7110. Langoustines, steak Diane. D. $$$$, major.

Desert Inn/La Vie en Rose—733-4444. Poached pear in port wine, mousse of goose liver and prosciutto rosettes; veal with carmelized apples, flamed with calvados; boneless roast duck with choice of orange, cherry, guava, peppercorn or light curry and chutney sauce, Steak Diane. D. $$$$, major.

Lady Luck/Burgundy Room—477-3000. Rack of lamb, beef Wellington, lobster thermidore, veal of the day. D, $$, major.

Las Vegas Hilton/Le Montrachet—732-5111. Dover sole, medallions of veal, extensive wine list. D. $$$$, major.

Tropicana/Rhapsody—739-2440. Chateaubriand bouquetiere, veal sorrentino, duckling chambord. D. $$$, major.

INTERNATIONAL

Caesars Palace/La Piazza Food Court and Lounge—731-7324. Multi-cuisine international food; Japanese ramen soups, Chinese stir-fry, Italian pastas and pizzas, New York-style deli sandwiches and salads, cial desserts. D. $$$, major.

MEXICAN

Sam's Town/Willy & Jose's Mexican Cantina—5111 Boulder Hwy., 454-8044. Authentic Mexican dishes in Old Mexico setting. D. $, major.

ORIENTAL

Caesars Palace/Ah So—731-7110. Sushi and sashimi, teppan yaki-style. D. $$$$, major.

Desert Inn/Ho Wan—3145 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 733-4547. Sizzling oyster beef, prawns a la Szechwan, almond pressed duck. D. $$, major.

Flamingo Hilton/Peking Market—733-3111. Nine-course family dinner, lemon chicken and lobster Cantonese. D. $, major.

Imperial Palace/Ming Terrace—794-3261. Cantonese and Mandarin cuisine, abalone, Kung Pao shrimp, roast duck. L, D. $$, major.

Lady Luck/Emperor's Room—477-3000. Cantonese, Szechuan, and Mandarin specialties. L, D. $-$$, major.

Las Vegas Hilton/Benihana Village—732-5111. Four restaurants: tempura, robata, sukiyaki, hibachi; animated show. D. $$$, major.

Las Vegas Hilton/Garden of the Dragon—732-5111. Shark's fin soup, Szechuan chicken salad, honey roasted duck with oranges, Mongolian beef, Thai fried noodles. D, $$$$, major.

Mizuno's At Tropicana—739-2770. Teppan steaks, chicken, seafood, sashimi. D. $$$, major.

SURF AND TURF

Bally's/Barrymore's—739-4661. Blackened redfish, surf and turf. L (Mon.-Fri.), D. $$-$$$, major.

Caesars Palace/Spanish Steps Steak and Seafood House—731-7110. Fresh seafood, prime dry-aged steaks, Mediterranean dishes. D. $$-$$$, major.

Circus Circus/Steak House—734-0410. Steak, prime rib, lobster, seafood appetizers flown in fresh daily. D. $$, major.

Flamingo Hilton/Beef Barron—733-3111. Prime rib special, chateaubriand, crisp roast duck. D. $$-$$$, major.

Holiday Casino/Claudine's—369-5000. Steaks and seafood, open kitchen, piano bar nearby, excellent wine list. D. $$-$$$, major.

Imperial Palace/The Seahouse—794-3261. Alaskan King crab legs, hot and cold appetizers, seafood salads. D. $$, major.

Sam's Town/Diamond Lil's—5111 Boulder Hwy., 454-8009. Fresh fish and seafood daily. D, Sun. brunch. $-$$, major.

Stardust/William B's—732-6111. Broiled halibut, lamb, veal, rib eye steak. D. $$, major.

Tropicana/El Gaucho—739-2376. Steaks, lamb chops, fresh seafood. D. $$$, major.



Las Vegas Hilton's Benihana Village offers diners a choice of four restaurants.

ITALIAN

Bally's/Caruso's—739-4656. Gamberoni alla griglia, pollo alla fiorentina. D (closed Wed.-Thurs.). $$$$, major.

Caesars Palace/Primavera—731-7110. Fettuccine Primavera, pasta specialities, Caesars salad. B, L, D. $$-$$$, major.

Imperial Palace/Pizza Palace—794-3261. Pizza, pasta, and salads. L, D. $, major.

