

Will James: Rare Sketches From His Romantic Years ★ Proud Heritage of the Basques
Bikini Gambling ★ Tahoe's Rim Trail ★ Picking Tomorrow's Stars ★ Calendar of Events

NEVADA

THE MAGAZINE OF THE REAL WEST

AUGUST 1986/\$2.25

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NEVADA

Volume 46, Number 4

July/August 1986

Features

Their Life Is the Lake

Lake Mead is only 50 years old, but these water lovers can't imagine the desert without it. By Rob Powers. Page 11

Song of the Basques

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Singing in the Rain

The way I see it, Nevada should be a tropical forest, and all this desert is just a mirage. By Jim Andersen. Page 62

Yesterday



WILLIAM GARDNER BELL COLLECTION

Will James: The Romantic Years

These rare sketches by the cowboy artist and writer tell of James' romantic notions and artful aspirations in his early years when he roamed the Nevada range. By William Gardner Bell. Page 28

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CLINT WARDLOW

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Cover: Lake Mead's Emery Falls, named for pioneer Nevada river man Murl Emery is also known as Columbine Falls. Photograph by Gene Hertzog

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Letters

Covers and Coverups

Back to Nature: Last Call

Thanks for the letter last issue by Verna Anderson. She has written a real Nevada answer to Pete Bradley's article, "Nevada's Untouched Wilderness," and I agree completely with her. My vote is for parks, yes; more wilderness, no.

Carol Maplesden
Eagleville, CA.

In the May/June issue, Verna Anderson's point of view on Pete Bradley's article succinctly described his attempt to justify a massive wilderness single-use imposition. Verna nailed his hide to the barn of facts.

The articles on the Mayor of Valmy (an old friend) by Richard Menzies and Virgin Valley's opals by Carolyn Dufurrena were also of great interest, and Linda Dufurrena's photos are always worth framing.

Jack Arant
Virginia City, NV

Inventors and Collectors

Congratulations on your article "Fathers of Invention" (March/April '86). It is refreshing to see you highlight the accomplishments of inventors in Nevada who have become successful. For 30 years I have been assisting inventors by advising them of the services of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. In 1984 I was instrumental in putting together a facility at the UNR College of Engineering for a permanent Nevada Inventors Hall of Fame.

Inventors who have been inducted are: Dr. Alessandro Dandini (three-way light bulb); Austin Cooley (photos by wire); Robert Mendenhall (recycle asphalt); Dr. John Kleppe (sound measurements); Don Bently (proximity transducer); George Sanders (analyze audio signals); and William Lear, posthumous (Lear Jet).

J. Jerry Jeremy
U.S. Dept. of Commerce
Reno, NV

About the "Back Page" of your May/June '86 issue: I must be one of those scholars or fanatics so contemptuously dismissed by Leon Mandel, but I liked the Harrah's Auto Collection the way it was. Nowhere else could complete model lines be studied. Nowhere else could a visitor tour shops and see cars naked, under restoration. Nowhere else was such a body of old car data available to the public. Harrah's was

always the high point of the car enthusiasts' national show/sale circuit. Bill Harrah's love of the Collection was infectious to all of us.

I do agree with Mandel that Ben Dasher and associates deserve all the public and private support Nevada can give them.

Frank Molitor
Kaiser/Frazer Owners Club Intl.
McDermitt, NV

Pitchers and Pictures

In regards to Gardell Simpson, Jr.'s inquiry in Letters, May/June '86, on where he might find antique pitchers:

Tell him I know of one old pitcher, still in great shape. Used to be in New York but was traded to Cleveland. Tell Mr. Simpson to ask for Phil Niekro. An excellent pitcher, I might add!

Roberta Rothwell
Rosamond, CA.

Seeing the picture of the old V&T engine in the recent poster ad reminded me of the days when I helped build the Minden airport. We used to call the old engine the Vicious & Terrific. It always stopped before crossing the airport access road to watch out for trucks.

Marcel A. Haulard
New Orleans, LA.

Covering the Issues

Your May/June cover is a photographer's masterpiece. Ms. Dufurrena seized the moment of truth for the fading day, the rising moon, and the gem of sagebrush habitat she chose for her setting: that is expert photography; more: it portrays uniquely well an essential aspect of the spirit of Nevada. Kudos!

On the contrary, there is no .44 on page 44. Mr. McNamara evidently never saw a revolver. Where are the cartridges? And the cylinder flutes—behind the bore? Aw, come on! Yours for the ultimate truth,

Brooking Parsons Tatum
Santa Rosa, CA.

Tatum, the artist, Dan McNamara, confesses, "With no real guns available, I was forced to use fake guns for my reference. My mistake!"

Why, why, why have you stopped putting the white paper protective covering on the magazine? I received mine today in the rain, so the cover naturally was wet.

Then that name label right on the front photo! I was so excited last year when the issues started coming with that covering. Thanks for the good content inside.

Gerry Jaillet
Santa Rosa, CA.

Jaillet, we really liked the covering, too, and hope to bring it back if the cost is right.—Ed.

Looking for Lost Cemeteries

Our group is compiling a survey of Nevada's remote (and sometimes forgotten) cemeteries. We locate a cemetery and make a complete survey, which is then entered into a computer for publishing in book form later this year.

If any readers know of any out-of-the-way or lost cemeteries, we'd like to hear about them. Send us a self-addressed stamped envelope to Nevada Families, 1916 Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89104-3106, and we will send a full explanation of our project.

Dick Taylor
Las Vegas, NV

A Question of Merit

Sorry. Will not be renewing. Though your magazine is very interesting, both historically and pictorially, it lacks the artistic merit of *Arizona Highways*.

A.T. Davies
Ferndale, WA.

Heartfelt praise for *Nevada* is all you'll hear from us. As temporarily displaced Nevadans, we look forward to reading every issue cover to cover. Until the day when we can ride that U-Haul back across the border, we'll cherish our subscription as the next best thing to being there.

Tim and Michele Dibitonto Krump
Chandler, AZ.

Many years ago the *Nevada Magazine* published articles on towns and cities as well as ghost towns. There were stories about people from the long, faraway past as well

as the present day. It was interesting, educational, and colorful.

Your magazine today bears no resemblance to it. You feature the gambling and big tourist areas while the rest of Nevada is forgotten. Not even Nevadans care for your magazine.

I really feel *Nevada Magazine* should improve the image of the most wonderful state of the Union. If Samuel Clemens (better known as Mark Twain) were alive today, what would he say? As one of the best known writers and residents of Virginia City, he concentrated on people, places, and events.

Mrs. Paul T. Petty
Cucamonga, CA.

Your magazine is super! We are frequent visitors to Nevada, in many areas, and really enjoy what you have to offer. It's great to check show listings, prices, and events that interest us. Your "Old West" stories and beautiful pictures also are a real treat.

Mrs. Dave Woods
Bellingham, WA.

Friendly Welcome

I spend all my vacations in Nevada. I love each nook and cranny, and I look forward to each magazine. By the way, I am forwarding a copy of the newspaper *Grit* that has a picture pertaining to Nevada. Hope you like it.

Lois M. Berg
Belvidere, NJ

Thanks for the photo tip. The owner of the photograph, Mrs. Marjorie D. Martin of San Francisco, has kindly shared it with us. She reports, "The photo was taken in July 1937 when my grandparents, Eva and Frank Fitzgerald, drove from San Francisco to Reno. They were welcomed to Nevada by this billboard just east of Reno. My grandmother is wearing the green visor to protect her from the Nevada sun. Their friend Bea is in the center. Make of the auto is unknown." The photo is below. □



The unusual greeting in Mrs. Martin's photo (see above) may refer to an old law designed to help pay for highway repairs. If anyone has more information, please let us know.

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Photographs by Richard H. Lane Text by William A. Douglass

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ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS

What to Do in Town

Las Vegas

By Kate Butler

Reddy or Hot

When summer temperatures heat things up, cool off on a group tour through the Reddy Ice plant. In rooms ice-conditioned to 22°F, you can watch the cubes flow along to bagging lines. Pop briefly into the storage locker, kept at a crisp zero degrees, and walk through 20-foot-high stacks of bagged chips and blocks. As much as 140 tons of city water are used to produce 14,000 bags of ice daily. To arrange free tours for groups of six to 16 at Reddy Ice, 1010 Main Street, call 702-384-4522.

Beat-the-Heat Retreat

Only 45 miles northwest of Las Vegas, Mount Charleston offers hiking trails, picnic sites, and campgrounds—all at temperatures 20 degrees cooler than the valley below. If you'd like to lounge among the pines in comfort, try the new Mount Charleston Inn on Kyle Canyon Road. At about 6,800 feet, the Inn offers a restaurant with a view and evenings around the fire on the outside patio. The Inn is at 2 Kyle Canyon Road, Mount Charleston, NV 89124; 702-872-5500.

Slip Sliding Away

Cutting the ice at Henderson's family ice skating rink is a great way to cool off. Join the figure skaters, ice hockey players, and straight skaters of all ages and glide freely to the music. The rink is open most evenings from five until nine and on weekend afternoons. The cost is \$3.50 plus \$1 for skate rental. College students, military, and senior citizens get discounts, and Monday evening is family night. Other attractions include classes and rink rental for groups. Iceland Skating Rink, 704 West Sunset Road, Henderson, NV 89015; 702-565-6373.

Stars at Night

Take yourself out to a ball game when the Las Vegas Stars are playing at home this summer. Cheer the local team to victory. Sing along with the live organ music—words provided on the electronic scoreboard—and buy your peanuts, hotdogs, beer, and Cracker Jacks from roving barkers. Most of the games are played at Cashman Field in the cooler hours of the evening. General admission is \$3.50 adults, \$2.75

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for military and children under 16. Reserved seats cost \$4; parking is \$1. City buses running on Las Vegas Boulevard stop within easy walking distance of the stadium. The triple-A Stars, who play in the Pacific Coast League, are a farm club for the San Diego Padres. Write Las Vegas Stars, 850 North Las Vegas Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89101; 702-386-7200 (see the Nevada Calendar for schedule).

Reno/Tahoe

By Andrea Michelsen

In the Clover

Home of the Great Reno Balloon Race each fall, Rancho San Rafael Park provides 408 acres of rolling pasture just off Virginia Street (U.S. 395) in Northwest Reno. Picnicking parents can lay back in the grass while the kids play on the monstrous jungle gym. The park also features the Wilbur D. May Museum, which is full of the late world adventurer's exotic collections and natural history displays. Museum admission is \$1 general and 50 cents for seniors and kids under 12. Rancho San Rafael, 1502 Washington Street, Reno, NV 89503; 702-785-5961.

Urban Greenery

Virginia Lake on Lakeside Drive in Southwest Reno is a man-made city lake whose shady paths seem to be used by half the joggers in Reno. Strollers also find ample elbowroom, and kids enjoy feeding the ducks and cavorting on the jungle gym and swings. Drivers are warned to obey the 15-mph speed limit as joggers—and ducks—are protected by law.

Swimming at the Mansion

Midway between Reno and Carson City on U.S. 395 in Washoe Valley is Bower's Mansion, the former home of Comstock millionaire Sandy Bowers. This landscaped 46-acre county park has a large swimming pool, a baby pool, barbecue pits, hiking trails, and plenty of room for picnics. The stately mansion is full of antiques, and tours are conducted frequently each day; admission is \$2 adults, kids \$1. Pools and grounds are open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily; admission is \$2 adults, \$1.50 juniors, and \$1 kids. Phone 702-849-1825.

Et Tahoe, Brute?

Summer in Northern Nevada requires at least one visit to Sand Harbor, a part of Lake Tahoe State Park on the lake's northeast shore. With its tall pines and broad sweep of sandy beach, this place is perfect for an invigorating swim or a romantic sunset picnic. The show crowd also makes its annual trek to the beach for the park's Shakespearean and music festivals (see the Nevada Calendar). Sand Harbor is open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. in summer. Arrive early—the place fills up fast. Phone 702-831-0494. □



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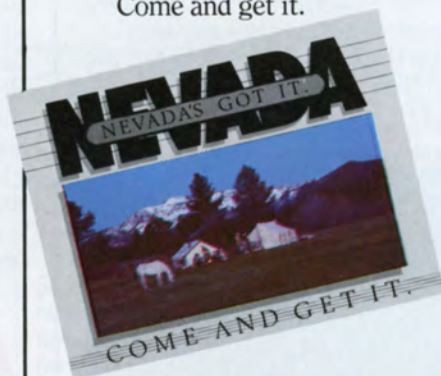
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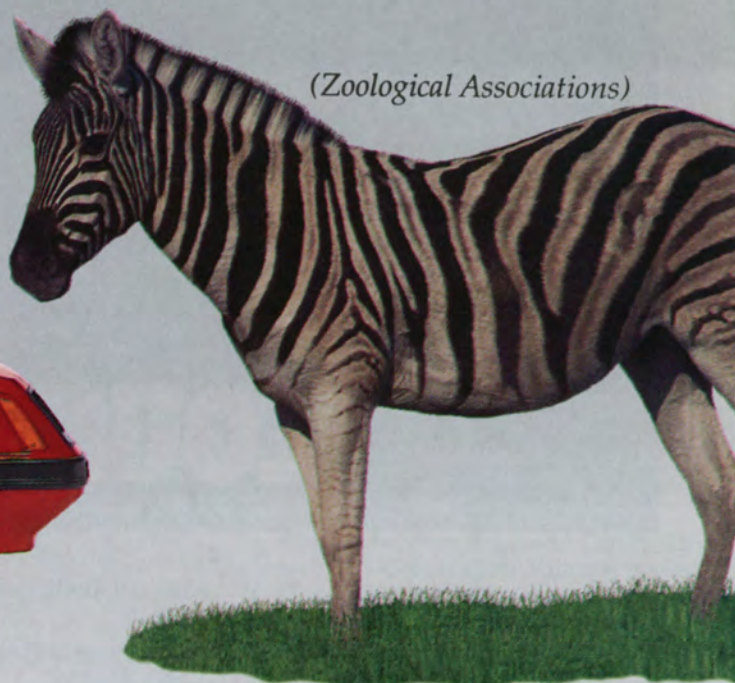
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Bob and Betty Gripentog dropped anchor at Mead in 1957 and turned their tiny marina into a multimillion-dollar family operation.

Their Life is the Lake

Lake Mead is only 50 years old, but these water lovers can't imagine the desert without it.

By Rob Powers

Life on the lake holds special meaning for those whose life is the lake. They are the people who, through time and circumstance, have come to form an intimate bond with a unique body of water. For just as Hoover Dam gave birth to Lake Mead a half century ago, so has the lake spawned generations who cannot envision a time when the water did not dominate the parched landscape—and their lives.

Change was inevitable, and as inexorable as the rising tide that licked at the canyon walls and submerged everything in its path. Think of it: Here was a lake, at the time the largest man-made body of water in the world, and now the largest in the country, right in the middle of a sprawling, open land where for thousands of years

water had been as scarce as shade. A 115-mile long body of water, 229 square miles in size, 550 miles of shoreline—six and a half years in the making. All of it the result of a monstrous slab of concrete taming a raging ribbon of river, the Colorado, which has another monument to its power called the Grand Canyon.

This year more than seven million people are expected to visit Lake Mead National Recreation Area as it celebrates its golden anniversary. It was in 1936 that the lake was named for Elwood Mead, late commissioner of reclamation, and came under the wing of the National Park Service. Almost an afterthought in the dam's construction, Lake Mead proved it had an allure of its own.

And so in time the lake became the

focal point in the lives of many people. An incongruous bunch—at least as incongruous as a lake in the desert—these people often share little more than their love for and understanding of the water. But then, that is quite enough.

THE GRIPENTOGS

In a small office located just off the tackle and snack shop, Betty Gripentog pulls out a wrinkled black-and-white photograph. It is an aerial view of Las Vegas Boat Harbor, located where Las Vegas Wash empties into Lake Mead. That is, the photo shows the embryo of the harbor. Taken in 1958, a year after the Gripentog family leased the wash from the government, the picture reveals a smattering of small boats buoyed just offshore—white dots framed



WAYNE C. KODEY

Cactus McHarg has used four sets of engines and 26 years pursuing his favorite sport: hunting down lost boats and helping people in the lake's tricky waters.

by empty desert and emptier water.

Today Las Vegas Boat Harbor has about as much resemblance to its humble beginnings as an oak tree does to an acorn. This cozy little corner of the lake is testimony to a flourishing recreation area, and to a family that took a gamble and won big.

The Gripentogs are a fixture at Lake Mead, as familiar to many boaters and fishermen as the surrounding mountains and sun-splashed cliffs. Owners and operators of the marina for the past 29 years, Bob and Betty Gripentog, along with their four children, Bob's brother, and now three in-laws, have taken a bare-bones operation and watched it grow prodigiously. It now is a multimillion-dollar resort with more than 600 slips, a restaurant, bar, boat rentals, a marine and tackle shop, and six acres of locked storage.

To look at it now, it's hard to believe there was any doubt their venture would be a success. Yet the Gripentogs' path to the present was a rather circuitous one. Bob, a Minnesota native who later lived in California, came to Southern Nevada in the late '40s, when as a young serviceman he was assigned to Nellis Air Force Base. Betty, born in Missouri, arrived here about the same time. Her family owned a grocery store in Las Vegas, and Bob and Betty worked there after they were married.

So their life seemed to be mapped out for them. But then came a detour—the lake. Avid boaters who spent much of their spare time at Mead, they took that turn and settled at Las Vegas Wash “never dreaming we’d be here for 29 years,” Betty says. Survival was the first priority. “We didn’t have any long-range plans,” she says. “There was nothing except for a few boats on buoys.” Family and friends were skeptical. “They all thought we’d lost our marbles,” she says. “No one knew boating



Lake Mead, 25 miles east of Las Vegas, is the country's largest man-made lake.

would take off like it did.”

The Gripentogs started developing the harbor. There were no phones and no electrical power, so they set up their own generator, and for communication they relied on a crackly radio. “It was pretty rough the first few years,” Bob says. “But we had the idea that recreation would boom. We saw it as an opportunity to grow.”

Did they ever think, during those lean times, of throwing in the buoy?

“I begged him to,” says Betty, laughing. “But he was too much of a bull-headed German for that.”

Later she would thank him, because at the dawn of a new decade, the '60s, things began to change. Fiberglass helped bring boating within the means of the average wage earner—“Everybody got boat crazy,” Bob remembers—and phone and power lines brought the harbor into the 20th century. The Gripentogs' first slip was put in in 1960; the restaurant, the first floating eatery on the lake, followed the next year. The operation has grown from \$40,000 in annual sales to about \$3 million today.

The whole clan shares in the success of the marina, the only family operation on the lake. Daughter Linda works at the Gripentogs' boat showroom in the valley; son Bob Jr. is involved in marina maintenance; Gail is the restaurant and office manager; and Gary works in boat rentals and mechanics. Their husbands and wives chip in, too. Bob Sr.'s brother, Jim, is the service manager. Counting family members, the Gripentogs employ about 40 people during peak season.

“My mom was pregnant with me when they bought the harbor,” says Linda, 28. “That’s all I know, is the lake.”

“When I was growing up, it was all play—we were able to go out in the Boston Whaler and have a good time. I don’t get as much of a chance to see the lake as I’d like now. It’s still a fun lake,” she says, but it’s more than that: “It’s where our life is and probably always will be.”

SANDY KOST

The difference between Sandy Kost's view of Lake Mead and almost everyone else's is about 70 miles an hour.

Kost is a speed skier, which means her idea of a lake outing is strapping a heavy, six-foot piece of wood to her feet, grabbing a 200-foot section of rope—the other end of which is attached to a powerful boat—and whooshing across the water faster than most people drive on the freeway.

She first skied about 12 years ago; she began speed skiing, implausibly enough, only a week later. Her inspiration was a cousin who owned a boat and liked to go fast in it as well as behind it.

A longtime member of the Las Vegas Boat and Ski Club, Kost remembers her first race—it was at Mead or Havasu; she's

not sure which—this way: "It was a rude awakening. The flag drops and everybody's gone." She placed high enough to move out of the women's novice class and convince her father that she was serious about the sport: "I think he was worried, but he bought me a ski jacket for my birthday. 'Here, he said. At least you won't drown. "

Since then Kost, who is a bus driver for the Clark County School District, has competed in several races here and abroad. Last year, after competing on the National Speed Boat and Water Ski Association's U.S. team in Spain, she independently entered Italy's national competition on Lake Como, where she broke the existing women's record of just under one hour, 15 minutes in a 77-mile race. She is also the current women's open division champ in the so-called "50-75" race at Lake Mead, an event held by the Las Vegas Boat and Ski Club each September. The event consists of 50- and 75-mile races. Kost won both races last year in her division.

When she competes, it's in a team of three. A driver keeps an eye on the water, and an observer keeps an eye on Kost. "Mike's saved me a whole bunch," she says of her observer, Mike Chandler. He and her driver, John "Pete" Peters, have competed with her for five years.

