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NEVADA

JULY/AUGUST 1988

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Cover· The first legal spin of the reels in Virginia City, after Nevada legalizes gambling in 1931. By Brian Buckley

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LETTERS

Burros, Bighorns, and Cherry Creek

The Search for Shangri-La

Living on the Monterey Peninsula and occasionally visiting Nevada seemed like a good idea. However, one visit to Carson Valley, another stay in Reno, and a Sunday morning back home spent reading *Nevada Magazine* from cover to cover have convinced me to flip that coin. My new vision of Shangri-La is to live in Nevada and make return visits to Monterey

It wasn't the pull of casino lights or that wonderful music of quarters tinkling through my memories as they spewed into the tray, after our arms—the slot machine's and mine—had been locked in moving unison for a time. It wasn't the fever for gold or gambling which sang its siren song.

Nevada's first tugs at my heartstrings came from the mountains and hot springs. Leave out everything else and I would still return for a visit as soon as possible. However, the lure which really hooked me was the spirit of the people I met—in person and through the pages of your magazine. They have undone the tie-down strings of my security blanket. Already they are dismantling that tent of complacency I have known and are wrapping it around my belongings, attaching the package to a pole, and cheering me on to explore Nevada on a daily basis.

Judith Bergfors
Carmel, CA.

I just had to write and tell you I just returned from a fantastic vacation mostly in Southeastern Nevada. Valley of Fire State Park has to be the most beautiful place on earth. Yet it isn't advertised much at all. Has *Nevada Magazine* had any articles in the past on Valley of Fire?

Earleen Welch
Roseville, CA.

Yes, Welch, a list is in the mail. Thanks for asking. —Ed.

First Class Letters

The magazine is great. We've made 28 trips to Las Vegas already and would come more if we ever won. Each time we get home we can hardly wait to come again. We take our children with us now, and they love it.

I picked up your magazine in a drug store while we were there at Easter and ordered a subscription immediately. Now we want to give one to our friend who also loves Las Vegas and Nevada (especially the burros).

Diane Curley
River Hills, WI.

Nevada Magazine has kept me informed about all of the happenings in my native state whether I'm in the Arctic or Antarctic. Also *Nevada Magazine* illustrates the diversity of our great state. And yes, casinos and gaming play an important part. Too bad the former subscriber from Forest Hills, California, doesn't feel that way It's his loss. Keep up the good work!

Michael Lee
Seattle, WA.

I have just received my *Nevada Magazine* for May/June '88. It came in a plastic container and was marked "second class" in at least three places.

Well, I want you to know that there is no way that *Nevada Magazine* is second class. It is first class all the way.

John T Leland
Ukiah, CA.

As Others See Tonopah

Regarding "As Others See Us" (Jan/Feb '88):

Karen Jaehne, I never thought much about it before, but I guess Fernley really is in Nevada even if it is on I-80 about 40 miles from California. Your friends in Yugoslavia had Paradise located about right—Tonopah! If you or they want more information on the celestial land and a Nevada welcome, drop in on me—I was born in Glorious Tonopah.

Dick Cooke
Candelaria, Spain

Wild Times in Cherry Creek

During the summer of 1938 or '39, I lived in Cherry Creek, north of Ely My husband, Clyde, was employed by the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) to assist in the erection of a camp near town. We lived in a trailer on a ranch owned by Chris Johnson.

We had a wonderful, wild summer. The train came in on Wednesday, and all the ice was gone by Friday. We lived on canned stuff the rest of the week. No electricity.

Now I want to go there, if Cherry Creek still exists. I don't want to make that long trip only to find that Cherry Creek is no more. So I'll thank you in advance.

Grace M. Gorman
Grass Valley, CA.

Yes, Cherry Creek is still around, although few residents live there. We'll send you some information we have here. Hope you have a good trip. —Ed.

Getting Close to Bighorns.

I couldn't resist taking some photos of the normally elusive bighorn sheep that are grazing in Boulder City's Hemenway Park, just off busy U.S. 93 on the way to Hoover Dam.

One ram was busy eating and did not see me come to within 50 feet of him. My camera motor startled him, and he looked up just as I snapped the photo. He gave me a low warning to keep my distance and, of course, I obliged!



Bighorns are park-ing in Boulder City.

All this makes one wonder what may happen to these beautiful animals if they no longer fear humans. After all, a camera is not a hunting rifle.

Glynna C. Price
Boulder City

And Even Closer to Burros

Those of us on the Bureau of Land Management staff at Red Rock Canyon Recreation Lands would like to bring to your attention problems related to the feral burros mentioned in "Roadside Attractions" (March/April '87).

Burros, being adaptable creatures, have become accustomed to handouts from curious visitors. From long exposure to the traffic and people, they have lost their fear of both.

Feeding the burros causes them to congregate along the highway, and the dark burros are hard to see after the sun sets. We request that you encourage your readers not to feed the burros. Potato chips, popcorn, and other junk foods are not a part of burro's natural diet and further entice them to exhibit erratic behavior.

On the average, one burro a month is hit by a vehicle. Burros are not able to distinguish between a vehicle which will stop and one which will not.

In addition, the burros' three defenses are run, bite, or kick. When startled, angered, or frustrated, one of the preceding is likely to happen. Reports of injuries to people are continuous. We frequently treat bites at the first-aid station at the Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center. This winter we treated a young boy who was kicked in the head when he and a friend ran up to a group of burros. A woman was kicked severely in the leg when she ran out of handouts, and a visitor's car door was kicked when he stopped to view the feral animals.

A further problem relates to traffic, because many visitors stop on the road to look at burros. Last summer we had a serious accident—a vehicle cresting a hill was unable to stop in time to avoid a rear-end collision with a vehicle parked in the roadway.

If the public wishes to view the burros, they should pull their vehicles completely off the road.

Individuals concerned for the welfare of the burros should treat them as wild animals. It is discouraging to see the burros becoming a problem in Red Rock Canyon much as the bears have become in many of our national parks.

Ben F. Collins
BLM, Las Vegas District

Collins, thanks for the advice. —Ed.

Calling All Collectors

I was wondering about the possibility of *Nevada* producing an index of articles. I know that for those of us who collect the older issues of *Nevada* an index would be welcomed.

I'd love to hear from anyone who also collects older issues of *Nevada*, especially if any trades are possible between us. My address is 4346 Mayette Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA. 95405.

Gerry Jaillet
Santa Rosa, CA.

Thanks, Jaillet, we're working on an index. And we are planning a story on people who collect the magazine, so we'd appreciate advice from you and other collectors.—Ed.

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AMAZING FACTS

The tallest building and the longest road.

By Richard Moreno

Nevada, the Silver (Screen) State, ranks eighth in the nation in spending by television and motion-picture companies. In 1987, movie and TV firms spent $44.5 million in Nevada. California was the favorite location with $6 billion in movie and TV production revenues, followed by New York ($2.3 billion), Florida ($144 million), North Carolina ($128 million), Massachusetts ($73 million), Tennessee ($65 million), Hawaii ($50 million), and Nevada. Nevada's total was boosted by the filming of two TV series, *Crime Story* in Las Vegas and *High Mountain Rangers* at Lake Tahoe.

•

The tallest building in Nevada is Fitzgeralds Hotel-Casino (formerly the Sundance) at Third and Fremont in downtown Las Vegas. The Fitz has 33 stories and is 400 feet high. Next tallest in Las Vegas are the Landmark Hotel (31 stories and 356 feet) and the Las Vegas Hilton (30 stories and 345 feet). The highest building in the Reno area is Bally's at 26 stories and 353 feet. John Ascuaga's Nugget is next at 28 stories and 297 feet.

•

Last year, the Nevada Legislature designated the black fire opal as the state precious stone. The rare gem is found west of Denio in Virgin Valley, located in Northwestern Nevada near the Oregon border (see *Nevada*, May/June '86). The state semi-precious stone is turquoise. The blue-green rocks can be found throughout the state, but particularly in Carico Valley, Monitor Valley, and in the Shoshone, Toiyabe, and Monte Cristo mountain ranges.

•

The longest continuously published newspaper in Nevada is Austin's *Reese River Reveille*, which began in 1863. The weekly newspaper continues to print news about Austin, although its production facilities are in Tonopah.

•

The oldest commercial radio station in the state is Reno's KOH, which began broadcasting on November 11, 1928. The oldest commercial television station is KLAS in Las Vegas, which started broadcasting on July 22, 1953. Reno's KOLO was a close second, reaching the airwaves the following September.



The view from U.S. 95 south of Beatty.

•

The longest road in Nevada is U.S. 95, which stretches 565 miles from McDermitt on the Oregon border to a spot 76 miles south of Las Vegas on the California border. Along the way, the road passes through the Nevada communities of Winnemucca, Lovelock, Fallon, Hawthorne, Tonopah, Goldfield, Beatty, Las Vegas, Henderson, and Searchlight.

•

Patricia Nixon, wife of former President Richard Nixon, is the only First Lady born in Nevada. Mrs. Nixon was born Thelma Catherine (Patricia) Ryan on March 16, 1912, in a small, unnamed copper-mining camp near Ely Her father, William Ryan, had come west in search of gold and had found work in a White Pine mine as a timekeeper. About two years after Pat's birth the family moved from Nevada to a small farm in Artesia, California, 18 miles south of Los Angeles. ☐

Richard Moreno is public information officer for the Nevada Commission on Tourism. Contributors include Phillip Earl of the Nevada Historical Society, Robert Nylen of the State Museum, and Guy Rocha of State Archives.

Photo: Nevada Magazine Collection

NEVADA

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OUTINGS

ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS



Lake Tahoe's bike paths let you take in spectacular scenery.



Shawn Hamilton with Sunset fish.

Las Vegas

Mountain Hideaway

The cooler temperatures of Mount Charleston provide a refreshing retreat from Las Vegas' summer heat. The area is 45 miles from the city and offers hiking, picnicking, and camping in beautiful, forested surroundings.

Walking is one of the best ways to explore the life of the mountain, and a good place to start is Robber's Roost, the shortest of the Mount Charleston trails. Take the Kyle Canyon route to the Deer Creek Highway, which links the Kyle and Lee Canyon roads. From this intersection, it's about 3.5 miles to the parking area across from the entrance to Robber's Roost. Story has it that the area once served as a hideout for bandits because of its seclusion and proximity to water.

A strenuous 200-yard uphill walk takes you through pinyon pine, juniper, and mountain mahogany. It leads to high cliffs and a large, cave-like overhang—great for exploring.

Fires are not permitted at Robber's Roost, but the Deer Creek Picnic Area two miles up the road has cooking grills, tables, drinking water, and restrooms. Nearby Hilltop Campground has camping for tenters and single vehicles. The overnight fee is $8. Write the U.S. Forest Service, 550 East Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89104, or call 702-388-6255.

Casting Call

Sunset Park's new fishing hole is less than 15 minutes from the Las Vegas Strip in the southeast part of town. Nine-foot-deep Sunset Lake is regularly stocked with fish from the state fishery near Lake Mead Marina. Catfish, largemouth bass, and redfinned sunfish are likely catches in summer, while rainbow trout are caught in the winter. Early mornings and evenings are the best times for summer angling at the county park.

Velveeta cheese and night crawlers are popular baits; the daily limit is



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Photos: Kurt Molnar (left); Kate Butler (right)

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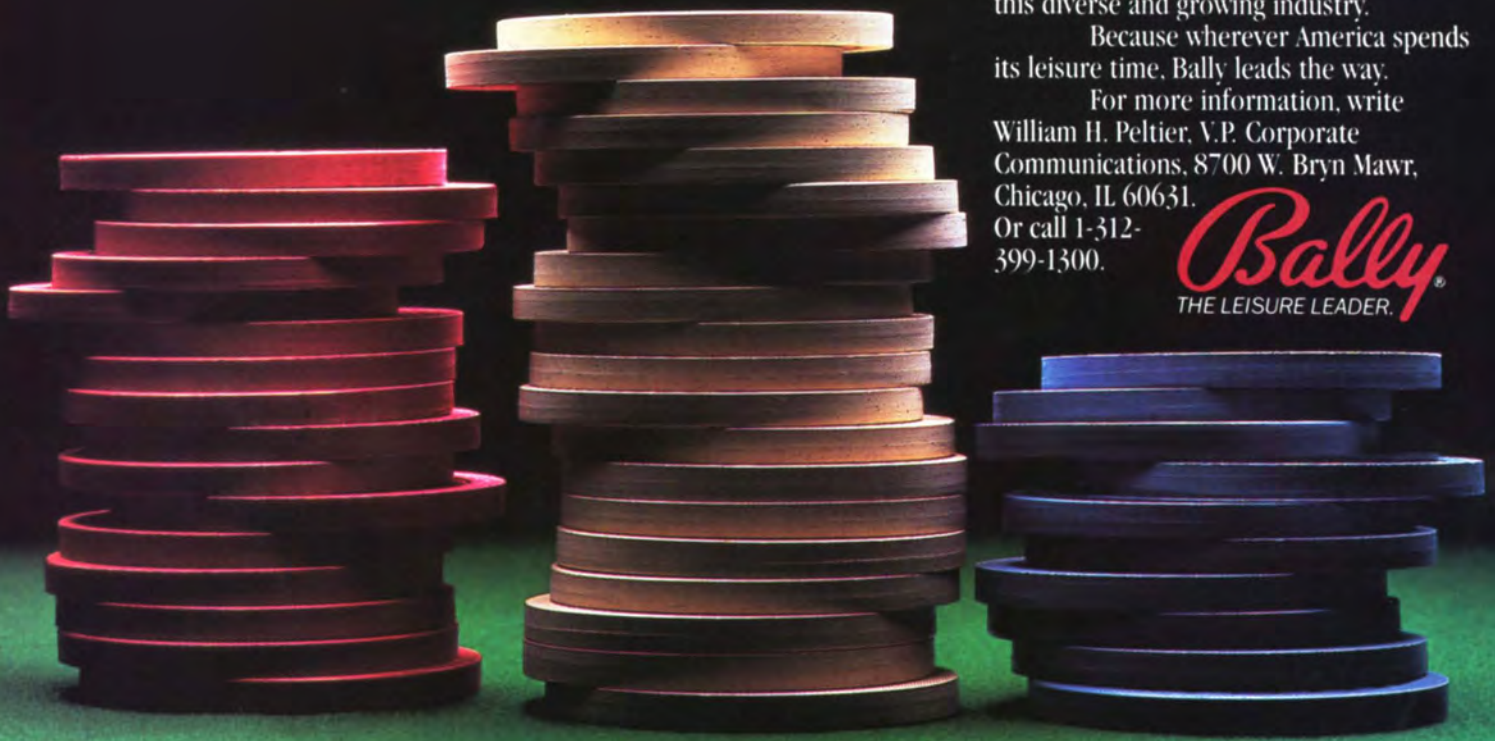
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three fish per person.

A Nevada fishing license and trout stamp are required for anyone 12 years of age and older. There are barbecue pits, a jogging track, playing fields, and a swimming pool near Sunset Lake.

The county recreation department also holds occasional fishing derbies—the biggest catch yet is a surprising seven-pound largemouth bass. Sunset Park is open daily from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Call the park at 702-361-3606 for further information, or write Sunset Park, 2575 East Sunset Road, Las Vegas, NV 89120.—*Kate Butler*

Reno-Tahoe

Catch the Wave

With Mother Nature providing the power, soaring is a serene way to see Western Nevada's desert, mountains, and lakes. As thermals and mountain waves keep the glider aloft, "the best part about it is it's quiet," says Cheryl Richardson, owner of Soar Reno. "It's not like an airplane—you don't hear the engine. You soar with the eagles and the hawks."

Local companies can provide everything you need. Soar Reno is based at Reno-Stead Airport, 10 miles north of the city. Prices vary depending on time aloft and whether you use a one- or two-person ship. A tour over Peavine Mountain is $115 for 20 to 30 minutes. The company also gives lessons; call 702-972-7627 South of Carson City, Soar Minden is based at Douglas County Airport. Prices vary, and they give lessons, too. A Lake Tahoe view flight, lasting from 30 to 50 minutes, is $65; call 702-782-7627

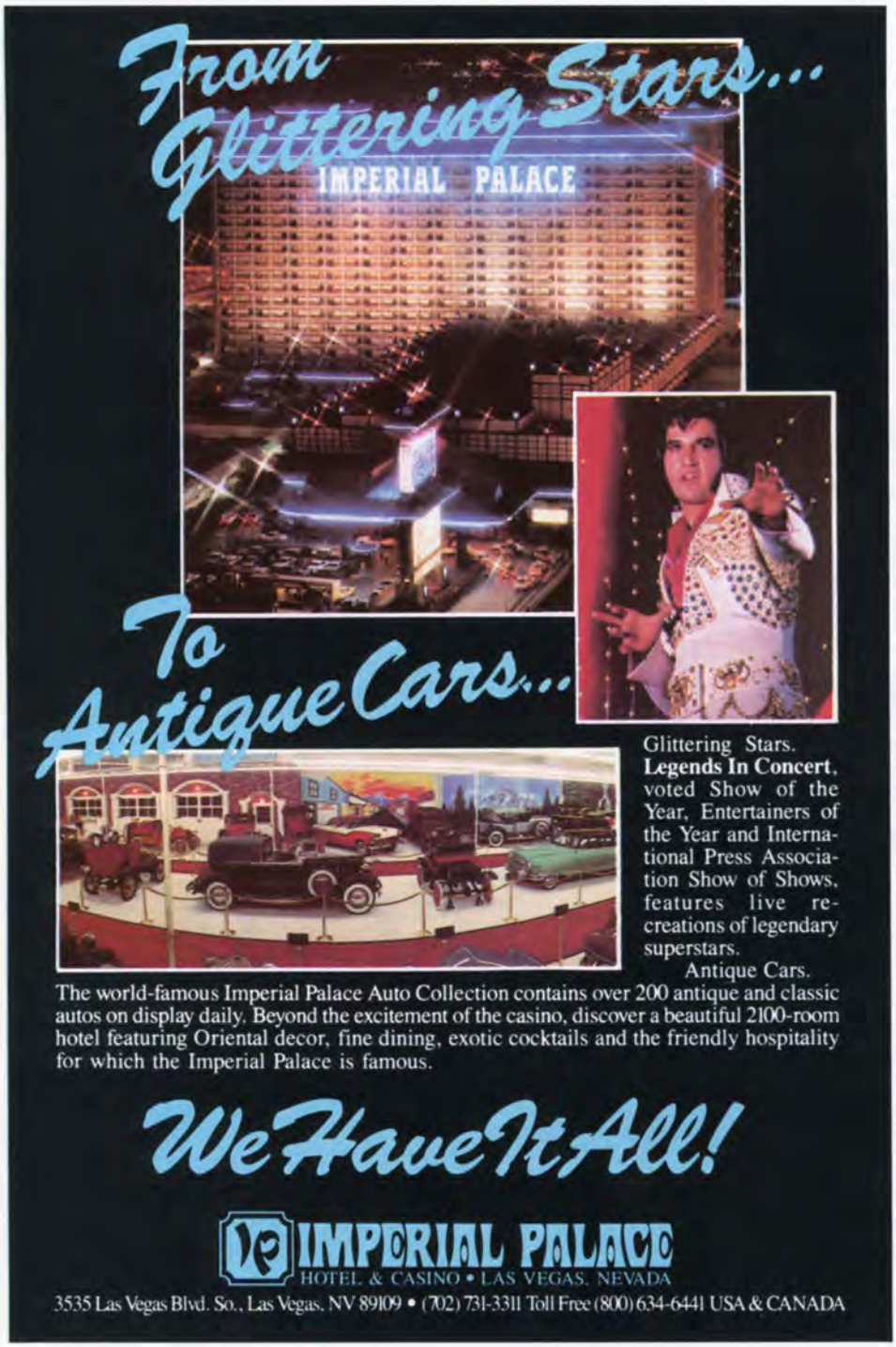
Lake Tahoe Bike Trails

Bicycle paths that meander around parts of Lake Tahoe let you take in the spectacular scenery in manageable portions. You don't even need to bring your bike since there are several rental shops that can outfit you.

In South Lake Tahoe, city bike trails branch out from convenient parking at the "Y," the intersection of U.S. 50 and California Highway 89. Ride east and you can end your tour at El Dorado Beach in South Lake Tahoe. Ride west and connect with the U.S. Forest Service bicycle trail near Camp Richardson. This trail continues 3.4 miles, passing the historic Tallac Site (tours, museum, concerts). The U.S.F.S. Lake Tahoe Visitor Center is on the path, too, with restrooms, information center, and five self-guided trails. Baldwin Beach is near trail's end and offers restrooms and changing facilities. The entire trail is on the lake side of the highway.

On the west shore 15 miles of bicycle trail are maintained by the Tahoe City Public Utilities District. The trail runs from General Creek northward through Tahoe City. A scenic branch travels west 3.5 miles along the Truckee River from Tahoe City to the Alpine Meadows turnoff. For a bicycle-trail map and brochure, write Tahoe City P.U.D., Department of Parks and Recreation, Box 33, Tahoe City, CA. 95730, or phone 916-583-5544.

—*Deborah A. Mawhar*



Rural

Peaceful Pahranagat Lakes

The lovely, quiet Pahranagat Lakes, just south of Alamo on U.S. 95, are a haven for fishermen, birders, artists, hunters, and dreamers. Skirted by the highway, the lakes are easily accessible for camping and limited boating. The area's temperature is usually a pleasant five to 10 degrees cooler than Las

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Museum tours offered daily May 14 thru October 1 Exhibits include general office and depot from 1907 roundhouse, machine and blacksmith shops, and historic rolling stock of steam, diesel and electric locomotives, passenger and freight cars, and antique work equipment.

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Vegas, 90 miles to the south.

The 5,400-acre Pahranagat Wildlife Refuge has a middle pond and lower and upper lakes, which average a shallow six feet in depth.

During the summer, birders can expect to see great blue herons, double-crested cormorants, Canadian geese, and other waterfowl. Because the lakes serve primarily as a temporary base for migratory birds, the peak bird-watching is in the fall and spring.

The careful observer may also spot a desert tortoise, lizards and snakes, deer, and coyote. Largemouth bass are the fish of the summer months. If desired, canoes, rafts, rowboats, small sailboats, and battery-powered craft can be used to get into areas of the lakes not easily fished from shore.

In the summer, birders can see great blue herons and double-crested cormorants.

There are about a dozen camping sites available on a first-come, first-serve basis; RVs, tenting, and sleeping on the ground are all permitted. Cottonwoods and willows provide some shade, and there are tables and fire rings. Swimming is not allowed, but Ash Springs, 12 miles north, has a swimming hole supplied by natural warm springs. For further information, call the refuge at 702-725-3417 or the Las Vegas office at 702-646-3401; or write U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Desert National Wildlife Range, 1500 N. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89108.—*Kate Butler*

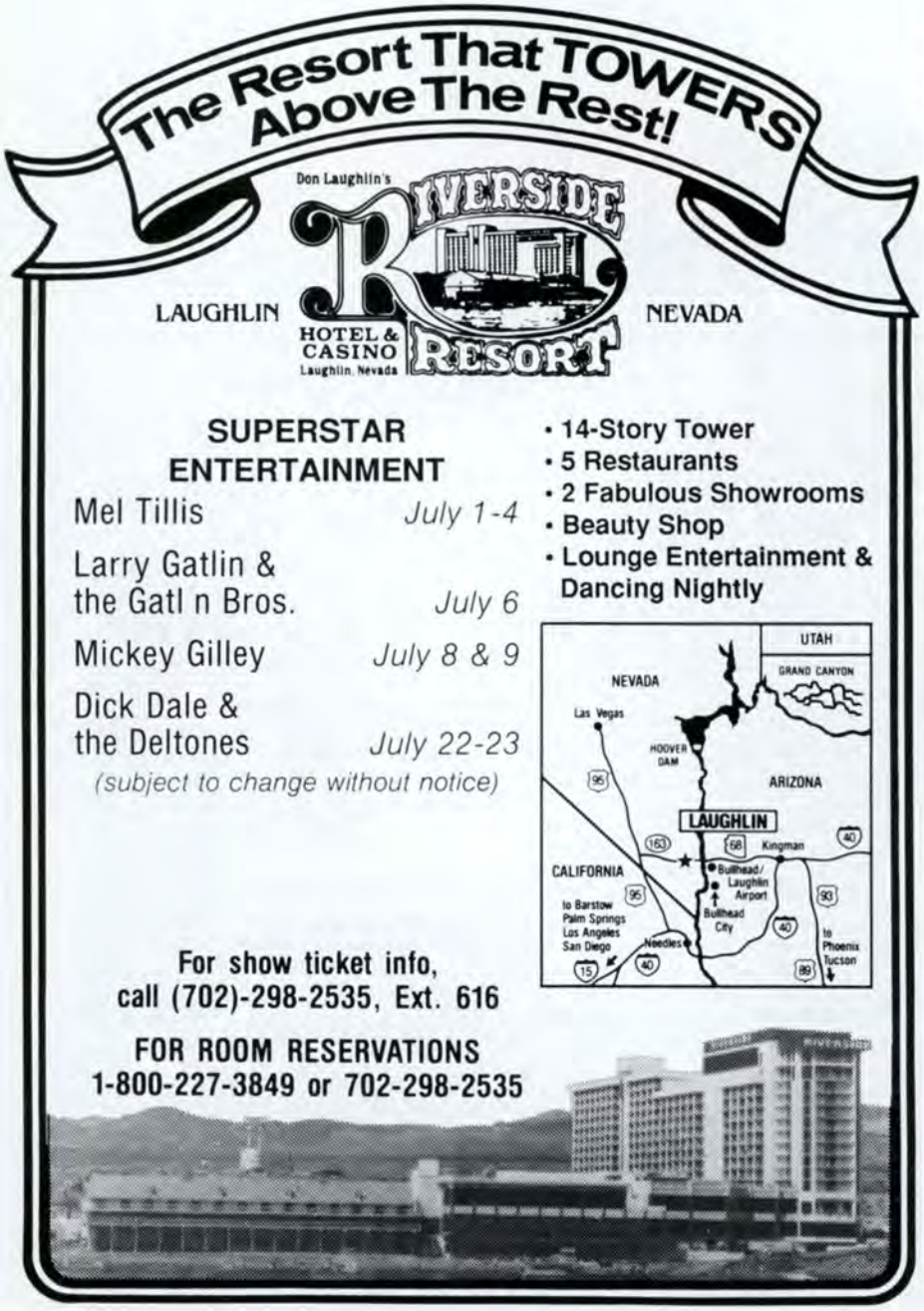
Fish and Tips: Where's the Water?

In this drought year, the Nevada Department of Wildlife says that low water levels have resulted in poor fishing conditions at reservoirs throughout the state, except in Southern Nevada, where Lake Mead, Lake Mohave, Eagle Valley Reservoir, and Kirch Wildlife Management Area are not in the water-poor situation of the rest of the state. Also, fishing in mountain streams should be OK and has the added attraction of being cooler and more shaded.