Lady Luck/Marco Polo's—477-3000. Northern Italian specialities, pasta, veal. D, $$, major.

Las Vegas Hilton/Andiamo—732-5111. Northern Italian specialties, 25 pastas, veal, lamb, and fish entrees. L, D. $-$$, major.

Desert Inn/Portofino—733-4444. Scampi alla Provinciale, Fettuccine Verde with Pesto, Veal Chop alla Parmigiana, Osso Buco Milanese con Risotto, D. $$$$, major.

Rio Suite/Antonio's—252-7777. Risottos, pastas, spe-

B, L, D. $, major.

LAUGHLIN

Colorado Belle/Orleans Room—298-4000. Steak, seafood, prime rib, lamb chops, linguini. D. $$, major.

Edgewater/The Embers—298-2453. Steak, seafood, prime rib, Midwestern beef. D. $$, major.

Riverside/Gourmet Room—298-2535. Chateaubriand, Cajun dishes, steak and quail, rack of lamb, wine steward. D. $$, major.

Riverside/Prime Rib Room—298-2535. Salad, potato, vegetable, and dessert bar, prime rib. D. $, major.

Sam's Town Gold River/Sutter's Mill—298-2242. Mesquite-broiled steaks. Brunch Sat.-Sun. D. $$, AE, MC, V.

RENO-CARSON AREA

AMERICAN

Carson Nugget/Buffet—882-1626. Sun. champagne brunch, Sat. breakfast buffet, Fri. seafood buffet. B, L, D. $, major.

Carson Nugget/Coffee Shop—882-1626. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. $, major.

Carson Valley Inn/Fiona's—Minden, 782-4347. Steaks, seafood, veal, soup and salad bar. L, D, Sun. brunch. $-$$, major.

Carson Valley Inn/Katie's—Minden, 782-9711. Four-course prime rib dinner, steak and lobster, half-pound burgers. B, L, D. $, major.

Comstock Hotel/Miner's Cafe—200 W. 2nd St., 329-1880. One-pound New York steak dinner. 24 hours. $, major.

Eldorado/Mardi Gras—786-5700. English sole, shrimp salad croissant sandwich, won ton soup. B, L, D. $, major.

Harrah's/Garden Room—786-3232. Eggs Benedict, avocado clubhouse, triple dragon. B, L, D. $, major.

Harrah's/Skyway—786-3232. Buffets, Sun. brunch. B, L, D. $$, major.

Holiday Inn/Greenhouse—5851 S. Virginia St., 825-2940. Sandwiches, burgers, dinners. B, L, D. $, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/General Store—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, giant apple pancake, seafood Louis. B, L, D. $, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Rotisserie—Sparks, 356-3300. Buffet with menu that includes rack of lamb and scampi, Sunday brunch. L, D. $-$$, major.

Peppermill/Coffee Shop—2707 S. Virginia St., 826-2121. Fruit salads, lasagna, gourmet omelets. B, L, D. $$, major.

Peppermill/Island Buffet—2707 S. Virginia St., 826-2121. Salad bar with fresh shrimp and crab legs and homemade pasta. Sun. brunch. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

Sharkey's Nugget—Gardnerville, 782-3133. Prime rib is house specialty. B, L, D. $, no CC.

BASQUE

Louis' Basque Corner—301 E. 4th St., Reno, 323-7203. Sweetbreads, tripe, paella, other seafood dishes. L, D. $$, major.

FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

Bally's/Cafe Gigi—789-2266. French, cracked crab, snails, lobster bisque, chateaubriand, veal Oscar. D. $$$$, major.

Eldorado/The Vintage—786-5700. Fresh Sonoma duckling, chateaubriand, prawns amaretto, extensive wine list. D. $$, major.

Flamingo Hilton/Top of the Hilton—322-1111. Salmon with three sauces, roast duck with raspberry sauce, roast prime rib of beef au jus. D. $$$, major.

Gold Hill Hotel/Crown Point—1 mile south of Virginia City, 847-0111. French and Cajun cuisine. D. $$, major.

Harrah's/Steak House—786-3232. Steak Diane, fresh fish daily, roast rack of lamb. L (Mon.-Fri.), D. $$$, major.

Peppermill/Le Moulin—826-2121. Tournedos of beef a la Dianne, veal a la Oscar, dover sole meuniere. D. $$, major.