Kost and her husband, Rich Hadland, and their two sons get out on the lake about every other week in their small outboard boat. That's not enough skiing for Kost, who must work out daily at home to keep herself in optimum shape.

The lake may be a blur to Kost much of the time she is on the water, but having lived in Las Vegas all her life, she still can appreciate all the wonders the lake offers.

"Mead used to be so endless," recalls Kost. "But the longer you ski or are out there boating, you find you know the route. Not that I've touched on every beach, but it used to be so massive. Now it's not so big. It's like when you're a little kid—the dinner table looks so tall. Now it's not so tall."



Sandy Kost says, "When I'm in my car going 65, I think, 'I ski faster than this.' "

WAYNE C. KODEY



Limnologist Larry Paulson (right) and graduate assistant Pat Sollberger test the waters near Vegas Wash. Paulson's biggest concern isn't what's on the lake, but what's in it.

LARRY PAULSON

Scientist Larry Paulson, who has taken his share of fish from Mead, these days tries to figure out how to put them back in.

Paulson is director of the Lake Mead Limnological Research Center at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. He directs a team that studies the physical, chemical, and biological properties of Lake Mead and other reservoirs in the Colorado River system.

His major role is to monitor the water quality in Las Vegas Bay and the Boulder Basin of Mead and to evaluate the effect of treated waste-water discharges on the lake. The center also has done work for the Bureau of Reclamation, determining the ecological impact of upgrading the power plant at Hoover Dam, and has looked into an unusual fishery problem with the Nevada Department of Wildlife, which oversees fishing on the lake.

Studies say the fishery problem dates back to 1963 and the Glen Canyon Dam. As the dam was built, its reservoir, Lake Powell, began to intercept most of the phosphorous that had flowed down the Colorado into Lake Mead. That set off a chain reaction: Algae growth in Mead decreased, as did production of animal plankton. That meant less food for the tiny threadfin shad, which are breakfast, lunch, and dinner for the lake's striped and largemouth bass. Both fish remain the lake's prize lunkers, and more stripers are being caught by more fishermen than ever before. But the fish are smaller, and the nutrient question lingers.

The solution? Paulson and his team recommended the possibility of allowing more waste-water phosphorous to be re-

leased into the lake in winter. Another choice is artificial fertilization. In cooperation with DOW, the Bureau of Reclamation, and Arizona Game & Fish, Paulson will begin such a program this summer to encourage the growth of plankton for the benefit of shad and young game fish.

Wet winters have helped fertilization in the meantime. "We have seen some improvement in the past three years because there's been so much runoff in the Colorado," he says. Phosphorous, the fertilizing agent, is generally released from silt, but Lake Powell was holding back too much of the silt until the recent surge.

Paulson, a former Air Force mechanic who received his doctorate in limnology from UC Davis in 1977 says the high runoff also has reduced the lake's salinity. That is good news for local residents because the Las Vegas area, through the Southern Nevada Water Project, gets most of its water from Lake Mead.

CACTUS McHARG

Cactus McHarg is infinitely more comfortable talking about the lake than about himself. He is asked, is Cactus your real name? "That's enough," he says, combing his bushy beard with a calloused hand. "That's what it says on my driver's license." Well, all right. How old are you, Cactus? "Old enough to know better," comes the reply, and by this time he is smiling in spite of himself.

For the past 26 years, McHarg has been patrolling the waters of Lake Mead in his 23-foot, twin-outboard cabin cruiser, the *Mary M*. He spends virtually every weekend and holiday—and much of his vacation time—hunting lost boaters and lending a

SANDY KOST COLLECTION



Hoover Dam tour guide Patti Williams says a high point in her job is when she takes visitors 528 feet down—near the lake's bottom.

hand to those who have run out of gas or whose boats have broken down.

McHarg spends, on the average, more than 1,000 hours annually on the *Mary M*, which is on its fourth set of engines. "One year it was 1,700 hours," he says proudly. "That's plus working full time." (He is a maintenance engineer for J.C. Penney at the Meadows Mall.) For his volunteer work he has received a startling number of awards from the Coast Guard Auxiliary District 11, of which he is a member, including one each for the years 1966 to 1980. Two times he and his wife, Mary, for whom the boat is named, both received awards. For the past several years he has patrolled under the auspices of the National Park Service's Volunteers in Parks program. Last spring, when officials took him off the program, McHarg downplayed the dispute and said he was optimistic about getting back his volunteer's badge.

He sums up his patrol work this way: "I look for boats and people in trouble." The three most common causes of trouble, he says, are carelessness, too much sun, and "too much Colorado Kool Aid." Compounding the problem are boaters who don't carry maps. "The average boater who's lost, he can tell you he's on Lake Mead, but he can't tell you where." Then there are those to whom safety is a fuzzy concept. "I ran across a guy one time in Vegas Wash. He had tied up to a lighted

buoy and put a sack over the light. Blocking that light was a clear violation. I asked him, 'Why are you doing this?' He said, 'Well, the stripers are biting and the light was bothering me. I told him be that as it may, he was asking for a big fine and he also needed an anchor. Then he showed me his string of fish, and if he didn't know the difference between stripers and carp, I wasn't going to tell him!'"

The lake itself can put boaters in trouble, says McHarg, who has seen Mead turn from serene to unforgiving in the blink of an eye. "One thing I know for sure. If you're careless out on that lake, you're going to become a statistic."

The statistics could be a lot worse if it weren't for people like McHarg.

PATTI WILLIAMS

Even now, after countless journeys into the bowels of Hoover Dam, Patti Williams can't help but be moved by the wonder of it all—or by the reactions of people who are seeing the dam for the first time.

"The awesomeness of the dam," she says. That's what hits people. "For them to try to fathom how many men worked on it, and how long it took."

Williams, a former Lake Mead ranger, has worked for the Bureau of Reclamation as a dam tour guide for two years. Born and raised in Pittsburgh, she received a degree in parks and recreation from West

Virginia University. She traveled extensively throughout the country and arrived in Southern Nevada three years ago. She remembers the culture shock. "It was quite an adjustment," the 28-year-old guide says. "It took me a little while to realize the beauty of the area."

As one of dozens of dam guides, Williams takes groups of visitors several times a day 528 feet down into the thickness of the dam, into one wing of the power plant, and into a huge tunnel blasted into a canyon wall. During one part of the tour, visitors look back and directly face the immense concrete wall holding back the water.

"That's probably the highlight of my job—it's what keeps me up," says Williams. "Every time I take people in the dam, it's like opening their eyes to something that's completely unfamiliar to them. I repeat a lot of things over and over, but it never ceases to amaze people."

And it continues to amaze Williams. She says, "Once I started working at the dam, my perspective of the lake changed. I saw more of the history of the lake, why it was here, how it got started. It just makes you see the lake as more than just a body of water. You see how it changed everything around it." □

Rob Powers is editor of the Living section of the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

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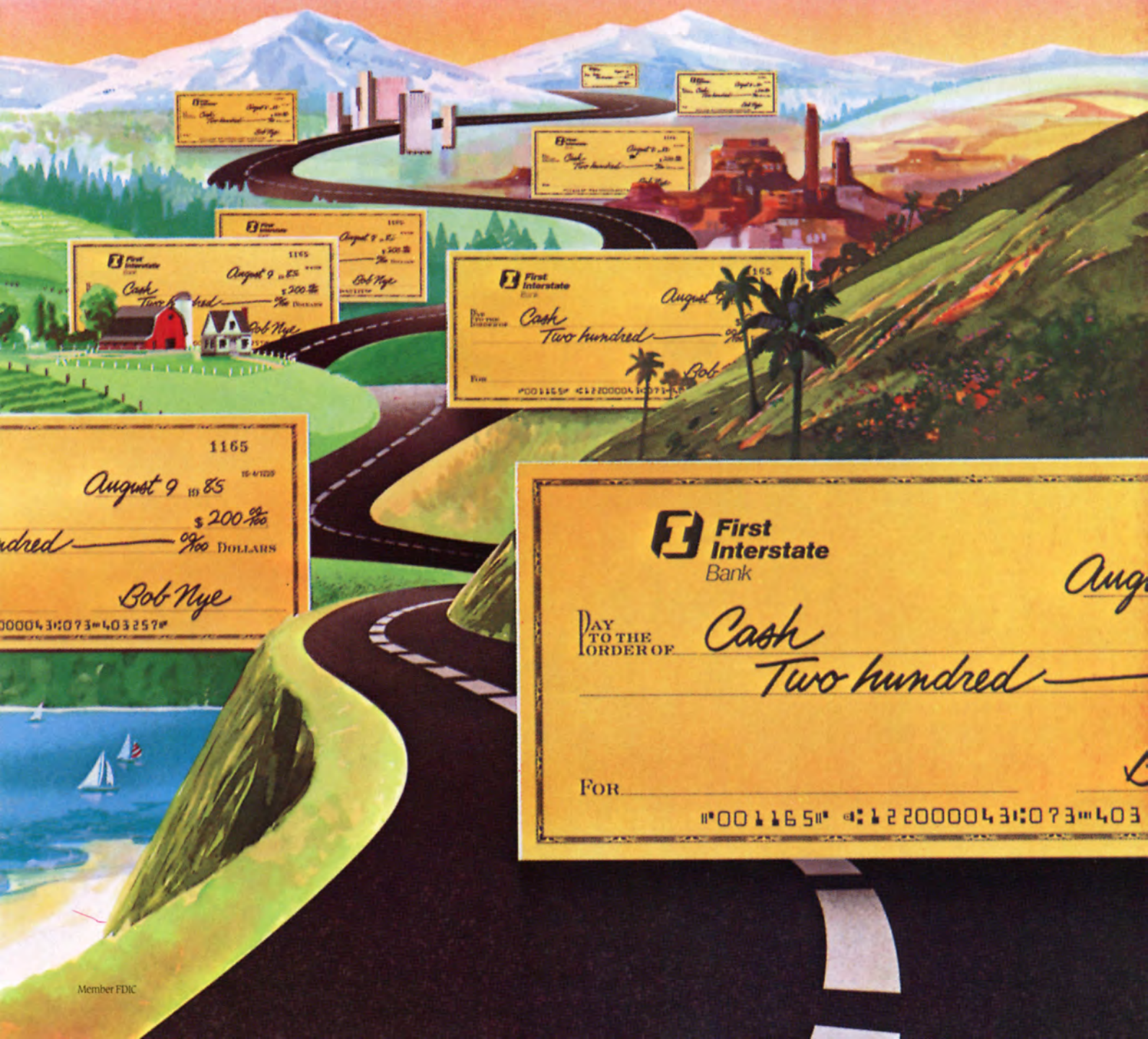
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Song of the Basques

Summer is festival time for Nevada's Basque communities in Winnemucca, Elko, Ely, Reno and Las Vegas. The affairs are joyous and colorful and sometimes arduous for those unused to the effects of Old World dances and large quantities of red wine. The festivals also were unusual for the old-time Basque sheepherders who spent most of the year in the mountains, several days' walk from town and half a world away from their homeland in the Pyrenees. But, in time, town life and festivals came to play important roles in the cultural life of Nevada Basques.

Photographs by Richard H. Lane, Text by William A. Douglass

For the typical Basque herder of bygone years, the small towns of the American West were to be avoided if possible. Bent upon saving every penny to accumulate a nest egg with which to return to Europe, the herder viewed town life with suspicion. It was an alien world where his sense of helplessness due to a lack of English was heightened and where he might become an easy mark for the unscrupulous con man out to fleece a rube. It was also in town that his months of yearning for the conviviality of a good time and the burning need for female companionship might be translated into the expensive temptations of taverns and prostitutes.

Yet every herder, no matter how scrupulous, had to cope at least minimally with the towns. Upon first arriving in the country and finally departing it, he was likely to pass through them. Of far greater significance, however, was the fact that until the post-World War II period, when the contract system guaranteed the herders' year-round employment, sheepherding was a seasonal activity. Each fall when the lambs were shipped to market two bands of ewes were consolidated into a single one, and the excess herders were simply laid off until the following spring lambing. Some were able to secure employment at odd jobs, usually on the ranches, while a few went to California each year (where due to the climate the annual cycle is reversed, with lambing taking place in the autumn). However, most men simply hunkered down in



An accordion to a Basque is like a bagpipe to a Scot (left). A new generation (above) sings "The Star Spangled Banner" and the Basque anthem, "Gernikako Arbola."

the sheep districts to wait out the layoff period, and this usually meant "going to town."

In response to this situation, throughout the open-range sheep districts there emerged a network of Basque boarding houses or hotels. Owned by former herders who had acquired enough English and familiarity with American ways to serve as brokers between the boarders and the wider society, the hotels became the closest thing to a home for many a Basque sheepherder. It provided him with an address, a repository for a set of town clothes while working on the range, and a safe ethnic haven. Here the food was familiar and he could while away the idle hours playing the Basque card game *mus*,

drinking with his friends, dancing to accordion music, and playing pelota or handball in the court that was appended to the back of many Basque hotels. The successful hotel keeper served as interpreter, accompanying his clients whenever they had to see a doctor or buy a pair of boots. He was a banker, holding their spare cash, arranging to send drafts to Europe, and extending room and board on credit to the man who was down on his luck. They were purveyors of information regarding job opportunities both locally and in distant areas. Should a herder decide to return to Europe for a brief visit, he would leave his rifle, saddle, and bedroll in the storeroom of his favorite hotel; and should he remain too long in the West to ever go back, he might live out his last years there as a permanent boarder.

Over time the hotels acquired other functions as well. While few Basques entered the United States with the intention of remaining, some changed their minds once they became

Reprinted from *Basque Sheepherders of the American West*, © Richard H. Lane and William A. Douglass (University of Nevada Press).



Young Basque dancers, more likely bound for college campuses than sheep camps, kick up their heels this summer at festivals in Elko, Ely, Reno, and Las Vegas (see Calendar).

sheepmen in their own right. Desirous of establishing a family, they either wrote or went back to the Basque Country to secure brides. Some married Basque serving girls who were brought over by the hotel keepers to staff the boarding houses. In this fashion a more sedentary and settled Basque and Basque-American population became established in many small towns. For these local Basque colonies the hotels were a social universe. They hosted the baptismal banquets and wedding celebrations. Children from distant ranches might be boarded during the school year while attending classes. Wives sometimes spent the final stages of pregnancy and then gave birth in the hotel. The injured and ill resided there while convalescing.

Corpses were brought in from the outlying areas for the night vigil or wake before final burial.

The Basque hotel, then, was a crucible of birth and death, joy and sorrow; a public establishment masking many private intimacies. As such it was the prime ethnic institution of Old World-born Basques and Basque-Americans.

There is another manifestation of Basque culture, both more recent and more restricted in its distribution—the Basque festival. Today, in places like Reno, Winnemucca, Elko, Ely, and Las Vegas (all in Nevada), San Francisco, Los Banos, Fresno, Bakersfield, and Chino (California), Boise (Idaho), Salt Lake City (Utah), and Buffalo (Wyoming), Basques gather each summer to

In strongman competitions, Basques don't pump iron; they hoist 200-pound granite balls. Here a harrijasotzaille (stone lifter) shows the brawny stuff Basques are made of.



hold a celebration. Attended by as many as 3,000 persons, the festivals are now famed throughout the American West and attract Basque and non-Basque revelers alike. In Elko, the National Basque Festival, held on the Fourth of July Weekend, is the event of the year.

The activities are distinctively Basque-American in that the festival incorporates both Old World and New World elements, combining the American picnic or barbecue and the village saint's day celebration of Europe. The festival, then, draws upon elements from both sides of the Atlantic and also reflects the fact that Basque-Americans were drawn from many different regions of the Basque Country. The proceedings open with a Catholic mass, an echo of the religious character of the Old World celebration but not in reference to any particular saint's feast day. Folk-dance groups from the Basque social clubs of several communities then perform. The repertory of dances and costumes is generic rather than specific. That is, each group is likely to perform dances from a variety of Old World locales rather than ones specific to a particular village or region. Athletic competition includes lifting and carrying stones (popular in Vizcaya) and wood-chopping (most common in Navarra). At the same time, events such as sheephooking contests and sheepdog trials are more reminiscent of the American rodeo than the Old World fiesta. There is also a barbecue with steaks or lamb chops, beans, salad, bread, and red wine, and in the evening the festivities conclude with a street dance.

For the Basque-American community, then, the festival is a vehicle for celebrating one's roots as the descendants of Europe's mystery people and of the lonely guardians of America's sheep bands. Few working herders, however, are able to attend since the unending vigil over the bands must be maintained. The merriment and camaraderie of the festivals are but a faint echo in the mountain fastness and serve to further underscore the sheepherder's solitude. □

The preceding is an excerpt from Basque Sheepherders of the American West: A Photographic Documentary, recently published by the University of Nevada Press, copyright by Richard H. Lane and William A. Douglass. Photographer Lane, a former member of the staff of Elko's Northeastern Nevada Museum, has documented the Basque sheepherder's way of life for most of the past two decades. Writer Douglass is coordinator of the Basque Studies Program at the University of Nevada-Reno and author of several books. The result of their collaboration is a fine hardcover coffee table edition of 185 pages, with text in four languages—English, Basque, Spanish, and French. It is available at \$19.95 from bookstores or the University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV. 89557.

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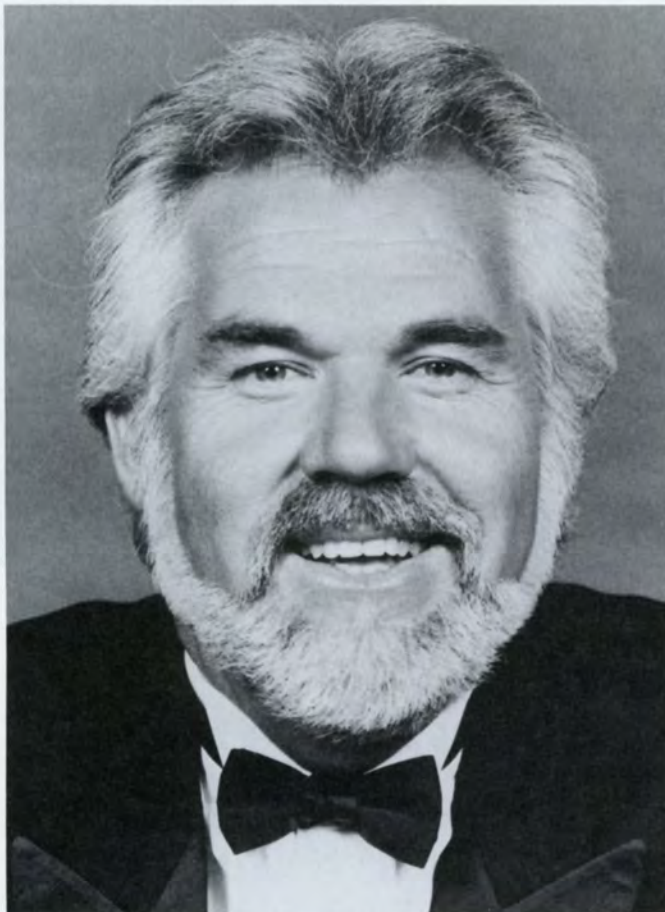
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GUY RICHARDSON

Today Kenny Rogers can just about name his showroom and his price. But in 1975 (above right), Rogers was just another former rock star, playing Harrah's lounges and planning his trip back to the top. What happened? His plan worked.

The Making of A Star

Nevada and big stars are synonymous. Think of Nevada entertainment and you think of Sammy Davis, Jr., Tony Orlando, Joan Rivers—a glittery bunch.

But out beyond the bright lights of the main rooms are smaller and dimmer rooms, the lounges. The acts you see there can only dream of stardom.

I remember a washed-up rock 'n' roller back in 1975 sitting in his small dressing room within steaming distance of Harrah's kitchen, telling me about his comeback plans. Every writer who talks to entertainers hears the same sad story of how they were on top, and how, by God, they will be back again. This fellow was quieter than most, and he seemed more intelligent. Still, I didn't use his comeback plans as part of the interview I wrote the next day.

I'd heard so many, after all.

He said he was going into country music, where 100,000 records made a hit. In rock, 100,000 is pitiful. Three country hits, said he, then a crossover record, and then back on top. The plan was more detailed, but that was its essence.

My best response was "Sure, sure, Kenny." Uh-huh. It was Kenny Rogers in the midst of I know not what Edition. (His first group was Kenny Rogers and the First Edition, remember? He had more Editions than Woody Herman had Herds.)

But Rogers called it exactly right. Three country hits, a crossover, and onward to superstardom. "Lucille," the 1977 Grammy winner, started it. By the time he got to "Lady," former loungeer Rogers was playing baseball stadiums.

After that, I listened better.

Still missed a few, though. When Dottie West played Reno's Ponderosa—whose

lounge then resembled a beer-smelling cave—she'd just written her first Coke commercial (which turned into "Country Sunshine"). It was 1973, and I rightly wrote she was a star in the making. (And, small world department, her subsequent duets, like "Every Time Two Fools Collide," with Kenny Rogers helped.) However, West told me to listen to her guitar player. "He's written some wonderful songs," she said. "He's a real talent."