Lake Tahoe and two popular reservoirs in Northern Nevada—Lahontan and Rye Patch—should be looked at closely before taking your boat there this summer. At Lake Tahoe, many public ramps are closed. As of June, the only public ramps open on the east shore were Sand Harbor and Cave Rock. It is expected that later in the summer they won't be open to boats 20 feet or longer, and it is recommended that you call ahead to Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe State Park, at 702-831-0494.

Although Tahoe may be low, Lake Lahontan's problems are worse. The water level is expected to be extremely low after July 1, and in August half the lake may have no water at all. It is feared that by summer's end the entire lake could be dry. The area still could be used for camping, and in July fishing from small, beach-launched boats might be possible. Call the Lahontan State Recreation Area at 702-867-3500 or Nevada State Parks District III at 702-867-3001 to check on the latest conditions.

Rye Patch Reservoir will be extremely low, too. If the water level drops too far, the fish may be transported to another area. Call Rye Patch State Recreation Area at 702-538-7321.—*Lisa Marüshka*



GREAT NEVADA PICTURE HUNT

Deadline: August 19, 1988

The 1988 Photo Contest

It's time to send in your entries to *Nevada Magazine's* 11th annual photo contest. This year's Great Nevada Picture Hunt is open to all photographers, pros and amateurs.

And remember, the judges want photos that say "Nevada."

Special Categories

There are 10 special categories:

Events
Ghost Towns
Historical Landmarks
Outdoor Recreation
People, Rural
People, Urban
Rural Nevada
Urban Nevada
Water
Wildlife

You don't have to officially enter the categories. The judges will select the most notable images in each.

The Prizes

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top 10 winners. Prizes include $200 for first place, $75 for second, $50 for third, and $20 for fourth through 10th. Merit and special category winners will receive Nevada T-shirts or suspenders—their choice.



Minden photographer Jay Aldrich's "Lobbyists at the Nevada Legislature" won in the Urban category last year

Contest Rules

Be sure to follow the rules carefully They make judging and identifying the photos as smooth as possible. Entries that don't follow the rules will be disqualified.

Photos: All photos must be unpublished and taken in Nevada.

Entry Form: The entry form below must be filled out, signed, and included with your photos. All entries must be mailed in.

How Many Photos: You can enter up to five black-and-white prints and up to five color slides or prints, for a maximum total of 10.

Labeling: Your name and address must be on the back of each print and on each slide, along with the title, location, or description.

Color: Slides must be 35 mm. or larger transparencies. If possible, present slides in a plastic sleeve (available at camera stores). Do not use metal or glass holders. Color prints must be 8x10" to 11x14", glossy or matte, and unmounted.

Black and White: Prints must be 8x10" to 11x14", glossy or matte, and unmounted.

For Return: When mailing in your entries, you must enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope to ensure your photos' safe return. Be sure to use cardboard packing, but don't include checks or loose stamps. No pickups at the office.

Packaging: The smaller and simpler the package, the better Most photos will fit in a 9x12" or smaller envelope; maximum envelope size should be 12x16" Only one photographer per package.

The Judges

Joanna Lucas of Carson City is a photographer and regular contributor to *Nevada Magazine.*

Kirk Whisler is publisher-editor of *Nevada.*

Brian Buckley is *Nevada's* art director and photo editor His work has appeared in *Time, TV Guide,* and *Four Wheeler*

ENTRY FORM: 11th Annual Great Nevada Picture Hunt

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State & Zip _____

Day Phone _____

Deadline: August 19, 1988

Number of photos entered:

Color prints or slides_____(up to 5)

Black and white prints_____(up to 5)

Total_____(up to 10)

Send this form with entries to Nevada Magazine, Great Nevada Picture Hunt, 101 S. Fall St., Carson City, NV 89710

A Revolution of Slots

As the boom continues in dollar machines and video games, the cry has sounded across Nevada: Reel gamblers play slots.

By Frank Legato



Finely-crafted early slots often gave prizes instead of coins.

Today, entering many casinos is like walking into a slot carnival. Whereas 20 years ago the biggest and noisiest action was usually at the craps and blackjack tables, these days lights, sirens, and crowds of players put the slots equally in the spotlight.

In fact, for the past five years in Nevada, slots have produced more revenue than table games. As a result, slot players have more pull than ever before.

Insiders say Nevada casinos are only beginning to reap the benefits of the slot machine's coming of age, part of a process that began roughly 20 years ago and has put gaming in a perpetual state of growth.

Although the new machines are complex inside, they are easy and fun to play. That has helped Nevada casinos attract new players from Middle America. Indeed, people who don't know an easy eight from a double down nevertheless will sit for hours in front of slots and video poker machines, pulling handles, pushing buttons, hoping to fill their buckets with more coins than they put in.

The emergence of slots may herald the end of a gambling era. Private clubs and the military once were important training grounds for players to learn table games like craps and blackjack. But today gamblers can fly to Las Vegas or Reno for a weekend, and—in a real about-face—the modern soldier or sailor is less likely to be playing dice than video games.

Still, the shift in gaming affections has paid off for the clubs. In 1970, when Nevada's gross gaming revenues were $604.4 million, the table-slots ratio was typical for those years. Table games accounted for 65.6 percent, and slots for 32.8 percent; poker, pan, race, and sports betting accounted for the remaining 1.6 percent.

By last year, when gross gaming revenues climbed to nearly $4 billion, the revenue from table games had increased, too, but its share had dropped to 39.4 percent. For slots, it had grown to 56.6 percent. Slots had hit the jackpot. So had slot players and managers.

Yet as recently as the early 1970s, the only reason some casinos even operated slot machines was "to keep the women happy while their husbands were gambling on the tables," as Cecil Fredi, 49, a longtime Las Vegas slot executive, puts it.

The evolution of slot machines in the past two decades shows how technology, a few visionaries, and millions of players can start a revolution.

Old Habits

When old pros like Fredi broke into the Nevada casino business in the early and middle 1960s, the popular three-reel mechanical slot machine had the same basic components as the first Liberty Bell machine.

That machine was built by Charlie Fey in 1895. After fellow San Franciscan Herbert Mills applied mass production to Fey's design beginning in 1901, the three-reel slot became a standard feature in the city's saloons—a popularity that later would carry over to the gambling halls of Las Vegas, Reno, and other towns when Nevada legalized wide-open gaming in 1931. Mills' company produced 21 new models during the 1930s, but the basics remained the same.

Postwar Mills and Jennings machines looked and played a lot like their descendants of the early 1960s: The handle was hard to pull; there were three spring-loaded reels, each with 20

Photo: Harold R. Lucey



The development of technically advanced machines, and the triumph of dollar carrousels, led progressively to Megabucks.

symbols, usually fruit; there were 8,000 possible combinations. The house kept 18 to 25 percent of the money played. Only one coin could be inserted per handle pull, and only one line of symbols yielded a jackpot.

In those days the slot managers, who were responsible for ordering new machines, keeping them running, and collecting the daily drop, occupied an odd niche. In contrast to casino presidents, who often scratched their way up from the bottom, a slot manager more often was "somebody's brother-in-law," recalls Butch Witcher, 49, vice president of slot operations for the Tropicana in Las Vegas. "In my case, I was somebody's kid."

Witcher's father was head of security at the Flamingo when Butch entered the business in 1961. Soon the casino manager told him he was in charge of slots. "I remember him sitting me down at the bar," Witcher recalls, "and I told him, 'I don't know anything about this.' He said, 'Well, don't worry about it; you're the slot manager. Just don't make the same mistake twice.' And away I went."

Fredi joined Witcher's slot depart-

ment in 1966, just in time to see a breakthrough in the evolution of slots: Bally's pioneering electromechanical machines, the first slots with special lighting and electrical sounds.

"They were terrible," Fredi says. "A blind man could cheat them. Pull the handle hard, just do anything, and that machine would pay you."

"But to Bally's credit," Witcher says, "they sent engineers out and listened to all our complaints, and then they went back to Chicago and fixed most of them. That started the evolution."

However, the new machines did not bring any prestige to the slot department. Slots still were considered window dressing, and slot employees still went through what Witcher calls the "Rodney Dangerfield Syndrome"—no respect. "Everything revolved around the pit," Fredi says. "If they wanted to put a 21 table or crap table in and they wanted your machines in the warehouse, they went in the warehouse. We didn't have a choice."

But Bally worked the bugs out of its new electromechanical slots, and by the late '60s the company had introduced multiple-coin machines, triple-pay lines, and other features. "That's really when the transformation began," Witcher says. "About that time, the slot department started to get more attention. The guys upstairs were looking at the numbers, and the numbers started to get better."

B.D.M.

Although the new machines were doing well, tables remained king until about 1976, when a single development changed slots forever. Thus slot veterans refer to any time prior to the mid-1970s as B.D.M.—"Before the Dollar Machine."

Before then, the mainstay of casino slot floors was the quarter slot, set to keep about 20 percent and to pay out the other 80 percent in a few large jackpots. The machines were set to be stingy because of the perception that slots didn't make any money. "You can see why they didn't make any money," Fredi says. "It's because they weren't slot machines. They were piggy banks."

In the mid-1970s, casinos began operating dollar slot machines—set to hold only 5 percent. "Somebody figured out that 5 percent of a dollar is the same as 20 percent of a quarter," says Fredi. "That's really what changed the whole industry." The loose payback ratio meant jackpots were much more frequent, which caused slot popularity to surge.

Slot veterans vary in their recollections of the birth of the dollar slot. An important figure was Mayland Barber, Bally's Nevada guru (see *Nevada's Special Gaming Issue*, 1981), who encouraged clubs to feature the dollar slots.

The dollar machines apparently were shown off first at small clubs in Las Vegas and Sparks. The Las Vegas site was a tiny slot room tucked away in a shopping center across the street from the Stardust. The place was called Mr. Sy's and was operated in part by the late Danny Cameron. "I always considered Danny to be one of the real innovators, one of the real creative people in this business," Witcher says. "I used to go by there once in a while, just to see what they were up to."

One night in the mid-1970s, Witcher saw eight or 10 slot machines placed in a circle, with stools in front of each and a change girl inside the ring. "I'd never seen anything like that," he says. "People were lined up to get to these machines."

Because the games were more liberal, they were more fun to play "That started it," Witcher says. "Places that had maybe 10 or 15 dollar machines were putting in 40, 50, 60, and more."

Bill Friedman, president of the Silver Slipper and the old Castaways, recalls, "The Lady Luck and Mr. Sy's had the first dollar slot machines, but they used incredible sound and light displays." However, the noise and lights could be a distraction to table players. "I figured out in 1976 at the Castaways how to use dollar slots in a casino atmosphere—by advertising the percentages. I was the first to do that," says Friedman, whose notion spawned a new sign industry ("95% Payback!").







It wasn't long ago that slots were left to sink or swim on their own (top). At left, an early IGT video game. At right, the machine that got locals into the act—video poker

Photo: Nevada Historical Society (top)



When Tropicana slot executive Butch Witcher got his first slot job, there were two requirements: don't make the same mistake twice, and have a relative in the business.



Slot veteran Cecil Fredi has kept his eye on all sorts of game.

Friedman recalls that Karl's Silver Club, then a small club across from John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, was the first to have dollar slots in the Reno area.

That's also how Karl's founder and namesake, Karl Berge (see *Nevada*, Nov/Dec '84), remembers it. Berge once recalled that he tried the dollar slots in March 1976, setting them to pay off first at 90 and then at 95 percent. Bally set up some machines for him in a carrousel, and soon casino operators from Reno and Vegas began dropping by to see the action. "That carrousel was so popular," he said, "we had people getting into fights just to get to the machines."

As the dollar slots caught on, new players tried the nickel and quarter machines. Friedman recalls, "The dollar slots created an entire new market."

The slot swing could be seen in the state's gaming revenue figures. In the yearly tabulations of gross gaming revenue between 1960 and 1974, slots generally accounted for 31 to 34 percent, table games 64 to 67 percent.

In 1975 slots began a remarkable climb and by 1980 had jumped from 31.5 to 42 percent while table games dropped from 65.8 to 54.7 percent.

Actually, table-game revenues had nearly doubled in that period. But the growth in slot play was even more phenomenal, growing in revenues from $369.5 million in 1975 to more than $1 billion in 1980. Three years later slots had passed the tables.

With the popularity of dollar machines established, slots were ready for their last and possibly most important transformation: the introduction of electronics.

Video Fever

In the late 1970s, several slot developments took place at the same time. First, Bally's electromechanical machines had a decade of floor use behind them, and Bally had used the time to work with the industry's slot professionals to perfect the product.

Second, video poker arrived. How can one get a local Nevadan—a person who has grown up looking at spinning reels—to sit on a slot stool for hours? Video poker. Witcher says tourists view slots as a novelty. Locals, though, need more of a challenge, and video poker introduced an element of skill.

> Now women are income-earners in their own right, and casinos are catering more to their traditional game—slots.

That appeal is important, says Bill Eadington, 42, a University of Nevada-Reno professor of economics who closely watches the gaming industry "Video poker is popular because it allows the player to make decisions," he says.

Eadington adds that in the past 15 years or so there seems to have been a change in the nature of players. A middle-class gambler has emerged who is attracted to games presented in an interesting fashion. Also, the expanding economic role of women has had an effect on games and their presentation, he says. It used to be that many women slot players were wives of gamblers. Now women are income-earners in their own right, and casinos are catering more to their traditional game—slots and their video offshoots.

Ken Moberly, 38, slot operations V.P for the Peppermill in Reno, started his career when video poker appeared. He recalls, "About one-and-a-half to two percent of your floor was video. Now, we're talking 60 and 70 percent."

Moberly credits Si Redd, who left Bally to form Reno's International Game Technology in 1978, with causing the video revolution, which he says "really moved the industry into the electronic age." Redd's company churned out video models with innovative designs and presentations. By the early 1980s, IGT had almost single-handedly made video poker the main choice of local Nevada slot players.

Atlantic City and Microchips

The third important slot development of the late 1970s was Atlantic City, whose fledgling casino industry provided an unprecedented showcase for slot machines. Witcher, who worked in Atlantic City from 1978 to 1985, says casino executives there had no axes to grind. "The guys who were looking at the numbers in New Jersey were people who were very objective about the whole industry," he says.

Photos: Las Vegas News Bureau



Si Redd, Nevada video guru.

"In the early days, the people looking at the numbers tended to be people who came up through the ranks. Most of them started out as crap dealers or 21 dealers, or both, and were not slot-oriented. As a result, they were somewhat subjective when they looked at the numbers." In New Jersey, the volume in slots was tremendous, and "right away, they started to turn their attention to the slot department."

As slot departments began getting their due respect, the electronic slot was completing the slot evolution. Microchips had been used in a few machines as early as 1975, and Bally put them to use on a large scale after 1980. Around 1982, the company introduced the Series E-2000, which became the industry's workhorse.

The benefit of microchip slots to the player is uncomplicated—they simply are more fun to play Models have proliferated, not just from Bally and IGT, but from a host of new companies on the scene. Some, like Casino Electronics Inc. and Games of Nevada, are based in Las Vegas. Others, like Universal, Aristocrat, Sigma, and TDC, have come from as far as Asia and Australia to grab a piece of the fiercely competitive slot market.

Besides the three-reel slot and video poker, microchips have spawned video slots, video 21 games, giant "Bertha" slots, horse-race games, laser video machines, and any number of other curiosities.

Players also like the fact that microchip machines give more frequent jackpots. Computers have speeded up all the processes, not the least of which is the random choice of a combination of symbols causing coins to clatter into an oversized metal hopper.

V.I.P Treatment

With the realization that slot players are the casino industry's bread and butter has come marketing, promotion, and old-fashioned V.I.P treatment that was once reserved for high-rolling table players. Many major casinos now have slot clubs and can track members' play when they insert special cards in the machines. In Reno, for instance, Harrah's promotes its Celebrity Circle for slot players, and the new Riverboat's Slots Ahoy Club allows card-carrying members to earn points toward food, merchandise, and trips.

Modern casinos are catering to what was once unheard of, and is still in fact a novelty· high rollers who play slots. While managing the slot department at the Las Vegas Hilton, Fredi pioneered methods that other casinos are now using to draw high-end slot players. For example, the Hilton had the first $5 slots and later the first $25 machines. They were a success not only because of their whopping 98-percent payback rate—"Remember, 2 percent of $25 is more than 5 percent of a dollar," he says—but because the prospect of betting $50 a crack brought big-time gamblers over to the slots during breaks in their baccarat or craps play

> The prospect of betting $50 a crack brought big-time gamblers over to the slots during breaks in their craps play.

Meanwhile, competition has caused a steady stream of new slot ideas.

Two years ago IGT kicked off a radical concept in slots called Megabucks (see box). IGT slots are linked throughout the state via telephone lines, and coins put into every machine on the statewide network contribute to a multimillion-dollar jackpot.

Bally recently introduced its Second Chance video poker machine, which gives players an extra shot at improving their hands. According to Jeff Gilbert, vice president of Bally Distributing of Nevada, the Second Chance machines are Bally's hottest item these days. Also, a new series of Bally machines features simple one-board technology, which allows slot managers to change a machine quickly from one game to another without buying a whole new unit.

Companies like Sigma Game and Status have popularized imaginative new themes. Sigma's Derby game, a miniature horse track complete with crowd noise and tiny jockeys, has received wide use as a novelty item. The Status Craps game, which uses laser video images to recreate a craps game, is being used by some table games departments as a non-intimidating way to teach craps.

Slots Horizon

If today's slot technology is big, what's on the horizon is even bigger. How about bill validators on the sides of slots that allow players to cash $10 or $20 bills without leaving their seats?

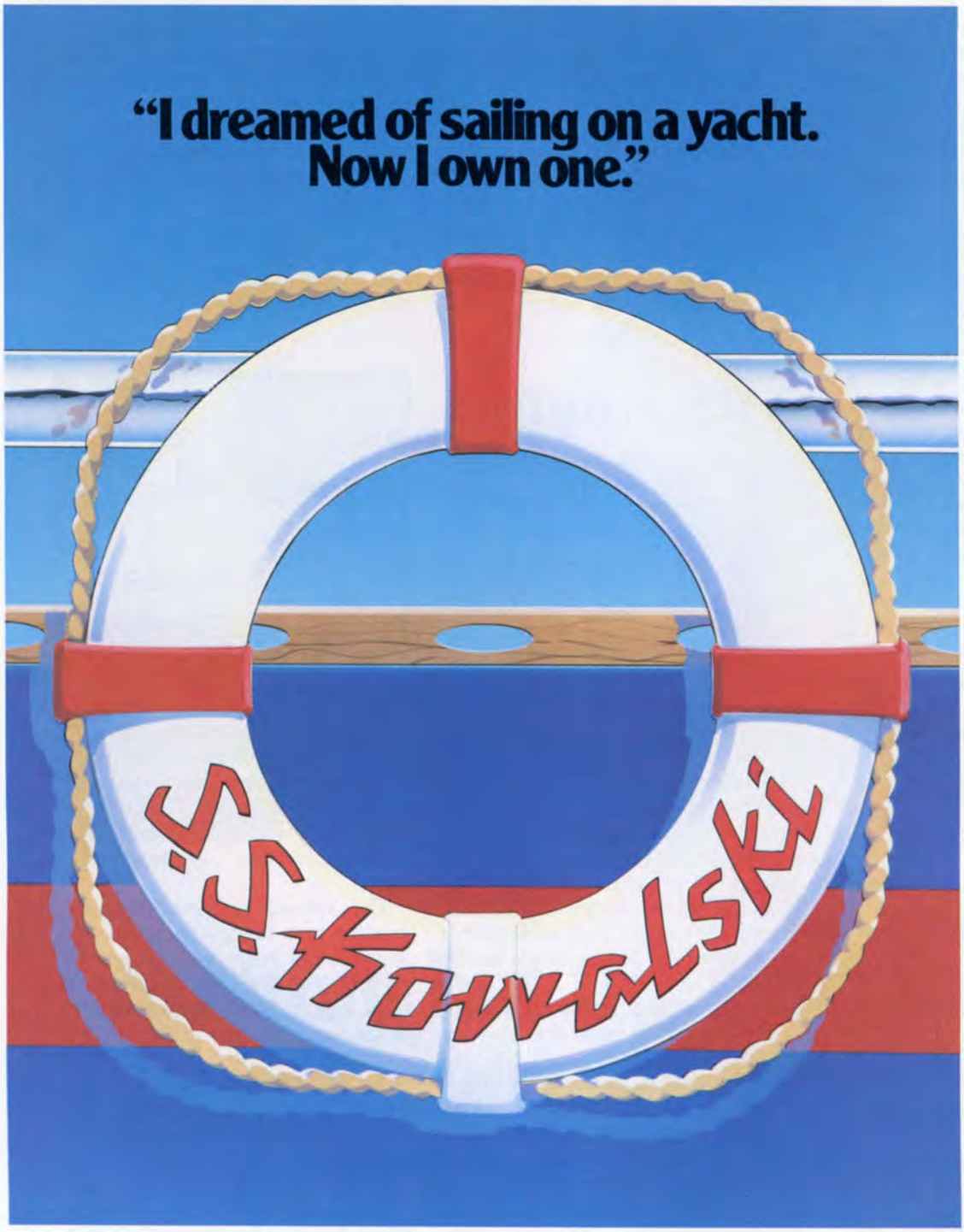
Credit cards may be a standard means of play someday. Moberly says the likely scenario is that a player will leave a deposit at the cage and will be issued a credit card good anywhere in the hotel-casino. Inserted in a slot, the card will perform much like today's credit meters. The player simply will cash the card in at the end of the night.

How about walking slot machines? A company in New York has developed a robot slot machine that walks around and, through a voice box operated by someone just out of sight, initiates two-way conversations. Its developer, International Robotics, suggests that such a conversation might begin, "Excuse me, but I feel a jackpot coming on."

To management, machines have an



What's next? Walking, talking robot slots.



When you play Megabucks on any of hundreds of special slot machines at a growing number of Nevada's leading casinos, you're just one pull away from a multi-million dollar jackpot.

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RENO/SPARKS
Boomtown, Bordertown Club, Club Cal-Neva, Comstock Hotel/Casino, Eddie's Fabulous 50's, Eldorado Hotel/Casino, Fitzgeralds Casino/Hotel, Gold Dust West, Harrah's Reno Hotel/Casino, Holiday Hotel/Casino, Karl's Hotel/Casino, Mint Casino, Old Reno Casino, Plantation Casino, Reno Horseshoe, Reno Ramada, Riverboat Hotel/Casino, Sands Regent, Sundowner Hotel/Casino

BOULDER CITY
Gold Strike Inn

CARSON CITY
Cactus Jack's Senator Club, Carson City Nugget, Mother Lode, Ormsby House

CRYSTAL BAY *(North Lake Tahoe)*
Cal-Neva Lodge, Crystal Bay Club, Tahoe Biltmore

ELKO
Stockman's Motor Hotel

FALLON
Bonanza Casino, Fallon Nugget

HENDERSON
Railroad Pass Casino

INCLINE VILLAGE
Hyatt Lake Tahoe

JACKPOT
Cactus Pete's

JEAN
Gold Strike Hotel & Gambling Hall, Whiskey Pete's

LAUGHLIN
Del Webb's Nevada Club, Don Laughlin's Riverside Resort, Harrah's Del Rio, Sam's Town Gold River

MINDEN
Carson Valley Inn

STATELINE *(South Lake Tahoe)*
Bill's Lake Tahoe Casino, Del Webb's High Sierra Casino/Hotel, Harrah's Lake Tahoe Hotel/Casino, Harvey's Resort Hotel/Casino, John's Tahoe Nugget, Lakeside Inn & Casino

TOPAZ LAKE
Topaz Lodge

WENDOVER
Red Garter Casino

WINNEMUCCA
Parker's Model T Casino, Winner's Inn Hotel/Casino

YERINGTON
Casino West

undeniable appeal. Ed Crispell, general manager of the Imperial Palace, who notes that table games can be promoted by offering lessons, remarks, "Slot machines from a management standpoint don't talk back to you. They don't require benefits. They only require electricity, a little bit of oil, and some maintenance."

Observers like Eadington see continued improvements in the machines' visuals, as they achieve more hypnotic effects. He foresees "more and more slot machines and devices replacing workers." He also points out that high technology can just as easily be used by competitors for the Nevada gambler's dollar, such as state lotteries.

Perhaps the rush to cashless slots won't happen immediately. "Coin" is still important, Fredi says. "I'm not saying in the future it won't happen, but in this day and age, coin is part of playing slots."

A New Image

Perhaps the most significant thing slots have done for Nevada casinos is to downplay the James Bond image that once led many to think casinos weren't for everyday people.

> 'Table games are ceremonial, so they cannot change. Slots are very dynamic.'

Everyday people are what drive Nevada's gaming industry, and the industry has the slot machine to thank for that.

"The mass appeal of slot machines is that we now give the customer a large return," says Cecil Fredi. "You produce a lot of winners that way, and everybody wants to be a winner."

"We're a generation of TV people," says Ken Moberly. "It's not unusual to to be looking at the TV screen. Slot machines are not intimidating, and you're on your own."

"Table games, by their nature, are traditional and ceremonial, so they cannot change," says Bill Eadington. "Slots are able to be very dynamic and consumer-responsive."

And whence table games?

"Income on table games is still growing. It is just growing slower proportionately," says Bill Friedman. The situation is ironic, though. "Today fewer people know about table games," he says, "yet we're attracting more people than ever before."

"Eventually you'll see where you will hardly have any craps games," says Jack DeBord, Four Queens slot manager, pointing out that a player can immediately feel comfortable playing a slot machine as opposed to an unfamiliar table game.

By the same token, slots could help table games like 21 and poker, he says, because a player could learn about them on the video machines.

Slot fans and executives still point fondly to the dollar slot as the catalyst of the revolution. With the advent of dollar slots, nickel and quarter players moved up. "We didn't lose players," says Friedman. "We gained."

So did all those slot lovers.

Frank Legato, former editor of and frequent contributor to Casino Gaming, *is currently a Washington, D.C., area reporter*

Megamania

The yanks are coming

At first glance, Megabucks looks like a basic "progressive" slot system with a few extra lights. Overhead there's an odometer with numbers humming across the screen to show the ever-growing jackpot. Usually a change person is nearby, ready to change bills for dollar tokens. The handles pull snugly, and the bars and 7s reel dizzily in the usual way

On each machine you find instructions that offer encouraging details on how lucky players can win jackpots of remarkable size. That overhead odometer starts at $1 million for the big jackpot, and a number of smaller but substantial sums can be awarded.

For the player, that's what separates Megabucks from the crowd—million-dollar jackpots, lights, euphoria, press conferences, a king's ransom paid over several years. Paradise found.

Megabucks was introduced two years ago by International Game Technology, the Reno-based maker of microprocessor-controlled gaming equipment and a pioneer in the casino video field. The game began in nine casinos; soon it will be hooked up to 83.