INTERNATIONAL

Eldorado/Choices—786-5700. An express cafe with hof brau, deli, bakery, ice cream. B, L, D. $, major.

ITALIAN

Bally's/Caruso's—789-2267. Fresh oysters, canneloni, calamari. D. $$$, major.

Eldorado/La Strada—786-5700. Saltimbocca, gnocchi al pesto, ravioli verdi con spinaci. D. $$, major.

ORIENTAL

Bally's/China Seas—789-2268. Mandarin shrimp, Mongolian beef, cashew chicken. D (closed Sun.). $$, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Trader Dick's—Sparks, 356-3300. Cashew chicken, Szechwan specialities, flaming dagger brochette. L, D. $$, major.

SURF AND TURF

Bally's/Bounty—789-2000. Steamed clams, cracked half crab, oysters. L, D. $, major.

Bally's/Steak House—789-2270. Broiled T-bone steak, Columbia River salmon. L (except Sat.-Sun.), D (except Sun.-Mon.). $, major.

Carson Nugget/Oyster Bar—882-1626. L, D. $, major.

Carson Nugget/Steak House—882-1626. Veal scallopini, scampi in dill sauce, chicken picata, escargot. D. $$, major.

Circus Circus/Hickory Pit—329-0711. One-pound prime rib, New York steak. D. $$, major.

Comstock Hotel/Dinner House—329-1880. Steak and lobster, veal picata, stuffed shrimp. D. $$, major.

Harrah's/Seafare—786-3232. Fresh fish specials, calamari, lobster tail, veal parmigiana, eggplant Romano. L, D. $$$, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/John's Oyster Bar—Sparks, 356-3300. Lazyman's cioppino, seafood stews. L, D. $$, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Steak House—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, steak and lobster, snapper, shrimp Louis. L, D. $$, major.



A little bit of heaven at the Rotisserie's pastry corner in John Ascuaga's Nugget.

LAKE TAHOE

AMERICAN

Caesars Tahoe/Cafe Roma—Stateline, 588-3515. Lamb chops, prime rib. B, L, D. $-$$$, major.

Harrah's Tahoe/Forest Buffet—Stateline, 588-6611. Friday night seafood bounty, Sunday brunch, daily buffet. B, L, D. $$, major.

Harrah's Tahoe/Sierra—Stateline, 588-6611. Chicken pot pie, cashew chicken salad, Chinese cuisine. B, L, D. $$, major.

Harvey's/Cafe Metro—Stateline, 588-2411. European sweet shop, coffees, retail bakery. $, major.

FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

Caesars Tahoe/Le Posh—Stateline, 588-3515. Award-winning California cuisine. D. $$$, major.

Harvey's/Sage Room—Stateline, 588-2411. Rack of lamb persille, prime dry-aged cuts of beef, beef Wellington. D. $$-$$$, major.

Harvey's/Top of the Wheel—Stateline, 588-2411. Continental cuisine, mahi mahi with macadamia bourbon, Sun. brunch, D. $$-$$$, major.

ITALIAN

Caesars Tahoe/Primavera—Stateline, 588-3515. Linguini Carbonara, tenderloin pizzaiola, pollo allo spumante, D, weekend brunch, $$, major.

Harrah's Tahoe/Café Andreotti—Stateline, 588-6611. Pizza quattro stagioni, filetti barbaresco, lasagne Andreotti, D, $$ major.

MEXICAN

Harvey's/El Vaquero—Stateline, 588-2411. Camerones Veracruz, carnitas. L, D. $$, major.

ORIENTAL

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

SURF AND TURF

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

Harrah's Tahoe/Friday's Station Steak and Seafood Grill—Stateline, 588-6611. Blackened shrimp, hickory smoked range chicken with Southern Comfort apple butter. L, D. $$$, major.

Harvey's/Seafood Grotto—Stateline, 588-2411. Wide seafood selection plus Chinese dishes. L, D. $$-$$$, major.

ELKO

Red Lion Inn—738-2111. Coffee shop and gourmet restaurant. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

Stockmen's Motor Hotel—738-5141. Casino coffee shop, evening dinner house. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

AROUND THE STATE

Station House/Whistle Stop—Tonopah, 482-9777. Hamburgers, steak, seafood. B, L, D. $, AE, MC, V.