Now, if there's anything showbiz has more of than washed-up rock stars, it's country guitar players who've written wonderful songs. Still, I covered the kid, and that was the first mention in Northern Nevada of Larry Gatlin.

And when he began recording hits like "All the Gold in California," I added country guitar players to washed-up rockers as people to pay attention to.



Joan Rivers (top left) and the Oak Ridge Boys and Lee Greenwood (top right) made top billing after years as lounge stars and opening acts. Comic Danny Marona (bottom left), songstress Zella Lehr, and funny man Jay Leno could be headed in the same direction.

Why do some Nevada entertainers make it big while others, perhaps with equal talent, don't? Our fearless critic probes that mysterious process and names some lounge types who could be tomorrow's stars.

By Guy Richardson

After a few years of this I got the hang of guessing who might claw up out of the ranks. In 1978 I listened to a fellow sing and play piano in the MGM Grand-Reno's tiny lounge. He worked alone, just singing and playing. He was also a production singer for a revue and put together his own revue, both of which worked the Sparks Nugget.

He was less than blindingly successful. In fact, he had to work as a blackjack dealer to support himself. But he had something. A few months later, Mel Tillis' bass player, Larry McFaden, heard him, listened to some of his songs, and suggested a move to Nashville. Bingo. After 20 years' struggle, Lee Greenwood hit the big time overnight, recording such chart-toppers as 1981's "It Turns Me Inside Out" and 1983's "I.O.U." Of course, as a reviewer, I was able to say, "I told you so."

During the same period, the Oak Ridge Boys climbed out of lounges, while Joan Rivers fought up from opening act. Why did these people—like Rogers, West, and Greenwood—make it when others, perhaps with equal talent, didn't?

Well, most of the above I *did* get right (sorry, Kenny), and here's what I look for.

First, talent. Not necessarily conventional talent. For instance, Liberace is not the best piano player in the world, but he's the world's best piano player who wears outrageous costumes and jokes about himself to his audience.

Second, business sense. Some incredibly talented performers fail not because of anything they do on stage but because they can't run a business. And being a star is a business.

Third, a hard-to-define quality, but it's an aura of specialness. Call it a talent for

fascinating people.

Fourth, sobriety—resisting inappropriate intoxication—and the ability to be serious when needed. Call it stability. Insanity is fine on stage. Offstage it's a career killer.

And fifth, last, and most important, a faculty for making the most of luck. Greenwood was lucky—he got into Nashville studios because of introductions. But he made the most of it.

Now, let's take a look at who's currently playing in lounges and might have a shot at the brass ring. Remember, this is not judged solely on talent or charisma.

Comic Jay Leno is a shoo-in. He's more than funny—he's witty. He's developed his on-stage character and made the most of TV; he once did three national talk shows in three days (the rare Johnny-to-Merv-to-Phil play). He's bright, settled,

and special. He's in Harrah's lounges, but if he replaces David Letterman on TV as rumored, look out.

Zella Lehr is a country singer who's worked her way up from chorus girl on *Hee-Haw* to stardom's edge. Dolly Parton wrote "Two Doors Down," Lehr recorded it, and the record started to move. So Parton also recorded it. Parton's version blew Lehr's out of the racks, but there are those of us who like Zella's version better. Playing various lounges in Reno and Las Vegas, she tends toward slick, but she's getting very good at it.

Danny Marona is a comic and showbiz entrepreneur whose Bally and High Sierra



Joe Savage



Jay Ramsey

on-stage blasts are a throwback to '50s lounges. His popularity is growing, but he needs a break, and I don't know if his

aggressive personality will work on TV

Doug Kershaw, the Louisiana Man, is coming back after drugs and weirdness almost ruined his career. Kershaw, now in lounges, once headlined Harrah's. His opening act was Dolly Parton. He has played the Four Queens and now shuttles between the High Sierra and the Sparks Nugget. He made it once, and with a few hits he'll make it again.

Gary Joe Wade is an incredibly talented Reno country rocker. His voice is the match of anyone singing in rock, with the exception of Harry Nilsson, whom nobody sings better than. Wade needs hit records, so far lacking.

Gary Raffanelli and Sandy Selby are excellent musicians whose wacky charisma doesn't come across on their excellent records. They are making it up the ladder on fan enthusiasm, having gone from tiny lounges to become one of the few non-"name" acts in Harrah's prestige lounge. Video could be their key.

Paul Revere, maybe the best businessman in showbiz, just filmed a video in Reno for home release, and his management is pushing to get it on HBO. Revere is wildly funny on stage, brilliantly shrewd offstage, and will be filthy rich no matter what happens.

Jay Ramsey looks like a rock star, sounds like a rock star, and is charming, handsome, and talented. He is doing this in tiny lounges like the Hyatt Tahoe with no records, zip publicity. If the break comes, the talent is there.

Joe Savage does assault-rock with smoke bombs, thinly clad and very healthy ladies, and a magnificent sneer. He'd be good on TV I've never heard him recorded, but there's nothing like him, believe me.

Dale Gonyea opened for Glen Campbell at Harrah's last year. He's Woody Allen on euphorics. His humor is quirky, funny, bright, uncopyable, and got rave reviews from critics. Now if he can get some TV exposure, Shirley Gonyea's son—as he calls himself on stage—could be the equal of any young comic in the business, including Leno.

There are a lot more. Tower of Power only needs a return of record-buyer taste. Laura St. Romain's gutsy voice and bubbly cuteness combine to charm. Jimmy Cicero sings rock and jazz splendidly. Jeneane Marie's monster voice curls your hair. Sonny Turner—ex-lead singer of the Platters—still has that great voice. One or more of the above will make it big, as will others I've missed. The fun is in finding them, and you don't have to be an entertainment critic to do it.

Remember, Kenny Rogers soared while everyone but the fans slept. □

Guy Richardson is a columnist and critic for the Reno Gazette-Journal.

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Mone Swann



The Walkers



Cheryl Cotten

Lounging in Vegas

Here are some hot acts to follow.

By Bill Willard

The discoveries and rediscoveries on the Las Vegas entertainment scene never fail to give a lift to this candid critic, particularly in the lounges. These proving grounds are tough to work, but there have been masterful incidences of superior talent overriding all impediments. Whether they make top billing or not, these are fine acts to catch.

For instance, Gwen Briscoe, with her marvelous dancing illustrating her songs, is more than ready for main showroom attention. Even in the noisy, slot-machined

Oasis lounge at the Dunes she was an exciting, kinetic tigress. Another sultry singer, with operatic background and a three-octave range, but singing softrock and showtunes, is Mone Swann, featured in "Playboy's Girls of Rock 'n' Roll" in the Maxim's cabaret. Naturally, with Hugh Hefner picking, she has the looks, too.

A juggler is a juggler is a juggler, with apologies to Gertrude Stein. But Chris Bliss, caught in the Flamingo Hilton's "City Lites," is no ordinary tosser. His tossing of balls and objects is synchronized

to computerized and taped rock and jazz, with a black-light sequence of rare beauty.

The best two-brothers-and-sister act in showbiz, the Walkers, highlight Rocky Sennes' "Roaring '20s" revue at the Holiday Casino. With their cunning and extremely accurate celebrity caricatures, Cathy, Bill, and Greg also sound forth with sonorous harmonies.

The batch of newcomers in the funny field is no better represented weekly than in Mitzi Shore's Comedy Store at the Dunes. Five of her hand-picked comedians materialize back to back in a hot 75-minute show with names to ponder over like Rex Meredith and Roseanne Barr.

Cheryl Cotten, flaming up the Hilton's art deco lounge environment, plays the most eerie fiddle on "The Devil Went Down to Georgia" you ever heard. At the Stardust members of the Entertainment Committee sizzle and schtick it with burlesque gags spiced between the quintet's playing of every instrument known and unknown; viz., tire pump and whirling funnel. Vic Garcia and Cacho, in the Tropicana's Paradise Cove, run up special bossa novas, ballads, memory tunes, and even country plaints the way country should be plained but seldom is. □

Las Vegas Bill Willard writes for Variety and the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

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Winnemucca is the place. And in Winnemucca it's the Winners Hotel/Casino and Model T.

That's civilization, Western Style.



The Rim Trail will offer stunning views like this one, which looks across the lake toward Stateline and South Lake Tahoe.

Tahoe Trailblazers

For volunteers like Bill Tisher, the Tahoe Rim Trail will be a 150-mile highway to heaven.

By James McKimmey

He's tall, lean, and gray-haired, and he has the weathered look of a man you'd expect to see exploring the Ruby Mountains with a rifle or fishing rod, as he often does. But on this July day in 1984 he's got a shovel in his hands. And this time he's high in the Sierra Nevada near Grass Lake south of Lake Tahoe, surrounded by friends who are similarly outfitted with picks and pulaskis.

He takes a deep breath of mountain air and pushes the blade of the shovel into the pine-mulched soil. The earth is turned. His companions cheer and applaud.

The ground-breaker is Bill Tisher, and it's the first day of construction on the Tahoe Rim Trail, a 150-mile path for hikers and equestrians that will circle the Tahoe Basin. Tisher's friends—who, like him, are volunteers in this herculean exercise—are there for fun and the pleasure of hard work. But they also have come to share with others the harmony each has found in those special moments at Tahoe among sun and sky, birds and fish, trees and stars.

When it's finished in 1990, the Tahoe Rim Trail will pass through six counties and three national forests in two states. True to its name, the path will follow the high rim of the Tahoe Basin, with views of Reno and Gardnerville to the outside, then visions of the lake to the inside. The trail dips to lake level once, at Tahoe City.

On the trail, hikers and horseback riders will encounter sky-scraping pines, giant boulders, rich profusions of wild-



Rim Trail boss Bill Tisher rarely sits down on the job.

VICKI RAUCCI

flowers, fascinating rock formations, wide-winged hawks, deer, and other creatures. The ambitious can seek the lofty, primitive altitudes of peaks such as Snow Valley, which at 9,214 feet gives a 360-degree view with the ink-blue waters of Tahoe to the west and, to the east, a desert panorama that reaches halfway across Nevada.

The idea for the loop pathway came six years ago from Glenn Hampton, a U.S. Forest Service recreation officer. When Hampton presented the idea to his superiors, the Rim Trail was accepted as a key project, but on the condition that it be built

with donations and volunteer labor.

While Hampton began raising funds and setting up an organization, others joined the project. Outdoorsman George Cardinet of Concord, California, led 26 horseback riders on a 10-day circling of the lake just to prove it could be done. High-tech scouts mapped out ecologically-sound pathways. Gradually a route took shape.

Bill Tisher, sportsman, outdoor writer, and former Tahoe forest ranger, became intrigued with the trail proposal after talking to Hampton in 1980. He wrote about it in his column in the *Tahoe Daily Tribune* and became an active supporter of the project.

When Hampton retired to upstate New York in 1984, Tisher picked up the shovel to become the trail's guiding force. As president of the nonprofit Tahoe Rim Trail Organization, Tisher oversees a vol-

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unteer board of 24 directors who include John Richardson, chief of the Nevada Division of State Parks, and Bill Morgan, head of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. The organization's membership has grown to 400, with a goal of 3,000 set for the end of 1986. Last year more than 300 volunteers gave their time and sweat to work on the trail.

The trailblazers range from senior citizens to young mothers. A retired Incline Village couple, Art and Sylvia Koerber, put in 2,000 hours on the trail in 1984, and 2,800 in 1985. Mary Nelsen of Round Hill, a mother of three and a trail worker, looks ahead 20 years: "The Rim Trail will be there for my children. I'll have the pride of having been part of its creation." Tisher says, "Everybody does such a great job, I've got a lot more time to go fishing."

But although volunteers are indispensable, money is the key to the project. "We're working on a figure of \$450,000 to complete the trail," Tisher says. "Trailheads are very expensive to construct. Especially ones for the handicapped. And we'll have some for them. We'll select level ground and put a mile or two of gentle trail on it so people with electric carts can use it. It just takes money, and we're asking for contributions."

The response so far has been spectacular. The Alpine Winter Foundation, based in the Bay Area, started the action in 1980 with a contribution of \$25,000 and matched that figure this year. Robert and Marion Wilson of Los Angeles have pledged \$50,000 for the Tahoe City trailhead as a memorial to her father, Ralph R. Steele, a pioneer Tahoe lumberman. The Heller Foundation in California gave \$5,000, specifically for the handicapped. Caesars Tahoe and Harveys have adopted a mile of the Rim Trail by contributing \$5,000 each. Douglas County has given \$10,000. Such donors receive plaques and recognition at trailheads.

Tisher and his people continue to look for other corporations and individuals willing to adopt a mile of the trail. They plan to hold two large fund-raisers this year, one on July 26 at Squaw Valley and the other on October 11 at Harrah's Tahoe.

By the time snow stopped construction late last year, 14 miles of trail had been completed. Also, Tisher and his group plan to tie into some existing trails. One is the well-trod Pacific Crest Trail, which runs 2,560 miles from Canada to Mexico. At Tahoe it winds for 50 miles through Desolation Wilderness and other scenic areas west and southwest of the lake and will make up about a third of the Rim Trail's total length.

This summer's work begins when the snow melts and trail bosses schedule weekend work parties. L.D. Bennett of Washoe Valley also produces four-day

work camps. He packs in all the trail-building gear and food. "I use horses, with panniers slung sawbuck," he says. When loaded those panniers—pack-animal baskets—weigh 50 to 100 pounds. Loose duffles placed over them carry more. When the workers arrive, everything they need except personal items and eating utensils is already there.

Bennett also cooks all the food. "I use a portable wood stove. I even bake my own bread. Those volunteers especially like my pies and brownies."

Of course, work comes before chow, so groups of volunteers gather early. Crew leaders give tailgate talks, explaining the use of tools and importance of safety. Shovels, rakes, saws, pulaskis, and mcleods are distributed.

Brushers go first, lopping and sawing to clear the undergrowth. Then the roughers begin removing pine needles and twigs to get underneath the duff to stable soil. And finally the finishers use shovels on the sides of hills to insure drainage and minimize erosion.

Progress depends on the terrain. "One time my wife, Vivian, and I built about 1,000 feet of trail in four hours," Tisher says. "But it was all decomposed granite, easy digging with just shovels. Another time we hit a lot of rocks and thick brush, and it took four hours to go 50 feet."

This bold plan to open up thousands of acres of heretofore inaccessible wilderness has not been without criticism. The main

complaint is that the trail could become as overcrowded as the Desolation Wilderness, where summer foot traffic is backpack-to-shoulder strap and the Forest Service requires reservations for campers. However, Rim Trail enthusiasts counter that their 150-mile route will be too long to get crowded and, if anything, will help relieve the pressure at Desolation.

And so the trail-building inches on.

Last summer it took 100 people working mostly weekends to complete the seven miles of trail on Spooner Summit. But the accomplishment did not go uncelebrated. When they finished, all the volunteers took a jubilant hike along the section and then popped open champagne before having a potluck lunch.

Why do so many volunteers happily perform this trail work? "It's being outdoors where it's glorious," Tisher says. "The outdoors has been so good to me for so many years. It's a way to give something special in return."

The ongoing Tahoe romance between nature lovers and the land is destined to become a beautiful marriage when all segments of the Rim Trail link up in 1990. Until then, Tisher makes a promise to people interested in getting involved: "We've got tools to fit the size and shape of any hand." □

James McKimmey, a widely published freelancer and frequent contributor to Nevada, also is employed by the U.S. Forest Service at Tahoe.

Hiking the Rim Trail Now

When completed at the end of the decade, the trail will have a dozen access trailheads, according to Executive Director Vicki Raucci. The trailheads will have paved parking areas with restrooms, fresh water, "and maybe even horse corrals, if we get really elaborate," Raucci says.

But why wait? Right now you can hike



along seven miles of completed trail on Spooner Summit, where trailheads already exist on both sides of U.S. 50, 12 miles west of Carson City. Other trailheads are planned for Kingsbury Grade on State Route 207 and Mount Rose on State Route 431.

On the California side you can hike for five miles near the original ground-breaking site, from Grass Lake on California Route 89 to Freel Meadows. At Tahoe City about a mile is open, with access off Fairview Drive a half mile north of Fanny Bridge on 89. You also can hike along the Pacific Crest Trail, with access from points like Echo Summit, Eagle Falls above Emerald Bay, Meeks Bay, and Squaw Valley.

To get involved in the Rim Trail, you can buy a mile of it for \$5,000 or an annual membership in the organization for \$15. As a member you get a newsletter nine times a year and the right to vote at annual meetings. For more information, contact the Tahoe Rim Trail at Box 10156, South Lake Tahoe, CA. 95721, or phone 916-577-0676. Weekend work parties start July 5.—Jim Crandall



WILL JAMES SKETCHES: WILLIAM GARDNER BELL COLLECTION

WILL JAMES: THE ROMANTIC YEARS

These rare sketches by the cowboy artist and writer tell a tender tale of James' artful aspirations in his early years when he roamed the Nevada range.

By William Gardner Bell

Will James wrote 24 books, including the classic *Smoky*, which he penned in Nevada, and published countless magazine articles in the '20s, '30s, and '40s. His artwork depicted bronc-riding cowboys, wild horses, round-ups, and other scenes of life on the range.

It was a romantic view of the West, part real and part myth, but it wasn't just a view he adopted to sell books. He always had been a dreamer at heart.

An unusual early view of James' romantic streak is revealed by the previously unpublished sketches shown on these pages. In these rare drawings he portrays himself as a white knight, saving damsels in distress and riding off with swooning cowgirls into the sunset. These were the kind of fanciful sketches that as a young man he plastered on bunkhouse walls from Montana to Mexico.

When, in his early 30s, he settled down south of Reno to write his first books, he may have pondered these sketches and laughed at their amateurish proportions and delusions of romance. He never includ-

ed the sketches, or any like them, in his rough and tumble accounts of real men in the true West. But it is clear that his romantic bent, and his artistic future, were greatly influenced by his time in Nevada, whether riding free through the sagebrush or being locked up in jail.

"It seemed that girls was due to come into my life," he wrote of his youthful peregrinations in *Lone Cowboy*, his autobiography. One time, as he tells it, he rescued a rancher's daughter from a wild stallion, reset her dislocated shoulder, and carried her to her family's ranch house. Our hero decided to stay a day or two while the girl recuperated. "Me and the girl got pretty well acquainted the next day. I was sitting on a big screened porch when her mother brought her out, and there they found me with a tablet in my hand and drawing pictures. My drawing went pretty big with [them], specially the girl, and I had to make many for her that day."

It was inevitable that a young cowhand would head into town with the crew for

some hell-raising, so James was bound to be exposed sooner or later to liquor, cards, and loose women. "After six or eight months without no other floor than prairie sod and no other roof than the sky, seeing only leather-covered humans and none at all with skirts nor long hair, it was about time for a little change and some fun." So began his inaugural experience with a painted lady in a "big Honkatonk."

Admitted to the establishment despite his youthful looks, but squared with the bartender on the pretext that one of the older cowhands was his father, James sat at a table with half a dozen of the crew to see the stage show. He "lost all hearing and sight" when a girl came in and began singing. "I thought she was sure pretty, but what struck me most is that I'd never seen arms and chest so bare, and I know I felt a little warm around the ears when I noticed she had no skirts on. It was the first woman I'd seen without skirts and it'd never come to my mind that they had legs."

James had other shocks coming. When



Contrary to his autobiography, Will James was born Joseph Ernest Nephtali Dufault in Quebec in 1892, and the French connection is clearly present in this early sketch. He did "Popping the Question," on the preceding page, at age 22.



By 1911, when he sketched "The Cool Winds of the Sierra Nevada," the artist was creating his new identity as Will James. While his teen-age fantasies focused on girls, horses appeared somewhere in most of his work.

he went upstairs, he saw the show's leading lady sitting next to his surrogate father "with one arm over his withers." When another girl grabbed James by the arm and pulled him down next to her, his heart "lost many a beat." Drinks followed, and between the liquor, perfume, and "sweet sounding names I'd never heard before," the innocent cowboy almost lost his hard-earned bankroll, which in the course of some wrestling he dropped on the floor. His companion retrieved it and announced that she would keep it for him. But when James turned stubborn and demanded its return, the "adoring lady" was transformed into a "screeching wildcat." James retrieved his money and left the saloon a wiser young cowboy. "It was from that happening," he wrote, "I got to figuring there was only two kinds of women, the bad ones of the Red Light which wasn't to be respected much, and the others out of such a place which was to be *all* respected."

Cow-town debauchery behind him, the teen-age rider renewed his friendship

with the girl who had been injured by the ornery horse. But at a farewell dance for the college-bound girl, she turned her attention to a pair of elegant young suitors and ignored James. He thus lost a further measure of naivete.

His romantic reverses were not as serious as his misadventures with the law, however. A fling at cattle rustling in the last months of 1914 landed James in the county jail at Ely. The following April he was convicted of grand larceny and sentenced to 12 to 15 months at the state prison in Carson City. Yet the strictures of prison life energized his artistic nature. Before his release early in 1916 he turned out a stream of drawings with romantic themes. His sketches also reflected the mixture of adventure, idealism, and fantasy that would touch much of his later art and writing.