The game's most unusual feature is that all the machines are linked by telephone line. The system keeps the jackpot growing by the second, and it also spreads the liability, which clubs appreciate.

Its genesis, in part, took place in Nebraska about four years ago. IGT was developing a statewide lottery system for the Cornhusker State in-



Megabucks winner Cammie Brewer

volving phone link-ups, and "a lightbulb went off for a whole group of people," says Walt Hawkins, Megabucks' director. The step to Megabucks was logical, he says, as a "next generation" in progressive slots.

The system has produced the world's two biggest jackpots, but adjustments have been made regarding the big hit. "We thought we'd redesign it so theoretically the jackpot will hit around two or two-and-a-half million, although it can go to 10," Hawkins says. "We decided it would be better to have five $2-million winners than one $10-million winner."

Also, players have won 298 "mega-mini" jackpots averaging about $6,500. The payout is 94 percent of every dollar, Hawkins says.

Megabucks brought megaluck to the winners of its three big jackpots—$2.6 million and $4.9 million at Harrah's Reno and $6.8 million at Reno's Club Cal-Neva. Last Valentine's Day, the $6.8-million prize, the largest jackpot in gaming history, was won by Reno businessman Cammie Brewer. "I figure if I'm going to play, I may as well play for the big dollars," he said.

That's a slot megatrend 83 clubs are banking on. —*Julie Quinn*







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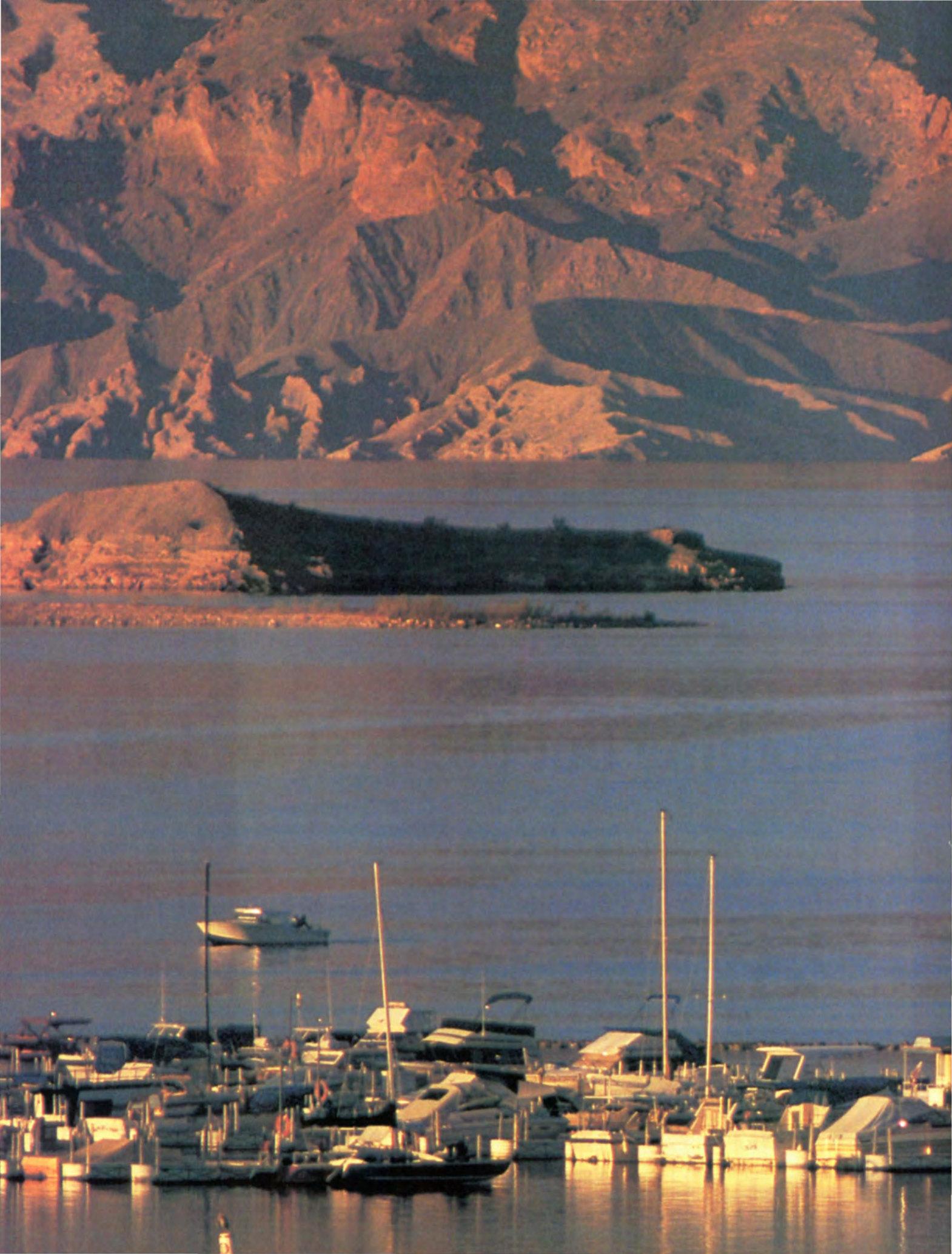
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THE GREAT LAKE

Half a century after the waters filled behind Hoover Dam, it is hard to imagine Southern Nevada without Lake Mead.

By Mitch Fox

On summer nights, when the temperature at Lake Mead cools to 95 degrees, park ranger Bob McKeever slips on his running shoes and nylon-mesh tank top and begins his nightly ritual of jogging along the water. Every now and then a gust of wind blows off the lake, offering a moment of relief. Beads of sweat flow freely off his tanned face, but it's a routine he enjoys. After a day of writing tickets and patrolling beaches, McKeever finds freedom and serenity in his evening runs.

McKeever and his family moved to Mead's lake-front government housing in 1979. Since then he has grown to love and respect the lake's beauty and power. And, except for his solitary runs, he's not alone.

Last year eight million people visited Lake Mead National Recreation Area. They came to swim and lie on the beach, to fish for bass, to ski in the vast basins. They came to marvel at this mercurial blue sea that can churn and pound in a summer

thunderstorm, only to shimmer quietly a few hours later.

The second largest lake in the U.S., Mead is a 9.3-trillion-gallon behemoth backed up by Hoover Dam. If emptied into California, the lake's waters would cover the state to a depth of three inches.

The great reservoir is an essential part of life not only for residents of the Las Vegas area but also for millions of Southwesterners who have never laid eyes on the lake.

Nearly every person who takes a shower, sprinkles a lawn, washes a car, or downs an iced tea in Southern Nevada is drawing water out of Lake Mead. Cities as far away as Burbank count on the lake and Hoover Dam's turbines for electricity.

Downstream in Arizona and California, farmers rely on Mead and other parts of the Bureau of Reclamation's water system to protect them from the whims of the Colorado River—floods one year, drought the next—that once plagued the region.

It is hard to imagine Southern Nevada without Lake Mead, but for untold ages the region was baking desert cut by the Colorado, Virgin, and Muddy rivers. Before the dam, when the Colorado pummeled its way through six states and Mexico, fluctuating snowpacks in the Rockies made water flow unpredictable. Some years, inhabitants were ravaged by floods. In drier years, the river would become a sleepy stream, augmented by the tamer waters of the Virgin and Muddy rivers that flowed to join the Big Red in an inverted T

The area's earliest settlers seemed to be successful at harnessing the water at Mead's north end. The Anasazis—"the ancient ones"—migrated from the Four Corners area, where Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico meet, about the time of Christ. They settled along the Virgin and Muddy rivers and built a series of adobe apartment complexes and housing developments that are now known as the Lost City

The Anasazi also diverted river water to irrigate their crops of corn, beans, and squash. Their departure in about 1150 A.D. has baffled archaeologists, who theorize the Anasazi may have been driven away by drought or interlopers. Today, reminders of their culture can be found in petroglyphs in Valley of Fire State Park and displays of artifacts and adobe homes at the Lost City Museum in Overton. A number of artifacts and ancient homes were covered by the waters of Lake Mead.







Ranger Bob McKeever knows Mead has the ticket (top), as does Hoover Dam's one-time official photographer Cliff Segerblom (above).

In the 1850s riverboat captains began steaming up the Colorado, linking the Yuma and Los Angeles areas with new mines and settlements. Among the latter were Callville, now submerged below Callville Bay.

In the 1850s and '60s, Mormon settlers founded several towns along the Virgin and Muddy rivers. St. Thomas was laid out at the junction of the two rivers, but unfortunately the town was built during a high-water year. When the water went down, the new port city was landlocked, and many of the faithful went back to Utah.

But others stayed and farmed. Paddlewheelers plied the Colorado as late as 1907 Some towns dried up and blew away, but others like St. Thomas, Overton, and Logandale survived.

Then in 1928 the federal government approved the construction of the world's largest dam. Originally planned for Boulder Canyon, engineers moved the location downstream to Black Canyon, where the rock walls would offer a more solid foundation for the engineering marvel of the day.

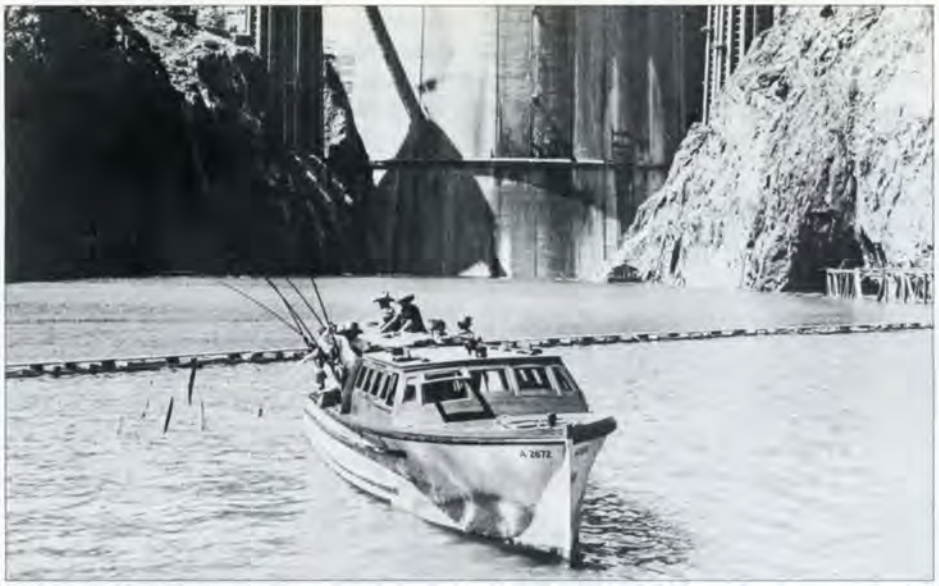
During the dam's construction a 16-ton bucket of concrete was dumped into a form every 60 seconds, every day, for two years. The dam grew imperceptibly. After seven years, two years ahead of schedule, the dam was finished at a cost of $49 million and 96 lives.

On February 1, 1935, as finishing touches were placed on the intake towers and outlets, the tunnels used to divert the river were plugged with concrete. Construction workers watched as the Colorado pounded at the dam. Gradually the river climbed, creating a sapphire-blue reservoir behind the dam. The wild Colorado had been tamed.

Erma Godbey of Boulder City is a proud survivor of Williamsville, also known as Ragtown. Now submerged, the makeshift camp for dam workers was located upstream from the dam at Hemenway Wash. Godbey, 82, remembers watching the lake slowly rise.

"We used to have earthquakes, but they really weren't earthquakes as we know them," she says. "The weight of the water creating this lake would fill up little limestone caverns and ignite gaseous explosions. Why, it was force-

Photos: Jim Decker (previous page); Kate Butler (previous page inset); Mitch Fox (above)





A cowboy fishing crew pulled out frozen barracuda (top) as the lake filled. Scientist Larry Paulson (above) is more concerned about bass.

ful enough to rattle dishes!"

In 1938, Lake Mead's rising waters began nibbling at the streets of St. Thomas. That year University of Nevada art major Cliff Segerblom drove down from Reno to take a job with the Bureau of Reclamation as a staff photographer. The demise of St. Thomas was one of his first assignments.

"They sent me up to Overton to photograph the lake with this huge 5x7 view camera and about a hundred-pound tripod," recalls Segerblom, a longtime Boulder City resident. "When I arrived in St. Thomas, there was one house left, sort of an adobe building. I could see the water lapping at the doorstep. You could actually see the water rising and creeping up. It was just like the tide coming in. It would move about a foot a minute.

"There was a family inside the house, a mother, father, and young baby They refused to leave because they didn't think the water was going to reach their home. I took a photograph of them reluctantly walking away as the water rose behind them. It was picked up and used in news releases nationwide."

His job allowed Segerblom to learn from photographers like Ansel Adams, Alfred Eisenstadt, Margaret Bourke-White, and Edward Weston as they visited the dam. Segerblom's own photographs later appeared in *Life, Time,* and *National Geographic*, and his watercolors grace the homes of many Nevadans.

Even as it filled, Lake Mead was recognized for its value in flood control and in supplying electricity for Nevada, Arizona, and California. Its possibilities as a recreational attraction also were considered in 1936, when the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service decided how they would jointly operate in what was first called Boulder Dam Park.

Of course, the lake's potential wasn't missed by Las Vegas promoters, who began telling the world about the lake the minute it began to fill. The way to sell a Las Vegas dateline was with a photograph that was either outlandish or cheesecake or both. So boosters did both. One popular shot showed a boat full of fishermen hauling in a bounty of frozen barracuda out of the shallow new reservoir behind the imposing dam. For cheesecake, there were bathing beauties on ship and shore.

Don Payne knows those old photos well. As director of the Las Vegas News Bureau, Payne has been receiving calls for the past 23 years from media outlets around the world that need photos and information about Las Vegas and Southern Nevada. With a staff of 14 and an archive of 1.5 million photographic negatives, the News Bureau is equipped to handle any request.

Payne's favorite subject for promotion has always been the lake. He has been lowering lures into Mead's depths since he was a youngster growing up in Las Vegas in the '40s. He not only is drawn to the lake by the prospect of catching a largemouth bass, but he also continues to be dazzled by Mead's vistas.

"The plain beauty of it continues to amaze, astound, and elate me after almost 50 years," he says. "There's never a day when the scenery's exactly the same. The sun, the cloud patterns, the water, the change in breezes, the wildlife, the wildflowers in the springtime—I just think it's all magnificent."

The dam and lake earned many superlatives from the start, and one remains unchanged. While Hoover was the largest dam ever built and Mead the largest man-made lake—titles that have since gone to newer projects—Lake Mead National Recreation Area is the oldest and still the largest recreation area in the country

Bigger than the state of Delaware, it consists of 1.5 million acres of Colorado River property that runs from the mouth of the Grand Canyon in the east to the Overton area in the north, and southward to include Lake Mohave, which was created on the lower

Photos: University of Nevada-Las Vegas Library, James Cashman Collection (top); Wayne Kodey (bottom)

Colorado with the completion of Davis Dam in 1953.

Alan O'Neill, superintendent of Lake Mead National Recreation Area, acknowledges that with eight million yearly visitors his staff has its hands full. But he is promoting a plan that would emphasize other features around the lakes. "The two lakes only make up about 13 percent of the total area," O'Neill says.

"Most people think of Lake Mead in terms of desert, but we also have ponderosa pine forests and pinyons and junipers. There is a land base, apart from the water, that's going to be immensely popular as years go on. We're developing hiking trails and scenic overlooks. We're encouraging people to experience the wildlife and some of the archaeological areas, petroglyphs and so forth. There's more to this area than the lake."

Of course, the lake is the center of the area for recreationists, local water users, and the fish that live in it. Thus the lake's health and welfare are an ongoing concern. That's why University of Nevada-Las Vegas limnologist Larry Paulson, after 15 years of research and testing at the lake, has led the plan to dump 20,000 gallons of fertilizer in the lake each of the last two springs.

His bold and somewhat controversial project also proposes that the three local wastewater treatment plants put more nutrients in the lake, as they did in years past. Domestic water companies from Las Vegas to Southern California have questioned the logic of muddying the waters.

> 'I love the desert and the low humidity,' says McKeever. 'I like being able to see 30 or 40 miles at a time.'

Paulson assures all that the project will give the lake a chance to return to the health it enjoyed before the upstream construction of Glen Canyon Dam in 1963. During the 40s and '50s Mead was a haven for largemouth bass, and it still is to an extent, but the new dam began robbing Mead of phosphorous, a fertilizing nutrient that is essential for algae growth. Algae feeds plankton, which feed thredfin shad, which feed the bass. The lack of phosphorous hurt the bass population.

Paulson says that condition was worsened in the late '70s when the wastewater treatment plants at Las Vegas Wash began stripping treated effluent of its phosphorous content before dumping it in the lake.

Furthermore, the lake's level has risen about 60 feet, to 1,210 feet, since 1972, adding to the dilution.

So in May 1987, Paulson and a crew of 1,000 volunteers dumped 20,000 gallons of phosphorous into the Overton Arm and repeated the treatment this spring. Paulson says there is no danger to domestic water users because algae growth is minimal. "Under this plan the algae goes in the food chain, not in somebody's water supply. Also, there's a tremendous volume of sterile water downstream to dilute it," he says.

"If Lake Mead was simply a domestic water reservoir, then it would make sense just to sterilize it. But it's a national recreation area. Not everyone's going to be happy, but it's a shared resource and a valuable one, too. We should try to keep it that way."

Paulson says the fertilization pro-

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gram has met with success. "Already the weight of the striped bass in the Overton Arm is up 25 percent over last year. Now the fish can be filleted, and that makes fishermen happy."

The lake's sheer dimensions and great variety of sporting opportunities are a strong lure even for those who work there. "I love the desert and the low humidity," says McKeever, who also is an avid wildlife photographer and frequent boater. "I like being able to see 30 or 40 miles at a time." He and the other rangers have a lot of ground and water to cover. "We patrol, handle traffic, and investigate crimes, just like police officers," he says. "People come out here to recreate, whether it's boating or shore recreation like swimming, picnicking, or partying."

But he says he thrives on the diversity. "Sometimes I can't believe I get paid to do this. It's a job that helps people avoid problems. I don't enjoy handing out tickets to boaters, but it teaches them necessary safety regulations and may spare their lives." He pauses a moment and considers the birds and other creatures he's seen during the day and adds, "At the same

Hoover's Still Holding



The lake had reached a normal level by the time of this publicity photo.

Some Lake Mead visitors might naturally wonder about the lifespan of the 50-year-old dam that holds everything together.

Keith Barrick, the region's assistant project manager of operations and maintenance for the Bureau of Reclamation, says Hoover Dam was once somewhat threatened by increasing silt levels. But with the construction of upstream dams, he says, the silt levels have gone down. Barrick says there are no engineering estimates of the dam's lifespan. "It may last 100 years, it may last 1,000," he says. "One thing's for sure—it won't wear out in my lifetime."



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time I feel I'm doing something to preserve a piece of the Southwest."

After nearly five decades, Mead still is a favorite of Cliff Segerblom, whose home overlooks the lake. He and his wife Gene sometimes sneak out to their Lake Mead Marina boat slip during the week with a few friends. Gene, vivacious and bubbly brings her fishing pole and tackle box. Cliff, quiet and pensive, brings his painter's eye and scours the scenery for colors, shapes, and shadows. They may take their 27-



Those warm summer days on the beach.

foot sailboat out to places like Scorpion Cove and Gene's Cliffs, which are among the several landmarks the couple has discovered and named.

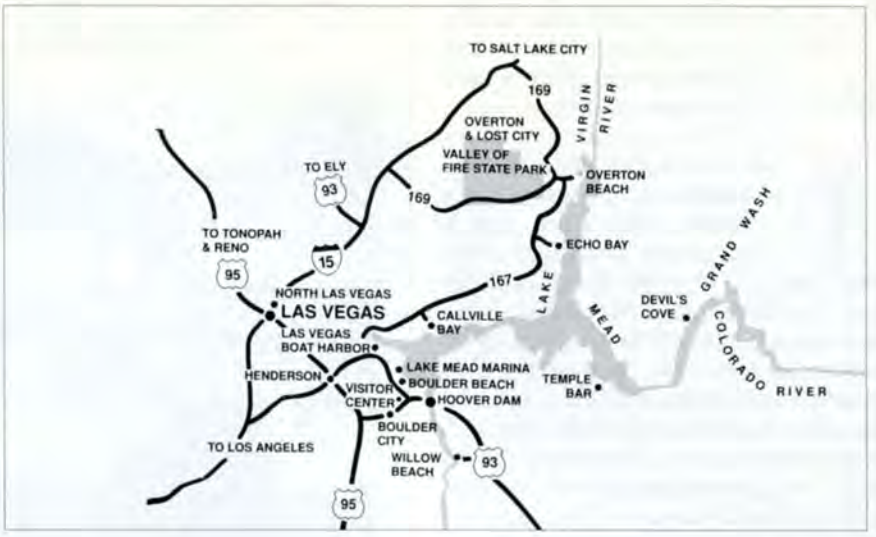
Hooked on Mead since childhood, Don Payne confesses that when the weather is nice he occasionally sneaks out of his office to go fishing—and enjoy all that space.

"The fact that it's 110 miles long with more than 500 miles of shoreline means that there are a tremendous number of good fishing areas," he says. "Any other smaller lake would be strangled by Mead's popularity Here you can literally get lost."

Because Lake Mead means so much to so many, it will remain the subject of scenic photographers, painters, anglers with tall tales, and environment-minded scientists. That kind of community concern has long been part of the lake's appeal.

And hopefully people like Bob McKeever will have plenty of room to run on the beach, breathing in the warm night air.

Mitch Fox is a reporter and producer for KLVX public television in Las Vegas.



Mead's Marinas

After Lake Mead filled in the 1930s, and Lake Mohave in the 1950s, the National Park Service set up nine marinas and connected them with paved roads. Then the Park Service did an amazing thing. Nothing. The result is a network of well-supplied, attractive marinas—six on Mead, three on Mohave—in an uncluttered desert setting. Even today driving along Lake Mead's roads is like driving on the moon.

In the Boulder Basin, Mead's busiest area, tourists can stop at the Alan Bible Visitor Center, midway between Hoover Dam and Boulder City It's a good place to get your bearings, see a movie, buy books and postcards, and find out about the area's attractions.

The beaches and marinas are popular spots in summer, but remember that daily temperatures normally are 100 degrees or higher in July and August. So seek shade at midday and use sunscreen.

Driving north from the visitor center, you first pass Hemenway Special Events Beach and then the most popular sand-and-sun place on the lake, Boulder Beach, which has picnic areas, campsites, and a convenience store.

Lake Mead Marina has hundreds of boat slips. Its floating restaurant is a favorite of locals, and there are hordes of gluttonous carp waiting to devour leftovers.

Farther north at Las Vegas Boat Harbor, the Gripentog family has presided over the marina at Las Vegas Wash for more than 30 years. Bass are attracted to the Wash because of the great amounts of wastewater nutrients dumped there.

Callville Bay's developed area is on higher ground than the 1864 river-port settlement of Callville, now buried by the lake. Today the marina is a handsomely-landscaped nautical hub.

Next is Echo Bay a well-developed, attractive stopover with boat slips, houseboat rentals, a motel, restaurant, lounge, and airstrip.

Overton Beach, at the top of the Overton Arm, is the most casual marina, with a lake-shore RV park and a scaled-down marina. To the west and north are Valley of Fire State Park, the town of Overton, and the Lost City Museum.

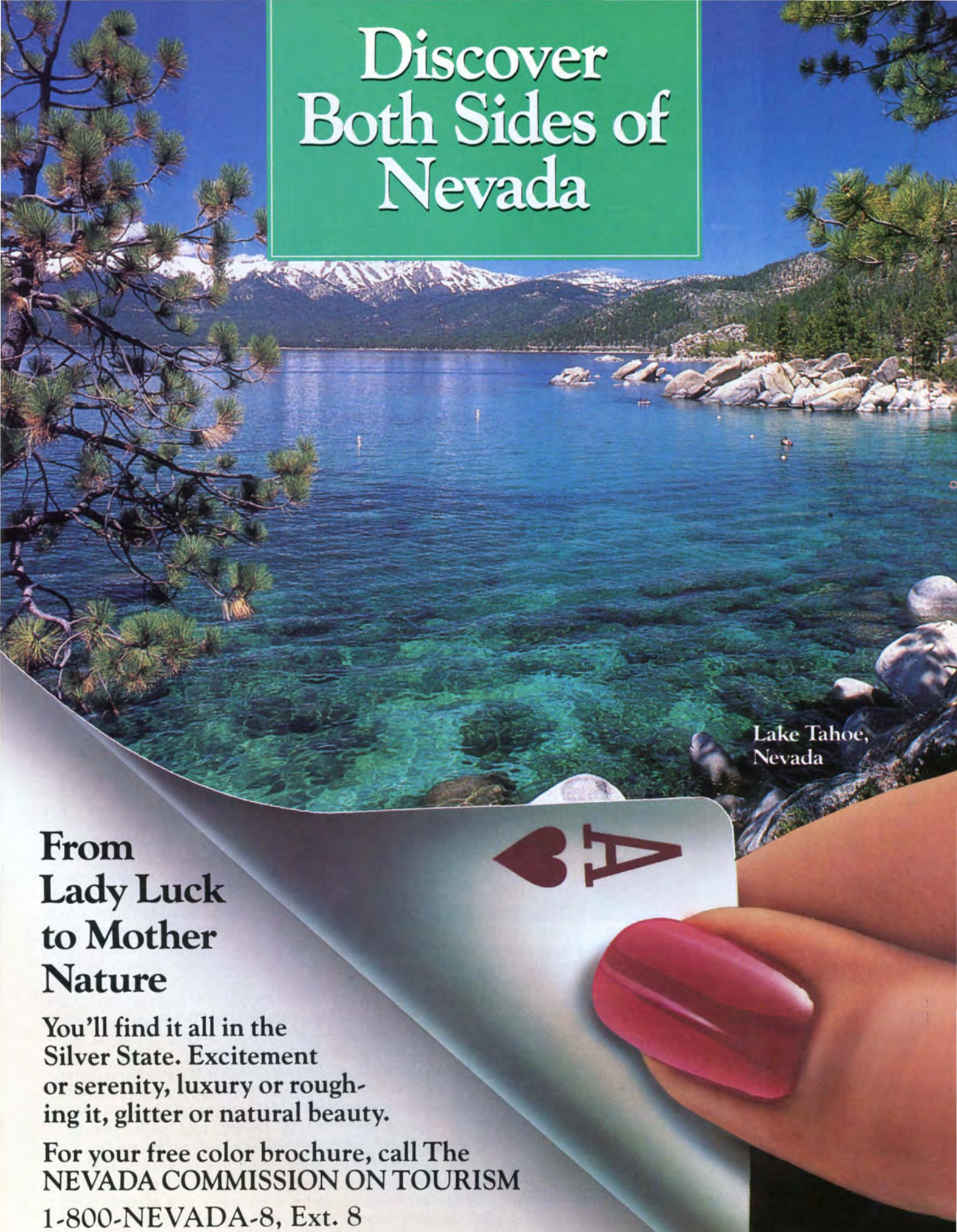
Mead's sixth marina is Temple Bar, 47 miles east of the dam on the Arizona side.