Whiskey Pete's/Bushwacker Steakhouse—I-15 near Nev.-Calif. border, 382-4388. Porterhouse, prime rib, trout almondine. D. $-$$, major.

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REVIEW

Give My Regards to Laughlin



"Broadway Varieties" brings a bit of Vegas to the Flamingo Hilton Laughlin.

By Lance Evans

The full impact of Las Vegas-style entertainment hasn't arrived in Laughlin just yet. But the process most certainly has begun with the presentation of "Broadway Varieties," a light-hearted revue that is currently playing at the Flamingo Hilton Laughlin.

"Our show isn't yet up to the standards of what you might see on the Vegas Strip," says Bill Moore, one of the show's co-producers. "But we're still plenty proud of what we've put on stage."

The show is a high-stepping, hand-clapping tribute to Broadway's best musicals. "We think there's a great blend of music," says Moore, whose production partners are George Arnold and Rene DeHaven, who also serves as choreographer.

"Broadway Varieties" is the first show of its kind in Laughlin. Well, almost the first, for the Hilton had been running a less polished and successful stage show called the "Zipity Do Revue" before replacing it with "Broadway Varieties."

In both tone and style, the "Zipity Do Revue" and "Broadway Varieties" are unlike most of Laughlin's other entertainment.

Don Laughlin's Riverside Resort features everything from concerts by rock and country stars to pro boxing and mud wrestling. Sandy Hackett's Comedy Club, based in Sam's Town Gold River, presents stand-up comics, while a number of the other casinos—the Ramada Express, Colorado Belle, and Pioneer, for example—have lounge acts ranging from eight-piece bands to solo performers.

On the basis of what it offers, "Broadway Varieties," which patrons may see for a one-drink minimum, is unique in the growing southern Nevada gambling center.

"We think it's a great beginning," says Moore, no stranger to Nevada entertainment. His "City Lites" show has been running nonstop for 10 years at the Flamingo Hilton in Las Vegas, and, in one form or another, he's had other productions up and running in Vegas for the past 27 years.

"We've got all the ingredients," he says, "songs people love, talented singers and dancers, and an attractive venue. People can't help but have a good time."

"Broadway Varieties" has its roots in a show Moore had been producing at Lake Tahoe more than three years ago.

"Getting it to Laughlin was kind of a fluke," admits Moore, who then explains that he was showing tapes of various productions to Hilton executives when they saw "Broadway Varieties" and were impressed.

"What we've done in Laughlin is update it with some new pieces [such as tunes from "Phantom of the Opera"] and rearrange the presentation of some of the more established works, such as those from 'Oklahoma, 'Chorus Line, Annie, and '42nd Street.'" The changes and rearrangements give the show the kind of pace and direction that carries the audience through many moods during the one-hour presentation.

Despite having just a seven-person cast, "Broadway Varieties" captures the audience in a number of ways; nowhere is this more apparent than in "Mame" and the main theme from "Hello, Dolly " two old war-horse tunes that are transformed into high-energy production numbers that show the cast, the work of choreographer DeHaven, and the costumes of Lloyd Lambert in their best lights.

Unlike "City Lites," which features ice skating and magic and has been running since September 1981, "Broadway Varieties" is straight-ahead singing and dancing. There is nothing risque about the presentation, a fact R. Brooke Dunn, Flamingo Hilton Laughlin director of marketing, says is no accident.

"We look at this property as a family destination," says Dunn. "There's no reason our entertainment shouldn't reflect that philosophy."

"Broadway Varieties," despite the sometimes shopworn tune of some of its songs, is bright and sassy a condition brought to pass by the energy of the cast, young entertainers for the most part, but who have already learned how to sell a song.

"We're very happy to have had the chance to break some show business ground in Laughlin," says Moore. "Everything we've heard has been positive, so I won't be surprised to see some of the other casinos follow suit."

But, until they do, "Broadway Varieties" at the Flamingo Hilton Laughlin is the only Vegas-style show game in town.

And it's a pretty nice game, at that.

Lance Evans, a Flagstaff, Arizona, writer wrote about Laughlin in the Jan/Feb '91 issue of Nevada Magazine.

THE SHOW

"Broadway Varieties" is presented at 5, 7 and 9 p.m., Sunday through Thursday at the Flamingo Hilton Laughlin. Admission: One drink minimum. Reservations are not accepted.