James received recognition outside the jailhouse walls even before his transfer from Ely. Officials and townspeople were

impressed with his work, and the *Ely Record* gave James his first critical mention in an article that lauded him as a "natural talent," an artist who with proper training "would soon be able to do first class work."

Many of Will James' sketches from his younger years carried lively titles to complete the illusions. His love of horses was evident, too, for almost every sketch, no matter how central the human theme, included a horse, if only in the background. Although pencils were easily available to him, paper was not, so he did many of his drawings on wrapping paper, poster backs, and even blank areas in magazines and saddlery catalogs. A soft pencil was his standard tool, and much of this early work is sensitive to rubbing. He also had the habit of using both sides of a piece of paper, creating problems for future collectors. But such considerations were far from his mind in those days.

Soon after his release from jail James headed to Hollywood, where he worked as an extra in Westerns. Studio work



As he turned 20, James sketched himself in the usual left profile, and his female figures took on recognizable lines in both features and dress. However, James obviously needed to work on his proportions.



In 1915 he served time in the Ely jail and the state prison for cattle rustling, and apparitions were about the only girls he was likely to see, except for a rancher's wife who brought him paper and pencils.

brought new associations: "There was always lots of girls in most every picture we worked in, some nice ones, too, of all styles, from running to draft types." But most of the women also were extras and moved on when a film was completed. "My love affairs didn't amount to much around the studios," James confided in *Lone Cowboy*.

He joined the army in 1918, and after his release the next year he bemoaned the fact that "there was no sweetheart to greet me, and no wife and mother that most of the boys had to fall into the arms of when they stepped off the train." This was either typical Jamesian fantasy or deliberate subterfuge, for it was James who left behind his parents, three sisters, and two brothers in Canada. Named Joseph Ernest Nephtali Dufault, he had been born in a little town in Quebec on June 6, 1892. As a young

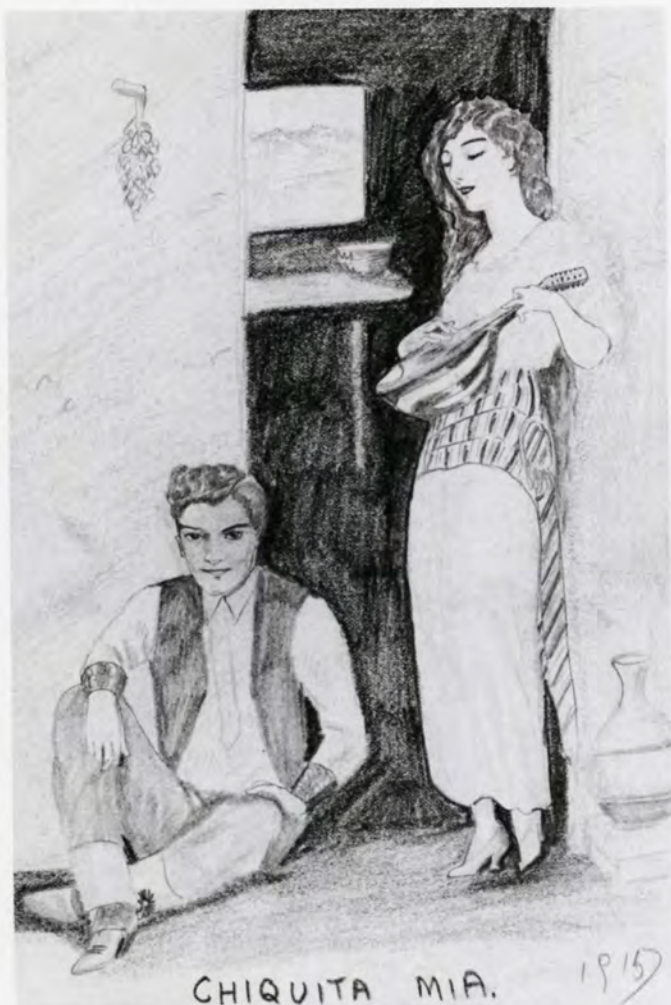


Will James and his wife Alice at their Washoe Valley home, where he wrote *Smoky*.

man he abandoned all that when he changed his name, invented new parents, and adopted Montana as his birthplace, a fiction he reported as fact in his autobiography.

Yet, if there was no sweetheart in Reno to welcome him, at least his pal Fred Conradt was there. James, Conradt, and another cowboy, Elmer Freel, teamed up to chase mustangs and rodeo together. They called themselves the 111s (one-elevens) and vowed that the first one to buy a ranch would invite the other two to live and work there, a promise James would keep.

The three cowboys signed on with the outfit that was preparing Reno's Nevada Roundup—"The Carnival of the Range," as the Reno Rodeo was called then. Officials of the event were so taken with James' sketches that they commissioned him to illustrate the rodeo poster and souvenir



James took pride in the fact that he had roamed from Canada to Mexico, as confirmed by this 1915 sketch from prison. The young cowboy's features have lost the familiar Ernest Dufault lines, but this is a passing aberration only.



In 1917 James took stock of his life in "The Thinker." Should he take a free ride to Nowhere or a tough hike to Success? After an army hitch and a bad fall from a bronc in Reno, James chose the high road. He married and began his career in Nevada.

program, a task for which he received \$50. It was the first art that Will James ever sold and a harbinger of things to come.

The year 1920 was a milestone for Will James. Drifting, dreaming, prison, acting, and soldiering were all behind him. His first published sketch appeared in *Sunset Magazine* in January, and that summer there was another important event. The romantic took the ultimate step: He got married.

James didn't rescue his bride from a wild stallion. Rather, he had known her awhile. She was Alice Conratt, younger sister of his 111 pal, Fred. The couple's fateful encounter took place in the art colony of Sausalito. James had settled there, so when Alice and her mother came to visit a sister, he attended the family reunion. He was 28; Alice was 16. He

talked about marriage. She said yes, and they got hitched that July in Reno.

Happily married and settled south of Reno in Washoe Valley, James reached his peak as an author and illustrator in the following decade. His stories would appear in the leading magazines of the day, and Charles Scribner's Sons would publish the first six of two dozen Will James books. The first four—*Cowboys North and South* (1924), *The Drifting Cowboy* (1925), *Smoky* (1926), and *Cow Country* (1927)—were all written in Nevada, and along with *Sand* (1929) and *Lone Cowboy: My Life Story* (1930) were enthusiastically received by a fascinated public. Indeed, *Smoky* won the Newbery Medal for the year's most distinguished contribution to American literature for children, and both *Smoky* and *Lone Cowboy* would be made into motion pictures in 1934.

Thus, Will James' romantic notions led to fame and success. Even though his dreams ended in a nightmarish, alcoholic death in Hollywood in September 1942, he still was able to carve an enviable place for himself in American art and letters through works that will long survive him. The sketches from his romantic youth portray the development of an important cowboy artist. Taken together, they are fascinating examples of personality and promise searching for fulfillment. □

William Gardner Bell lives in Arlington, Virginia. A former horse cavalryman, editor of the Cavalry Journal, and historian in the U.S. Army Center of Military History, he is the author of several books on historical subjects. Bell also collects and writes about Western art and is presently at work on a biography of Will James.





Muench's Gallery

David Muench visits the Snake Range

The bones of an ancient bristlecone pine rest in peace on the Table, a flat spot on the ridges of the Snake Range just north of 12,067-foot Mount Moriah near Ely. A few living bristlecones gather round their fallen brother in the cloud-shrouded silence, but they need not mourn. This victim of snow and wind and time lived a good long life, perhaps as long as 4,000 years, since bristlecones are the earth's oldest living organisms.

One of the West's great landscape photographers, David Muench enjoys finding what he calls a "spirit of place" in his work. He presents selections from his Nevada portfolio in each issue.



Windsurfers cool their heels on Lake Mead (above) while beachcombers bask in the sun at Sand Harbor on Lake Tahoe's northeastern shore.

Going to the Lake

When things get hot,
water is the best solution.

By Scott Shelley

For Nevada water sports enthusiasts, "going to the lake" is a phrase of great power. Say it and you plant seeds of envy in the hearts of those who instead must report to the office or mow the lawn. Some will picture themselves in the sun, romping on a sandy beach, occasionally bathing in cool blue water. Others will feel the tug of a gurgling

powerboat as it takes the slack out of a ski rope. Still others will hear metal rings clinking on aluminium masts, or the whirl and splash of the perfect cast. And everyone will agree that the best place to be in Nevada, in the summer, is on the water.

In Southern Nevada, for example, visitors can enjoy every water sport from houseboating to jetskiing at the Lake

Mead National Recreation Area. For water skiers, a visit to Lakes Mead and Mohave means arriving at the beach early—around 5 a.m.—to stand quietly and admire the miles and miles of glass-like water spread out before them. On Mohave it also means staying clear of the restricted section below Hoover Dam, as the difference between the 100-degree-plus air and the 55-degree

water can result in a shocking and possibly life-threatening plunge.

At Mead windsurfers can grab a spot at the Special Events Beach, where on weekends about 80 board enthusiasts meet to tame the wind. Sailors meet at the marinas and then run out where the wind blows hard but steady. Adventurous captains may head for the Overton Arm, Mead's northern appendage, where the surrounding terrain is flatter and the wind is consistently good.

In Northern Nevada the diversity of lakes makes it possible to choose one that is ideal for any water sport. Lake Tahoe, for example, has the best beaches of any lake in the state, often inviting comparisons to the tropical sands of Mexico. Tahoe's clear water, although notoriously chilly, attracts thick-skinned swimmers and high-altitude scuba divers. Powerboaters and sailors also like Tahoe because of its great size—about 20 by 13 miles—and because of the sheer beauty of its alpine basin.

Windsurfers say that shallow Washoe Lake, halfway between Reno and Carson City, is an excellent place to practice their art. There the powerful Washoe Zephyr is not swirly but blows hard and fast into the sails of the breeze-powered craft, allowing them to run before the wind. The lake can be sailed from any shore, but beginners often practice at Little Washoe, which is at the more protected north end, or on the shallow southwestern shore, where waves aren't as fierce.

Because water skiers prefer to carve smoother and warmer water, Lahontan Reservoir, 50 miles east of Reno, is the first choice of serious skiers. It is the calmest of Northern Nevada's lakes, and even if the wind should blow, there are many protected fingers and coves.

Pyramid Lake, 36 miles northeast of Reno, also is a popular place to cut a turn because of its lack of crowds. Pyramid is most popular among fishermen who seek monster Lahontan cutthroat trout.

Other lakes such as Walker, north of Hawthorne; Topaz, southeast of Gardnerville; Wild Horse Reservoir, north of Elko; and Rye Patch Reservoir, between Winnemucca and Lovelock, also are popular fishing and boating spots for locals and passersby.

In Eastern Nevada, campers and anglers perform shore duty at three state parks with reservoirs—Cave Lake, southeast of Ely, and Echo Canyon and Spring Valley, both east of Pioche.

So when the sun is hot and high, just tell your friends, "I'm going to the lake." Then watch them start to daydream—unless they wake up and come along. □

Scott Shelley of Carson City likes Mead for its wind and Tahoe for its restaurants.



Where the Buoys Are

A guide to marinas around Nevada.

Name	Phone	Launch Fees*	Slips, Buoys	ramps	holists	dry storage	gas & oil	bait & tackle	groceries	snack bar	restaurant	ski boats	houseboats	sailboats	fishing boats	lodging	RV hookups	camping	swimming
LAKE MEAD																			
Lake Mead Marina	702-293-3484	free	668	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Las Vegas Boat Harbor	702-565-9111	free	600	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Callville Bay Resort	702-565-8958	free	659	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Echo Bay Resort	702-394-4000	free	321	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Overton Beach Resort	702-394-4040	free	40	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Temple Bar Resort	602-767-3400	free	74	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
LAKE MOHAVE																			
Willow Beach Resort	602-767-3311	free	154	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cottonwood Cove	702-297-1005	free	177	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lake Mohave Resort	602-754-3245	free	811	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
LAKE TAHOE (clockwise from Incline)																			
Sand Harbor	702-831-0494	\$5		•															•
Logan Shoals Harbor	702-749-5249	free	50			•					•	•							•
Cave Rock	702-831-0494	\$5		•															•
Zephyr Cove Resort	702-588-3833	\$6	65	•		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lakeside Marina	702-541-6626	\$10	100	•		•	•								•				•
Tahoe Keys Marina	916-541-2155	\$15	250	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Timber Cove Marina	916-544-2942	\$10	87	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Camp Richardson	916-541-1777	\$9	128	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Meek's Bay Resort	916-525-7242	\$10	120	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Homewood High & Dry	916-525-5966	\$1.75/ft.	50		•	•	•	•	•		•	•			•	•	•	•	•
Obexer's	916-525-7962	\$5	65	•	•	•	•	•	•	•									
Sunnyside Resort	916-583-7200	free	80	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Tahoe Boat Co.	916-583-5567	free	205		•	•	•				•	•	•	•	•				•
Lake Forest Ramp	916-583-5544	\$3		•				•											•
North Tahoe Marina	916-546-8248	\$30	67	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•				•
Sierra Boat Co.	916-546-2552	\$15+			•	•													
Tahoe Vista Marina	916-546-3185	free	22			•					•	•							
Kings Beach Rec. Area	916-546-7248	free		•											•	•			•
PYRAMID LAKE																			
Pelican Point	702-574-0140	\$6	2	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
LAHONTAN STATE REC. AREA																			
North Shore Marina	702-867-3500	\$4		•															•
Silver Springs Beach	702-557-2226	\$4		•															•
TOPAZ LAKE																			
County Park	702-266-3343	\$2.50		•															•
Topaz Lake Marina	702-266-3550	\$2	75	•			•	•	•	•					•	•	•	•	•
WALKER LAKE																			
Cliff House	702-945-5253	free		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•							•
State Park	702-867-3001	free		•															•
WILD HORSE RESERVOIR																			
Sho-Pai Marina	702-757-3161	free		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ranch & Resort	702-N Fork 6472	free		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
State Park	702-N Fork 6493	\$3		•															•

State parks charge \$4 to launch at Washoe Lake (702-885-4319) and Rye Patch (867-3001). Also, Echo Canyon and Spring Valley are \$4, and Cave Lake is \$2 (all 728-4467). Cave Lake has no water-skiing. Launching is free at Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge (779-2225), but fishing licenses aren't available there.

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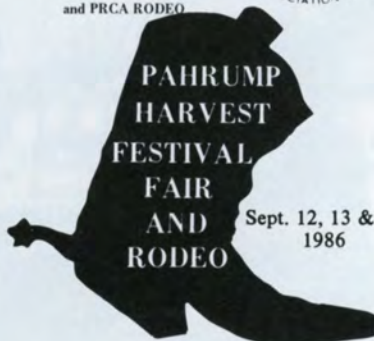
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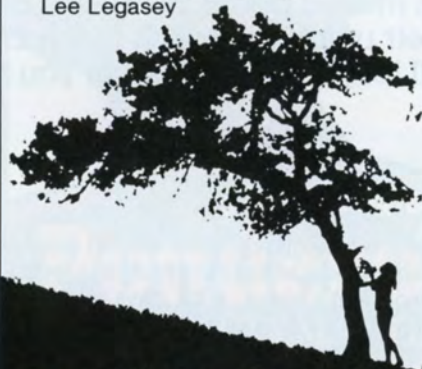
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TROPICANA HOTEL

The Tropicana's swim-up 21 games (left) let players take a bath whether they win or lose. Some keno runners like Tammy Fread (below) work poolside at Caesars. The floating crap game at the Sands wasn't real, but the idea produced a flood of publicity back in 1953.



LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU



DAVID BROWN

Where Pools Rush In

Gambling has moved poolside at two Las Vegas resorts, and their unique appeals to the bikini set will let you get wet while you bet.

By Bill Willard

I imagine two separate corporate meetings at which gaming executives pipe up, "Hey, we're missing a bet!" As a result, summer vacationers on the Las Vegas Strip are playing poolside blackjack at the Tropicana and keno at Caesars Palace while literally taking a plunge.

At Caesars, charming keno runners

with twinkling legs dash around the Byzantine pool as numbers flash on a special neon keno board. With trays and keno slips, the runners come to the edge of the pool, where players can either play with cash or hand over scrip purchased at the keno desk.

Although designed to serve bettors of

all levels, the new keno splash did lure a high-powered angel last March. He was Michael Landon, well-known miracle worker of TV's *Highway to Heaven* who was spending a weekend at the resort. From the look on his face after each game, Landon's path to prosperity suffered a roadblock that day, but otherwise Caesars

has called the open-air keno experiment "an instant success."

Down the street, the Tropicana had its own celebrity christening in April when Bob Hope made a rare Las Vegas appearance at a private VIP gathering to honor the hotel's new "Island of Las Vegas" development. The \$70 million project has given the Trop a fresh theme, a second tower, and a five-acre tropical paradise. One of the Island area's three pools is 295 feet long and is said to be the largest found at any resort in the world.

A tiny branch casino in the big pool's indoor grotto has two swim-up blackjack tables that are seldom without players. According to Alan Baer of the Tropicana's publicity staff, the games are "low key with a \$5 limit. Players can bring chips, coins, or bills. There's a heater beside each dealer where water-soaked bills can be dried out."

One of the more amazing historical, even hysterical umbilicals to the in-pool gambling service are signs posted nearby:

Cameras are permitted in this area.

If you object to being photographed,

Please do not play.

Thank you, The Management

This message is notable because of the hard and fast rule for lo these many years in Nevada casinos—no cameras allowed. Period.

The Island has other attractions. Waterfalls roar everywhere, including a big one spurting out of the Tropics Restaurant, and several Jacuzzis are set among the rockscape. Swimsuited guests can zoom down a snaking 82-foot waterslide, play aqua volleyball, or race canoes.

Daily except Mondays, Carvalho's Exotic Bird Revue takes wing at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. The big smash of the air show is a cockateel that dives from the top of one of the towers and lands on the arm of Carvalho. At special events there is an authentic Hawaiian revue, the Okalanias, with undulating ladies handing out leis to partiers. Also entertaining on the various paths is the Island Jester, Scott Beldin. He does his juggling, magic, comedy, and robotics on or off his unicycle. Beldin doubles as a mobile information center.

The rush to poolside gambling this summer is swimmingly real, unlike the one-shot floating crap game created by Al Freeman, the late Sands Hotel publicist, in 1953. That game was immortalized in one of the all-time great Las Vegas photo shots seen around the world. Somewhere, some publication is still printing Freeman's foto fantasy. It may be that Caesars, with its poolside keno, and the Tropicana, with its swim-up 21 tables, will get as much mileage out of reality. □

Bill Willard has observed the Las Vegas pool scene for more than 30 years.

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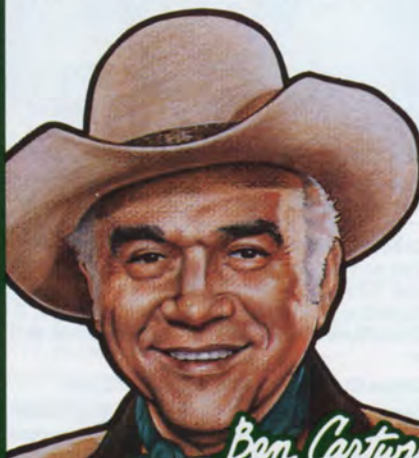
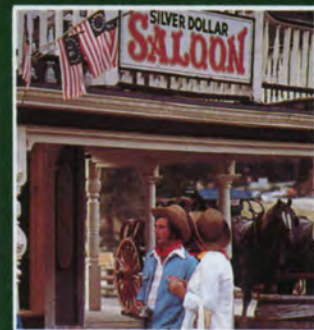
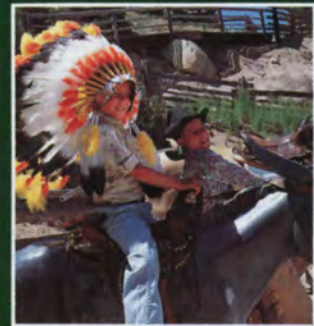
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INCLINE VILLAGE — NORTH SHORE LAKE TAHOE

Southern Nevada Show Notes

By Pete Mikla

For several years Gregory Hines felt like the last of the dinosaurs. "My brother Maurice and I were about the only tap dancers in show business under 60," he recalls. Hines, who first danced in Las Vegas at the Moulin Rouge in the '50s when he was nine, says, "Young black entertainers looked on tap as an 'Uncle Tom' art." But when Broadway revived such hits as "No, No Nanette" and "42nd Street," tap made a comeback, and Hines stepped into *Cotton Club* and *White Nights*. You can catch Hines' dazzling dancing at the Hilton August 12-24.