Lake Mohave has marinas at Willow Beach, Cottonwood Cove, and Katherine. Just south of Katherine and Davis Dam are the towns of Laughlin, Nevada, and Bullhead City, Arizona.

Generally the marinas have restaurants, convenience stores, overnight camping, motels, boat rentals, and other services. For information, write Lake Mead National Recreation Area, 601 Nevada Highway, Boulder City, NV 89005, or call 702-293-8907

Photo: Kate Butler

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Bing Crosby enjoyed the role of a ranch owner in Elko County. In top center photo he poses with, from left, sons Gary and Phillip, Jess and Louise Botsford, son Lindsay, and Jimmy Botsford. Above right, Bing and Elko Mayor Dave Dotta wear their Levi tuxes, flanked by Lee Frankovich (left) and Dick Warren.





ELKO REMEMBERS BING

Folks around Elko remember Bing Crosby as that fellow with a pretty nice cattle outfit up near Wild Horse—and much more.

By Carol Hendershot

When he was Nevada's most famous rancher, the most famous singer in the world didn't dress or act like a celebrity when he was in Elko. During his visits to his ranches in Elko County, Bing Crosby's favorite outfit consisted of blue jeans, a plaid shirt, and a straw hat. In the summer he often wore shorts and sandals. His friend John Oldham remembers that Crosby usually dressed just like any other rancher, except that his overalls had more holes in them.

The crooner's casual appearance often acted as a disguise. Once when Oldham and Crosby were in Elko's Commercial Hotel, a tourist came up to them and asked if it were true that Bing Crosby lived somewhere in the area.

Smiling, Bing told her he didn't know. The woman asked if he had ever seen Bing Crosby, to which the Academy Award-winning actor replied, with a straight face, "Not for a long time." She then asked if he thought Crosby had bought a very big ranch, and Crosby replied in good humor, "Oh, I don't think it could be very big. He hasn't got any money to pay for it."

Of course, money wasn't a problem for Crosby During his recording heyday in the 1930s and 1940s it was said that, at any moment, his voice could be heard somewhere in the world on a radio, phonograph, or jukebox. And in roles ranging from priest to carnival singer he had become a major movie star as well.

But he did want a retreat that would give his clan some privacy and a chance to relax. Those needs were solved in the early 1940s when Crosby an avid hunter and fisherman, discovered Elko County through such outdoorsman friends as Gary Cooper and Roy Rogers. Crosby greatly appreciated the area's rugged beauty and its large number of deer.

"Elko is also one of the last bastions of the Old West," Bing wrote in his 1953 autobiography, *Call Me Lucky*. "I've been going there for more than 10 years now, and I haven't been asked for an autograph or to do a benefit show or contribute to a charity, or to do anything but mind my own business, by any resident of the county As nearly as I can figure it, if I'm known at all, it is simply as that fellow from California with a pretty nice cattle—cow-and-calf—outfit up near Wild Horse."

Three decades after his last trip to Elko County, he still is remembered as that fellow—and a lot more.

Harry Lillis Crosby was born May 2, 1904, in Tacoma, Washington, one of seven children. If you called him Harry he probably would not have answered—to everyone he was Bing, a nickname he acquired as a child from a popular comic strip character. Bob Hope, his cohort in many films, gave him other names such as Der Bingle and The Groaner.

Crosby was, in his time, the most popular male baritone singer in the world. His rendition of Irving Berlin's

Photos: Northeastern Nevada Museum

"White Christmas" has sold more than 30 million copies, making it the most popular single ever produced. As a movie star, his favorite film was said to be *High Society* (1956), but many critics said his performance in *The Country Girl* (1954) was his best.

In 1943, a year before he received an Oscar as Best Actor for his role as a priest in *Going My Way*, Bing bought his first Elko ranch. The place was seven miles east of town on the Humboldt River. After he got flooded out the next year, Crosby suggested to Oldham, an Elko real estate broker, that he'd like to acquire ranches to the north instead. Oldham eventually sold Crosby seven ranches near Wild Horse, North Fork, and Tuscarora.

Besides giving his wife, Dixie, and their four sons a measure of peace and fresh air, the ranches allowed Bing plenty of chances to go fishing, hunting, and golfing, pursuits that he said helped him maintain his relaxed manner. He went on frequent hunting and fishing trips with a wide circle of friends, including John Oldham and Newt Crumley of Elko and golfers Ben Hogan and Jimmy Demaret.

He also wanted to expose his sons to life away from Hollywood. Gary, Philip, Dennis, and Lindsay worked on the ranch for several weeks each summer, and he paid them the same wages as hired hands. They helped with roundup, haying, fencing, branding, and everyday chores.



Honorary Mayor Crosby is supervised by Mayor Dotta.

Elko could have been a million miles from Hollywood for father and sons. "Dad fit right in with the townspeople," Gary wrote in his own autobiography. "Unlike how it was back in California, though, they left him his privacy and didn't pester him for his autograph or try to engage him in conversation unless he indicated he wouldn't mind shooting the breeze for a couple of minutes. Westerners know how to respect a man's space."

Bing did consent to be part of a few local celebrations, such as the time he was named honorary mayor. Friends and boosters had February 7, 1948, declared Bing Crosby Day in Elko, and at ceremonies at the Ranchinn he accepted a key to the city from Mayor Dave Dotta. Bing said, "I pledge my support to help you any way I can."

Then he proceeded to donate $5,000 toward a new town swimming pool. He also pledged to close down all the saloons—but not until everybody was inside.

That evening Bing and Dixie, herself a former Fox starlet, were honored at a banquet at the Commercial. Bing picked up the entire tab for the night and further thrilled the crowd by singing several songs. Later, newspapers

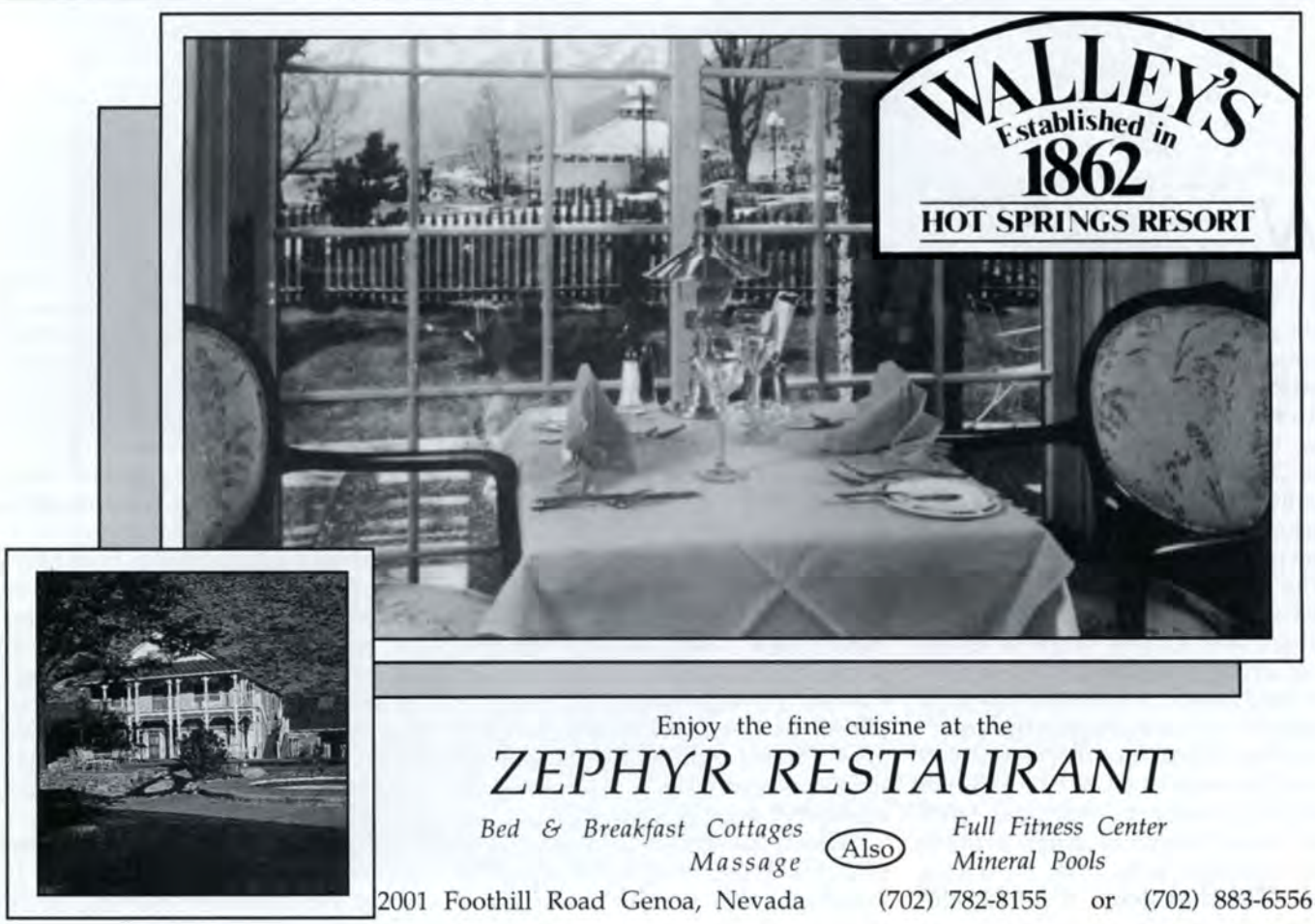


Photo: Northeastern Nevada Museum

across the country carried a photograph of the honorary mayor fulfilling his civic duty—pushing a broom down Elko's main street.

Another honor was bestowed on Crosby when he was adopted into the Western Shoshone-Paiute tribe on July 25, 1950, at Owyhee. The adoption entitled Bing and his family to fish, hunt, and camp on the reservation forever.

For the ceremonies Crosby gave up his English name. As far as the tribal council was concerned, his proper name was Sond-Hoo-Vi-A-Gund—the Man of Many Songs.

At the ranch, Bing was very time-oriented, according to Therese Smith of Elko. Smith, who stayed at the PX Ranch in the summer of 1951 as a companion to Dixie, who was ill, recalls that everyone got up at 6 a.m. and went to bed at 9 p.m. In the evenings there was time to relax, but each person, Bing included, put in a full day's work.

An avid angler, Bing often fished for trout in the creek below the ranch house. Louise Botsford, another longtime Elkoan who worked for the singer, remembers approaching the creek with her fishing pole one afternoon when she heard Crosby crooning on the other side of the hill. "He was singin' 'Cool Water.' I never will forget the sight. He was just asingin' away, with his old straw hat on, all by himself," she recalls fondly. "I stood and listened for a while and then said, 'Hi, Bing.' He turned around, and I told him to keep on serenadin', and he finished. I walked down, and we fished."

> Bing used to walk down the road in shorts, swinging a willow branch and singing.

Then there was the sport of dodging tourists. Bing used to walk down the road to get the mail, sometimes in shorts and sandals, swinging a willow branch and singing. Louise Botsford recalls that one day he came running into her house. He told her that a Cadillac full of people had just stopped him on the road, saying they hoped they were on the right road to Bing Crosby's ranch. He told them to go a half-mile farther and ask where Mr. Crosby was because he sometimes practiced putting in the front yard. "I gave them a big string, and they thanked me," he said.

So he sat on a stool in the Botsfords' kitchen until the car departed, its occupants perhaps wondering why that man in the road had looked so familiar.

Fittingly, Bing's sense of the casual put Elko on the sartorial map in 1951. This episode began when a Vancouver hotel clerk refused to register Bing as a guest because he thought the singer was a bum. Admittedly, with a five o'clock shadow and dirty clothes—the results of a hunting trip—Bing wasn't looking his best.

The incident received national press coverage and sent members of Elko's Silver State Stampede, a prominent rodeo, into action. After reading about the hotel mixup, they made arrangements with the Levi Strauss Company of San Francisco to make two Levi Luxedos—one for Mayor Dotta, the other for Bing.

The tuxedos were presented on Blue Serge Day, June 30, 1951, in Elko as part of the Silver State Stampede. The unique garments featured permanent

(Continued on page 82)

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SHOOTOUT AT MARIETTA

In 1879 the McLaughlin and Brophy clans began a three-act feud on the Nevada frontier

By E Gorton Covington

Marietta was one of those towns in 19th-century Nevada that boomed and faded before it could make itself famous. One of a cluster of mining camps southeast of Walker Lake, Marietta was built on borax, thanks to Francis (Borax) Smith, who discovered borate on the flat white surface of Teel's salt marsh in 1872.

The find led to the 1877 establishment of Marietta, about 20 miles southwest of present-day Mina. Marietta soon had 150 people, a post office, and several businesses. However, larger borax deposits were discovered in Death Valley, and many residents moved there. In 1881 Marietta lost its post office, and eventually its population scattered to more prosperous camps.

While it lasted, and despite its fanciful name, Marietta was a rough-and-tumble western town, much like Pioche was on the other side of the state. It was said that the Marietta stage was robbed 30 times in 1880 alone.

The raw life on the edge of the frontier occasionally erupted in shootings and feuds. One of the best examples was the McLaughlin-Brophy confrontation in Marietta's third year. It showed that gunfighting is not always a glamorous, or victorious, affair.

The 13th of November, 1879, had begun as just another fair and pleasant day in Marietta. A 20-mule team hauling borax from Teel's Marsh had just rolled into the big mill at the edge of town. Two freight wagons loaded with supplies for the mines and mills of Belleville, Columbus, and Candelaria had passed along the dusty street—the same street that a few years earlier had been traversed by camel caravans and mule trains hauling salt from the marshes to the boom towns of Aurora and Virginia City.

The Brophy relatives had taken up the squabble, and some harsh words had passed the previous day between McLaughlin and Hank Brophy, John's hot-headed brother

Tom McLaughlin, wearing his customary Colt revolver, stood in the doorway of one of Marietta's several saloons, pulling on his morning cigar and keeping a wary eye on the length of the rutted main street. Standing near him, also wearing six-guns, were his friends Fred Schofield and George Marion. Inside the saloon a cousin, Tom Taylor, still stood at the bar, holding his second morning eye-opener in one hand. He also wore a Colt revolver.

"Dang fool thing, anyhow," McLaughlin complained, referring to a quarrel that had erupted between his wife and the wife of his neighbor, John Brophy, who owned the town's meat market and slaughterhouse. The Brophy relatives had taken up the squabble, and some harsh words had passed the previous day between McLaughlin and Hank Brophy, John's hot-headed brother.

"Damn fiery Irishman that he is," McLaughlin said, "he threatened to shoot me on sight. That's why I asked you fellows to stick around today, in case the Brophys try to bunch up on me."

"Sure, Mac," said Tom Taylor, emerging from the saloon. "We'll back you up if it comes to a showdown."

The four men were unaware of it, but at that moment John Brophy had left his home and, after telling his wife to stay in the house, had picked up his new Winchester repeating rifle before started across the sagebrush flat into town. Just as he reached the main street he saw his brother Hank and two cousins walk out into the street three doors down from the saloon where McLaughlin and the others were standing. Hank and McLaughlin drew almost simultaneously. As the two men shot at each other, all their friends went for their guns.

McLaughlin was hit and spun around in a half crouch while Hank Brophy went down in the dust. The Brophy cousins, Dick Gillespie and Hank Hankins, also fired. Hankins' bullet dropped Tom Taylor while one from Schofield's gun struck Gillespie in the head. John Brophy propped up his rifle, intending to shoot at McLaughlin, but Mrs. Brophy, who had run after her husband to try to get him to turn back, grabbed his arm and spoiled his aim. The rifle fired, but the bullet sped harmlessly into the air. A second later John Brophy crumpled dead at his wife's feet.

It was said later that a bullet from Tom Taylor's Colt had struck John Brophy the instant before Taylor was wounded. But another theory was that before Hank Brophy fell wounded, a



bullet from his gun had struck John. It was never determined exactly how many shots were fired, but less than a minute had elapsed from the time the two groups of men had stepped into Marietta's main street until two of them were dead—Taylor and John Brophy—and three were ready for the ministrations of the local sawbones.

McLaughlin, Gillespie, and Hank Brophy all recovered from their wounds. Coroner A. G. Turner held a cursory inquest that blamed no one in particular for the killings. Mrs. Brophy buried her husband and then moved a few miles south to Belleville, where she started a cafe. She took along her brother-in-law as her major-domo, it was said, although subsequent events provided other reasons for Hank accompanying her.

On July 13, 1880, exactly eight months later, McLaughlin rode to Belleville. Business kept him there all day, and it was about 11 o'clock in the evening when he tied his horse to the gnawed wooden hitch rail in front of Jackson's Saloon and went in for a drink to tide him over on the long ride back to Marietta. A few minutes later he emerged, untied his horse, and swung into the saddle. He turned to say something to the proprietor, who had accompanied him to the door. But before he could utter a word, a shotgun blast came from the darkness beside the saloon, and McLaughlin pitched from his horse, dead before he struck the ground.

Law enforcement in Nevada camps at that time was based on letting residents settle their own disputes, as evidenced by the way the coroner handled the shootout in Marietta. But the cold-blooded gunning down of McLaughlin was something else. No one actually saw who fired the shotgun, but Hank Brophy was a chief suspect. The *Esmeralda Herald*, published in nearby Aurora, detailed the account of the killing and added:

"An investigation was held before Judge Turner today and a verdict of death by gunshot wounds from unknown persons was rendered. It is supposed, the testimony said, that Brophy [Hank] had taken his horse away from the livery stable and had him in readiness, and many things of the same character, mostly circumstantial, of course.

"However, Mr. Brophy has disappeared entirely, leaving his wife, who he married a few weeks ago, she being the widow of his brother who was shot in Marietta last fall." The newspaper account also referred to the murder of McLaughlin as the "second act" of the tragedy that had started in Marietta the previous November and then prophesied:

"There will yet be a third act to this feud, but when and where is hard to tell. Steps are being taken to follow Brophy."

But Brophy outran the lawmen. He hightailed it south and crossed the Colorado River into Arizona. The search stopped when the posse reached the state line. Nevertheless, there was a "third act" as the *Herald* had predicted.

A year or so later word arrived in Nevada that a man named Hank Brophy had engaged in a questionable cattle transaction near Yuma and had ended his career dangling from a rope.

It was never determined just what sort of domestic quarrel had sparked the McLaughlin-Brophy feud. All that was known for sure was that four of the participants paid for it in true frontier fashion. ▢

E. Gorton Covington of Reno is a writer and longtime student of early-day Nevada.

Illustration: Brian Buckley





Above: Black baldy, foreground. Top right: Jersey.



Red Angus, a Scottish breed.



Charolais, an exotic.

A Nevada Cow Watcher's Guide

How to tell a Holstein from a Hereford, and pretend you knew it all the time.

By Diane Banegas

The average American can tell the difference between a Ford and a Hyundai, a golden retriever and a collie, a cottonwood and a pine. But who among our friends and neighbors can distinguish between a Holstein and a Hereford? Of all domesticated animals, cows probably are the most unappreciated by the general public. They are, to most of us, not as sexy as horses, not as companionable as dogs, not as decoriously disdainful as cats. Cows do not even elicit the peculiar affection that some humans lavish on pigs.

Yet scarcely a day passes that we do not wear, drink, or eat something that comes from a cow. In Nevada, cows are as important to the state's history and economy as mining or gaming. And, as any five-year-old knows, cows are eminently watchable.

Indeed, as a matter of sport, cow watching has many advantages. One has only to drive a few miles from the state's urban centers to see cows in a variety of settings. Cow watching does not require expensive equipment or specialized wardrobes. It can be accomplished easily by automobile, bicycle, or foot. At day's end, the satisfaction of knowing a Brangus from a longhorn may even send you rushing out to celebrate over a steak dinner.

But how do you tell all those black and brown and white beasts apart? Besides a keen eye you'll need a knowledge of Nevada cow lore. So here is a handy identification guide for cow watchers who, after a lifetime of cow guessing, want to know who Elsie really is.

Bovines, They Are A-Changin'

Something has happened to the looks of Nevada's cattle in the last three decades. They've gotten awfully mixed up.

Longtime cow watchers remember when the only moving part of the state's landscape was head after head of white-face British Herefords. But today, from Winnemucca to Pahrump, from Elko to Gardnerville, you're just as likely to see a crazy quilt of cattle in all colors, shapes, and sizes.

In the old days, a red-and-white Hereford heifer might slip beneath the barbed-wire fence separating her from that devilishly dark Angus bull, and the resulting "love calf" would be referred to as an "accidental breeding" in polite cow circles. Nowadays, cattle producers are throwing open the ranch gates and purposely crossbreeding their purebred herds to reap the benefits of hybrid vigor—health, vitality, and faster weight gain.

This is all well and good for bashful

Photos: Wallace Peterson; Geoff Blakeslee (bottom center)

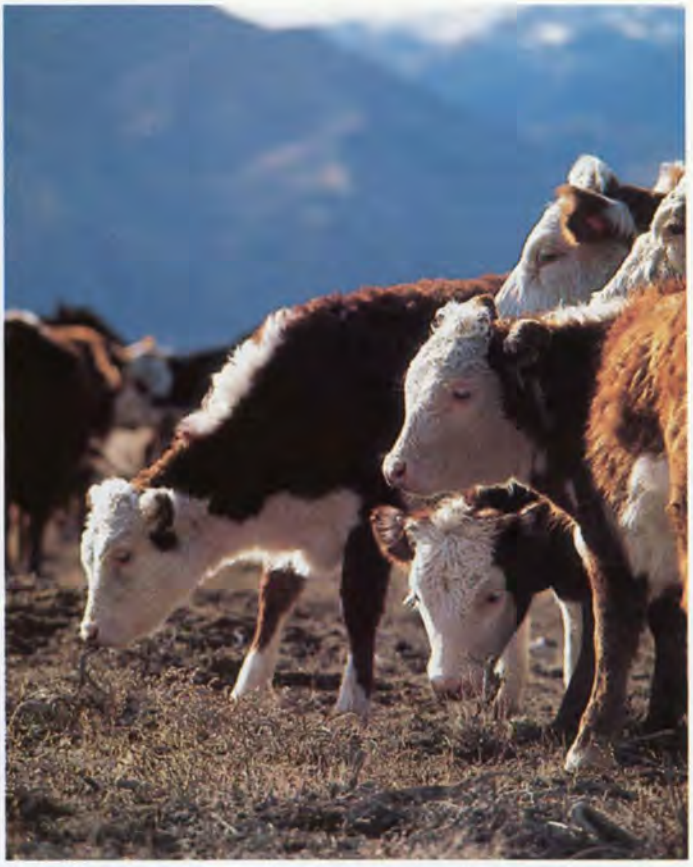




Longhorn bull.



Brahma, a star from India.



Top left: Holstein and calves. Above: Herefords on the range.

bulls and frisky heifers, but such developments have made cow watching a far sight more difficult for armchair ropers. Still, you can identify the major breeds and breed crosses, along with a couple of rare specimens, by paying attention to color and region.

Black Baldies Rule the Northeast

In Nevada, cow watching begins in the northeast, which includes the rangeland around Elko, Ely, Eureka, and Battle Mountain and is home to 45 percent of the state's cattle population. Ron Torell, the area's livestock agent with Nevada Cooperative Extension, says "black baldies"—Herefords crossed with black Angus from Scotland—are the most commonly seen cattle in this land of mountains, marshes, and sagebrush flats. "Black baldies have consistently paid the bills," Torell says. "The late '70s and early '80s saw a lot of experimentation with exotics, but producers here have come back to the middle-of-the-road animal."

With their coal-black hides and telltale white faces, spotting black baldies is a snap, even for beginning cowwatchers. In Torell's opinion, this cow combines the best qualities of both British breeds, such as the Angus' superior mothering instincts and the Hereford's range sense. "It's a matter of gauging cattle type to range condition," he says. "The exotics are bigger and heavier muscled. They need improved range or pasture to maintain that body." So the more adaptable black baldies still reign.

> Exotics are the Arnold Swartzeneggers of the beef industry, with extra size and musculature that would dwarf any cowboy's little doggies.

The Exotic West

When a cow expert like Torell talks about exotics, which thrive in Western Nevada, he isn't referring to slinky cow types. Instead these burly bovines are the Arnold Swartzeneggers of the beef industry, with extra size and musculature that will dwarf any cowboy's little doggies.

Exotics like Charolais, a British breed, and Continental imports like the Simmental, Limousin, and Salers, outweigh their smaller British cousins, the black baldies, by 200 to 600 pounds. Their hearty appetite and ability to withstand cold winters make them a natural for the improved range and irrigated pastures near Reno, Carson, and Minden-Gardnerville. This western area provides a home to nine percent of the state's cattle.

When identifying exotics, cow watchers should look for a bully physique as well as body length and height. Charolais are solid white in coloring; Simmentals are half brown and half white; Limousin are a solid golden brown; and Salers are a dark Irish-setter red, with unusual lyre-shaped horns.

Black baldies and their purebred ancestors also are well represented in this region.

While touring the Genoa area, cow watchers shouldn't confuse white-skinned Charolais with the White Park cattle on Dal Byington's ranch. The White Park breed received its name

Photos: Wallace Peterson; Linda Dufurrena (right)

from its coloring and the large, game preserve-like enclosures in which they were kept after being domesticated in Britain. The animals are predominantly white but strikingly marked with black ears, eyes, nose, legs, and udders. Byington owns the only herd in the state. "This breed has a history of calving ease," he says. "They're good gainers once they hit the ground and good doers in the feed lot."

A footnote: White Park cattle made a dramatic entrance into this country. Originally called White Cattle of Great Britain, the breed arrived here during World War II when Winston Churchill issued an order to slaughter all of England's cattle if Germany invaded. British breeders shipped five females and one bull to the United States to ensure preservation of the breed. Today, from the original seed stock and additional imports, 35,000 White Park cattle can be found in the U.S., most of them in the Midwest.

Northern and Central Casting

A potpourri of breeds abound in Northern and Central Nevada, home to 35 percent of the state's cattle population. When covering the rangeland near Winnemucca, Lovelock, Austin, Fallon, Yerington, and Hawthorne, alert cow watchers can spot exotics and traditional British breeds while keeping an eye out for traces of Brahma influence—a shoulder hump of fat, loose skin, floppy ears, and long dish faces.