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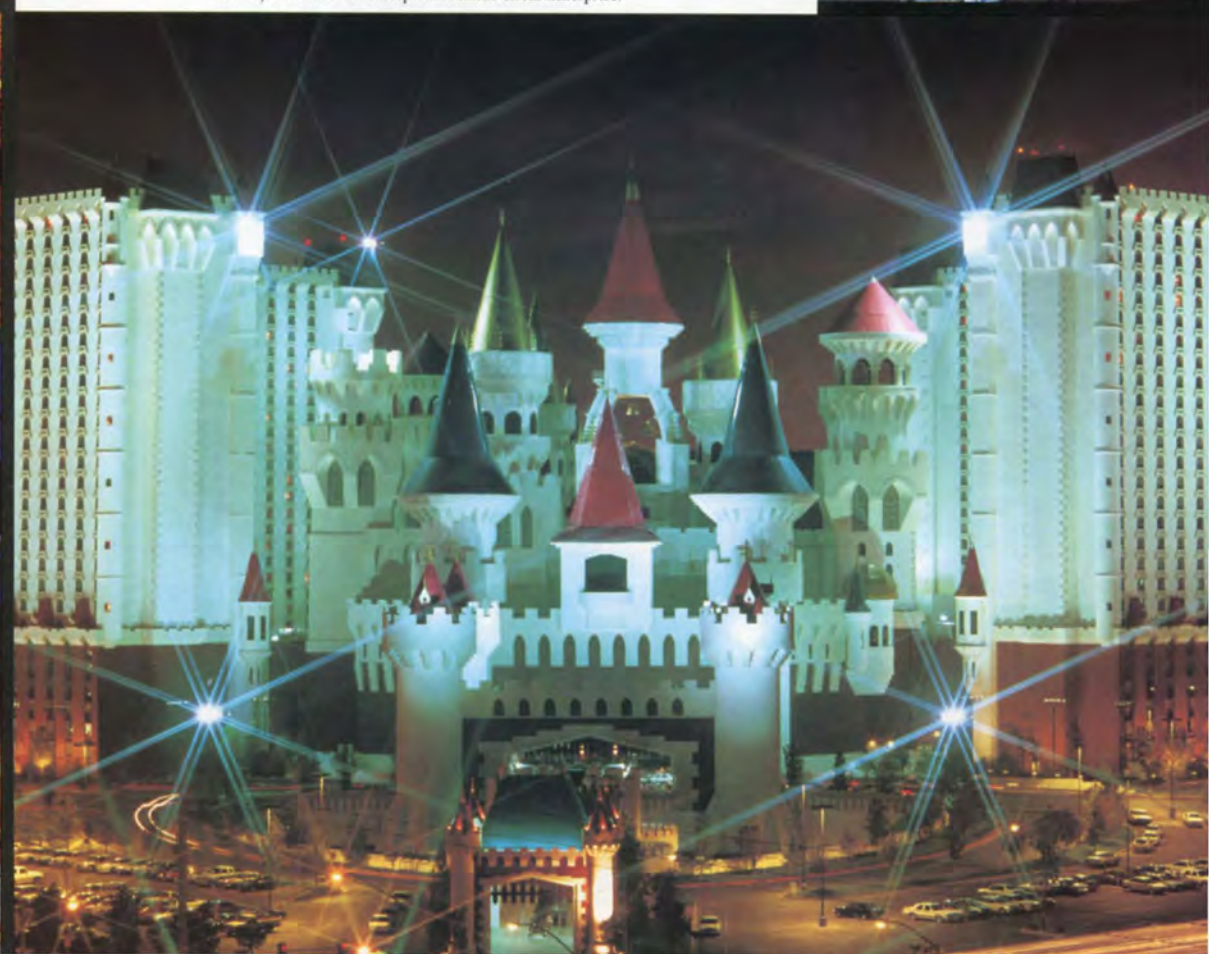
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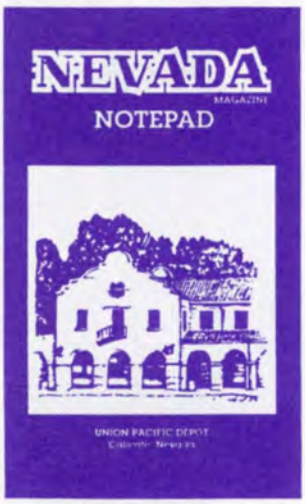
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