☆

Spanish-born crooner Julio Iglesias, who conquered America with hits like "To All the Girls I've Loved Before," also dominates charts around the globe. His love songs should pack Caesars Palace July 2-7, just as they pack big rooms in New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

But Iglesias hopes to take his heart-tugging singing style into the heartland more. "I will know I'm a success in America when I can go to Ohio and Wisconsin and sell 20,000 tickets in some concert hall or arena," he says.

☆

Today's record producers are looking for rock 'n' rollers, but Mac Davis, who's had his share of hits, won't change his mellow tune. "There comes a time when you have to admit you're 40," Davis says.

He has changed stages, however. After more than 10 years at the old MGM Grand Hotel (now Bally's Grand), he'll play the Hilton July 29-August 10. Thus he has come full circle in Las Vegas. In 1968 Davis guest starred with Nancy Sinatra on the same stage, but back then the Hilton was the International. On the same bill were some smiley kids known as the Osmond Brothers. Things do change.

☆

Suzanne Somers, whose singing and shimmying in "Bal du Moulin Rouge" at the Hilton a while back saved both the show and her career, hasn't forgotten her naive—but extremely popular—alter-ego, Chrissy from the *Three's Company* TV sitcom. "I'm not finished with Chrissy yet. There are still things I want to do with her. She's such a part of me—and the public likes her, too," Somers says. "Someday she'll be back." You can see Somers, and remember Chrissy, at the Desert Inn July 24-August 13. □

Pete Mikla is entertainment editor for the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

SHOWGUIDE

Where the stars and shows are playing
this July and August.

By Melissa Loomis

Following is a muster of the stars, revues, and extravaganzas you can see in Nevada showrooms in July and August. Hotels and casinos are listed by territory as shown on the map in this issue's Nevada Calendar. Schedules can change, so it's wise to call ahead for times, dates, and reservations. For out-of-state callers, Nevada's area code is 702. For the hotels' toll-free phone numbers, call 800-555-1212.

LAS VEGAS TERRITORY

Bally's Grand Hotel, 739-4567: *Ziegfeld Theatre*: "Jubilee!" indf.; *Celebrity Room*: Wayne Newton, thru 7/2; Tom Jones, 7/3-16

Barbary Coast, 737-7111: Irish Showband, thru 8/6; Emerald Isle Bandshow, 8/7-9/3



Suzanne Somers (a.k.a. Chrissy) keeps audiences company at the Desert Inn this summer.

Caesars Palace, 731-7333: Julio Iglesias, 7/2-7; Kool and the Gang, 7/9-14; Pointer Sisters, 7/16-21 and 7/23-28; Liberace, 7/30-8/4 and 8/6-11; Roy Clark/Glen Campbell, 8/13-18 and 8/20-21; Bill Cosby/Tony Tillman, 8/22-27; George Burns, 8/28-9/1

Circus Circus, 734-0410: Circus acts, free

Desert Inn, 733-4566: Janie Fricke/Ray Stevens, thru 7/2; Rich Little, 7/3-23; Suzanne Somers/Smothers Brothers, 7/24-8/13; Sammy Davis, Jr., 8/14-9/3

Dunes, 737-4110: Diana Drake, 7/1-27; Roy Clayborne, 7/1-8/3; Then and Now, 7/8-8/3; Dae Han Sisters, 7/22-8/3

Edgewater, Laughlin, 298-2453

El Rancho, 796-2222: Lounge entertainment

Flamingo Hilton, 733-3333: "City Lites," revue, indf.

Four Queens, 385-4011: Dondino, thru 7/5; Van Dells, thru 7/6; Inkspots/Joe Williams, thru 7/20; Cathy O'Shea, 7/7-8/2; Billy Eckstine, 7/22-8/10; Sun Spots, 7/22-8/31; Dondino, 8/4-11/1; Pete Barbutti,

8/12-17; Frank Sinatra, Jr., 8/19-31; Monday Night Jazz, indf.

Frontier, 734-0240: Siegfried & Roy in "Beyond Belief," 7/1-11/29

Golden Nugget, 386-8100: Alan King, thru 7/1; Paul Anka, 7/3-8; David Brenner, 7/10-15; Lou Rawls, 7/17-22; Dionne Warwick, 7/24-8/5

Hacienda, 798-0571: Entertainment TBA

Holiday, 369-5222: "Rocky Sennes' Roaring '20s"

Imperial Palace, 733-0234: "Legends in Concert"

Landmark, 733-1110: Tom Foolery, thru 7/31; Cork Proctor, indf.

Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5661: Jeffrey Osborne, 7/1-6; Hank Williams, Jr., 7/8-12; Everly Brothers/Rita Coolidge, 7/15-20; Rodney Dangerfield, 7/24-25; Mac Davis, 7/29-8/10; Gladys Knight and the Pips/Gregory Hines, 8/12-24; Rodney Dangerfield, 8/29-9/6

Marina, 739-1500: "Burlesque '86" with Bob Mitchell

Maxim, 731-4300: Playboy's Girls of Rock and Roll

Mint, 387-6468: Frenz, thru 7/12; International Affair, thru 7/19; Topper, 7/14-8/2; Sante Fe, 8/4-30; Roy Clayborne, 8/11-9/13

Palace Station, 367-2411: Lounge shows

Peppermill Resort, Mesquite, 346-5232: Nightly entertainment

Regency, Laughlin, 298-2439: Piano bar

Riverside Resort, Laughlin, 298-2535



Pete Barbutti and his piano-playing nose appear at Del Webb's High Sierra.

Riviera, 734-5301: "Splash!" production show, indf., with 5th Dimension thru 7/22; "An Evening at La Cage," indf.

Royal Casino, 733-4000: Nightly entertainment

Sahara, 737-2424: "A Chorus Line," Broadway musical, indf.

Sam Boyd's California, 385-1222: Nightly entertainment, 7pm-7am

Sam's Town, 456-7777: Danny Byrd, thru 7/10

Sam's Town Gold River, Laughlin, 298-2242

Sands, 733-5000: "Sizzle," revue, indf.
Silver Slipper, 734-1212: "Boylesque," revue, indf.
Stardust, 732-6325: "Lido de Paris," indf.
Sundance, 382-6111: Kathy Dahl/Richard Yusco
Tropicana, 739-2411: "Folies Bergere," indf.
Union Plaza, 386-2444: Broadway entertainment
Whiskey Pete's, on I-15 at the California border, 382-4388: Lounge entertainment

RENO/TAHOE TERRITORY

Bally's Grand Hotel, Reno, 789-2285: *Ziegfeld Theatre*: "Hello Hollywood, Hello!" indf.; *Lion's Den*: Danny Marona, 6/27-7/22 and 8/27-9/16; Pat Collins, 7/23-8/19
Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515: "Star Street," revue, indf.; Kenny Loggins, thru 7/6; Smokey Robinson, 7/7-13; Diana Ross, 7/14-20; Liberace, 7/21-27; Kool and the Gang, 7/28-8/3; Joan Rivers, 8/11-17; Pointer Sisters/Ronn Lucas, 8/18-24; David Copperfield, 8/25-31
Carson City Nugget, 882-1626: Michael John and Kimberly, 7/1-27; Motifs, 7/29-8/31
Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711: Summit, 7/1-12; nightly music
Circus Circus, Reno, 329-0711: Circus acts
Crystal Bay Club, North Tahoe, 831-0512: Nightly top 40 rock entertainment (dancing)



David Brenner, frequent guest-host of The Tonight Show, solos at the Golden Nugget.

Del Webb's High Sierra, Tahoe, 588-6211: "Flesh n' Fantasy," revue, indf.; Willie Tyler and Lester, 7/1-13; Pete Barbutti, 7/15-8/3; Danny Marona, 8/5-24; Pat Collins, 8/26-9/7
Eldorado, Reno, 786-5700: Two of Clubs, 7/7-8/3 and 8/11-24
Harolds Club, Reno, 329-0881: Ricky Santos/Bobby Reynon and Lin Maureen and Dennis, thru 9/7
Harrah's Lake Tahoe, 588-6611: *South Shore Room*: Neil Sedaka/Nell Carter, 6/30-7/3; Roger Whittaker, 7/4-10; Howie Mandel, 7/4-5; Tony Orlando/Smothers Brothers, 7/11-17; Engelbert Humperdinck, 7/18-24; Crystal Gayle, 7/25-31; Johnny Cash/Gatlin Brothers, 8/1-7; Wayne Newton, 8/8-21; Andy Williams/Juliet Prowse, 8/22-28; Mac Davis, 8/29-9/11; Steven Wright, 8/29-30; *Stateline Cabaret*: "Bottoms Up '87," revue, thru 12/15 Wed.-Mon.; Hot Shandy, 7/1-6; Bus Boys, 7/15-27; Jack Mack and the Heart Attack, 7/29-8/3; Rob Hanna Salutes Rod Stewart, 8/5-10; Jay Leno, 8/12-17; Bill Medley, 8/19-31
Harrah's Reno, 329-4422: *Headliner Room*: Mac Davis, thru 7/2; Debbie Reynolds, 7/3-13; Captain and Tennille, 7/14-23; Eddy Arnold, 7/24-8/6; Joel Grey/Patti Page, 8/7-13; Charo, 8/14-20; Neil Sedaka,

8/21-27; Roger Whittaker, 8/28-9/3; *Casino Cabaret*: "New Attitude," revue, thru 8/21 Wed.-Mon.; Gary Raffanelli and Sandy Selby, thru 7/6; Bus Boys, 7/8-13; Paul Revere and the Raiders, 7/22-27; Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles, 8/5-17; Gary Raffanelli and Sandy Selby, 8/19-31

Harveys, Tahoe, 588-2411: *Top of the Wheel*: Ron Rose Sound, indf.; All Nite Express, 6/30-7/27; *Theatre Lounge*: "Feminine Touch," revue, indf.; "20th Century Foxes," revue, indf.; Whiskey Ridge, 6/30-7/6; Winchester Cathedral, 7/7-8/3; Scot and Ginger, 7/21-8/3; Entertainment Committee, 8/4-31

Hyatt Lake Tahoe, 831-1111: Dae Han Sisters, thru 7/13 and 8/26-9/7; Frenz, 7/15-27; Liz Damon Show, 7/29-8/10; Leno and Company, 8/12-24

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300: *Celebrity Cabaret*: Dottie West, thru 7/3; Johnny Otis Show, 7/6-21; Mamas and the Papas, 7/22-8/4; Mickey Finn Show, 8/5-18; *Casino Lounge*: Ken Rasner and the Entertainers, 6/30-7/13; Wright Brothers, 7/1-13; Starfire, 7/14-27; Four Tunes Plus One, 7/15-27; Bravo, 7/28-8/10; Leno and Co., 7/29-8/10; Passion, 8/11-31; Kenny Laursen, 8/12-31

Karl's, Sparks, 358-4771: Gary Xavier at the piano, days, indf.; entertainment nightly featuring Mokikei

Mother Lode, Carson City, 883-0900: Marcy and Ray, 7/1-20; Two of Clubs, 7/21-8/10; Heads Up, 8/12-24; ETS, 8/26-9/14

Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890: Four Tunes/Smokey and Bonnie, thru 7/6; Sunspots, 7/8-20; Two Bits, 7/7-27; Tamra Steele, 7/22-8/3; Scooter and the Bee, 7/28-8/10; Blind Date, 8/5-17; David Proud, 8/19-9/7

Peppermill, Reno, 826-2121: Tommy Bell, thru 7/27; Wrays, thru 8/3; Connection, 8/4-31

Pick Hobson's Riverside, Reno, 786-4400: Nightly dancing

Reno Hilton, 785-7100: "Branded," revue

Reno Ramada, 788-2000: Live entertainment

Sharkey's Nugget, Gardnerville, 782-3133

Topaz Lodge, Topaz Lake, 266-3339

Western Village, Sparks, 331-1069: Lelands, thru 7/6; Ira Allen, 6/30-7/13; Network, 7/7-8/3; St. Romain, 7/14-27; Tommy Bell, 7/28-8/31; Wray Bros., 8/4-31

COVERED WAGON PONY EXPRESS & PIONEER TERRITORIES

Battle Mountain: Owl Club, 635-5155

Elko: Commercial Hotel, 738-3181; Red Lion, 738-2111; Stockmen's Hotel, 738-5141

Ely: Hotel Nevada, 289-4414

Fallon: Fallon Nugget, 423-3111

Jackpot: Cactus Pete's, 755-2321; Coast to Coast, thru 7/6; Horseshu, 755-2331

Pahrump: Saddle West Casino, 727-5953

Tonopah: Mizpah Hotel, 482-6202; Station House, 482-9777

Wendover: Nevada Crossing, 664-4000: Live entertainment nightly, Tues.-Sun.; Peppermill, 664-2255; Red Garter Casino, 664-2111; State Line Casino, 664-2221

Winnemucca: Winners Hotel-Casino, 623-2511

Yerington: Casino West, 463-2481; Dini's Lucky Club, 463-2868: Live entertainment weekends □

Northern Nevada Show Notes

By Guy Richardson

Perhaps this strains reality, but Joan Rivers—who's at Caesars Tahoe August 11-17 making money at a mill-a-month rate—says she wants to go into politics when her late-night career is over. I can't wait for the press conferences. There are states in which her mouth is registered as a deadly weapon.

☆

After the real Southern stuff at the John Ascuaga's Nugget's Dixieland Festival in July, Mickey (nee Fred) Finn and his band of wacky Dixie dizzies will hit the same stage August 5-18. How did Fred become Mickey? Glad you asked. Many moons ago, Fred and wife Mickie (ah-ha) owned a nightclub that Fred—no dummy—called "Mickie Finn's." (For the youngsters under 40, a Mickey Finn was a drink with chloral hydrate added to knock out a customer at a speakeasy so he or she could be robbed.)

They later had a TV show that also used Mickie's name. She sang, he played brothel piano. Then they divorced. Fred, still no dummy, realized *The Fred Finn Show* sounded like the Flintstones broadcasting from a Scandinavian Sea World and changed his name legally. And now you know why old-timers in the band call Mickey "Fred." Do not ask again.

☆

Richardson's pick of the month is Paul Revere, which is his real, honest-to-goodness name, at Harrah's Reno July 22-27. Every time I see Revere's utter madness, I am reminded of Salvador Dali's marvelous line, "I do not take drugs I am drugs." What you didn't know about Revere is that before he was a rocknollermadman-crazy crazy he owned a hamburger stand in Idaho.

☆

Another Richardson pick is Joel Grey, at Harrah's Reno August 7-13 with Patti Page. Grey is a superb entertainer—actor, actually, in that he *plays the part* of a superb entertainer. Perhaps that's too esoteric or maybe it's exoteric. But yep, his name isn't Grey. He's Mickey Katz' kid.

☆

And don't forget the Perfesser, Pete Barbutti, at the High Sierra July 15 to August 3, playing the piano with his nose and explaining the significance of Hump-tulips, Washington. That's a real town, and the Perfesser uses his real name. Nobody changes his name to Barbutti. □

Guy Richardson, well known columnist for the Reno papers, uses his real name.

THE NEVADA CALENDAR

July & August 1986

Your complete day-by-day guide to events
and celebrations in the Silver State.

Listing by Melissa Loomis, Prose by Lee Adler

LAS VEGAS TERRITORY

July

Las Vegas Stars v. Tucson Toros, 6/30-7/3, triple-A pro baseball, 7:35pm, Cashman Field, 386-7200

Art Exhibit, thru 7/9, works by UNLV grad students, Reed Whipple Art Gallery, 386-6211

Summer Ballet Workshop '86, thru 8/15, Nevada

Dance Theatre Academy Studio, 798-2989

Pottery Exhibit, thru 8/31, Mohave Indian pottery, Clark County Southern Nevada Museum, Henderson, 565-0907

Exhibit, thru 10/10, Museum of International Folk Art's collection on transportation and movement, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6384

Goumond Ranch Tours, thru 10/26, Sat.-Sun., 2pm, Floyd Lamb State Park, 645-1998

America, America, 1-31 patriotic exhibit, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

Nevada Watercolor Society Show, 1-8/31, Museum of Natural History, UNLV, 739-3381

July 4th Fireworks, 4, Stardust Hotel, 732-6234

Damboree '86, 4, parade, booths, fireworks (tentative), City Park, Boulder City, 293-2034

July 4th Fireworks, 4, Mint Hotel, 385-7440

July 4th Celebration, 4, rodeo reenactment of the Revolutionary War with mock battles, Bunkerville Park, Bunkerville, 346-5663

Las Vegas Stars v. Albuquerque Dukes, 4-7 triple-A pro baseball, 7:35pm, fireworks follow game on 4th, Cashman Field, 386-7200

High Roller Million-Dollar Bowling Tournament, 4-7 and 9, amateur bowlers of all ages, \$250,000 first prize, Showboat Hotel, 385-9123

Concert, 5, Louis Clark and the Las Vegas Symphony Orchestra, fireworks during finale, 8pm, \$10 and \$15, Caesars Palace, 731-7865

AWA Wrestling, 5, Showboat Hotel, 385-9123

Las Vegas Stars v. Edmonton Trappers, 8-11 triple-A pro baseball, 7:35pm, Cashman Field, 386-7200

Concert, 9, violinists 6-12 years old, 2pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6384

"Salute to America," 10-12, song and dance show, bring blanket or lawn chair, gates open at 6pm, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 20 miles west of Las Vegas, 875-7529

"The Club," 10-13, musical spoof on turn-of-the-century "men's only" clubs, Las Vegas Little Theatre, Grant Hall, UNLV, 734-6971

Union Plaza's 15th Anniversary Party, 10-13, 386-2110

"Alaska," 12-13, melodrama, Sat. at Jaycee Park, Sun. at Hadland Park, 8pm, 799-6511

Big Beautiful Woman Fashion and Beauty Pageant, 13-16, must be 18 years old and wear a size 16 or larger, Dunes Hotel, 737-4110

Sierra Wind Quintet, 16, for young people, 2pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6384

"The Club," 17-20, musical spoof, Las Vegas Little Theatre, Grant Hall, UNLV, 734-6971

Las Vegas Square Dance Jubilee, 18-20, Riviera Hotel, 368-2273

Kruse Auction and Show, 18-20, antique, classic, and special interest cars may be viewed free on Fri., auction 10am Sat.-Sun., Las Vegas Convention Center, 731-3311

U.S. Bass/Tropicana 1986 U.S. Open Bass Fishing Tournament, 18-26, purse exceeds \$330,000 in cash and prizes, headquarters at Tropicana Hotel, fishing competition at Lake Mead, 739-2222

"Alaska," 19-20, melodrama, on Sat. Rotary

Park, on Sun. Freedom Park, 8pm, free, 799-6511

"Vagabonds," 23, historical play about Mark



Walker's Captains Courageous

"It's like going 200 miles per hour in an Indy car. The average guy just can't do it." So says Gary Mills, a Walker Lake racer who will be making waves July 12-13 in the 20th Anniversary Walker 100/Jack Roark Memorial Boat Races.

That weekend 75 to 100 crews and craft will meet at Barlow's Beach on Walker Lake, about 10 miles north of Hawthorne, for the races that feature high-performance "tunnel" air-cushioned vessels capable of speeds up to 130 mph. The tunnels, formed by hulls shaped like an inverted U, make for a precarious and uncertain ride, says Mills, a past winner of the 33-lap 100. "You only have the last three feet of the boat in the water," he explains. "There's no water feeling at all, so you don't know if you're going to go over or not."

Sunday's racing, which features competition in three divisions, will be preceded by a parade of boats through Hawthorne, time trials, and a barbecue. Admission will be charged at the races. On Saturday fans can watch racers take practice runs. For motel reservations in Hawthorne, call in advance because rooms fill quickly.



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Laughlin's Not-So-Lazy Days on the River

Although the sun does get a mite assertive at times, the movers and shakers of Laughlin are convinced that they have it made in the shade. It wasn't that long ago that this tip of Southern Nevada was the geographic equivalent of actor Clint Eastwood's "Man With No Name" character, a panorama of thorny shrubs that a century ago accommodated Indian farmers and waves of explorers, trappers, and miners.

Now the community of 2,000 residents is cultivating a bumper crop of visitors—as many as 100,000 on prime weekends. They are drawn by the flowering of half a dozen hotel-casinos and the delights of the Colorado River and Lake Mohave, which combine to make the area what one spokesman called "the largest freshwater resort in the Southwest." Folks come here to camp, fish, water-ski, go powerboating, or just burrow into the cool casinos to try to wheedle a little largess out of Dame Fortune.

Laughlin River Days, July 25 to August 2, is when the area celebrates its renaissance and honors Don Laughlin, who got things started in 1966 when he bought a small bar and gradually turned it into a shoreside resort. Laughlin Days offers a virtual supermarket of things to do and see—among them, a parade, dances, talent show, chili cook-off, beauty pageant (pictured here are last year's contestants), midnight turkey shoot, martial arts demonstration, military band concert, a bowling tournament, and boat rides.

Daytime temperatures in summer are over 100 degrees, but that shouldn't be a concern, says spokesman Jim Tiffin. "You go inside. You go to the river," he explains. "All the events are not at three o'clock in the afternoon. Most are at seven or eight at night—when it has cooled off. By the time they are over it's 11 o'clock or midnight, and it's down to 90 or 85 degrees. It's great."