For bovine history buffs: Brahma cattle are an American amalgamation of four principal breeds from India. Developed on the Gulf Coast between the Mississippi River and the Rio Grande, ranchers there wanted an animal that would combine the superior beef quality of British cattle and the ruggedness of the historic Texas longhorns. Like longhorns, Brahma cattle were bred to thrive in extremes of temperature, disease, and insects, and they have the stamina to cover vast distances of rough, dry terrain in search of food and water. A Brahma and black Angus cross proved so successful that the hybrid became a fixed breed called Brangus, which is genetically five-eighths Angus and three-eighths Brahma. The Brangus is black with a slight Brahma hump.

With as many breeds of cattle around as there are flavors of ice cream, Austin-area rancher Molly Flagg Knudtsen says she still raises Herefords because "they are well adapted to







Three types mingle near Austin (top, from left): Brahma, Hereford, and Holstein. White Park cattle, in Genoa (center), came to the United States when England feared invasion. Blackjack the Angus (below) was a Las Vegas fair ribbon winner

Photos (from top): Linda Dufurrena, Wallace Peterson, Kate Butler

this environment and they have extremely good dispositions." Knudtsen also praises the breed's fertility—sometimes. "Keeping my unbred heifers out of trouble is harder than running an all-girls boarding school!" With 45 years in the Nevada cow and calf business, Knudtsen counts herself among the few cattle ranchers in the world who not only raise cows but also like them. "It's a curious thing about cows," she muses in *Cow Sense*, her booklet on bovine behavior. "The world is full of horse lovers, but cow lovers are few and far between."

A footnote: In the 1800s, another Nevada cattle rancher shared Knudtsen's enthusiasm for Herefords. Nevada Governor John Sparks, a one-time Texas Ranger, promoted the breed heavily for its hardiness and beef quality. Following the devastatingly harsh winters of 1889 and 1890, he wrote: "I lost about 30,000 cattle or about 65 percent of my entire herd. The Herefords at the beginning constituted about 40 percent of the whole herd. I found that of the number surviving the second winter, at least 90 percent were Herefords, showing conclusively their superior constitution."

For the record, Reno's James Young, in his recently published book, *Cattle in the Cold Desert*, writes that the surviving Herefords were most likely the offspring of Hereford bulls crossed with Texas longhorn cows, and, as such, owed their tenacity to hybrid vigor rather than their Hereford blood.

Cow watchers shouldn't leave Central Nevada before stopping at the University of Nevada-Reno's Gund Ranch near Austin, where it is possible to catch sight of a herd of Santa Gertrudis. Developed on the King Ranch in Texas, these big, beefy, brick-red animals are America's first home-grown breed of beef cattle. The breed is genetically five-eighths Shorthorn and three-eighths Brahma.

Cows of the South

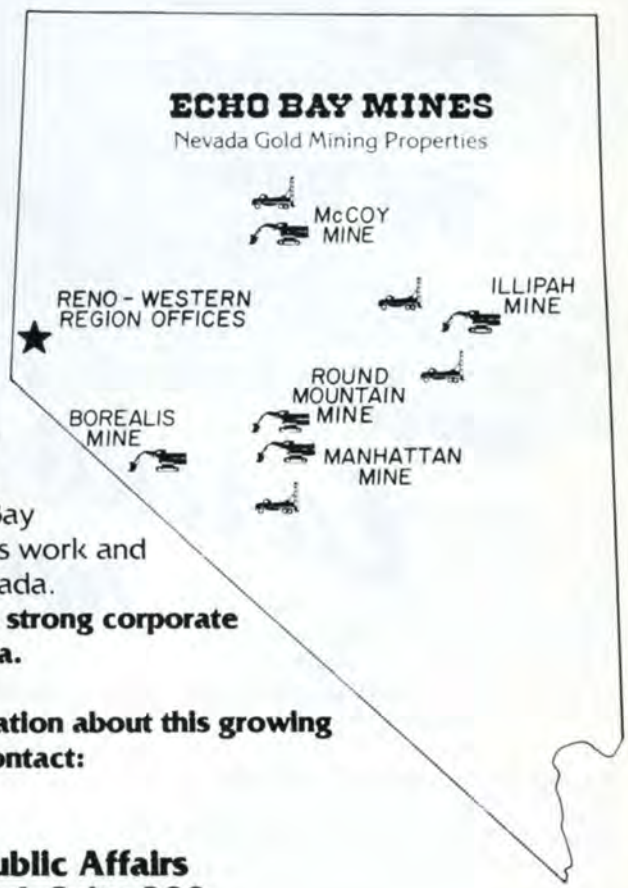
In Nevada's southern cattle region—including areas around Las Vegas, Caliente, Beatty, and Tonopah—many animals bear the stamp of Brahma blood. About 12 percent of Nevada's cattle are raised in this area, which offers cow watchers a myriad of breeds and crossbreeds, including Brangus, black baldies, Herefords, and a breed called Barzona, a red animal that has the ability to travel long distances in search of forage. Because of the heat, generally the grazing is more seasonal here, with range cattle spending summer and fall at higher elevations.



Some cows try to hide when spotted.

Texas longhorns can be found in the south, too. Most cow watchers appreciate the longhorn's nostalgic appeal, but the breed has not always been revered. In the western *The Rare Breed*, actor James Stewart calls the breed "meatless, milkless, and murderous." It seems the same qualities that made them such excellent survivors also made them hard to manage and difficult to chew. They are still considered highly adaptable to Nevada's southern climate, and some cattle producers

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Photo: Tony Diebold

have crossed them with other breeds for calving ease and their resistance to heat, insects, and disease.

Among the best cow-watching areas are the roadside pastures near Overton, Logandale, Glendale, Alamo, and Mesquite.

Milk, South and North

Dairy cattle are relatively easy to identify in Nevada because virtually all of the state's dairies are located in the Las Vegas, Fallon, Yerington, and Minden-Gardnerville areas and because only two of the five major dairy breeds are represented: Holsteins and Jerseys. Because these cows are milk producers as well as breeding animals, dairy farmers continue to upgrade their herds the old-fashioned way—mating superior animals within the same breed. This means no confusing crossbreeds to trip up rookie cow watchers. However, there's nothing old-fashioned about the breeding itself. The vast majority of milk cows in the U.S. are bred by artificial insemination.

> Holsteins are milked in dairy parlors in the Las Vegas area. Jerseys are found around Fallon.

Holstein dairy cattle have the black-and-white piebald markings of a Harlequin Great Dane. First bred in Holland, they dominate the dairy business in Nevada and throughout the country, giving an average of 17,000 pounds of milk per cow per year. Most cows produce in excess of 100,000 pounds of milk in their lifetimes.

As many as 2,000 Holsteins are milked on dairy farms in Las Vegas, Glendale, Mesquite, and Bunkerville. Jon Robison, a state extension specialist, says heat stress is a problem for dairymen in Southern Nevada: "Cows will reduce their milk production by six pounds per cow per day during the hot months." Robison says evaporative systems that drench cows with water and then blow air across them are used to keep the cows cool.

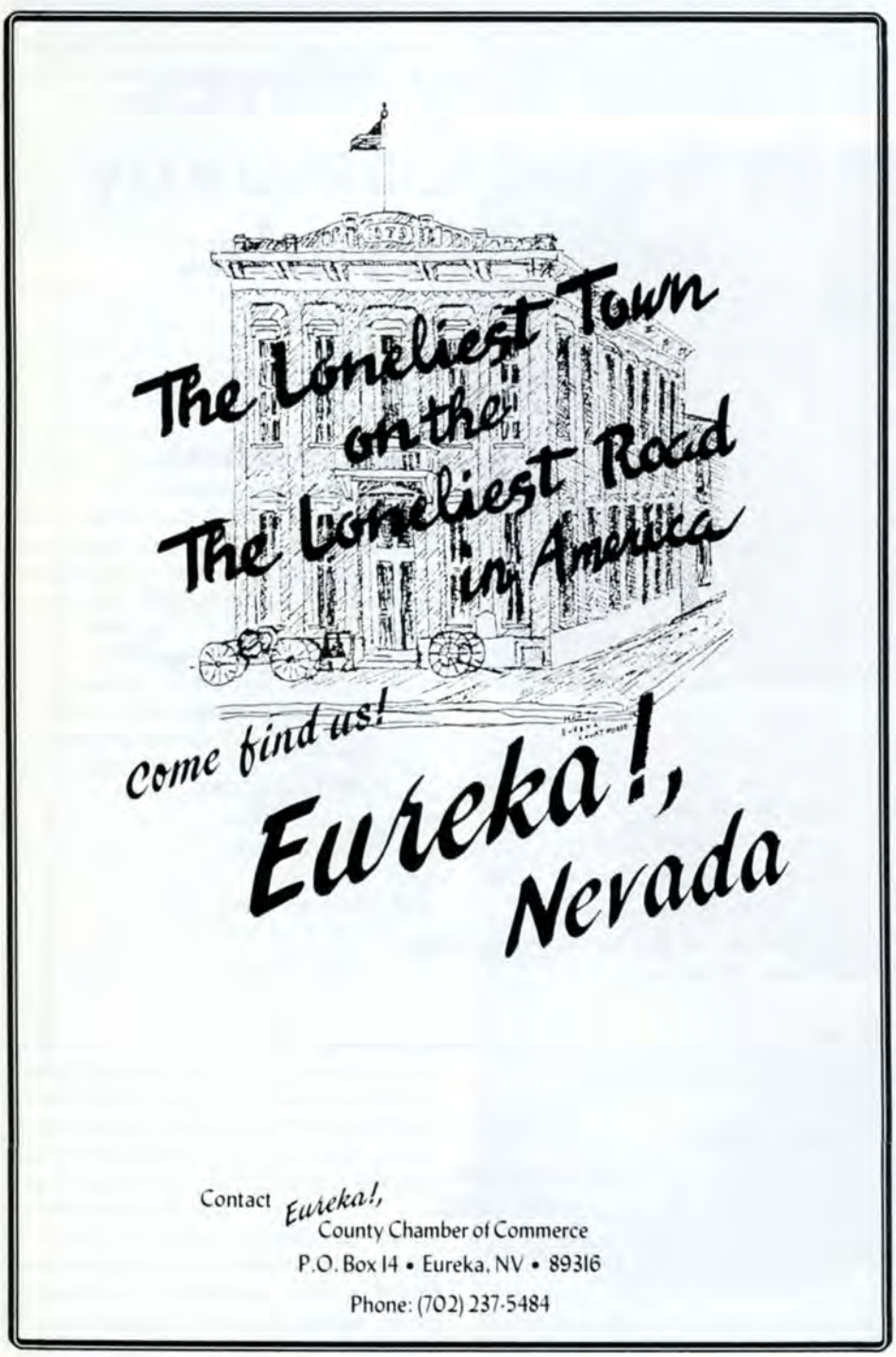
In Nevada, Jersey cattle are found only around Fallon in Churchill County. These fawn-colored, Bambi-eyed creatures originated on the Channel Islands off the coast of England. Jerseys weigh about 500 pounds less than their 1,500-pound Holstein cousins. They produce less milk than Holsteins, but their milk is creamier and commands a slightly higher price.

Milking Jerseys instead of Holsteins is a matter of personal choice, says Bill Christoph of Liberty Jerseys in Fallon. "My family had Jerseys while I was growing up," he says. "When I started my own herd, I bought some cows from them."

A Final Note

Nevada's cattle are a richly diverse group. As new breeds are created and old ones fade into history, cattle ranchers choose animals that best suit their purpose, environment, and personal taste. For Nevada cow watchers this means hours of pastoral pleasure spent observing their favorite kinds of bovine beauty

Diane Banegas of Reno is a freelance writer who began cow watching as a child on her grandfather's Missouri farm. Her work has appeared in Cosmopolitan *and* Nevada Business Journal.





On Nevada's rural highways, cow watchers sometimes need to watch out.

The Udder Truth

Why cows moo and other meaty facts.

By Katina Schafer

When cow watchers get together, they don't always call a cow a cow. Here are a few key terms to remember when discussing cattle:

Cow: Female.

Bull: Male.

Steer: Male whose reproductive organs have been surgically removed.

Heifer: A young cow who has not yet given birth.

Calf: Young cow or bull.

Dam: The mother of a calf.

Sire: The father of a calf.

•

At normal grazing speed, a cow walks about one-half mile per hour. If threatened or chased, a cow can reach a speed of 20 mph.

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A 1,000-pound steer on the range translates into 600 pounds of steaks, roasts, ribs, and hamburger.

•

To fatten a two-year-old steer, each day he should eat 25 pounds of corn or sorghum silage, four pounds of red clover hay, 14 pounds of ground-grain or corn sorghum, and 1.25 pounds of soybean meal or cottonseed meal. On the other side of the fence, the average American eats 104 pounds of beef yearly.

•

The state's most popular breeds are Hereford, Angus, and Hereford-Angus cross (black baldies).

•

Cows moo for several reasons:

- To communicate with others in the herd.
- To alert others to possible danger.
- To let their calves know they are nearby.
- To get recognition.
- Because they are bored.

•

Most Nevada cows graze on public land overseen by the Bureau of Land Management, which charges $1.54 per cow, per month for grazing rights.

A cow requires 700 to 1,000 pounds of forage a month, but the quality of forage varies greatly in the state. Northeastern Nevada offers the best grazing. Around Elko, 12 to 15 acres is required per animal unit month (A.U.M.). The rule of thumb around Winnemucca is 25 to 30 acres per A.U.M., while in the Las Vegas area the average climbs to 150 acres per A.U.M.

•

When driving on Nevada's rural highways, it's good to keep an eye out for slow-moving cattle along the road. With its vast public lands, Nevada is largely unfenced, open range. Signs reading "Open Range" or "Cattle on Road" are a warning to visitors and Nevadans alike that cows have the right of way

If an animal is hit and killed, the driver is liable and—besides dealing with possible mental anguish, physical injury to passengers, and car damage—must reimburse the animal's owner.

Replacement cost for a day-old calf is about $140 while an expectant cow is worth around $800. Purebred registered bulls, which also roam the open range, sell for as high as $3,400. The Nevada Department of Transportation says that 150 to 200 cattle are hit yearly by automobiles and estimates another 75 to 100 hits go unreported.

•

Cows can sleep lying down or standing up. They tend to doze about four hours daily

•

Cows seem to take on the disposition of the people around them. If they are afraid of a person, they become tense. They seem to be more relaxed around children.

•

Each year about 20 incidents of cattle rustling are reported in Nevada. By state law, the theft or slaughter of an animal is a felony and punishable by a minimum of one year in prison. Rustling is dealt with severely in Nevada because ranchers with thousands of acres may not see their cattle more than once or twice a year.

•

When approached by people, cows often will run away, but there are exceptions. A mother cow with a newborn calf may charge if she feels threatened. Same with an ornery bull protecting his turf. The best rule is to keep your distance and not put a cow in an awkward situation.

•

Nevada's estimated population figures for January 1988: People, 1,090,000; cattle, 500,000. Thus people outnumber cows two to one in the state, although that ratio is more than reversed in rural areas. ☐

Katina Schafer is a freelance writer who lives in Reno.

Photo: John T. Biale



Las Vegas, 1920s

In the summers following the 1911 opening of Ladd's Resort, Las Vegans flocked to the big pool for cool relief. Included in this group of late-1920s sunbathers are two members of the philanthropic Ham family—Betty, standing at center in the back, and Art Jr., in the pool with his mouth agape. Art Jr and Betty Ham Dokter still live in Las Vegas. Their parents, Artemis and Alta Ham, are remembered for their support of the arts at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, and more specifically for UNLV's Alta Ham Fine Arts Building and the Artemis W Ham Concert Hall.

If you have a historic Nevada photo you would like to share in the magazine, please send a copy of it to Nevada Magazine Cameos, 101 S. Fall St., Carson City, NV 89710, including a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. It also might be a candidate for the annual Nevada Historic Calendar and we'll treat it with care.

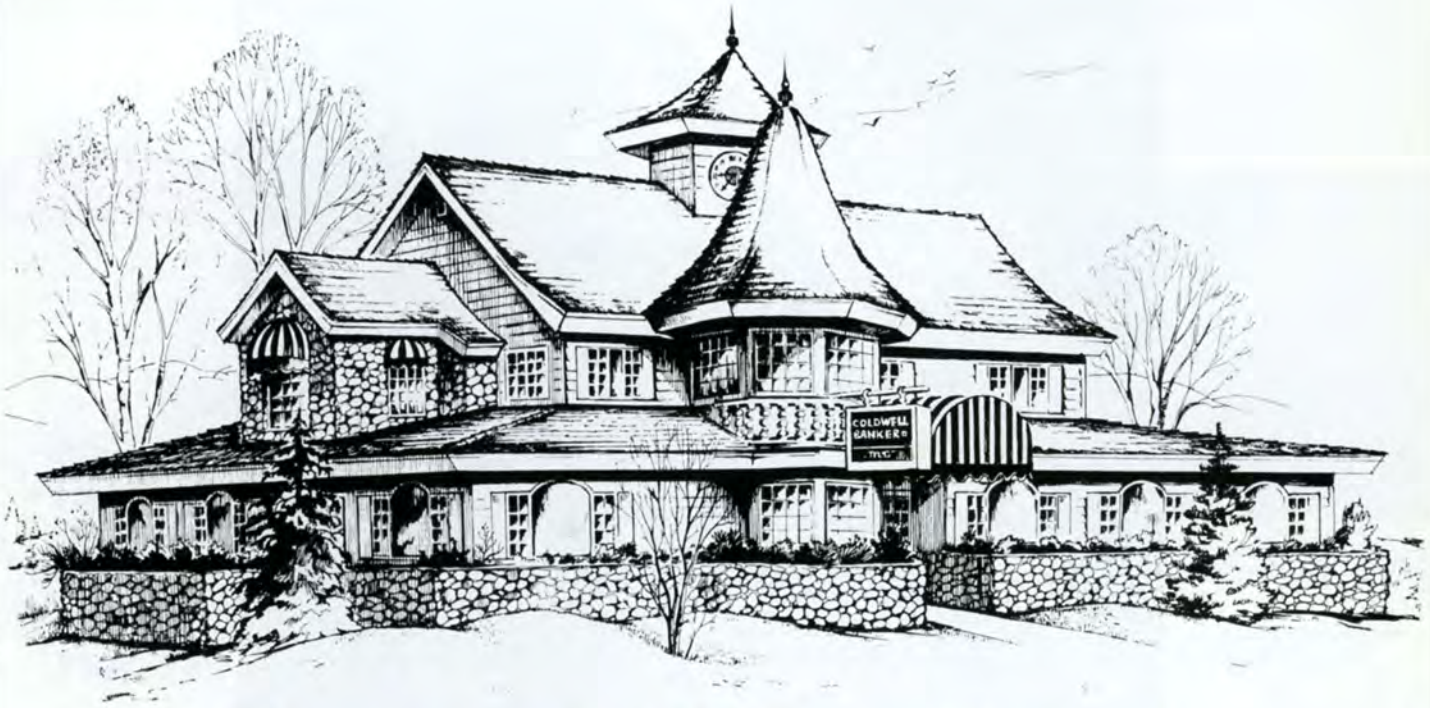
Photo: University of Nevada-Las Vegas Library, Betty Ham Dokter Collection

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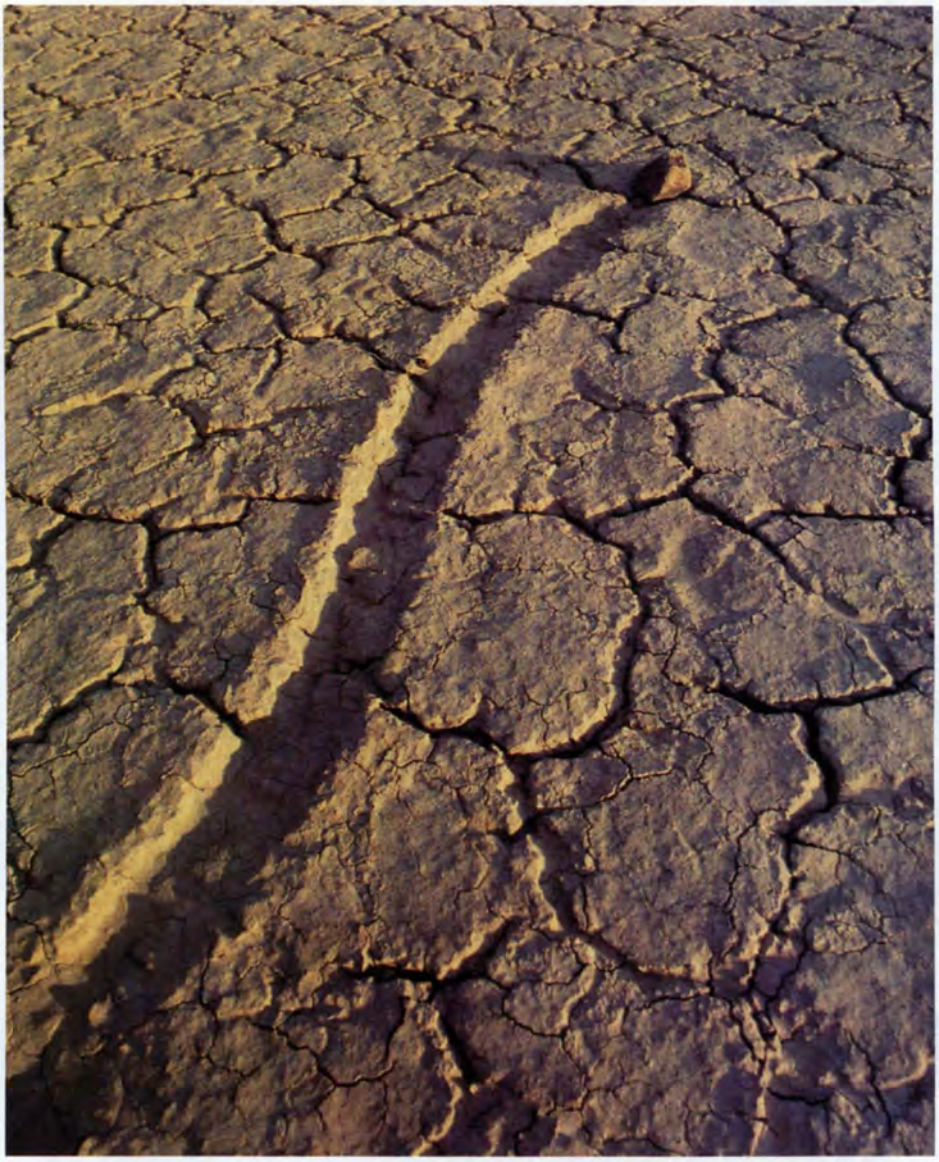


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The Walking Rock

Ah, the lonely life of a rock as it makes its way across an alkali flat, no water in sight, no sign of a tree.

In the *Territorial Enterprise* in 1867, Virginia City writer Dan De Quille weaved a similar story about the Traveling Stones of Pahranagat Valley, site of the present-day town of Alamo. He related how, when scattered on a surface, the rocks would move toward a common center The story was pure folklore, but readers around the world inundated De Quille with questions and comments for years afterwards.

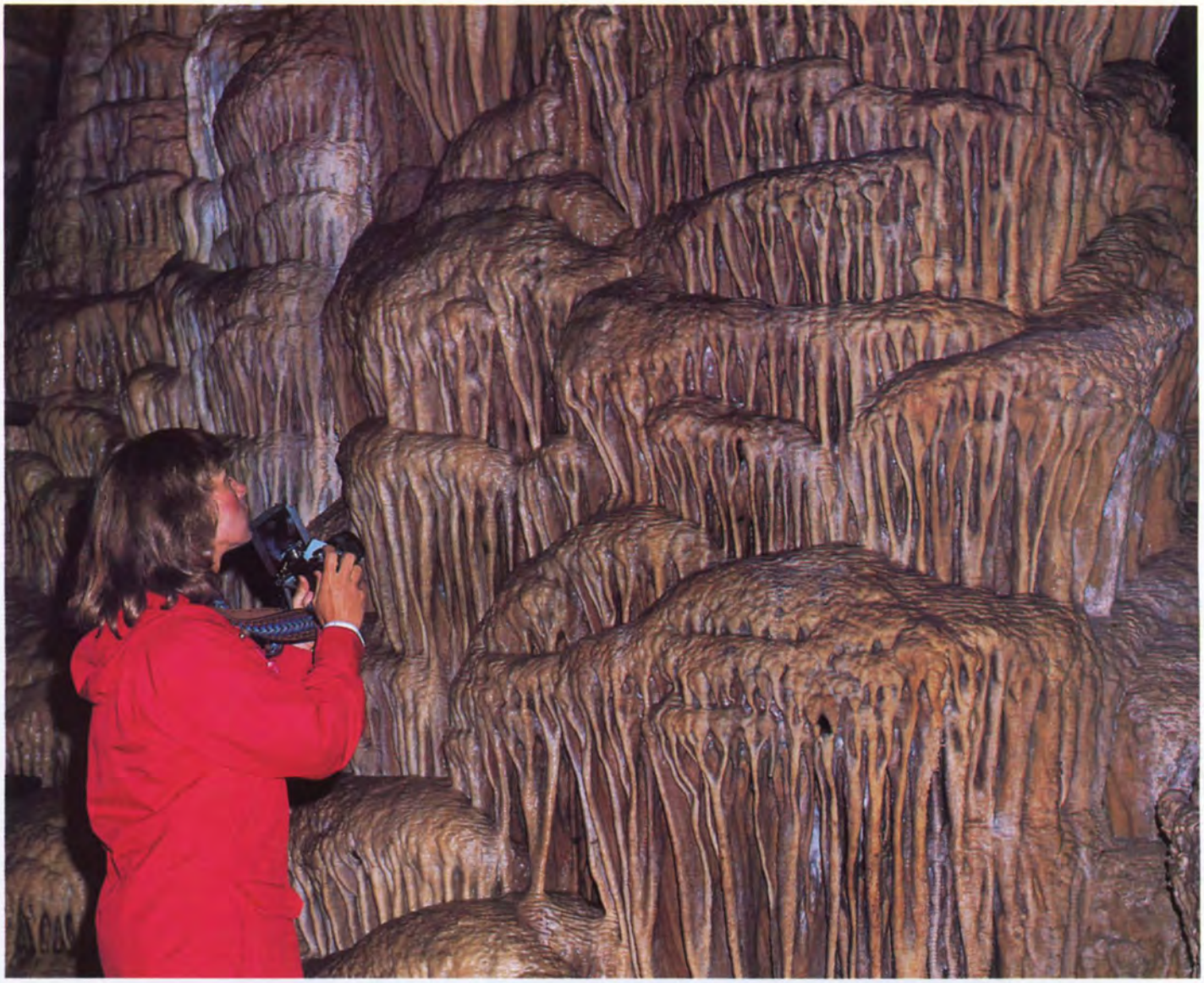
Photographer Daniel Glanz of Fort Collins, Colorado, took this photo not in Pahranagat Valley but about 40 miles east of Fallon on U.S. 50. The phenomenon is caused by rainstorms that muddy the flats and slide the rocks slowly across the surface.—*Julie Quinn*



Mourning Dove

Tony Diebold of Gerlach came across this mourning dove on one of his frequent wildlife-photo hunts. This is his report on the bird:

At sunrise in rural Nevada you sometimes can hear the soft coos of the mourning dove. In the warm months this dove is one of the state's most common birds, but it also is one of the most beautiful. It can be seen perched on barbed-wire fences near farms and ranches, and anyone who has been at a waterhole in the early morning has heard the whistling of its wings as it hurls itself to and fro. The mourning dove, in fact, is the sports car of the bird world. It flies as fast as 60 mph and is capable of making sharp dips and turns without slowing down. The aerial agility of this seed-eater can be attested to by hunters throughout the state.