CLINT WARDLOW

Sure Bet in Ely

If you like thoroughbred racing, odds are the feeling will be parimutuel as horses and riders from throughout the West compete in at least 40 races at the White Pine County Fairgrounds in Ely. It's the annual Pony Express Days, and it takes place the weekends of August 16-17 and 23-24.



LISA J. TOLDRA

Bard Times at Tahoe

There will be melodrama and merry mix-ups aplenty when Shakespeare's timeless theatricality mingles with the timeless beauty and summer twilight of Sand Harbor at Lake Tahoe State Park. The Bard's "Merchant of Venice" will alternate with "Comedy of Errors" and Cervantes' "Don Quixote" on August 5-10 and 12-17 at the natural amphitheater three miles south of Incline Village. A five-day musical overture at Sand Harbor starting July 16 will feature Queen Ida and the Bon Temps Zydeco Band, Tower of Power, and Free Flight. All of the above performances are at 8 p.m. Don't forget to bring a blanket, picnic supper, and friend.

History Rides Again

Two communities that are celebrating their past and thereby enriching their present are Minden-Gardnerville and Pioche. On July 18-20, Carson Valley Heritage Days rises to the occasion with hot-air balloon racing, car and cycle rallies, arts and crafts exhibits, softball tournaments, and a chili cook-off in Minden and Gardnerville. Later in the month Pioche Heritage Days shows off the town's residents' creative talents with plays based on true events in Pioche's past. Two of the plays written by the townsfolk are "Bachelors Beware"—based on a 1979 *Nevada Magazine* article—and "Moonshine Madness." The audience also will be treated to old-time music, dancing by can-can girls, and fine art, photography, and craft shows during the July 28-August 2 revisit.



Basque Party Time

You don't have to make a pilgrimage to Mount St. Helens or Vesuvius to watch a volcano erupt. Why trek to some excitable lava bed when you can revel all summer long in the Basque blow-outs that produce pretty much the same effect?

This annual outpouring of song and dance and wine, of staccato war whoops known as *irrintzi*, of Old World contests of strength, stamina, and agility, of food—glorious food—may be an example of what actors call "playing against type." The Basques, a people of mysterious origins and an intriguingly obscure language, arrived from the Pyrenees of France and Spain to become Nevada's preeminent sheepherders because, says author Robert Laxalt, they were able to resist the lure of city lights, "and stay with those sheep until they dropped in their tracks, or went nuts from being alone, or got rich."

But Basque festivals are not exercises in introversion. They are to reticence what a phone-booth stuffing contest is to solitude, what a five-alarm fire is to tranquility. And the riches on display are not material but exuberantly human.

The festivals are all well attended, so visitors are urged to obtain hotel and motel reservations in advance. Here are the events and numbers (area code 702) to call for details. Also see the Calendar listings.

The Winnemucca festival started off the season on June 7-8; call 623-2225. The Elko event is the 23rd National Basque Festival on July 4-6; call 738-7135. Ely's festival dance on July 19 is open to the public; call 289-8586.

The Reno Basque Festival is August 9 at Rancho San Rafael Park; call 322-5517 or 972-8710. And the big party in Las Vegas goes from September 6 at the Silk Purse Ranch to September 7 at St. Viator Community Center; call 385-2662 or 361-6834.

The County-Fairest of Them All

The way we were. The way we are. The way we expect—or hope—we will be. That's the laid-back, panoramic essence of county fairs, where pickled peaches compete for attention with pygmy goats, where jumping frogs soar—but not nearly as high as helicopters. And where our love-hate relationship with the auto takes the form of their alternately being raced, exhibited, and demolished.

These samplers of America and Americana, these cultural crazy-quilts, dot the national landscape. But beginning in late July and continuing for several weeks thereafter, Nevada may well claim the title as the county-fairest of them all.

There are more than 10 fairs, with the RSVF Capital City Fair at Carson City's Fuji Park leading them off July 24-27.

It will propel you into the summer circuit with helicopter rides, rodeo events, an Air Force Band concert, carnival, International Chili Society-sanctioned chili cook-off, tractor sled pull, and family living and livestock shows.

Neighboring Douglas County picks up the baton on July 31-August 3 with a carnival, petting zoo, junior rodeo, and other diversions at the fairgrounds in Gardnerville.

Then on to the Churchill County Fair in Fallon, August 8-10, for truck and tractor pulls and on-stage performers, with a pre-fair concert set for August 7.

That, in turn, sets the stage for the Nevada State Fair, August 12-17 at the fairgrounds in Reno, where they will pack them in with a giant



LISA J. TOLDEN

carnival midway, a destruction derby, junior livestock show, rodeo, photo contest, music, and exhibition hall.

The scene shifts August 14-17 to the Lincoln County Fair in Panaca for a rodeo, carnival, and exhibits.

Thither to Yerington for the Lyon County Fair and Rodeo, August 21-24, where they will be riding broncs and racing cars in the community's big annual celebration.

Then edge over to Eureka for its August 22-24 extravaganza, which includes a horse show, gymkhana, and hay contest.

And, hey, as long as you're horsing around in Eastern Nevada, why not gallop on U.S. 50 to Ely for the White Pine County Fair on August 23-24,

which includes a dog show, livestock sale, and displays of cooking, needlecrafts, and fine arts skills. It's also the second weekend of Ely's horse racing holiday, Pony Express Days.

Also on August 23-24 is the Lander County Fair at Battle Mountain with a pet parade, stock horse classes, home arts, and 4-H exhibits.

For an almost final fair-thee-well, try the August 29-31 Tri-County Fair and Labor Day Rodeo at the Humboldt County Fairgrounds in Winnemucca, whose centerpiece is the annual parade and rodeo.

And wrap it up with the August 29-September 1 county fair and livestock show in Elko. There's horse racing, stock horse classes, home art displays, and old-fashioned good times.



NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Goldfield: Remembrance of Swings Past

It was called "The Battle of the Century" at a time when the 20th century was still in its swaddling clothes and blissfully unaware of the truly bloody battles to come. But in 1906, in Goldfield, the lightweight championship bout between Joe Gans, a black man, and challenger Battling Nelson, the "Durable Dane," was socko stuff.

More than that, it satisfied the desire of local leaders to proclaim the coming of age of this incredibly prolific gold-mining boomtown. The 42-round bout was fought under a scorching Labor Day sun before 7,000 people. It produced a victory for Gans—Nelson was disqualified for a low blow—and world-wide recognition for a community where, one newspaper said, three years earlier "there was no sign of human habitation."

This summer Goldfielders remember those golden days when they celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Gans-Nelson fight during a five-event boxing card on August 2-3. It's part of the annual Goldfield Treasure Days, which also include a parade, barbecue, street dance, and the World Championship Bar Stool Sitting Contest. Check it out: You might still be able to hear the roar of a distant crowd and the swell of aspirations not quite muffled by time.



Hot Times in Reno

This summer Reno is holding two new major celebrations. The first is Festival Reno, which runs June 20 to July 13 with many connected events such as fireworks, special gaming tournaments, food festivals, and an USSA softball tournament. Top entertainers like Julio Iglesias (above) will perform in concert. Then on August 1-3 you'll be able to jitterbug in the streets of downtown Reno during the Hot August Nights '50s revival. Cars from that decade will cruise in cavalcade down Virginia Street in Reno and B Street in Sparks. There will be Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe, and Buddy Holly look-alike contests (judges will be the Legends in Concert look-alikes from Las Vegas' Imperial Palace), and, the keenest thing of all, many events will have '50s prices.

Twain, Rainbow Company Children's Theatre, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6384

July 24th Celebration, 24, parade, kids' games, Bunkerville Park, Bunkerville, 346-5663

Las Vegas Stars v. Hawaii Islanders, 24-27 triple-A pro baseball, 7:35pm, Cashman Field, 386-7200

"The Club," 24-27 musical spoof, Las Vegas Little Theatre, Grant Hall, UNLV, 734-6971

"Lil' Abner," 24-26 and 31-8/2, musical, bring blanket or lawn chair, gates open at 6pm, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 20 miles west of Las Vegas, 875-7529

Laughlin River Days, 25-8/2, on 25 Miss Laughlin beauty contest, on 26 Air Force Band concert, on 27 parade, on 28 TBA, on 29 Greek food fest, on 30 talent show, chili cook-off, and junior fishing derby, on 31 Mexican Fiesta, on 31-8/2 bluegrass festival, on 8/1 New Year's Eve party, townwide, 298-2214

"Alaska," 26-27 melodrama, on Sat. Lorenzi Park, on Sun. Jaycee Park, 8pm, free, 386-6211

Las Vegas Stars v. Vancouver Canadians, 28-31, triple-A pro baseball, 7:35pm, Cashman Field, 386-7200

ESPN/Top Rank Boxing, 29, Showboat, 385-9123

Dance Program, 30, 2pm, Las Vegas Civic Ballet, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6384

August and Labor Day

"Lil' Abner," 1-2, musical, bring blanket or lawn chair, gates open at 6pm, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 20 miles west of Las Vegas, 875-7529

Bowling Tournament, 1-3, Showboat, 385-9123

Exhibit, 1-31, Navajo crafts including sandpaintings and rugs, Lost City Museum, 397-2193

Golden Gloves Boxing, 2, Showboat, 385-9123



Using this map as a key, you'll find each town's events under the territory designated by the Nevada Commission on Tourism. For more travel information, write the Commission on Tourism, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV. 89710, or call 702-885-3636.

Sundown-Hoedown Concert Series, 3-24, Sundays, country-western and bluegrass, 7pm, free, Jaycee Park, 386-6211

Art Exhibit, 3-31 oils by Connie Hauser, Las Vegas Art Museum, 647-4300

"Lil' Abner," 7-9, musical, bring blanket or lawn chair, gates open at 6pm, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 20 miles west of Las Vegas, 875-7529

Zelzah Temple Shrine Circus, 8-10, Las Vegas Convention Center, 382-5554

Las Vegas Stars v. Calgary Cannons, 14-16, triple-A pro baseball, 7:35pm Thurs. and Sat., 6:35pm doubleheader Fri., Cashman, 386-7200

Las Vegas Stars v. Phoenix Giants, 17-20, triple-A pro baseball, 7:35pm, Cashman Field, 386-7200

Nevada Police Olympics, 20-24, Showboat, 386-9123

"The Tempest," 21-23, Shakespeare comedy, bring blanket or lawn chair, gates open at 6pm, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 20 miles west of Las Vegas, 875-7529

Las Vegas Stars v. Portland Beavers, 21-24, triple-A pro baseball, 7:35pm, Cashman Field, 386-7200

Moonlight Hike, 22, meet at Visitor Center to carpool to the trailhead for a 2-mile round-trip hike, reservations required, Valley of Fire State Park, 397-2088

ESPN/Top Rank Boxing, 22, Showboat, 385-9123

Greater Las Vegas Coin and Stamp Show, 22-24, free, Sahara Hotel, 457-2190

Snake Program, 23, discussion and hike, 9:30-11:30am, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 20 miles west of Las Vegas, 368-2885

World's Longest Golf Hole Tournament, 27-31, 40-mile cross country golf hole played under USGA rules; 2-man teams from across the country compete, each backed by a minimum of \$10,000 in pledges to the Muscular Dystrophy Assn.; play is in the desert outside Las Vegas, 737-3103

AWA Wrestling, 30, Showboat, 385-9123

Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon, 31-9/1 nonstop entertainment from 6pm Sun. to 3:30pm Mon., studio audience tickets are free and may be picked up on the taping date, Caesars Palace, 731-7110

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GAMING TOURNAMENTS

Here's a roll call of gaming tournaments scheduled this summer in Las Vegas. They range from casual to high-roller affairs, so call ahead for details.

July

Slots, 6/28-7/3, Sands Hotel, 733-5000

Mini Blackjack, 7/6-8/28, every Sun., Tues. and Thurs., Royal Casino, 733-4000

Video Poker, 18-20, Marina Hotel, 739-1500

Slots, 20-23, Frontier Hotel, 734-0385

Blackjack, 20-24, Lady Luck Casino, 384-4680

Poker, 21-8/2, Union Plaza, 386-2110

Poker, 24-28, Riviera Hotel, 734-5356

Craps, 25-27 Four Queens Hotel, 385-4011

Poker, 25-8/8, Riveria Hotel, 734-5257

August

Poker, 1-4, Riviera Hotel, 734-5257

Craps, 3-5, Frontier Hotel, 734-0385

Craps, 3-7 Sands Hotel, 733-5000

Craps, 8-10, Marina Hotel, 739-1500

Pan, 10-13, Union Plaza, 386-2110

Poker Classic, 12-28, Frontier Hotel, 734-0385

Pan, 24-28, Union Plaza, 386-2110

Slots, 14-17 Sands Hotel, 733-5000

PIONEER TERRITORY

July

Berlin Townsite Tours, thru 9/1 11am Sat. and Sun., Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, 23 miles east of Gabbs, 867-3001

Ichthyosaur Fossil Shelter Tours, thru 9/1 10am, 2pm, and 4pm daily, Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, 23 miles east of Gabbs, 867-3001

July 4th Children's Parade, 4, 10am, floats and walking groups, each child receives a silver dollar and an American flag from the VFW, Main Street, Tonopah, 482-3558

July 4th Celebration, 4, Clover Creek off-road racing, fireworks, parade, horseshoe and softball tournaments, Caliente, 726-3126

Rhyolite July 4th Celebration, 4, barbecues, dances, sack races, horseshoes, and egg toss, Rhyolite No. 2

Pahrump Firemen's July 4th Celebration, 4, barbecue, fireworks, Community Center, 727-5658

State Parks 50th Anniversary Slide Program, 5, Cathedral Gorge State Park, 728-4467

Slide Program, 5, 8:30pm, Cathedral Gorge State Park, 728-4467

Fly-Fishing Program, 5, 8pm, Echo Canyon State Rec. Area, 728-4467

Slide Program, 5, 8:30pm, Spring Valley State Park, 962-5102

Rattlesnake Talk, 12, 3pm, Spring Valley State Park, 962-5102

Stargaze Program, 12, 8pm, Echo Canyon State Rec. Area, 728-4467

20th Anniversary Walker 100 Jack Roark Memorial Races, 12-13, Sat. is test day; Sun. is race day with 3 divisions for the boats; racers and spectators meet at Barlow's Beach on Walker Lake, 10 miles north of Hawthorne, 945-5896

Moonlight Hike to Caves Areas, 19, 8:30pm-

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10pm, Cathedral Gorge State Park, 728-4467
Campfire Programs, 19 and 26, 8:30pm, Spring Valley State Park, 962-5102
Courthouse Tour, 19, Belmont, 45 miles north-east of Tonopah, 867-3001
Pioche Heritage Days, 28-8/2, nightly stage plays depicting events and stories of Pioche's early days written and performed by area residents, also photography show, at Million Dollar Courthouse; art by Cliff Segerblom and his students on display and craft show at Town Hall; advance reservations for plays required, Pioche, 962-5544

August and Labor Day

Edible Plants Slide Program, 2, 8:30pm, Cathedral Gorge State Park, 728-4467
Fishing Talk and Tips, 2, Spring Valley State Park, 962-5102
"Rails Across the Desert," 2, film from Northeastern Nevada Museum, 8:30pm, Echo Canyon State Rec. Area, 728-4467
Goldfield Treasure Days, 2-3, parade, bar stool sitting contest, street dance, barbecue, mini off-road race, arts and crafts, and professional boxing card; the theme this year is the 80th anniversary of the Gans-Nelson title fight, Goldfield, 25 miles south of Tonopah, 485-6365 or 485-9957
Nevada 300, 9, off-road race, Silver Dust Racing Assn., Pioche, 459-0317
Stargazing Slide Program, 9, 8pm, Spring Valley State Park, 962-5102
"The Cowboy," 9, film from Northeastern Nevada Museum, 8:30pm, Echo Canyon State Rec. Area, 728-4467
Rhyolite Discovery Day, 9, mining events, games for kids, picnic, Rhyolite No. 2
Lincoln County Fair, 14-17 10am parade Sat., rodeo, carnival, livestock and home arts exhibits,

horseshoe contest, BMX race, foot race, queen contest, pillow concert at high school, most events at fairgrounds, Panaca, 962-5185
Old Timers Photo Exhibit, 15-17 old photos displayed so that viewers can identify the subjects; held in conjunction with the Tonopah and Goldfield Reunion Picnic, Central Nevada Museum, Tonopah, 482-9676
Campfire Program, 16, 8pm, Spring Valley State Park, 962-5102
Courthouse Tour, 16, Belmont, 45 miles north-east of Tonopah, 867-3001

Firefighters Frolic

Colorful, historic Virginia City will go to flames July 19-20 when firefighters show off hand-drawn, hand-pumped engines and other antique equipment and compete at the annual Comstock Firemen's Muster. Teams from several states are expected to show up—as well as everyone else partial to barbecuing, dancing, parading, and antique-mobilia.

Moonlight Hike to Caves Areas, 16, 8:30pm-10pm, Cathedral Gorge State Park, 728-4467
Ichthyosaur Fossil Shelter Open House, 16-17 8am-5pm, Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, 23 miles east of Gabbs, 867-3001
Campfire Program, 23, 8pm, Spring Valley State Park, 962-5102
Lost City Exhibit, 27-8/27, on Nevada's ancient Pueblo Indians, Lincoln County Museum, Pioche, 962-5207
Pioche Labor Day Celebration, 29-31 80th annual with horse race, historic mining events, parade, hay scramble, kangaroo court, Dutch

oven cook-off, motocross race, pet show, 10-km. run, arts and crafts show, dances, barbecue, volleyball, horseshoes, pool, softball tournament, and fireworks, Pioche, 962-5544
Ranger Talk, 30, 8pm, Cathedral Gorge State Park, 728-4467
Ione Days and Ore House Jamboree, 29-31 trapshoot, turkey shoot, dance, food booths, kids' games including greased pig chase, women's mud wrestling, single-jack rock drilling contest, three-legged race, Ione, 786-7393
"Rural Nevada," 30, film from Northeastern Nevada Museum, 8pm, Echo Canyon State Rec. Area, 728-4467
Campfire Program, 30, 8pm, Spring Valley State Park, 962-5102
Rhyolite Labor Day Celebration, 30-31, picnic, family events, Rhyolite No. 2

PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY

July

Living History Talks, thru 9/30, 1pm Sat. and Sun., on fort history and 1860s, Fort Churchill State Historic Monument, 577-2345
Old Fashioned 4th of July, 4, parade, street games, on Main Street; dance with live music at firehouse, Austin, 964-2440
July 4th Celebration, 4, 10am parade followed by street games and barbecue, 9pm fireworks, Main Street, Eureka, 237-5262
July 4th Celebration, 4, parade, barbecue at Lions Park, games, fireworks, Battle Mountain, 635-2193

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Kiwanis Fourth of July, 4, starting at 5pm bicycle motocross, car races, egg toss, and dunk tank followed by 9pm fireworks, free, fairgrounds, Yerington, 463-2576

July 4th Celebration, 4, 10am parade, barbecue, fireworks, and outdoor dance, Out-of-Town Park, Fernley, 575-4459

Lake Mead Casting Call

The week of July 18-26 will be a fine time for "compleat" anglers to show how compleat they really are, to stop casting aspersions about competitors and start casting in earnest. What they will be angling for, under the blazing sun and across the broad reaches of Lake Mead, 25 miles east of Las Vegas, is around \$330,000 in cash and prizes and the hard-won title of champion of the U.S. Open National Bass Tournament. The annual event is billed as "the granddaddy of big money fishing tournaments." And "no greater test of fishing skill, physical endurance or mechanical reliability has ever been devised," declares U.S. Bass President Rich Schultz. Event headquarters will be at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas.