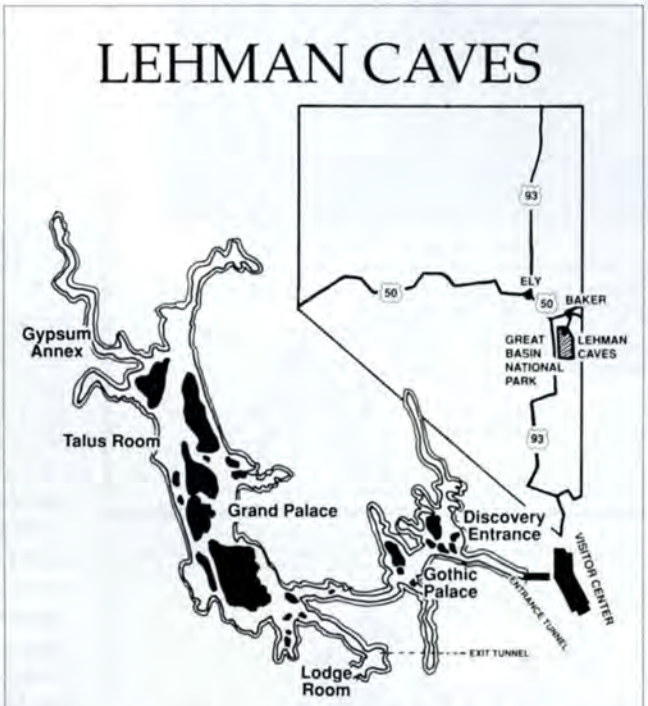
There are several major rooms in Lehman Caves, including the Grand Palace Room (top), where calcite-laden water has seeped through the ceilings and down the walls to create oddly beautiful formations. Park rangers give tours throughout the day at the giant cavern, which was named a national monument in 1922 and then part of Great Basin National Park in 1986. Summer tours have an added benefit: the temperature in the caves is a cool 50 degrees.

Kent and Donna Dannen (top and above left); Christopher Taylor (above right)

Cool, Calm, and Protected

Inside Lehman Caves, trekkers can walk, crawl, or explore by candlelight, just as Absalom Lehman did a century ago.

By Harvey J Berman



Lehman Caves, part of Great Basin National Park, is 68 miles east of Ely and five miles west of Baker near the Utah border The tour path runs two-thirds of a mile through the cavern. The elevation is about 7,000 feet, which is 6,000 feet lower than nearby Wheeler Peak.

Shining like a king's ransom in diamonds, the marble and limestone formations of Lehman Caves drop from the ceiling, rise from the floor, and sometimes stare from the wall at visitors who come to admire the caves' beauty and learn their secrets.

The main chambers and passageways are revealed by modern lighting and stairways that twist throughout the caves, which actually are part of one large cavern. Visitors wearing beige will fit the color scheme, which ranges between creamy white and chocolate brown.

But if the colors aren't diverse, the shapes are. Fluted columns, each topped by a terrace or "node" that appears crafted by hand, rise 20 feet from floor to ceiling. The roof is engraved in some places with "draperies" and translucent ribbons and bows. Often one can spot thin, perfectly circular calcite disks, called "pallettes," clinging to the walls and floors.

"Lehman Caves is known as a small but very beautiful cave," says Norm Hiestand, a ranger-interpreter who has led hundreds of tours of the cavern. "It has a really nice cross section of decorations. It's an excellent look at the kinds of formations you find in caves around the world."

So is it any wonder that after rancher Absalom S. Lehman wandered through the cavern for the first time in the mid-1880s, he kept his find secret? Happily, Lehman eventually agreed to share the discovery—located at the far fringe of his ranch—with others. From 1885 until his death in 1891, he guided small parties through his private underground gallery. The cavern took his name and in 1922 was designated a national monument. When Great Basin National Park was created two years ago, its two chief ingredients were Lehman Caves and Wheeler Peak.

The cavern's first visitors were led by Lehman himself. Today's explorers can stop first at the park's nearby visitor center and then hook up with a guided tour.

The rangers and exhibits will tell you, for example, that Wheeler Peak originally was sandstone and that the slope on which the cave is located is covered with layers of limestone. Eons ago, during some geological convulsion, heat from a granite intrusion converted much of the limestone to marble.

The formation of the cavern itself dates back two to five million years. Water charged with carbon dioxide began to fill cracks in the marble and enlarge them. More soluble rock dissolved, creating the underground chambers and corridors.

And just what natural forces created the cavern's eerie but sublime formations?

First, the water table plummeted, draining the below-ground cavities. Calcium-laden water slowly nudged its way down through the cavern's ceiling and fanned out in thin films.

Calcite crystals ultimately separated from the seepage, forming stalactites on the ceiling. Liquid dripping from these newly established stalactites, in turn, built up stalagmites on the floor. And still other water-carried minerals slowly built other geological features.

Your tour winds along a paved trail for two-thirds of a mile. And although the desert air outside the cave mouth may be blistering, the moment you enter Lehman Caves you'll notice the temperature plunge to 50°F, chilly enough to require a jacket or sweater.

Encountering the first formations, you'll quickly forgive the chill and dampness stemming from the water that still ebbs through the cavern. Keep your camera at the ready By the way,

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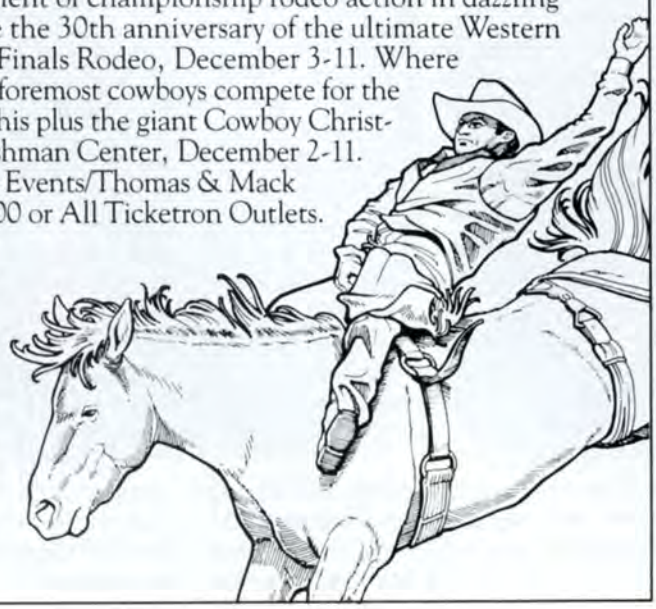
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flash cameras are welcome, but tripod mounts and other equipment are not permitted because of the difficulty in negotiating the trail with them.

Many of Lehman's stalagmites have melded with each other and assumed the shapes of human figures, animals, and flowers. You can count on this phenomenon being a favorite topic of conversation.

The stellar attraction, however, is the Cypress Swamp. In the Swamp, calcite-crystal stalactites hang from the

Little Muddy Cave is perfectly named—it is little and often muddy. In fact, some of the openings are as small as 10-by-20 inches.

low ceiling like Spanish moss. In years of heavy snowpack this vision is mirrored in pools on the chamber's floor.

Also composed of joined-together stalactites is the Gothic Palace. With turrets, spires, ramparts, and redoubts, it might well be a regal residence from the Middle Ages.

Besides the regular tours, park rangers also offer spelunking in Little Muddy Cave, a quarter mile away. The cave's name describes it perfectly—it is little and often muddy—so the three-and-a-half-hour cave exploration requires that one should wear old clothes and boots as well as bring an essential piece of equipment—a size-D battery to operate a miner's head lamp. Some of the openings are as small as 10-by-20 inches, and participants must be capable of gingerly edging through them. Because of the difficulty, prospective spelunkers are carefully screened and must be at least 14 years old. Reservations are needed for this special walk-and-crawl outing (see "Tips and Tours").

Another unusual tour is held at the end of each day in the summer. The lights in the cavern are turned down, and hushed visitors see the underground formations in their most primitive and magical form. It is the way Absalom Lehman, and perhaps some

Shoshone Indians and 19th-century prospectors, viewed the cave for the first time—by flickering candlelight. And it makes the tour-taker all the more glad that Lehman decided to share his secret.

Harvey J. Berman, a former Pan Am public relations man, writes and lives in Brampton, Ontario.

Tips and Tours

Lehman Caves, part of Great Basin National Park, is located at the base of Wheeler Peak, five miles west of Baker and 68 miles east of Ely The cavern is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's.

The park's visitor center is near the cave entrance, and next door is the Lehman Caves Cafe.

If possible, you may want to avoid holiday weekends, when the park's 92 campsites quickly fill and the cave tours are packed. If you are in the park on a holiday, come to the caves at an early hour. Because of the cavern's size, only 30 people can go on each of the hourly tours.

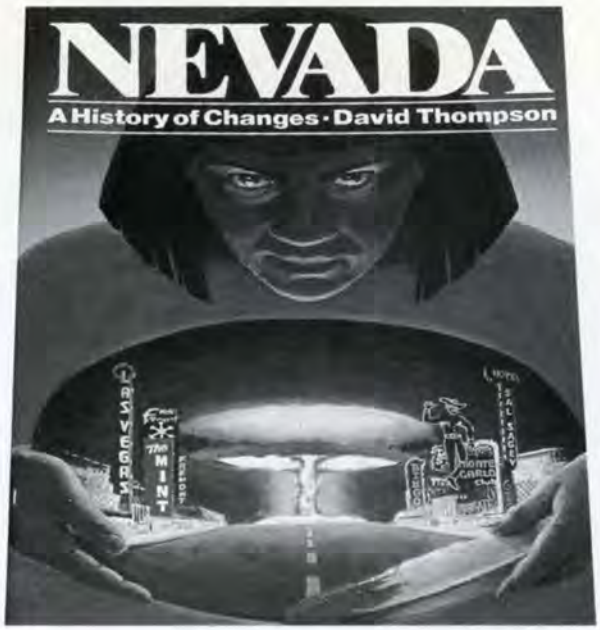
Cameras are welcome, although tripods and similar equipment are not allowed because they are too unwieldy for the tour. Rangers do recommend bringing a flash and fast film.

Guided tours are conducted daily on the hour from Memorial Day through Labor Day. During the rest of the year tours leave at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 4 p.m. Admission is $3 for adults, $2 for adult-accompanied youngsters ages 6-15, and free for ages 5 and under. The underground walk covers two-thirds of a mile and lasts 90 minutes.

Candlelight tours are conducted at six in the evening, Memorial Day through Labor Day. The tour lasts 30 to 45 minutes.

Spelunking tours explore Little Muddy Cave at 1 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, Memorial Day through Labor Day. The fee is $6; reservations are required. Each expedition is limited to six persons and lasts about three-and-a-half hours. Would-be spelunkers must be at least 14 years old, in good health, and able to demonstrate that they can negotiate narrow spaces.

For more information and spelunking reservations, write Great Basin National Park, Baker, NV 89311 or call 702-234-7331.—*Harvey J. Berman*



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Virginia City: Life Among the Legends

Thanks to the old town's survivors and some new arrivals, the lore is even richer than the ore.

By Jim Crandall



The boardwalks and shops of C Street, Nevada's most unusual marketplace. At right, Virginia City welcomes a new day.

Virginia City is prettiest at dawn. As the sun rises, the steeples and gables of the 6,200-foot-high mining camp are bathed in a brilliant red light. To the east, the mountains and valleys of the Great Basin begin to swim in an amber ocean. Soon you can see halfway to Utah.

An ever-changing cast of characters has been watching those sunrises for 130 years. In the early days mining barons, saloon keepers, scalawags, miners, and hookers greeted the sun. As the bonanza faded, the tougher ones remained to ride out the lean years. In more recent times, newcomers have moved in to find their own niche in history.

It's hard to say what keeps them there. Virginia City residents suffer through windswept winters and summer heat waves. They have to drive 20 miles to find a supermarket or movie theater, an up-and-downhill trip that burns out brakes and clutches. When you ask them why they stay, some get a wispy, faraway expression. They'll talk about legends, about small town ambiance, about sunrises. But it is something more than that. There is a lode of magic on the Comstock that didn't pan out with the ore, and it's revealed in the character of the people who stay to mine it.

After watching the sunrise from the Divide on the south end of town, I head down C Street to find some of those characters.

In the last century, wagons and horses kicked up dust on this same street, and the shops offered hardware and durable pants, wagon wheels and horseshoes. Today those shops offer enough jewelry to drown a queen, enough antiques to furnish a castle, and enough hot dogs to feed all the hogs in Iowa.

I park across from the Silver Queen and go into Julia Bulette's Saloon in hopes of cashing a check for some walking around money A check guarantee card isn't the only measure of worth in Virginia City You prove your relevance there by being seen off and on for a few years.

It doesn't take quite that long to establish the time-honored form of local credit, the bar tab. If you survive a year in VC, you probably qualify for a tab.

Photos: Gary Elam (top); Linda Dufurrena (right)







Bill and Margaret Marks are as famous as the chandeliers at the Crystal Bar (left). At right, Sheriff Bob Del Carlo at the old jailhouse.

Tab limits range from about $5 to $50, depending on how well you survived. I haven't been around for a while, so all my tabs are bust. But I still know Bulette's owner, Gordon Churchward.

A young woman with blue eyes greets me from behind the bar. "Is Gordon around?" I ask.

"I've been working here two weeks, and I've never met him," she replies.

I look at the coffee pot, dig in my pocket, and finger a lone quarter. "How much for the coffee?"

She pegs me for a broke local.

"Oh, 75 cents, 50 cents, 25 cents. Whatever," she says.

"I'll take the 25-cent kind." She helps me to a cup.

She says she came to town to work the summer season. Normally she helps with the lambing on her parents' mutton ranch in Oregon.

Out on C Street, mostly locals mill about at this hour, clenching cups of coffee and talking with neighbors. A girl in a blue-and-white-striped granny dress stands in the sunlight in front of Grandma's Fudge. Inside, the first makings of the day are simmering in a vat, spilling the inviting aroma of chocolate out onto the street.

Another woman in a black dress heads into the Delta Restaurant. A bartender dressed in bolo tie and black vest wanders into the Delta Saloon next door. Kids carrying books scamper along the boardwalk on their way to school, a block down the hill.

The local construction crews are out. Long hair flows from under cowboy hats and baseball caps. Beards are in. The workers are specialists in boom camp construction—square nails and ornate moldings are their stock in trade. And they're careful to maintain the historic reality of the town.

Most business owners say it is history that brings tourists to town. What the tourists spend their money on is secondary

One such owner is Bill Marks, up the street at the Crystal Bar. Since they knocked down the old Black and Howell Building, Marks has a better view of St. Mary's in the Mountains Catholic Church. St. Mary's, which burned in the Great Fire of 1875 and was rebuilt two years later, is the most photographed edifice in town. For Marks it is more than a postcard scene. He was baptized there the year he was born, 1918. His great grandfather, Pat King, arrived on the Comstock to mine the lode in 1862.

"The old Lord's got a good eye on me now," says Marks, who is a sort of town centerpiece himself.

Marks looks at the church from the dark, cool confines of the Crystal Bar, the oldest continuously operating bar on C Street. The Crystal was established in the 1870s a few doors south. Bill's father, William H., began working there in 1901. In 1914 he bought the bar, and in 1930 he moved the Crystal and everything in it—the bar, back bar, oil paintings, and the crystal chandeliers—to its present location.

The Crystal is a throwback. No banks of slot machines beckon to passersby Old photos and paintings hang from the walls. A table and four chairs, all of twisted steel, look as though they came from an antique ice cream parlor. They did. During Prohibition, Marks' dad kept the bar's doors open by serving ice cream; he kept his clientele by serving bootleg brew.

At the entrance a recessed door creates display windows on both sides. On one side is a barber's chair. Bill Richards, a Carson City barber, has been coming up to trim the local trade weekly for 15 years. Marks says, "I call it the smallest barbershop with the biggest waiting room in the state."

A collection of basketballs hangs above the back bar. The bright-orange balls, covered with signatures, mark the state B-league titles won by the Muckers, the high school boys basketball team, in '77, '78, and '82-'86.

Like most kids who grow up in VC, Marks played basketball when he was in school. He went to the old school, the Fourth Ward. In the 1870s, when Virginia City's population peaked at 25,000, the town had four big schools. Over the years the other three came down. Marks was in the last class to graduate from the Fourth Ward, which closed in 1936. So was a cheerleader named Margaret Kelley, whom Bill married in 1942.

Photos: Gary Elam





Don McBride's Bucket of Blood Saloon was his home when he was a kid (left). At right, mining baron Hugh Roy Marshall.

Later, Margaret worked as the Virginia City school nurse, and Bill was a county commissioner for 17 years. He spent days tending bar, always dressed in a white shirt and tie.

A pair of tourists peer in the door. Hesitate. Walk away.

But while tourists may shy away, the rich and famous haven't. The Marks' guest register reveals visits by Thomas Edison, Herbert Hoover, Eleanor Roosevelt, Jack Dempsey, Joe DiMaggio, Will Rogers, Charles Lindbergh, Charles Laughton, Gregory Peck, Rita Hayworth, Clark Gable, Eddy Arnold, Jimmy Stewart, Rosemary Clooney, Carl Sandberg, Dick and Pat Nixon, Emmett Kelly, and Frankie Fontaine, to name a few.

When Irving Berlin stopped in for a taste, Bill dug out a canceled concert ticket from a Berlin show he had seen in Naples during the war. Berlin took the stub and wrote, "To Bill Marks, meeting again in Virginia City, August 31, 1949." Bill keeps the stub within easy reach by the cash register.

Marks claims Irish ancestry on his mother's side, even though his father was English. "Irish have more fun," he says. His place is the host bar for St. Patrick's Day festivities, which include painting the center line of the main street green.

Over the years the Marks' three daughters, Anne, Deed, and Mary, who passed away last year, weren't eager to take over the bar, and recently Bill put the place up for sale. He hopes to sell the Crystal by summer so he and Margaret can retire at the same time. When school gets out, Margaret will have completed 40 years as the Virginia City school nurse.

One of Marks' longtime friends and fellow bar owners is Don McBride down the street at the Bucket of Blood Saloon. Like Marks, McBride is a fixture at a venerable bar, although he is more of a showman. His bolo tie's silver clasp, which he had made in 1959, shows off four gold coins. The $20 gold piece on his belt buckle was struck at the old U.S. Mint in Carson City.

> 'There were still a few horse-drawn wagons. George Wilson would deliver groceries. Farmers from Dayton would sell produce.'

The belt buckle is similar to a personalized set he gave to the cast of *Bonanza* during a Bonanza Days celebration in 1962. McBride hand-delivered the buckles to Lorne Greene, Dan Blocker, Michael Landon, and Ray Teal, who was the show's Virginia City sheriff. He had one made for Pernell Roberts, too, but Roberts, as in future episodes of *Bonanza*, couldn't be found.

McBride's taste for treasures isn't limited to his wardrobe. The Bucket is a showcase of chandeliers and other antiques. His Glass Blowers Workshop up the street has fine glass chandeliers and lamps, and more antiques are across the street at his Eilley Orrum Gift Shop.

"My folks started buying antiques," he says. "They'd sell some off, always keeping the best ones. Kept building the collection over the years."

Born in Winnemucca, McBride came to Virginia City with his folks in 1931. His father rented and later bought the bar, which was called the Senate Club.

"There wasn't much in town until 1935, when the price of gold went from $20 to $35 an ounce, and it became profitable for mining," he recalls. "There were no tourists and very little local trade.

"It was 1937 or 1938 before the WPA paved C Street, back when they made welfare people work for their money. Not like now. There were still a few horse-drawn wagons when I was a kid. George Wilson would deliver groceries. Farmers from Dayton would come up Six Mile Canyon and sell produce."

He attended the Fourth Ward as a grammar-school student and graduated from the high school. He recalls, "When I started working in the bar, I was too young. But they didn't have

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the restrictions they have today. Tourism began to pick up in '39 or '40, but the war ended all that. The mines were closed during the war and the miners went to the shipyards. After the war things picked up again."

After a year and a half at the University of Nevada in Reno, McBride quit and came back to work with his dad. "We changed the name in the 40s," he says. "We had heard that the Bucket of Blood was the name of the bar at one time." The place has been a bar, under one name or another, since 1876.

McBride eventually took over the business and later bought the building next door from Paul Smith, who had been one of the town's first tourist promoters (see *Nevada*, July/August '87). McBride and half the kids in town had worked for Smith at his Museum of Memories for a day or a year, hawking his newspaper and selling bits of sagebrush as souvenirs.

McBride thinks there were more tourists coming to town in the late '70s than now. "To be successful, you have to stay on top of your business. You have four good months, four fair, and four slow. The DUI laws have affected late night business up here. We used to have music seven days and seven nights. Now we still have it during the days, but only on Saturday nights." The big problem for the drinking crowd is navigating the twisted old roads to Reno and Carson.

Don and his wife, Jeannie, have three sons, Don, Steve, and Marshall. He says he'll pass the business on to the boys, but he's in no hurry to retire. He's still enjoying his C Street empire.

"I love the history because I grew up here. I've done what my parents did, kept the better antiques and sold the others." The chandeliers that hang in the Bucket aren't for sale, but he's got a few up the street that are.

Across the street from the Bucket of Blood is the Delta Saloon, owned by another community leader, Angelo Petrini. The two businesses are the Twin Towers of C Street commerce. But although the saloons share Virginia City's antiquity, their owners are cut from a different cloth. While McBride hosts local Republican functions at the Bucket, the Democrats tend to gather at the Delta. While McBride can usually be found behind the bar at the Bucket, Petrini is always on the move between his various businesses.

"Hey, is Angelo around?" I ask Harvey Smith, a Delta bartender with white hair and beard, Buffalo Bill style.

"He's around somewhere," he says. I grab a stool and wait. Angelo will be in soon; word travels fast on C Street.

Petrini appears and leads me past rows of jangling slot machines to his office. He points to a single chair and goes to grab another. He comes back in, gets a phone call, goes out.

Petrini returns. The phone rings. "Wait a second, I'll tell them to hold my calls up front." He grabs a phone and tries to buzz the bar but can't make the



Angelo Petrini: a big wheel on C Street.

connection. Tries again. Hangs up. Walks to the end of the hall. "Hold my calls!" he yells.

Finally, he returns and settles into a chair in front of a picture of the saloon taken in the 1930s. "The Delta was built in 1863," he says. "We try to maintain the antiquity, but you can't keep it all like it was. You have to offer some modern conveniences," he laughs, "like bathrooms."

Petrini, who was born and raised in Reno, came with his father, Domenic, to run the Delta in 1958, when he was 21. Domenic and Joe Viani had bought the saloon in the 1930s. By the late '50s, he says, the town "was pretty dilapidated. Most of the mines had closed in the 40s, and a lot of the buildings were crumbling and falling down."

But tourism had begun to perk up as Lucius Beebe and Charles Clegg revived the *Territorial Enterprise*, and *Bonanza* hit television. Things have been on the upswing ever since.

"In the '50s, the Delta was smaller. We bought antiques and chandeliers out of the old homes and businesses around town. We slowly expanded and restored the place, keeping in mind the antiques and antiquity of

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Virginia City. When people come in here we want them to grasp the feeling of the era."

With his many projects, Petrini has perhaps had more dealings with the Comstock Historic District Commission than any other businessman. The governor-appointed commission is charged with preserving the historic exterior of Virginia City, which is both a state and national historic district. Some residents feel the commission is



Virginia City's Fourth Ward School.

an unnecessary layer of red tape.

"Overall I think the commission has done a lot more good than bad," says Petrini, himself a former state assemblyman. "Back in the '50s, we made some mistakes when we went to expand things. Sometimes you pull out a wall that's holding something else up. But we've learned as we've gone along. And we've found some interesting things—coins and whiskey bottles.

"Society has become more interested in history, especially since the Bicentennial in 1976. And Virginia City isn't just a tourist town—it's a thriving community with schools, churches, the courthouse. People really live here. At a place like Bodie all you can do is look in the windows. Here you can actually be in the life.

"You have to have things to explain the history. But once the people are oriented, they can visit the mansions, the museums, the cemetery, the churches, the opera house, and be standing right there where everything actually happened—standing there in the reality of the past and present. If I read about Washington, D.C. and heard about it and saw pictures of it that's one thing. But it's a lot different when you set foot in the White House."

Photo: Gary Elam

Petrini's wife, Joan, is third-generation Virginia City. They have two daughters; Julie runs the Delta's gift shop, while Joann goes to UNR.

"I go to Reno, Carson, Lake Tahoe, and see the hustle and bustle of the fast lane," he says. "Yes, we do have tourists, but we also have peace and quiet of the evenings and the mornings. No sirens and honking horns. If I feel like taking a walk, I can go three blocks from C Street and be out in the sagebrush.

"Now I'm trying to put something back into the community because I've made it here, and I like to live here."

During the past few years new business people have moved into town, some doing elaborate restorations. "The new people like Bill Fain and Hugh Marshall are good for the town," he says. "Sometimes it takes an outsider coming in and doing something for the locals to see the golden egg in a new way. To people here it can become unrecognizable."

Petrini hands me a ticket to his new gambling museum at the Palace Emporium. Then he disappears into the growing crowds on C Street.

Things are a lot quieter a block up the hill on B Street, and that's the way Bob Del Carlo likes it. Sheriff for the past 18 years, he's charged with keeping the peace in Storey County. Other than a dramatic showdown with some bikers, things have been pretty peaceful.

The courthouse is peaceful, too, as the sheriff, dressed in levis and cowboy boots, sits at his roll-top desk. "A local historian found a picture of a guy in a black suit with a beard sitting in front of this desk," he says. "The picture just said, 'Sheriff, Virginia City, Nevada.' I found the desk in the DA's office across the hall. When one DA moved out and another was getting ready to move in, the desk just kind of made its way into here."

Del Carlo and his two younger brothers moved to the Comstock with his mother, Lora, when he was six. She married Gino Del Carlo, who adopted the boys. Gino and Lora had five more boys. "At one point," Del Carlo says, "we were all in school at the same time. I was a senior, and George, the youngest, was in the first grade. That was '56-'57, and we were all in the same building.