July 4th Celebration, 4, parade, games for children, fireworks, Ely, 289-8877

Arts and Crafts Fair, 4, 9am-4pm, Dayton State Park, 885-5678

Auto Races, 4, fireworks, Fallon, 423-4391

Slide Show, 5, on women of the frontier, Fort Churchill State Historic Monument, 577-2345

Nevada International Invitational Rodeo, 10-13, selected high school rodeo champions, Regional Park, Fallon, 423-4674

Snake Awareness Program, 12, Dave Doty shows snakes common in Nevada, 7pm, meet at Beach 7 Lahontan State Rec. Area, 577-2226

Hidden Cave Tours, 12 and 26, meet 9:30am, County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

Fallon's All-Indian Rodeo, 18-20, fairgrounds, Fallon, 423-5104

Bird Identification Walk, 19, 2 miles round trip, 7-9am, Cave Lake State Rec. Area, 728-4467

Lahontan Dam to Diversion Canoe Trip, 19, Lahontan State Rec. Area, 867-3500

Rock Point Mill Site Tour, 19, 10am, Dayton State Park, 885-5678

Ely Basque Festival, 19-20, on Sat. public dance at National Guard Armory, on Sun. picnic barbecue may be open to the public, Ely, 289-8586

Ely Casino Amateur Golf Tournament, 19-20, White Pine County Golf Course, Ely, 289-8877

Calf Branding and Gymkhana, 20, fairgrounds, Yerington, 463-4033

Pioneer Days Celebration and Rodeo, 26-27 Latter Day Saints Church celebration with games, picnics, and rodeo, Lund, 289-8877

VFW 27th Annual Eureka Rodeo, 26-27 1:30pm, rodeo grounds, Eureka, 237-5334

August and Labor Day

Hunter Safety for Women Program, 2, 7pm, Beach 7 Lahontan State Rec. Area, 577-2226

Stargazing, 2, 8:30-10pm, Cave Lake State Rec. Area, 728-4467

Arts in the Park Festival, 2-3, arts and crafts booths, fine art, food, County Park, Ely, 289-8877

Restoration Rally, 2-3, fund-raiser for the restoration of the Eureka Masonic Bldg., on Sat. 10am dedication of the cornerstone at the Eureka Sentinel Bldg., 2pm Masonic activities; 4pm social hour followed by 5pm barbecue and dance at

Fiorenzi Ranch, 2.5 miles from downtown; on Sun. 7am breakfast in the park, Eureka, 237-5556

Calf Branding and Stock Horse, 3, branding against the clock, fairgrounds, Yerington, 463-4033

Churchill County Fair, 8-10, on the 7th pre-fair concert with the Favero Sisters, tractor and 4x4 pulls, live entertainment, Regional Park, Fallon, 423-5121

Summer Stargaze, 9, 8pm, meet at dam, Lahontan State Rec. Area, 577-2226

Hidden Cave Tours, 9 and 23, meet 9:30am, County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

High Country Run, 16, 5,000- and 10,000-meter runs beginning at Broadbent Park, for all ages, men, women, and children, Ely, 289-8877

Ranger Talk, 16, 10-11am, Ward Charcoal Ovens, 16 miles south of Ely, 885-4370

Pony Express Days, 16-17 and 23-24, 10 races

per day with parimutuel betting, total prize money is \$65,000, fairgrounds, Ely, 289-8877

Horse Show, 17 fairgrounds, Yerington, 463-4785

Lyon County Fair and Rodeo, 21-24, tractor pull, demo derby, and rodeo, fairgrounds, Yerington, 463-4324

Eureka County Fair, 22-24, horse show, hay contest, rodeo grounds, Eureka, 237-5326

White Pine County Fair, 23-24, 4-H livestock show and sale, dog show, horseshoe tournament, commercial displays, also last weekend of Pony Express horse races, fairgrounds, Ely, 289-3119

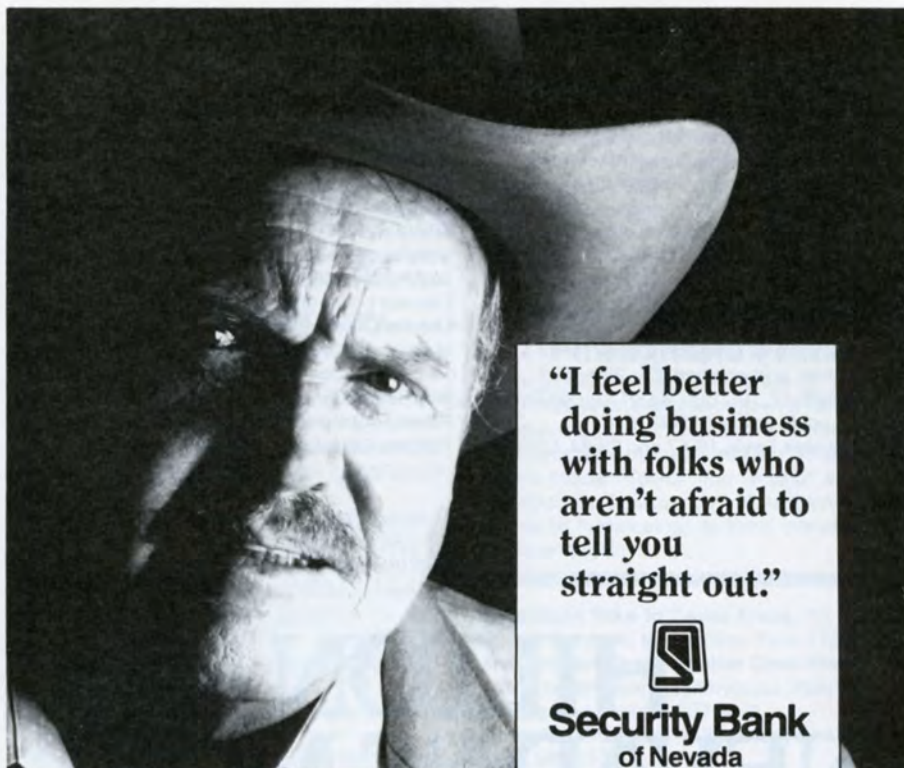
Lander County Fair, 23-24, stock horse classes at fairgrounds on Sat., 4-H exhibits, pet parade, 10am Sat., noon Sun., Civic Center, Battle Mountain, 635-2235

Pinyon-Juniper Woodland Hike, 30, 6:30-7:30pm, Cave Lake State Rec. Area, 728-4467

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COVERED WAGON TERRITORY

July

Art Show, 1-31 works by Judy Dennler and Ellie Gottschalk, County Library, Lovelock, 273-2216

Art Show, 3-8/4, pen and ink by Larry Bute, watercolors by Ruth Wood Cantrell, Northeastern Nevada Museum, 738-3418

July 4th Fireworks, 4, Wells Golf Course, 752-3928

July 4th Celebration, 4, kiddie parade, games, fireworks, Lovelock, 273-7213

VFW Fireworks Display, 4, fairgrounds, Elko, 738-7135

July 4th Parade, 4, parade from Wendover, Utah, to Wendover, Nevada, 664-2111

July 4th Barbecue, 4, fishing and fireworks, Wildhorse Ranch and Resort, call Northfork 6472

July 4th Celebration and Western States Hollering Contest, 4, outdoor barbecue, games for kids, annual hollering contest, Jackpot, 755-2321

July 4th Picnic, 4, booths, food, games, City Park, Winnemucca, 623-2225

McDermitt Twin States Stampede, 4-5, rodeo, McDermitt, 532-8742

Elko's National Basque Festival, 4-6, on Fri-Sat. musical performance; on Sat. handball semi-finals, noon parade, 1 pm games, Basque dances, contests of strength, 9pm dance; on Sun. 11am Mass, noon shepherders bread contest, 1pm feed followed by irrintzi (Basque yell), dancing and pelota contests, at fairgrounds, City Park, and downtown, Elko, 738-7135

Campout Dance, 4-6, camp in Lamoille Canyon with dances, games, and contests, Sagebrush Spinners Square Dancers, 20 miles southeast of Elko, 738-3666

Cactus Pete's Air Race, 4-6, from Salt Lake City, UT to Jackpot, 755-2321

Slide Show, 5, 8pm, Wild Horse State Rec. Area, Northfork 6493

Invitational Softball Tournament, 5-6, David McDougal Sports Complex, Lovelock, 273-7569

Free Day Use, 9, Wild Horse State Rec. Area, Northfork 6493

Horse Show, 11-13, Northeastern Nevada Quarter Horse Assn., fairgrounds, Elko, 738-7135

Cactus Pete's Air Race, 12, from Denver, CO. to Jackpot, 755-2321

Dam Tour, 12, 10am, Rye Patch State Rec. Area, Rye Patch No. 3

Air Force Band Concert, 15, Convention Center, Elko, 738-7118

Miss Elko County Pageant, 17 Convention Center, Elko, 738-4091 or 738-7135

Horse Show, 20, Northern Nevada Horsemen's Assn., Spring Creek Horse Palace, 15 miles south-east of Elko, 738-7135

Rifle Silhouette Sanctional, 20, French Ford Gun Club Rifle Range, U.S. 95, Winnemucca, 623-4117

Free Camp Day, 25, Wild Horse State Rec. Area, Northfork 6493

Dam Tour, 26, 10am, Rye Patch State Rec. Area, Rye Patch No. 3

Shrine Circus, 28, fairgrounds, Elko, 738-7135

August and Labor Day

FFA Livestock Show and Sale, 1-2, fairgrounds, Elko, 738-7135

Lovelock Frontier Days, 2-3, parade, flea market, games, barbecue, entertainment, stock car races, annual art show, Lovelock, 273-7213

High Powered Silhouette, 3, French Ford Gun Club, U.S. 95, Winnemucca, 623-4117

Horse Shows, 3 and 17, Northern Nevada Horsemen's Assn., Spring Creek Horse Palace, 15 miles southeast of Elko, 738-7135 or 753-6510

Art Exhibit, 6-9/8, watercolors by W.W. Bradford and works by Peter Coin, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Free Day Use and Camp Days, 7-8, on Thurs. free day and Thurs-Fri. free camp days, Wild Horse State Rec. Area, Northfork 6493

Nature Film, 9, 8pm, Rye Patch State Rec. Area, Rye Patch No. 3

Slide Show, 9, 8pm, Wild Horse State Rec. Area, Northfork 6493

Junior Buckaroo Rodeo, 9-10, for children, rodeo grounds, Wells, 752-3627

Tom Duncan Junior Rodeo, 9-10, open to ages 8 to 19, rodeo grounds, Lovelock, 273-2405

Feedlot Team Ropers Competition, 11-14, Elko County Fairgrounds, 738-7135

Cactus Pete's Mixed Scramble Golf Tournament, 14-15, Jackpot, 755-2321

Elko County 4-H Horse Show, 15-16, fairgrounds, Elko, 738-7135

Jim Sinclair Memorial Golf Tournament, 16, Jackpot, 755-2321

Mining History and Ghost Towns Talk, 16, 8pm, Rye Patch State Rec. Area, Rye Patch No. 3

Cactus Pete's Air Race, 16, from Seattle, WA. to Jackpot, 755-2321

Annual Gun Show, 16-17 Cactus Pete's, Jackpot, 755-2321

Cactus Pete's Open Golf Tournament, 19-22, Jackpot, 755-2321

Nature Film, 23, 8pm, Rye Patch State Rec. Area, Rye Patch No. 3

Square Dance, 27 Sagebrush Spinners, City Park, weather permitting, Elko, 738-3666

Tri-County Fair and Winnemucca Rodeo, 29-31 Fri-Sat. oldest Nevada rodeo, Fri-Sun. fair, parade, street dances, 4-H show and sale, exhibits, and booths, fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-2225

Western Art Round-Up, 29-31 show and sale, wine tasting, auction, awards banquet, Convention Center, Winnemucca, 529-0452

Elko County Fair and Livestock Show, 29-9/1 home arts display, 4-H livestock competition and sale, fine arts displays, stock horse competition, branding competition, and quarter horse and thoroughbred horse racing, fairgrounds and National Guard Armory, Elko, 738-3616

Demolition Derby, 9/1 fairgrounds, Elko, 738-3616

RENO/TAHOE TERRITORY

July

Festival Reno, 6/20-7/13, townwide celebration with concerts, special gaming, sports tournaments, food promotions, headquarters at Reno/Sparks Convention Center, 827-7600

Outdoor Jazz Series, 6/26-8/26, every Wed., Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Lake Tahoe Sail Week, 6/28-7/5, full week of racing, open to all, 916-544-5074

Reno Padres v. Stockton Ports, 6/30-7/2, class-A pro baseball, 7:30pm, Moana, 825-0678

Carson Valley Art Show, thru 15, local artists, Courthouse Museum, Genoa, 782-8487

Art Show, thru 8/3, works in bronze, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

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Museum Opening and Fund-raisers, thru 10/31 restored house and museum, yard sales first Sat. of each month from 8am-4pm, Roberts House Museum, Carson City, 882-5950

Exhibits, thru 10/31 artifacts from Tahoe's earliest days, photos, Lake Tahoe Historical Society, South Lake Tahoe, 916-541-5458

Nevada Junior Quarter Horse Show, 3, fairgrounds, 785-3371

Reno Padres v. Modesto Athletics, 3-4, class-A pro baseball, 7:30pm Thurs., 6pm doubleheader Fri., Moana Stadium, 825-0678

Skyfire '86, 4, fireworks, UNR, 786-3030

Quilting Show, 4, 10am-4pm, Roberts House Museum, Carson City, 882-5950

July 4th Celebration, 4, 11am parade down Carson Street followed by games, picnics, live music, arts and crafts, and fireworks after dusk, at Mills Park, Carson City, 882-1565

Swimmer's Marathon

Lake Tahoe will be no place for chickens of the sea on July 26 as master swimmers in the Trans Tahoe Invitational Swim brave the 6,225-foot altitude, terminal goosepimples, and—myth-makers insist—a possible close encounter with a resident sea monster named Tessie. Poseidon over this splashy 14.4-mile bid for gain and glory—from Sand Harbor Beach in Nevada to Chambers Landing in California—will be the Olympic Club of San Francisco.

July 4th Celebration, 4, parade down C Street, band concert in Miner's Park, fireworks at dusk, Virginia City, 847-0311

Fourth of July Pops Concert, 4, food booths or bring your own picnic, music by Reno Philharmonic Orchestra, 5:30pm, free, Mormon Station State Historic Monument, Genoa, 782-7576

Star Spangled Fourth, 4, air show, sailboat races, fireworks off Timbercove Pier, South Lake Tahoe, 588-7174

July 4th Celebration, 4, games, food, aerial displays, fireworks, 11am-9pm, Ski Beach, Incline Village, 831-4440

Sharkey's Cowpasture Boxing Festival, 4, 13th annual, ballpark, Gardnerville, 782-3133

Nevada State Dairy Goat Show, 4-5, fairgrounds, 673-2222

Fourth Annual Nugget Dixieland Festival, 4-6, features nine top Dixieland groups and one from Sweden, playing in three in-house locations, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300

Railroad Museum Steam-Up, 4-6, restored Virginia & Truckee Railroad engines No. 22 and No. 25 will operate, 8:30am-4:30pm, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 885-4810

July 4th Arts and Crafts Fair, 4-6, Kings Beach Rec. Area, 916-583-9048

Silver State Quarter Horse Show, 4-6, fairgrounds, 853-2882

Blackjack Tournament, 4-6, part of the Festival Reno celebration, Peppermill Inn, 826-2121

State High Power Rifle Championships, 4-6, Palomino Valley Gun Club, 22 miles north of Sparks, 323-3950

Tahoe Rim Trail Construction, 5, work parties every weekend thru August, call 916-577-0676

Fourth of July Family Day, 5, free pony rides and putting (golf) contest for kids, 10am, Northstar, North Lake Tahoe, 916-562-1010

Reno Padres v. Visalia Oaks, 5-6, class-A pro baseball, 7:30pm Sat., 6pm doubleheader Sun., Moana Stadium, 825-0678

Musical Celebration on the Green, 6, six bands, clown, food, and drink, free, 11am-6pm, next to Hyatt Hotel, Incline Village, 831-0781

Model Racing, 6, fairgrounds, 826-9470

Hitachi Masters of Soaring Championships, 6-12, 20 U.S. and international soaring champions invited to compete, airport, Minden, 782-7627

Lake Tahoe Summer Music Festival, 7-20, San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, at various North Tahoe locations, 916-583-3494

Nevada 86, 9-8/13, photo show, Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 885-4810

Storybook Theatre's "Cinderella," 10-12, western play especially for 3-8 year olds, Storybook Productions, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

"Saturday's Warrior," 11 contemporary Christian drama, 7:30pm, Pioneer Theater, 786-5105

Truckee River Raft Race, 11-12, on Fri. 5-11pm party with food, drinks, live music, and queen contest; Sat. is race day with 5-mile route from Verdi to Mayberry Park, 9am start, following race awards, food, and live music, 359-2880

Arabian Horse Week in Reno, 11-20, on 11-14 is the Comstock Arabian Horse Show at the fairgrounds; on 15-20 is the International Arabian Horse Fair with auctions and demonstrations at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 852-3011

Mount Rose Hike, 12, 10-mile round-trip hike, difficult, bring water and lunch, 9am, meet off Route 431 at the phone company bldg. just south of the Mount Rose Campground, Lake Tahoe State Park, 831-0494

Predators Slide Show, 12, 8pm, Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe State Park, 831-0494

Mexican Dance, 12, fairgrounds, 825-0387

Hike Up Duck Hill, 12, 10am, Washoe Lake State Park, 885-4319

Jackpot of Gems '86, 12-13, lectures, exhibits, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 826-6866

Varmint Rifle Silhouette, 13, Palomino Valley Gun Club, 22 miles north of Sparks, 323-3950

Reno Padres v. San Jose Bees, 14-16, class-A pro baseball, 7:30pm, Moana Stadium, 825-0678

Music at Sand Harbor, 16-20, 8pm outdoor concerts, on Wed. Queen Ida and the Bon Temps Zydeco Band; on Thurs. Peter Rowan and the Free Mexican Air Force Band/Eighth Avenue String Band; on Fri. is Tower of Power/Headlines; on Sat. TBA; on Sun. Free Flight/Ancient Future, \$13 general admission, bring picnic and blanket, Sand Harbor, State Park, 916-583-9048

Seniors Bus Trip to Marlette Lake, 17, 10:30am, bring lunch, reservations required, Lake Tahoe State Park, 831-0494

Storybook Theatre's "Cinderella," 18-19, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Carson Valley Heritage Days, 18-20, hot air balloon races, chili cook-off, antique car and motorcycle poker run, softball tournament, food booths, arts and crafts, live entertainment, Minden and Gardnerville, 782-9711 ext. 601 or 782-8144

Reno Padres v. Fresno Giants, 18-20, class-A pro baseball, 7:30pm Fri.-Sat., 6pm Sun., Moana Stadium, 825-0678

Carson Valley Photo Exhibit, 18-8/15, Genoa Courthouse Museum, 782-8487

Concert, 19, Air Force Band of the Golden Gate, free, 8pm, Pioneer Theater, 786-3030

Washoe Valley History Lecture, 19, 8pm, Washoe Lake State Park, 885-4319

Rattlesnake Awareness Program, 19, 1pm, Lake Tahoe State Park, call for location, 831-0494

Comstock Firemen's Muster, 19-20, parade of antique firefighting equipment, competitions between fire companies, pancake breakfast, dinner, and dance, Virginia City, 847-0102



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Sagebrush Gourmet

A diner's guide to the Silver State

Following is a selective guide to reader-approved Nevada restaurants whose advertisements appear in this section. Besides descriptions of menu and atmosphere, the listings include prices, hours and other details for your convenience. If you have any comments on the establishments listed, drop us a line at Nevada Magazine, Sagebrush Gourmet, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV. 89710-0005.

CATTELEMENS

Hwy. 395, Washoe Valley
Between Reno and Carson City. 849-1500
A ranch-style restaurant, the cozy Cattlemens offers excellent meals at moderate prices. The special sirloin steak dinner is a popular and good buy. Currently \$6.45, this dinner includes a baked potato, salad, bread, ranch-style beans, sirloin steak and a glass of wine. Other entrees range from a simple hamburger steak to a filet mignon and lobster. The Alaska king crab is delicious! Open seven days a week for dinner from 5 p.m. No reservations. AE, MC, VISA.

COMSTOCK HOTEL & CASINO

Second and West Street
Reno. 329-1880
Home of the famous One-Pound New York Steak Dinner for only \$5.99. The Comstock's popular 24-hour **Miner's Cafe** also features complete breakfast, lunch, and dinner items. Enjoy reasonably priced meals served in an intimate and relaxing atmosphere in the **Comstock Dinner House**. Full-course dinners are a bargain at \$5.99 in the **Specialty Room Restaurant**. Every fine meal tastefully prepared to your order. Valet parking available. The Comstock Hotel and Casino, "Where the Old West comes alive every day in Downtown Reno." AE, MC, VISA.



LOUIS' BASQUE CORNER

301 E. 4th Street
Reno. 323-7203
Louis' restaurant offers a warm, unhurried atmosphere that hints of yesterday. Master chefs prepare genuine Basque cuisine such as Tripes Callos, Poulet a la Basquaise, Paella, Boeuf Bourguignon, and entrees including Coq au Vin (chicken in red wine sauce), Lapin Chasseur (hunter's rabbit), and Ris de Veau (sweetbreads) as well as many other delicious French and Spanish Basque dishes all served family style with complimentary wine. You can enjoy a famous picon punch, cafe royale or perhaps an Izarra. Basque culture is reflected in the pottery, artifacts and pictures from the Pyrenees which grace the walls of the two traditional dining rooms. Louis and Lorraine Erreguible host many special dinners and parties in this authentic Basque restaurant. Ample free parking. Lunch: Mon.-Fri., 11:30-2:00. Dinner: 6 p.m., nightly. All major credit cards accepted.