"Nobody ever messed with the Del Carlos because there was always an older brother standing around somewhere. Of course, when I was in school there were only eight people in my

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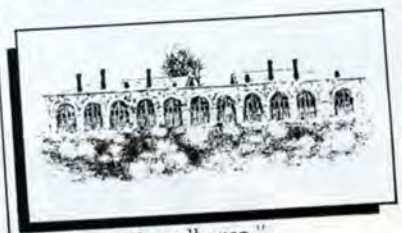
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class, 25 in the whole school." All the boys played basketball.

"In the summer I'd get part-time work after school in some of the various businesses on C Street, washing windows and helping with chores. I really liked that Paul Smith story in the *Nevada Magazine*. It felt like me doin' the tellin' I worked for Paul, making grab bags and cheap nothin's to sell to the tourists.

"He had a newspaper printed about

Del Carlo ran for sheriff on a ban-the-bikers platform. The following Memorial Day he had to make good on his promise.

Virginia City, *Drama of the Comstock*. He'd give it to us kids to sell for 15 cents. We'd get to keep a nickel. Any out-of-town car that drove down C Street would get pounced on by about four or five boys waving these newspapers. Those were great days.

"As I got older, I was a clean-up boy at the Crystal Bar for Bill and Margaret Marks. I'd sweep the place out before school, haul beer, wash windows, and once a year I'd help clean the crystal chandeliers."

After Del Carlo graduated from high school in 1957, he worked in the restaurant business in the Bay Area for a chain of bowling alleys. Later he came back to Virginia City and leased the restaurant at the Silver Queen and later the Delta.

Then, in 1970, he decided to run for sheriff. "Some local businessmen approached me and encouraged me to run," he says. "Those were the days when the Hells Angels and other motorcycle gangs would just about take over the town on weekends like Memorial Day and Labor Day. All the decent clientele around town would leave. The current sheriff wasn't doing anything about it."

So, Del Carlo ran on a ban-the-bikers platform. He won the election by just 83 votes. The following Memorial Day he had to make good on his campaign promise.

Of course the bikers, most being from California, weren't aware of Vir-





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Ostrich races and many other great surprises

ginia City politics. But when they arrived at the Divide, they saw the sheriff standing in the middle of the road, holding a shotgun. He was surrounded by deputies, deputized jeep posse members, and some highway patrolmen, all armed to the teeth.

Del Carlo knew he couldn't just ban the bikers, so he told them there was a parking problem in town. The bikers were free to visit. They'd just have to leave their bikes at the roadblock. With the deputies.

The bikers turned around and left. Del Carlo has won every election since.

Most days aren't quite as exciting. "There are a lot of people, particularly from England, who want to get their picture taken with the sheriff. It's unusual for them to see a sheriff dressed in levis and cowboy boots."

The phone rings. Del Carlo picks it up, identifies himself, and listens.

"You spell that b-e-a-r?" he asks. He listens awhile longer.

"Did you check to see if they were male or female?" he chuckles.

Finally he says he'll send a deputy and hangs up.

"That was a lady out on the north end of the county, at Lockwood. She said she found two bears in her horse corral this morning. She called the Department of Wildlife, but they didn't believe her. There aren't many bears around here."

When he's not dealing with bears and bikers, Del Carlo devotes much of his spare time to community projects. A dirt-biker himself, he started the Virginia City Grand Prix, a two-day event with 800 entrants and up to 4,000 spectators. "I'm glad to be able to give something back to the town," he says. "My life's been good here."

There is a saying in Virginia City that you're not a local until you've lived there 25 years. While residents like Del Carlo come by that rank naturally, Rick and Julie Hoover found it after moving to Virginia City in the early '80s. They gained acceptance by being genial saloon keepers and putting the "brew" back in the Union Brewery They also dared to follow a legend.

Gordon Lane had operated the saloon for 35 years, and the place reflected his unusual business outlook. When tourists were thick on C Street, he'd often close the doors, place a mop and bucket out front, and put up the "closed" sign. The mop was the "open" sign for the regulars.

Rick worked for Gordon before he retired, so he had practice being a stand-in for the legendary host. People would come in the front door saying, "Hey, Gordie, how are—"and then stop short as they saw Rick behind the bar. "I got used to it," he says.

Before Gordon, Bronco Lazzari had the place for 40 years, so the Hoovers had to go through three-quarters of a century's worth of accumulated crud. They report that the basement yielded five items worth keeping: two $5 gold pieces found behind the wainscoting, two copper-lined, wooden beer vats, and an Anheuser-Busch beer bottle from the 1870s.



Rick and Julie Hoover Union Brewery brew masters.

The Brewery was built in 1862. Although it was gutted twice by fire, the outside walls are original. The actual brewing was abandoned in the 1890s, but the Hoovers liked the thought of brewing beer in the basement. In 1987 Rick successfully lobbied the Nevada Legislature to allow on-site brewing in a historic district in structures that had been used for the purpose previously. The brewery operation, which he says is the smallest in the U.S., produced its first batch last fall.

The Hoovers have maintained the traditional Lane ambiance, although some rock and roll now booms out of the speakers. The walls, however, are cluttered as usual. Gordon's sign—"This Is My House/I Do As I Dam Please"—is still on the wall. One Hoover addition is the brassiere tree—a pinyon pine with Christmas lights decorated with feminine undergarments. Gordon would be proud.

While the Hoovers took to saloon keeping, Hugh Roy Marshall has taken another role of Comstock honor—the mining baron. Besides buying up many old mining claims, the unassuming Texan bought the Savage Mansion as his headquarters. His office opens onto the balcony from which former president Ulysses S. Grant addressed a crowd in 1879.

His company, Marshall Earth Resources, also has mines in Ione, Goldfield, and Mina; others are in Arizona, California, and the Yukon. The company markets gold bullion, nuggets, and museum-grade specimens of crystalized gold and other rare minerals.

Marshall, who calls himself a geologist, archaeologist, psychic, and philosopher, says, "The Comstock Lode is not one big vein but a series of interconnecting ore bodies in mineralized zones eastward from the first discoveries on Ophir Hill." He believes there is an ore body under Virginia City that is as big or bigger than the original strike, and he plans to find it, just as his grandfather discovered vast wealth in the Texas oil fields. Marshall is driving a tunnel from the mouth of Seven Mile Canyon near the cemetery toward the

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Photo: Gary Elam

site of the original Comstock discoveries of 1859.

"The old-timers hit hot water at the 400 and 500 foot levels of the original Comstock claims." he says. "Those claims were never worked much below that depth, so we're pursuing the bottom levels of these shallow mines."

Marshall's miners, led by underground veteran Billy Varga, have already encountered the famous "blue clay" that stymied the pioneers. "It's stephanite, a carrier of high-grade silver and free gold," Marshall says. "It's like trying to dig through layers of glue. It was impossible for them to break the clay down to retrieve the values, or to timber against it as they went underground."

Marshall has another reason for his interest in tunnel mining. He predicts that the earth's air supply will be polluted because of wars in the 1990s, and that his vast tunnels will make great fallout shelters for survivors. "Some of the tunnel areas are as big as meeting halls," he says. "And we already have air pumps to bring in fresh air for the miners." So whether he strikes it rich or establishes an underground city of the future, Marshall has found a comfortable home for his ideas in Virginia City.



Bill Fain and Carol DeKalb at their Gold Hill Hotel.

The year 1859 is important to Bill Fain as well. Two years ago he bought the Gold Hill Hotel, which dates to 1859, and began an expansion that turned the old place into a mini-destination resort. To some locals, the concept sounded too cosmopolitan.

But when it was finished last winter, the old hotel was not upstaged by the addition. The place looked great. It also looked as if it had taken a lot of time, money, and attention to detail—things that Bill Fain had.

Fain discovered Virginia City in 1981 after selling a business in Washington, D.C. "By working 12-hour days seven days a week I had built a $1-million company into a $100-million company with 10 sites in Europe and 26 in the United States," Fain says. "I knew if I was ever going to slow down, this was the time.

"I was raised in Texas, but everything there reminded me of the past. After a week back on my old home grounds I bored myself. I liked Nevada's tax laws, and when I came through Virginia City I fell in love with a house on the Divide and bought it."

Fain eventually sold his California beach house and Virginia farm. "I made a new rule for myself," he says. "No property farther than walking distance from the Divide."

One morning in 1986 Fred Immoor showed Fain the Gold Hill Hotel, which Immoor was selling. "I fell in love again," Fain says with a dreamy smile. He decided to buy the hotel and come out of retirement. Soon he was supervising the restoration and enlargement of the old stone building.

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Photo: Gary Elam

"I've stayed in country inns all over the world and I felt that this could be a charming destination resort. Our intention is to preserve and polish the old place, to upgrade the accommodations from the five tiny rooms of the original without losing its character." Fain and his wife Carol DeKalb offer 12 rooms—five in the old hotel and seven in the addition—all furnished with antiques. There's a rock-walled bar, a 54-seat dining room, a French-Cajun menu, and an outdoor cafe for warm days when the wind isn't blowing. Fain also is restoring nearby homes as hotel annexes.

"I started having guest speakers come in and give historical lectures in the hotel in October of 1986—before the restoration began—to satisfy my own curiosity. Now the lectures are sold out or playing to standing-room-only crowds every Tuesday night." Fain also is the founder of the *Comstock Chronicle*, a weekly newspaper that debuted last summer.

For fun, he is the point man of the Gold Hill Ladies' and Gentlemen's Back Road Almost Daily Hiking and Exploration Club. "Sometimes it's a club of one," Fain says. But that's fine with him. Poking quietly around the Comstock beats running a $100-million company any day.

Fain is not alone in his elaborate restorations. Allan Comp, a historic preservation expert, has been supervising restoration projects throughout the Comstock. Under his guidance, buildings that seemed unsalvageable have been jacked up, refitted, and restored to a glory not seen in 100 years.

But while Comp is a purist, he is a contemporary purist. He's also overseen the construction of the town's first RV park. The park's office, convenience store, and living quarters are built in the grand old style, although they're surrounded by Winnebagos.

Comp, Fain, and others represent a new rush to the Comstock, a rush that places more value on history than ore. Will Virginia City ever be the same as it was in the old days? No. Some of those 100-year-old homes have solar heating and automatic garage doors. But with the influx of money and people with an eye for restoration, one thing's for sure—the old town, and the old-timers, will be around for a good long while to greet the morning sun.

Nevada *Associate Editor Jim Crandall began his journalism career with the* Gold Hill News *in 1974.*

WHAT TO DO IN TOWN

The first thing to remember when visiting Virginia City is that only 10 percent of the original town remains from the days of the Big Bonanza. With that figure in mind, the number and quality of historical buildings seem all the more remarkable.

A city of 25,000 in the late 1870s, Virginia City now has about 800 residents, although 1.5 million people visit each year. Because it is 17 miles from Carson City and 24 miles from Reno, Virginia City makes an easy day trip by car or tour bus.

In town, a first stop should be the Virginia City-Storey County Chamber of Commerce in the old yellow Virginia & Truckee rail car on South C Street. It's a good place to get oriented and has information about historic sites, lodging, dining, and events. The chamber is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily May through September. In other seasons it's best to call the chamber in advance at 702-847-0311.



Virginia City is 17 miles from Carson City, 24 miles from Reno, and 30 miles from Lake Tahoe's east shore.

Historic Buildings

The Storey County Courthouse on B Street was rebuilt in 1877 after the Great Fire of 1875. The recently restored zinc statue of Justice is unblindfolded, an unusual 19th-century design.

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church on F Street was built in 1876 of native Nevada pine. Dwarfing St. Paul's is its neighbor, St. Mary's in the Mountains Catholic Church, a tall brick structure fitted with turrets and stained glass windows. The First Presbyterian Church on C Street is a restored wooden building dating back to 1867

Guided tours are offered at a number of mansions such as the Castle and the Mackay Mansion. A good way to locate these and other handsome Victorian structures is to purchase *Sagebrush and Silver*, a tabloid-size booklet with directions for the Virginia City Walking Tour and a Driving Tour of the Comstock Area, which includes Gold Hill, Silver City, and Dayton. Published last year, the $1.95 tabloid is a valuable guide to the real Virginia City

Museums and Mines

Visitors can explore the Comstock's past at museums like the Mark Twain Museum at the Territorial Enterprise, Mark Twain's Museum of Memories in the old Nevada Bank, the Comstock Firemen's Museum, Julia Bulette's Red Light Museum, The Way It Was Museum, and the new Gambling Museum in the Palace.

The Fourth Ward School, a rare example of Empire architecture from the 1870s, has a visitor center and museum.

Mine tours are given at the Chollar Mine, a couple of blocks below the Fourth Ward School, and at the Ponderosa Saloon, downtown on C Street.

Lodging, RVs, and Dining

A number of restored inns, hotels, mansions, and the new Virginia City RV Park offer accommodations in Virginia City and Gold Hill. Bed and breakfasts include Edith Palmer's Country Inn, the House on the Hill in Gold Hill, and the Hardwicke House in Silver City Other places include the Comstock, Sugar Loaf, and Virginia motels, the Gold Hill Hotel, and the Silver Dollar Hotel.

Restaurant menus range from French-Cajun to jumbo hot dogs, with about 20 dining places to choose from. Inquire about cuisine and directions.

Events

The July Fourth celebration has a parade, band concert, and fireworks; Sun Mountain Massacre Bike Race is August 18; and Camel Races and 1880s Ball are September 9-11.—*Gary Elam*

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Sailing Tahoe

Words and Photos by Kurt Molnar

Casting off from any of Lake Tahoe's shores, the beauty of High Sierra sailing comes into view as majestic mountain peaks rise dramatically from deep indigo blue water, clean enough to drink.

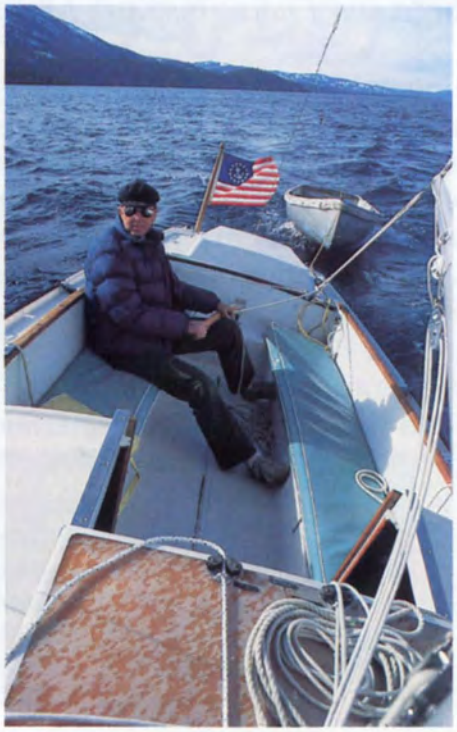
Because of the lake's size, the intrepid day sailor usually can enjoy an afternoon afloat without seeing another boat. And with a little luck and a sharp eye, bald eagles can be observed near Kiva Point along the south shore. But with good sailing winds and 70-percent sunny skies year-round, kicking back and basking in Tahoe's afternoon warmth is reason enough to set sail.

Above, the crew of the Blue Meanie *races with the blustery summer winds known as "blue line" winds during the Santana 20 Nationals in 1985.*

(Continued)



Above, the Bob Cat *enters Emerald Bay on Tahoe's west shore. At right, Jim Hildinger enjoys solitary sailing on open water*







A crewman tends to the spinnaker in the late afternoon on the Crossfire *(top). Above, a captain and his guests share a Nevada sunset at the Hyatt pier in Incline Village.*



"Old Walley's"
WATERCOLOR
14x17"
"This is Walley's, near Genoa, before it was renovated. I never noodle around with detail."



RON KWIEK

An artist of the valley.

Watercolorist Ron Kwiek is a true transplanted Nevada artist. One of the reasons he came to the Carson Valley from Napa Valley, California, four years ago was simply because he wanted to paint the Silver State.



Ron Kwiek

"I love painting Nevada's landscapes, especially the Eastern Sierras," says Kwiek. "It is gorgeous any time of the year. The vastness of this valley dictates cool colors in the distance, and warm contrasting colors close to the eye."

Kwiek, 45, says his style is representational, dominated by his own impressionistic flair, leaving a lot to the viewer's imagination. He works primarily from his own photography, a favorite hobby.

A graduate of Pacific Union College with a degree in commercial art, Kwiek's major professor was well-known western watercolorist Vernon Nye. After working as an advertising artist, Kwiek prepared a set of eight drawings of the national monuments in Washington, D.C., that was endorsed by the Bicentennial Commission in 1975. He also taught at Napa College for nine years. Now he teaches a watercolor class at the Brewery Arts Center in Carson City.

Kwiek, who has suffered from multiple sclerosis for the past 16 years and is confined to a wheelchair, is president of the Nevada Rural Center for Independent Living Skills, a support group for handicapped people.

"I use my handicap to enhance my art, which is a very loose, rapid style," he says. "I work early in the morning when I have the best control. Most of the work is done in my mind prior to painting, then I bring it together in a rapid, spontaneous way."

Kwiek's work can be found at the Lone Tree Gallery in Minden and at Addi Galleries in Bally's Reno. A series of four prints called the Carson Valley Collection also are available through both galleries. Two of those, "Old Walley's" and "Minden Barn," are on these pages.—*Julie Quinn*

"I bring a painting together in a rapid, spontaneous way. Even if I didn't have my handicap, I'd want to paint this way."



"Minden Barn"

WATERCOLOR

14x17"

"I love the expansiveness of Minden and the whole Carson Valley. With the feeling of dark and light, it's gorgeous any time of the year"

STALKING WILD TROUT

Yes, there are big fish in those tiny streams, no matter what the locals think.

Story and Photos by Christopher Ross



To hook wild trout, cunning is more important than fancy equipment.

It was such a tiny trickle of water that we almost missed it as we drove down State Route 225 between Owyhee and Elko. What we saw was a thin slot of blue meandering across a flower-filled meadow, barely two feet wide where it entered the culvert and fell away under the pavement. A typical Nevada stream, it reminded us of Mark Twain's comment about the Humboldt in *Roughing It:* "One of the most pleasant and most invigorating exercises one can contrive is to run and jump across the Humboldt River till he is overheated and then drink it dry."

But we had come for trout, not for exercise, so it was with great stealth that we approached the grassy banks, baited our hooks, and dropped them silently into the crystalline water. Fishermen from wetter regions might have laughed aloud at both our optimism and our obviously homemade equipment, but there was no one around to comment on our technique.

The silence lasted barely five seconds before it was interrupted explosively by twin swirls and energetic splashing as we hauled two fine trout onto the meadow. In less than 45 minutes we had our limits and breakfast was underway in a long-handled skillet over a sagebrush fire.

It was a variation of a scene we have reenacted many times on streams across Nevada, from the Snake Range in the east to the Sierra in the west, from Denio to Tonopah—in fact, almost anywhere the mountains allow a trickle of water to escape towards the valleys below. The absence of trails and debris, as well as the voraciousness of the prey, suggest that few sportsmen take advantage of the trout in these tiny but beautiful streams. Yet we are rarely disappointed anywhere along the Toiyabes, Toquimas, Santa Rosas, Rubies, Sweetwaters, or lesser mountains and plateaus across the Silver State.

Wild trout are among the wariest of game animals. Their vision, alertness, and sense of vibration are so acute that people may live beside them their whole lives without ever seeing a fish. I have lived on ranches where the meadow streams and ditches were teeming with trout, while the ranchers refused to believe that any fish existed there because they had walked and ridden the land for half a lifetime without ever seeing a fish.

These trout have little in common with stocked hatchery fish in put-and-take areas, where dull-witted "formula" fish often are best caught on canned corn or marshmallows. The wild fish that inhabit tiny clear-water ditches, beaver ponds, streams, and meadow potholes are hunted by a variety of animals, and thus stay alive only by their wits. In their confined habitats they sense vibrations and watch for movement for 20 feet or more around their homes, and they dart for cover the instant a footstep or shadow alerts them to the presence of an animal or person nearby Some of them stay alive this way for many years, until only the size of their ditch or pool limits their growth. On our smallest fishing streams, which are mere slots of ditch across high-country hay meadows, we like to calculate the fish-width ratio. A 16-13 would mean that the fish was 16 inches long and the creek where he was caught was only 13 inches wide.

To catch these fish, one need only assemble a rod and line, a few worms, a Nevada fishing license, and an adventuresome spirit. Since the fishing spots are usually very small, casting is unnecessary, and a willow or cane pole will produce as many fish as a fancier casting, spinning, or fly outfit (see later details).

The first step is to find the fish. The usual advice—"ask

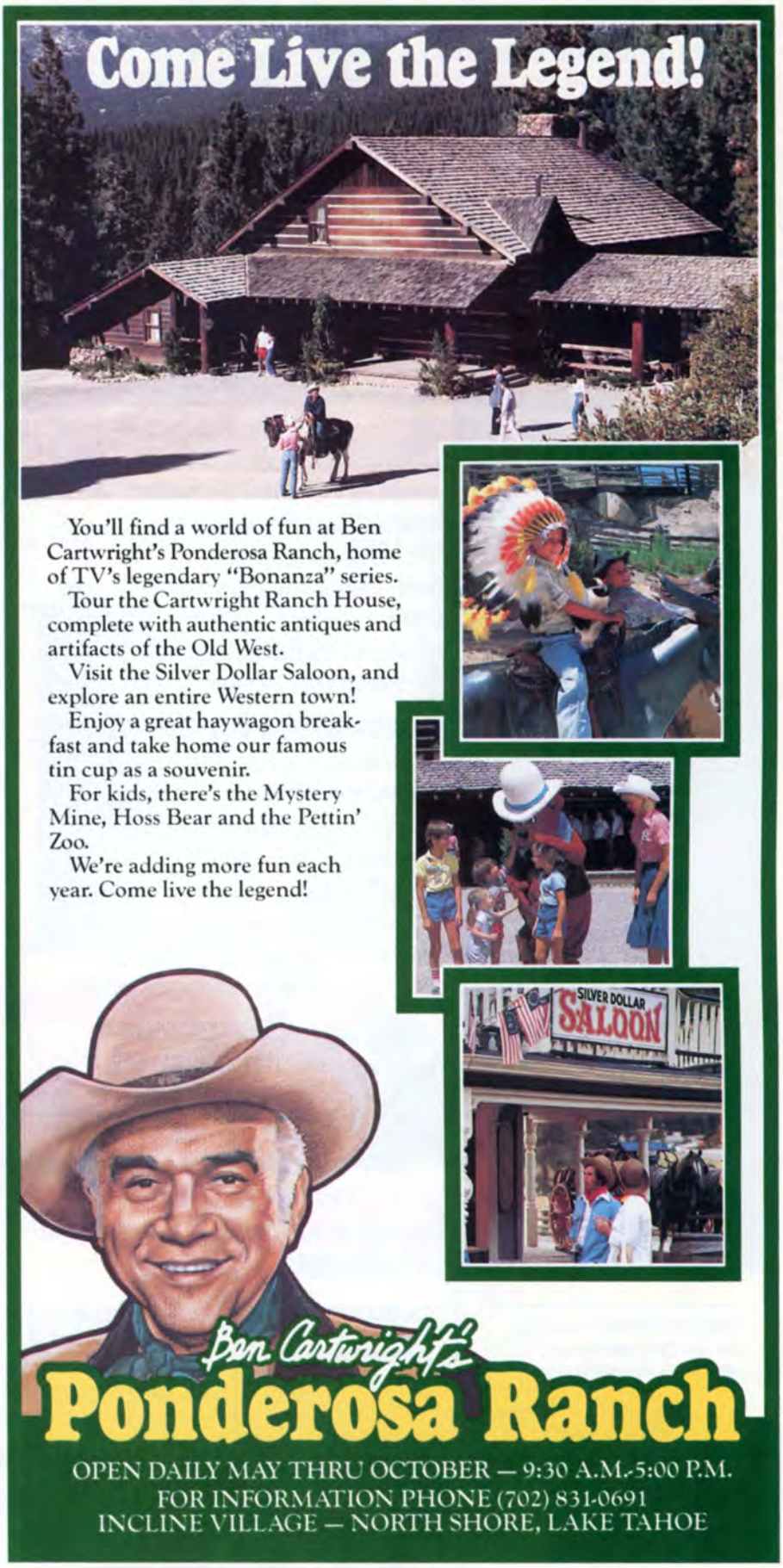
the locals"—may not be sound in this case. The area's residents, even if they work outside and hunt, may be completely unaware of the fish in their midst. Or, if they do fish, they may be protective of their secret spots. The exceptions are those older country folk who lived in small towns and rural areas during the Great Depression. Many of them know their surroundings well and ate a lifetime's worth of trout during those hard years, so they may not care to ever taste it again and have no hesitation about sharing their knowledge. One such couple asked me about my equipment and then told me, "No, no, you're doing it the hard way." When I asked them their secret, they said that they really had preferred a bulldozer but usually had made do with shovels. They would quickly divert the creek or ditch into another channel temporarily and then walk down the resulting chain of puddles picking up the stranded fish!

> One couple told me they would quickly divert the creek and then walk down the puddles, picking up the stranded fish.

Topographic maps may be of considerable help in finding small water courses. When driving, one should look at the creeks and ditches where they flow under the roads. Evaluate irrigation systems and ponds—where does the water enter and leave? In trout country, any clear water is potentially fishable, no matter how small, as long as it runs year-round or has headwaters that do.

When you find a stream that looks promising, sneak up and down it. Look for pools, rocks, deep cuts, brush piles, logs, and overhanging banks—those places where trout will hide.

Even with very careful stalking, it may be impossible to see trout. You can drop an unweighted worm quietly into or above some promising spots. You also can watch for ripples and little puffs of mud or silt that indicate the recent and sudden departure of startled trout. You may be able to sneak up on areas where the water is smooth



enough to see at least part of the bottom and then suddenly wave your arm or toss a pebble to try to startle fish. Trout are very well camouflaged, and a flash or darting shadow is all you may see.

The major cause of failure in this sort of hunting is underestimation of the quarry, causing careless stalking. Of two people fishing the same water with identical equipment and bait, the more careful angler may have caught his or her limit before the other has a strike.

In some cases, you will be required to crawl or even wriggle on your stomach in order to get close enough to swing a worm into the water without alerting your intended meal. Logs, bushes, rocks, cut banks, and shadows are all useful cover.

When startled, trout usually will head upstream. They often wait in the lower reaches of pools and overhangs, sometimes at the fast water at the head. Since the current (if there is one) carries the unweighted bait downstream, hopefully to a waiting trout, the bait is ideally dropped or floated into the upper end of the water to be fished. The current is useful for getting the bait into otherwise unapproachable spots, which are prime trout hiding places. With care and minimal guidance from the rod tip, a worm can be floated 20 or 30 feet downstream, allowing the fisherperson to stay well clear of the area. In some cases you can follow or walk the bait downstream.