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Horse Show, 19-27 fairgrounds, 972-3146
Great Flume Race, 20, 24-mile mountain bike race, Lake Tahoe State Park, 831-0494
Canyon Hike, 20, 9:30am, Mormon Station State Historic Monument, 782-2590

Model Racing, 20, fairgrounds, 785-4307

Free Concerts, 20 and 27, 2pm, the Chateau, Incline Village, 831-0781

Mexican Dance, 21 fairgrounds, 785-4307

Open Water Swim Clinic, 24, 6pm, bring food to barbecue, meet at Cove Beach at Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe State Park, 831-0494

Storybook Theatre's "Cinderella", 24-26, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

RSVP Capital City Fair and Junior Rodeo, 24-27, carnival, tractor sled pull, family living exhibits, livestock show, helicopter rides, chili cook-off, 4-H exhibits, Fuji Park, Carson City, 885-4680

Mita Sports Festival, 24-27, tennis matches, softball tournaments, and sailing, athletes and celebrities, South Lake Tahoe, 588-7174

Tahoe Rim Trail Day and Criterium Bicycle Race, 26, plus 10-km. foot race, auction, barbecue, hot air balloon rides, dance, music, and games, Squaw Valley, 916-577-0676

Barbershop Harmony on Broadway, 26, annual show of the Reno Chapter of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., 8pm, Pioneer Theater, 358-3349

Reno Towne Faire, 26, music, arts and crafts, food, refreshments, children's adventure island, 10am-5pm, Wingfield Park, 785-2262

Donner Lake Triathlon, 26, half-mile swim, 6.89-mile run, 15-mile bike ride, Donner Lake, Truckee, 916-587-2754

Maserati Concours Automobile Display, 26, Northstar, North Lake Tahoe, 916-562-1010

Washoe Indian History and Heritage Program, 26, 7pm, Lake Tahoe State Park, 831-0494

Trans-Tahoe Invitational Swim, 26, 14.4-mile race from Sand Harbor, Nevada, to Chambers Landing, California, race starts at 7:30am, Sand Harbor, 415-775-4400

Horse Show, 26-27 fairgrounds, 331-5666

North v. South Classic, 26-27 Prindle Fleet 8 regatta, Washoe Lake State Park, 885-4319

Hunter Pistol Silhouette, 27 8am, Palomino Valley Gun Club, 22 miles north of Sparks, 323-3950

Tevis Horse Race, 28, 100-mile horse race from Squaw Valley to Auburn, 916-583-6985

Reno Padres v. Palm Springs Angels, 28-30, 7:30pm Mon., 6pm doubleheader Tues., 7:30pm Wed., Moana Stadium, 825-0678

Cutting Event, 30-31 fairgrounds, 785-4307

Douglas County Fair, 31-8/3, carnival, junior rodeo, petting zoo, 4-H exhibits, 4x4 pull, country-western jam off, food, fairgrounds, Gardnerville, 782-8131

August and Labor Day

Hot August Nights, 1-3, '50s revival, Reno-area celebration with parades, '50s bands, dance contests, Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe look-alike contests, poker run, main location will be Rancho San Rafael, 827-7636

Cutting Event, 1-3, fairgrounds, 785-4307

Reno Padres v. Stockton Ports, 1-3, class-A pro baseball, 7:30pm, Moana Stadium, 825-0678

Slaughterhouse Canyon Hike, 2, 9:30am, meet off Route 28, 2 miles north of Spooner Lake, Lake Tahoe State Park, 831-0494 for reservations

Stargaze, 2, 8:30pm, Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe State Park, 831-0494

(Continued on page 58)

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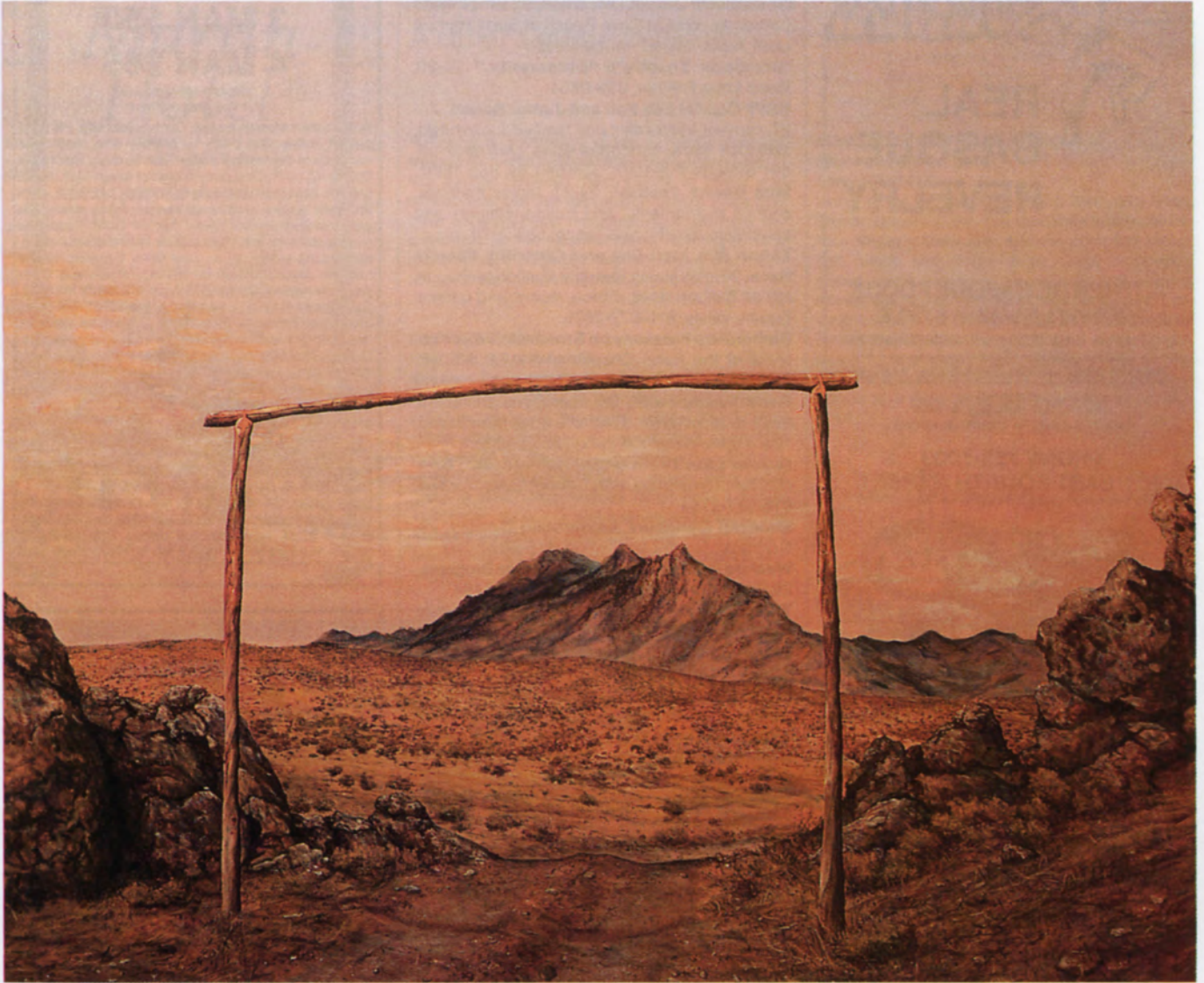
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NEVADA ART & ARTISTS



"Exit, Potato Patch Spring"

OIL 34x40"

"I painted that entirely on location near Gerlach after I'd grown more comfortable with the immensity and power of the Great Basin. The arch represents man's futile intrusion on nature. It also represents the lessening of my fears, although I still needed something man-made for security."

"Six Mile Canyon"

OIL 28x26"

"That's one of the first paintings I did after moving to Nevada from New York. It's the view looking east from Virginia City. The window represents my fear of stepping out into the haunting beauty of the desert."



Elsa Bekkala

This artist finds it hard to get Nevada off her mind, or out of her car.

When Elsa Bekkala has trouble falling to sleep, she doesn't count sheep. "I imagine myself driving down the highway toward Pyramid Lake," she says. Her visions of Nevada's primitive beauty help clear away the noise and clutter of living in Brockport, New York, and studying for her master's at the Providence School of Design in Rhode Island. "I don't think I've ever loved a place the way I love Nevada," Bekkala says. "Everything I'm doing has Nevada in it. The state has been such a great influence on my life and work."

She discovered Nevada in 1981 when her husband, Dan Hall, who works for Gannett Newspapers, was transferred to Reno. In 1982, she signed on with the Sierra Nevada Museum of Art as director of the museum's school and as an artist in residence. When her husband was transferred back to the head office in Rochester, New York, in 1983, Bekkala says, "I hated to sweep the sage from my car." She still makes summer visits to the Silver State to paint and to remember where sweet dreams come from.—Jim Crandall

Railroad Museum Steam-Up, 2-3, restored Virginia & Truckee Railroad engine No. 25 will operate for visitors, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 885-4810

Shooting Competition, 3, Palomino Valley Gun Club, 22 miles north of Sparks, 323-3950

Canyon Hike, 3, bring water and lunch, 9:30am, Mormon Station, Genoa, 782-2590

Model Racing, 3, fairgrounds, 826-9470

Mexican Dance, 3, fairgrounds, 825-3011

Mountain Race, 3, 3-mile foot race, Squaw Valley, 916-583-6985

Shakespeare at Sand Harbor, 5-10 and 12-17 alternating performances of "The Merchant of Venice" and "Comedy of Errors" by Shakespeare and "Don Quixote" by Cervantes, performed by Valley Institute of Theatre Arts, 8pm, \$8 general admission, Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe State Park, 916-583-9048

Art Show, 5-9/7 ceramics by Fred Reid and Greg Allred, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Baroque Concert, 7, Orville Fleming, 8pm, free, at the Chateau, Incline Village, 831-0781

"The Great Race," 8-9, musical, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Art Exhibit, 8-9/21, fish and game still life imagery in American painting, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Reno Basque Festival, 9, 10:30am bilingual Mass, 1pm feast, 3pm weight carrying, tug-of-war, and irrintzi (Basque yell) contests, 6pm dance; also sheep dog exhibition, 19th annual, Rancho San Rafael, 322-5517 or 972-8710

Antique Boat Show, 9, Tahoe Boat Company Marina, Tahoe City, 916-583-5567

Old-Fashioned Political Rally, 9, speeches, music, Miner's Park, Virginia City, 847-0311

Snake Awareness Program/Children's Day, 9, 10am, Mormon Station State Historic Monument, Genoa, 782-2590

Bonsai Show, 9-10, display of the oriental art of dwarfing trees, free, Tackoa Bonsai Club, 475 Gentry Way, 323-6666

Dayton's Antique Beer Can Collectibles Swap Meet, 9-10, breweriana, guest speaker, Dayton State Park, 246-0142 or 885-5678

Truckee Rodeo, 9-10, 916-587-4601

Squaw Valley Arts and Crafts Show, 9-10, Mall Area, North Lake Tahoe, 916-583-6985

Shakespeare Rock Hike, 10, 10am, meet at Glenbrook post office off U.S. 50, Lake Tahoe State Park, 831-0494

Fourth Annual 10-km. and 5-km. Runs, 10, Northstar, North Lake Tahoe, 916-562-1010

Free Concerts, 10-31, every Sun., 2pm, the Chateau, Incline Village, 831-0781

Coors Classic Bicycle Race, 12-13, one of the world's premiere bike races featuring top American and European racers starts on the 9th in San Francisco, CA.; on 12th gets into Squaw Valley, special activities there include a bike rally, bicycle trade show, barbecue, and live music; at 9:30am on 13th bicyclists race over Spooner Summit, through Carson City, Virginia City, and Sparks and finish under the arch in downtown Reno; criterium in downtown Reno follows that evening, 356-3427 or 916-583-6985

Reno Padres v. Salinas Spurs, 12-14, class-A pro baseball, 7:30pm, Moana Stadium, 825-0678

Nevada State Fair, 12-17, carnival, petting zoo, destruction derby, motorcycle racing, 4-H and FFA livestock competitions, horseshoe championships, home arts and cooking contests, family entertainment on four separate stages, fireworks extravaganza, fairgrounds, 785-4280

"The Great Race," 13-15, musical, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

"West Side Story," 15-16, musical, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Reno Padres v. Ventura Gulls, 15-17 class-A pro baseball, 7:30pm Fri-Sat., 6pm doubleheader Sun., Moana Stadium, 825-0678

Concert, Picnic, and Auction, 16, Sierra Nevada Chorale fund-raiser, Governor's Mansion, Carson City, 786-0252

Santa Maria Day, 16, town party, parade, water fights, games, Dayton, 246-3435

Children's Art Festival, 16, 10am-6pm, Meadowood Mall, 329-1324

Park Program, 16, 10am, Washoe Lake State Park, 885-4319

Orienteering Clinic, 16-17 7:30pm Sat., 10am Sun., Lake Tahoe State Park, 831-0494

Railroad Museum Steam-Up, 16-17 restored Virginia & Truckee Railroad engine No. 22, the Inyo, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 885-4810

Motor Glider Fly-In, 16-17 25 motor gliders from all over the U.S., airport, Minden, 782-7627

Smallbore Rifle Silhouette, 17, Palomino Valley Gun Club, 22 miles north of Sparks, 323-3950

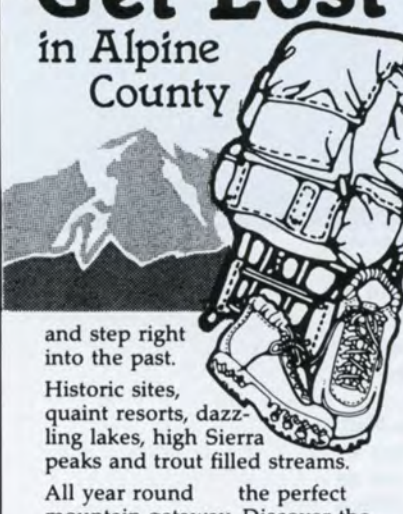
Nevada 86, 20-9/3, photo show, Courthouse Museum, Genoa, 782-8487

Full Moon Overnight Camp-Out, 21, Lake Tahoe State Park, must call for reservations, 831-0494

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"West Side Story," 21-23, musical, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Llama Show and Expo, 21-24, open to the public Sat-Sun., fairgrounds, 265-3177

Boat Cruise, 22, aboard the *Spirit of Tahoe Keys*, 7:30pm, Lake Tahoe State Park, call for reservations, 831-0494

Pony Bob Junior Rodeo, 22-24, up to age 18, Gondolfo Arena, Sparks, 852-3291

Concert, 23, KNIS Radio presents Silverwind, 7:30pm, Pioneer Theater, 883-5647

Campfire Program, 23, 8pm, Washoe Lake State Park, 885-4319

Carson Valley Fine Arts Street Celebration, 23-24, juried arts and crafts, food booths, Esmeralda Avenue and U.S. 95, Minden, 782-8144

Nevada Quarter Horse Show, 23-24, fairgrounds, 853-5958

Trailride to Marlette Lake, 24, 10-mile round trip, meet at Spooner Lake, Lake Tahoe State Park, call for reservations, 831-0494

Mexican Dance, 25, fairgrounds, 329-3658

Reno Padres v. Bakersfield Dodgers, 25-27 class-A pro baseball, 7:30pm, Moana Stadium, 825-0678

Reno Padres v. San Jose Bees, 29-31, class-A pro baseball, 7:30pm Fri-Sat, 1:30pm Sun., Moana Stadium, 825-0678

Coors Truck Pull, 29-31, fairgrounds, 329-1294
Red Star Pow Wow, 29-31 free, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, 329-2936

Nevada Paint Horse Show, 30-31 fairgrounds, 849-0216

Railroad Museum Steam-Up, 30-9/1 restored Virginia & Truckee Railroad engine No. 25, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 885-4810

Black Powder Varmint Rifle Silhouette, 31, Palomino Valley Gun Club, 22 miles north of Sparks, 323-3950

COMING ATTRACTIONS

September

Frontier 500 Off-Road Race, 5-7 Las Vegas, 734-0385

Great Reno Balloon Race, 5-7 788-3025

Virginia City Camel Races, 6-7 847-0311

Clark County Basque Festival, 6-7 Las Vegas, 361-6834 or 385-2662

National Championship Air Races, 11-14, Reno, 826-7500

Pahrump Harvest Festival and PRCA Rodeo, 12-14, 727-5800

World's Ninth International Whistle-Off, 27-28, Carson City, 882-1565

Genoa Candy Dance, 27-28, 782-3870

80th Anniversary of the Nevada Northern Railway Celebration, 28, Ely, 289-8877

October

Boulder City Art Festival, 4-5, 293-2034

Las Vegas Jaycees State Fair, 7-12, 732-3247

National Country Western Dance Festival, 10-12, Reno, 322-3355

Imperial Palace Antique Auto Run, 24-26, Las Vegas, 731-3311

North Las Vegas Fairshow, 24-26, 642-1944

Nevada Day, 31 Carson City, 882-2600

A Reminder: To confirm dates and times, use the phone numbers listed with each event. For out-of-state callers, the area code is 702 throughout Nevada. □

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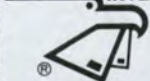
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Singing in the Rain

The way I see it, Nevada should be a tropical forest, and all this desert is just a mirage.

By Jim Andersen

I don't understand why Nevada is a desert. I know, everyone says it's because of the annual rainfall, and looking at the statistics, which show less than 12 inches per year, I can understand why it's not the Olympic Rain Forest. But I don't understand why it's a desert.

Six months out of the year I'm wet and cold and miserable, and the snow that falls on my four lots in Austin looks to be enough to sustain a stand of redwoods for the rest of the century. And yet the only plant that thrives there is sagebrush. Grass and weeds curl up and die, and so do evergreens. But the sagebrush just sits there looking thirsty all the time, even

when it's poking through two feet of snow. It reminds me of an old coot who's got money buried all over the place but manages to give the impression he can barely make ends meet.

Then the snow melts, and where does all the water go, anyway? Shouldn't there be lakes?

There's a dry lake bed over in Smith Creek Valley that has no business being dry. During a thunderstorm it sees more moisture in an hour than Niagara Falls sees all year, and yet the next day you can walk out there and kick up dust. Now that isn't right. I lived in Oregon once, and if you get a little sprinkle up there you'll be

scraping mud off your boots for a week. My sister still lives in Salem, and she tells me it's because Oregon is saturated like a big wet sponge all the time, and Nevada isn't. Nevada, she says, is like a big dry sponge.

With all due respect, I beg to differ.

I don't see how our sponge could be dry, not after all the rain and snow last winter. And the summer rainstorms. Like shooting stars, they're brief but spectacular. Get caught out in one and you'll think God dropped a lake on you. Then it's over and the sun comes out and in a few minutes you're dry and thirsty and there's not even a hint that you almost drowned out there. And the water? Well, you can tell where it's been. There are fresh little rivulets cut into the ground that join together to form big rivulets, which in turn merge to form a gully, which eventually opens into a valley where you can kick up dust. It's obvious there's never been any water there. Ever.

In the spring of 1984 Central Nevada had a heavy snowpack, but a quick warming trend coupled with monsoon-like rains melted most of it in a couple of days, and we had an honest-to-goodness genuine flood.

I doubted whether George Washington could've thrown a gaming token across the Reese River, and that's saying something because usually you can step across it. You could actually stand on the hills of Austin and see a great silver ribbon of water meandering through the valley. The Reese River looked like, and was, a real river.

For about a week.

Then we were right back where we started; anything pulling a draft much deeper than a rubber ducky would have run aground.

The water all went somewhere; it had to. I understand it made a brief appearance in the Humboldt River around Winnemucca, but then everybody apparently lost track of it. In the way of the buffalo and the dinosaur, it was and then it wasn't.

Rainfall doesn't matter in Nevada. Some of the state should be desert and some of it shouldn't, but it all is. Like the sagebrush in my yard, Nevada gives the impression it's barely able to make ends meet when it comes to moisture.

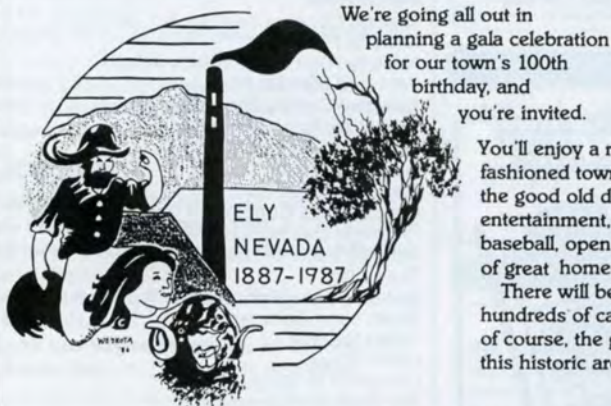
The way I figure it, there's got to be a cache of water the size of the Pacific Ocean just under the surface of Nevada. One of these days, sure enough, the state will sink. It's inevitable. That's why I've been squirreling away all the old mining timbers I can find around town. As soon as I figure out what a cubit is, I'm building an ark. □

Austin's Jim Andersen is a freelance writer and novice shipwright.

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