Since the bait is too light to cast, the best technique is to swing it back and forth and then drop it into the water at the furthest extension of the swing. One should swing the rod from the wrist, not at the elbow, as if casting. The other hand should hold several feet of loose line to be released when the bait drops into the water. Some practice is required to accurately place the bait. Beginners may want to tie their line at the butt of the rod. That often keeps tangles from adding to what already may be a challenging situation.

Once the bait is in the water, the line should be kept relatively free of slack so that the tug of a fish can be felt. Since this is not always possible, there are other ways to know what is happening to the bait. If you can see the bait, simply watch and resist the temptation to jerk the bait out the water before the fish has taken it. Otherwise you can watch the line where it enters the water. If the line suddenly jerks or behaves strangely against the current, take up slack, set the hook with a quick pull, and see if there is a fish on the line. If no such direct observation is possible, either because of lighting or terrain, check on the bait now and then, taking up slack until the line is straight and checking for resistance.

If nothing happens within two or three casts, move on. Do not insult the fish's intelligence by flogging the same pool repeatedly.

If nothing happens within two or three casts, move on. Either the fish are not there or they saw you coming. Do not insult their intelligence by continuing to flog the same pool repeatedly.

When a fish is hooked, unless it seems very large, it can be jerked out of the water without ceremony. This is especially important if the water has brush or logs, where the fish can run and hopelessly tangle the line. If you



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plan to release the fish, or you are not sure that it is a keeper, be very gentle or it almost surely will not survive the experience. Keep it off the ground and wet your hands to avoid breaking the protective mucus layer that covers its body. Return it gently to the water; don't throw it.

If you do plan to keep it, you should clean it as soon as possible. Trout do not have scales, and the skin falls off after cooking. There are many ways to cook trout (see below for a couple of easy methods), and they are easily deboned after cooking. True devotees also lift the gill plates on either side of the head to remove the large and tasty cheek muscles which lie underneath.

By the way, a complete and entrancing description of this sort of fishing is contained in Ernest Hemingway's classic story "Big Two-Hearted River," which is highly recommended.

Before trying this challenging kind of fishing, it is wise to check local regulations on open and closed seasons and waters. You also want to obtain the requisite Nevada fishing licenses.

Topographic maps and legal maps, which show land ownership, are available at sporting goods and backpacking stores, builder's supply houses, and U. S. Geological Survey offices.

Trespass is a difficult subject. Naturally one should obtain permission to cross private land whenever possible. In some cases, however, land ownership is difficult to determine, or the owners may be inaccessible. The safest and most mannerly approach is to determine the law, research local custom and tradition, and let your conscience be your guide.

When stalking wild trout, almost any pole and reel will work, since casting is rarely a factor in this kind of fishing. The rod should be fitted with monofilament, or other clear line, and a single No. 10 bait hook. I use snelled hooks (those with a loop of leader already attached) and 12-pound monofilament, which allows me to jerk the fish out and pull free of snags with little fear of breaking the line.

The simplest arrangement is a loop of baling or coathanger wire at the end of a six- to eight-foot stick, with 15 feet of line run through the loop and tied to the butt of the rod. This will swing the bait as well as any store-bought equipment. Since poles or willow wands occur naturally near most water, you may need only to carry a loose coil of line, a hook, and five inches of wire. These materials can be put in a small can or plastic bag and make an excellent addition to a car or backpack's survival materials.

When stalking wild trout, almost any pole and reel will work, since casting is rarely a factor in this kind of fishing.

In the absence of worms, almost any sort of insect will work, as will artificial flies and lures. Grasshoppers, grubs, and ants are traditional. Metal lures usually splash too loudly.

A small, sharp knife and a bag or creel for the fish complete the outfit.

The fastest way to cook pan-sized trout is to fry them in a bit of oil in a hot skillet. I shake them in a bag with a little

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flour to ease removal of the skin after cooking. Peanut oil and cast-iron skillets allow high temperatures with minimal smoking. Don't overcook—a few minutes on each side until browned is sufficient.

Trout, especially larger ones, may also be baked with white wine, dill, and onion. Bake them covered, at 350 degrees, until the flesh pulls away easily from the lateral line. Larger fish require more cooking, but again, don't overdo it. They may also be foil-baked over



You can take trout right from the stream and into the fettucine.

coals in much the same way. Seal the foil tightly to conserve moisture. Fish cook very quickly this way.

Watercress is abundant along most trout waters and makes a delicious version of pesto, which goes well with a trout main course. Simply chop leaves and tops of watercress, add several crushed and chopped cloves of fresh garlic, stir with olive oil sufficient to cover, and serve over hot fettucine or other noodles. Top with Parmesan cheese freshly grated, and, if desired, chopped pine nuts, hazel nuts, or pecans.

Wild plum wine is an ideal accompaniment if available, but any dry white or rosé is fine.

After such a meal, it's easier the next time to watch for those small, hidden streams where the wild trout wait.

Christopher Ross lives on a ranch north of Reno. The fishing there is pretty good, he says, if you know where to look.

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TALES OF WATER

Hoover Dam: An American Adventure

When Joseph E. Stevens visited Hoover Dam in 1980, he was inspired to start a big project of his own. "Like thousands of visitors before me, I was awe-struck by the huge, graceful wall of concrete," he writes. Eight years later he aims to tell "the full story" of the dam's political history, engineering, construction, and social and economic consequences in *Hoover Dam: An American Adventure.*

And epic it is. Stevens takes the reader from the first dam surveys of the Lower Colorado River in the 1920s, to the dam's beginnings in 1931, to the founding of Boulder City, the influences on and by Las Vegas, and the heroic work by dam workers in the unforgiving summer heat.

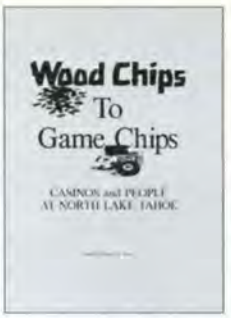


The author relied greatly on Southern Nevada sources, finding documents and photographs with the help of the University of Nevada-Las Vegas Library, the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and a number of local historians and dam veterans. The period photos and extensive bibliography and notes also should help students of this important era in Nevada's past.

Hoover Dam: An American Adventure, by Joseph E. Stevens, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK. 73019; 1988; 352 pages, 71 photos and illustrations, one map, $24.95 hardcover

Wood Chips to Game Chips

With all the attention given to South Lake Tahoe, Bethel Holmes Van Tassel decided it was time to compile a book about the North Shore. Van Tassel, a longtime Tahoe resident who now resides in Reno, worked in public relations for the Cal Neva Lodge and the Hyatt and also wrote a Tahoe newspaper column for 17 years.



Although the book starts with the early history of North Lake Tahoe, it mostly tells about the development of resorts and clubs and the people behind them. Among the subjects are the Christmas Tree, the Cal Neva Lodge, Crystal Bay Club and Ta-Neva-Ho, Nevada Lodge, Kings Castle and Hyatt Lake Tahoe, North Shore Club, and the development of Incline Village. Numerous black-and-white photos accompany the blow-by-blow description of North Shore's development. Among the photos are Marilyn Monroe and Frank Sinatra at the Cal Neva and many nostaglic scenes from the 1930s and '40s.

Wood Chips to Game Chips, by Bethel Holmes Van Tassel, 325 Morningside Drive, Reno, NV 89509; 1985; 120 pages, approx. 200 photos, $24.95 paperback.

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Food on a Stick

At summer fairs you can eat things you wouldn't dare eat anywhere else. Like stick food.

By Blanton Owen



Andrea Graham, the author's wife, controls her stick food at the Nevada State Fair

There is a secure sameness about state fairs that confirms your faith in humanity. Paper cups always seem to be blowing around your feet, and I'm sure the same teenagers in black Harley T-shirts must follow the carnivals wherever they go. The one seat on the one ride you take inevitably has chewing gum stuck to it, and it soon becomes stuck to you. As daylight fades and the Ferris wheel lights go on, the controlled chaos and paint-chipped glitz tell you that, bombs or no

experience the unexpected.



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Photo: Blanton Owen

bombs, things right here, right now, are stable.

Another good thing about going to a fair is eating types of food you wouldn't dare eat anywhere else. It's as if all fear of dirt and germs is suspended. There are burritos, burgers, pizza, popcorn, chicken wings, snocones, and lots of other treats.

But of all the food options, my favorite of favorites is anything on a stick—

My old tennis shoes are permanently stained pale yellow from mustard.

cheese, corn dogs, steak, shrimp, chicken, candied apples, corn on the cob, cotton candy. Just about any food can be put on a stick if you (and the concessionaire) have enough imagination and sense of adventure.

I can't decide which stick food is my all-time favorite. It may be that I like the batter even better than the food inside. I wish I had the franchise for food-on-a-

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stick batter. Stick-food vendors all seem to use the same stuff; it must be sold by the tanker car load. No matter what kind of stick food you choose, the same hard crust of golden-fried, bread-like batter covers the central ingredient, and you have to bite through the batter before you can taste what's inside. I suppose the deep-fried batter has a smoothing effect, so that dramatic taste sensations are blurred or dulled. There's something almost psycho-sexual about food on a stick, which just adds to the overall adventure.

My least favorite food on a stick is cotton candy, and actually it's not on a stick anyway, it's on a cardboard-cone-shaped thing. So maybe cotton candy doesn't really count.

At fair time one should always wear a pair of old, worn-out tennis shoes because whenever you go to squirt a tad of mustard on your whatever-on-a-stick, at first nothing comes out and then, on the next attempt, all hell breaks loose. My old shoes are perma-



Mustard rushes to the feet.

nently stained pale yellow. Even the bottoms are yellow where the fellow before me got his and it ran off his shoe onto the asphalt where I always seem to step. I also carry a couple of extra handkerchiefs, too. Even if I get one or two paper napkins, they are so tiny and flimsy that they just stick to my fingers and lips in little bits. Or they blow away.

But, all things considered, food on a stick is the only way to go when eating at a fair. It's always windy in Nevada, so being able to handle your entire meal by holding the end of a stick instead of trying to balance a plate while carrying a paper cup full of beer or pop can be a real blessing. Have you ever seen anything more disgusting than a

Photo: Blanton Owen

paper plate full of food that has fallen to the ground and been mashed into mush (if it wasn't mush to begin with) by hundreds of feet tromping on it? With food on a stick, all that nastiness is easily avoided.

I've tried to duplicate at home some of the stick foods I've eaten at fairs, but it's never the same. The cheese I buy

Have you ever seen anything more disgusting than a paper plate full of food that has been mashed into mush? With food on a stick, all that is avoided.

doesn't taste right or have the right texture, and the batter I make tastes like truck-stop pancakes at one in the morning. Plus, I can never cook the stuff to just the perfect turn; it's always too gooey or so crisp it cracks and breaks. And I guess the older and more used the grease gets, the better the food tastes, but who wants to cook 835 cheeses on a stick at home just to have one or two that taste good? The town where I live doesn't even have that many people in it.

Then there's the general fair atmosphere to consider. Does the smell of spilled beer and sweaty bodies, the sound of screaming kids and carnival barkers, make food on a stick taste better? Of course it does. Somehow stick food and a home kitchen just don't go together; the ambiance is wrong.

State and county fairs are fun. There are quilts and cakes, art shows, goats and cows and sheep and ducks and rabbits, demolition derbies, carnival rides, and—of course—no shortage of food.

The stick food alone is enough to entice me. Some cheese on a stick sure would go down good right now, wouldn't it? So I'll see you soon at the fair. I'll be the one in the yellow tennis shoes.

Blanton Owen of Virginia City is a folklorist with a special interest in stick food. He plans to visit several fairs this summer For a complete menu of Nevada's fairs, see this issue's Nevada Events.





Elko Remembers Bing
(Continued from page 35)

boutonnieres made from the famous red tags that flagged the pockets of Levi pants. Inside each coat was a leather patch signed by D.J. O'Brien, president of the American Hotel Association, and embossed: "Notice to hotel men everywhere. This label entitles the wearer to be duly received and registered with cordial hospitality at any time and under any conditions."

When given the denim tux, Crosby sang a song to the tune of "On Top of Old Smoky":

Way up in Elko
They know what to wear
The next time I come here,
I'll have to bring my hair

Then he tipped his hat to show his bald head.

Crosby never performed for money in a Nevada casino, although he did do a benefit for a church in Las Vegas. He also did a few free shows for Newt Crumley that packed the showroom at the Commercial, with his voice broadcast to crowds outside the building.

Besides the Bing Crosby and Blue Serge days, Bing gave Elko a tremendous boost by arranging for the world premiere of his picture *Here Comes the Groom* to be held in town in 1951.

> The Catholic priest said he could always tell when Bing had been to church because there would be a $20 bill in the collection plate.

The celebration lasted three days. Hundreds of reporters, celebrities, and politicians were invited to the affair. The local committee printed 15,000 automobile windshield stickers. Townspeople dressed western, and the "E" on the mountain south of town was lit each evening.

When people left the premiere, they were humming "In the Cool, Cool, Cool of the Evening." The event also netted close to a cool $10,000 for the hospital building fund.

Bing showed he was a good neighbor in other ways. The Catholic priest, who was Therese Smith's brother-in-law, told her he could always tell when Bing had been to church because there would be a $20 bill in the collection plate. Crosby regularly came in to church on Sundays, and then the boys would go to a movie or a ball game while he visited with friends.

Dr. Roger Seyferth of Elko recalls that Bing was in Lamoille one year to watch the annual rodeo and said he'd donate $500 toward award money. That was big money for a small rodeo. Right after Bing made his offer, the bleachers on which he was seated collapsed and dumped him unceremoniously to the ground. Still, he received sincere thanks.

Locals were quick to help the Crosbys, too. When his son Lindsay was ill with a high fever, Dr. Leslie Moren flew out to the ranch twice a day for several days to check on the youngster. The landing strip was not lighted, so they had to make it in and out before dark. Dr. Moren remembers Bing as a "down-to-earth man with laughing eyes. He was good humored and a nice fellow to know."

Therese Smith remembers Crosby as a concerned husband. More than once he went to the Smiths' room and asked Therese if she would come because



Dixie, who was ill, was crying and asking for her. "It would seem like when I would talk to her, she would relax," Therese says. "Dixie was a beautiful, beautiful girl." A year later, in 1952, Dixie Lee Crosby died of cancer.

Louise Botsford remembers that Bing worried about his sons being too much bother for her when the three oldest ones lived in the Spring Creek house where the Botsfords resided. When they came in from the fields, her son and the Crosby boys would run into the bathroom to wash and then flop on her bed to read comic books. Bing said she should make his boys use the same facilities as the hired hands, but she replied that she wanted them right there where she knew they were all right.

Responsibility for the boys' safety weighed heavily on her. She recalls a strange incident when three newly hired men were dropped off on her porch to wait for the hay crew's return. The men kept asking whether the Crosby boys lived there and when they would be coming back. She says she had a funny feeling, and when her husband, Jess, came in, she told him she thought the men were up to no good. So ranch boss Johnny Eacret paid them for the day and took them to Elko.



Bing learned the cow business first-hand.

The next day Bing stopped to thank her, saying he was glad she had expressed her concern.

Louise recalls Bing's concern for her husband after he had a heart attack and was hospitalized in Elko. Jess was unable to work for some time, but Bing kept him on the payroll, paid all his medical bills, and found more appropriate work for him when he returned to the ranch. Bing also paid all the Botsfords' expenses for two trips to California to see a heart specialist and had flowers sent to their hotel room regularly. After the Botsfords moved to Winnemucca, whenever Bing came through on his way to Elko, he called them and they'd meet for lunch or dinner.

In 1957 Bing married beauty queen and film actress Kathryn Grant. The couple eventually had three children, Harry, Nathaniel, and Mary Frances.

In time, however, it became apparent that none of the older boys would become ranchers. Bing sold his ranches, and although he did not return to Elko, he did write and phone his friends frequently.

On October 14, 1977, Bing was playing golf near Madrid, Spain, while relaxing after a charity concert tour of Great Britain. He had just finished the 18th hole and was walking toward the clubhouse, relaxed and joking with his partners, when he dropped to the ground. He was dead on arrival at the hospital. His big, friendly heart had simply stopped.

Until the end, Bing had remained close to his Elko friends. John Oldham remembers getting a late night call from Ireland. Bing had wanted to know how Oldham was getting along.

Louise Botsford had just answered a



Photo: Northeastern Nevada Museum

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letter from Crosby when she heard a news broadcast announcing his death in Spain.

And Elkoans remember his friendly presence.

Kathy Garamendi, John Oldham's daughter, recalls that Bing often dropped by for dinner when he was in town. On one of those nights, a summer evening when Kathy was about five, she decided she didn't want to go to bed, a view her parents did not share.

Bing could see that things were getting a little tense. He asked, "Kathleen, is there anything I can do to help you get ready for bed?"

So she replied, "I'll go to bed if I can sleep in Mother and Daddy's bed and if you will sing me 'White Christmas.'"

Kathy recalls, "So into their room I went, and then I whistled, and he came in and sat on the bed and sang 'White Christmas'—in the middle of the summer!"

From giant celebrations to a favor for a little girl, Bing and Elko formed a mutual admiration society that still is strong.

Carol Hendershot, an Elko writer, has written about Bing in the Northeastern Nevada Historical Society Quarterly.

NEVADA'S CELEBRITY RANCHERS

By Terry Shores

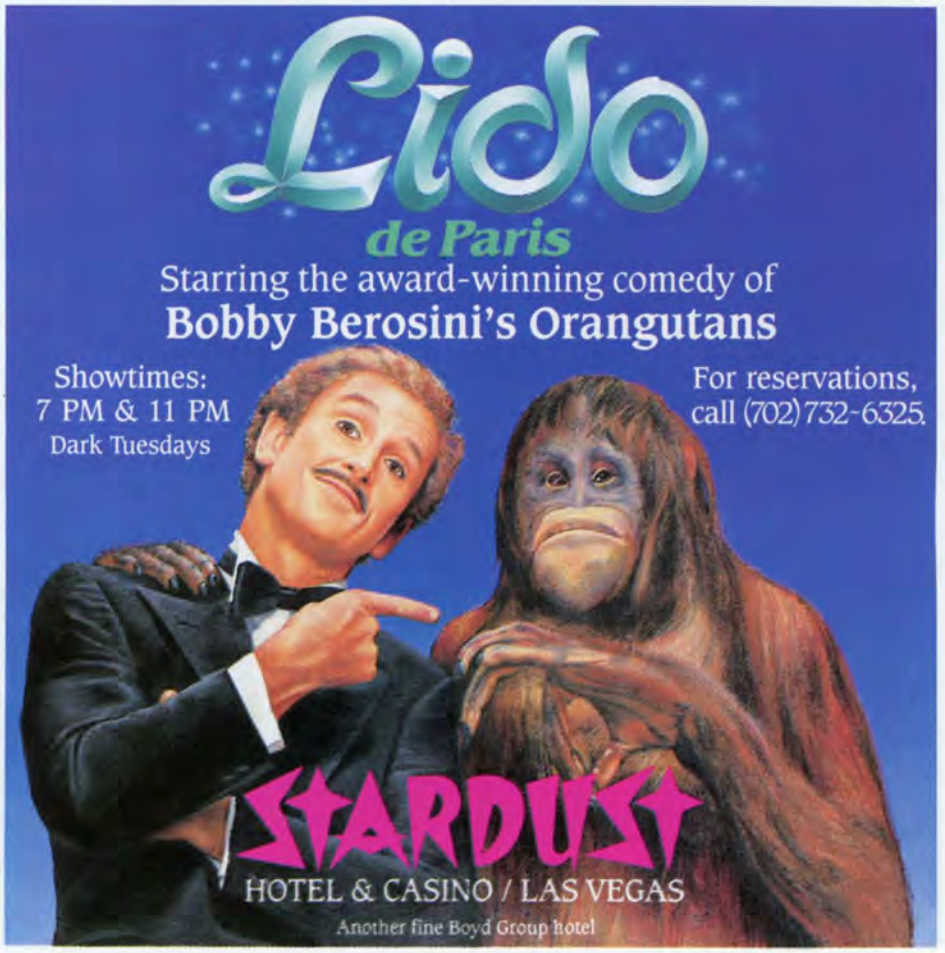
Nevada's ranchlands and wide-open spaces have often served as refuge for the rich and famous. Here are some of those celebrity buckaroos.

The Adams Family

Perhaps the first famous name to grace a Nevada ranch was that of John Quincy Adams. The fifth-generation descendent of our second president came from Illinois to settle near Genoa, Nevada's first settlement, in 1852. Succeeding generations of the Adams family have owned the ranch, which is now a historical landmark.

The 'Lone Cowboy'

Although he wasn't a millionaire or movie star, and although he was largely unrecognized by the past two generations of Americans, Will James





Rex Bell: actor politician, rancher

again is being honored as a major contributor to the West's literature and art. And it all started in a log cabin in Washoe Valley, 20 miles south of Reno.

James became a serious writer and artist after a run-in with a bronc about 1919. Later he married Alice Conradt of Reno, and they moved into the cabin (see *Nevada*, July/August '86). Illustrations and short stories soon were followed by novels like The Drifting Cowboy (1925) and Smoky (1926). All featured James' personal experiences. "If I can't feel it," he is reported to have said, "I can't draw it."

The First Star-Rancher

For actor Rex Bell, ranching in the wide-open spaces of Southern Nevada came naturally after a smashing career in western movies. Bell came to Southern Nevada in the early 1930s with his new wife, Clara Bow, herself a famous actress. Their Walking Box Ranch was 60 miles south of Las Vegas near Searchlight. Rex and Clara reared two sons, Rex (now Clark County district attorney) and George, and raised 12,000 head of cattle on the ranch. They often hosted parties there.

Away from the 350,000-acre ranch, the popular Rex owned a successful western clothing store in downtown Las Vegas and went on to an equally successful political career as a two-term Republican lieutenant governor of Nevada. He died in 1962 while running for governor.

Elko Was the Place

It started in the mid-1940s when enterprising Elko hotelman Newton

(Continued on page 88)

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Celebrity Ranchers
(Continued from page 85)

Crumley sold some ranch property north of town to Bing Crosby. Before long, ownership of ranches around Elko began reading like a Who's Who in *Billboard*. Crosby's Hollywood friend Jimmy Stewart bought the Wine Cup Ranch, about 30 miles north of Wells, and Joel McCrae bought a place in Ruby Valley

Perhaps smelling a good investment, stockbroker Dean Witter purchased the Horseshoe Ranch 40 miles east of Battle Mountain in the 1950s.

Stewart and McCrae were popular neighbors around Elko. Leonard Hopkins, who owned a ranch adjoining Stewart's, recalls running into the movie star.

"I remember seeing him in town a time or two, and the first time he came to the store where my wife worked, she recognized him before she ever saw him. She just heard his voice."

The May Legacy

While the movie stars were gathering up ranchland to the east, department store magnate Wilbur May was gathering prizes to display in the trophy room of his ranch house overlooking the 2,000-acre Double Diamond Ranch south of Reno.

The Double Diamond brand and logo, formed through a combination of May's initials, came to symbolize one of Reno's most scenic landmarks and, after his death, an ill-fated subdivision

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development in the 1970s and '80s. But when May settled there in the '30s, it was a successful ranch and fine home for the famous adventurer, big-game hunter, and philanthropist. Many of his artifacts and game trophies are displayed at the Wilbur D. May Museum at Reno's Rancho San Rafael Park.

Tennessee Ernie Comes to Town

When he made his regular appearance at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, Tennessee Ernie Ford would stop by his Dayton ranch to see how things were going, recalls his former ranch manager, Don Jackson. The All-ran Ranch, five miles east of Dayton, was owned by Ford and three other partners from 1968 to 1978.

"I recall that he was particularly fond of fried 'mountain oysters,'" Jackson says. "Whenever he had a show here, he would pick some up and give them to the people he worked with. City people reacted in different ways, as you can imagine."

Barron Hilton's Flying M

When most people think of Hilton, they envision high-rise hotels. But perhaps the most unique of all of the Hilton properties is the 480,000-acre Flying M Ranch. Situated along 29 miles of the East Walker River, the massive ranch stretches from Mono Lake to Walker Lake and surrounds seven ghost towns, including Bodie. The main ranch house is about 25 miles from Yerington.

There, Barron Hilton, chairman of Hilton Hotels, has co-mingled the working outfit with what its promotional material calls an "exclusive conference facility" that provides "a magnificent retreat in one of the country's true 'last frontiers.'" Hundreds of guests come to the ranch each year, usually by air. They land at its mile-long jet strip and are taken to the main house, which doubles as a conference center for up to 18 visitors at a time.

Every other year Hilton uses the ranch to host the Barron Hilton Soaring Cup, which attracts some of the world's foremost soaring pilots and enthusiasts, including the event's founder and namesake.

Wayne and His Horses

Singer Wayne Newton has been raising Arabian horses for more than 20 years, and his love for the breed can be seen at his 200-acre ranch at Logandale, 60 miles northeast of Las Vegas.

He named his Aramus Arabians Ranch in memory of his horse Aramus, who was several times a national champion. Although Aramus died in 1976, Newton "has kept the legacy alive," according to ranch spokesperson Terri Seckar. The ranch's 35 employees take care of 200 horses, many of which are marketed worldwide.

Newton takes a first-hand interest in the operation. According to Seckar, he makes all breeding decisions, such as which horses will be bred and which ones will be sold. He frequently assists with the foaling and even names each horse born on the ranch.

The ranch has visiting hours Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., when the public is welcome. Appointments are appreciated; call 702-398-3631 for information.

Terry Shores, a former reporter and editor is executive vice president of the Reno-Sparks Board of Realtors.

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1. The Big Chill. Driving along the undeveloped stretch south of the Ponderosa Ranch on Tahoe's northeast shore you will find some of the most beautiful scenery this azure lake has to offer. Cliffs, coves, and sandy beaches will lure you down to the water. Certain areas are popular with nude sunbathers, who have no problem finding secluded beaches. Cars parked on the side of the road will indicate where the hot spots are, but beware of parking restrictions.

2. Racy. Walker Lake is the site of a serious weekend of boat racing each summer. This year's Walker 100 includes a 100-mile boat race with an $8,000 purse, plus contingencies, and a 50-mile mini boat race. The July 9-10 race weekend (see *Nevada Events*) has a boat parade in Hawthorne, banquet at El Capitan, and a barbecue at the lake. Race headquarters is the Cliff House Marina.

3. Keep on Cruisin' One of the best ways to experience Lake Tahoe and Lake Mead is by taking a cruise. Lake Mead has a yacht tour that visits Hoover Dam, and South Tahoe has several ships, including the sternwheelers *M.S. Dixie* and *Tahoe Queen*, and the *Woodwind*, a 30-passenger sailing vessel. On some cruises you can have dinner or even go dancing, but the best part is standing on the bow and letting the water spray over you as you take in the views.

4. One Stop Shop. OK, you're in the family car, and everybody is arguing about where to go and what to do at Tahoe. You pull into the parking lot at Zephyr Cove Resort on the southeast shore and notice all the activity. Eureka! You've found it—a spot that can keep everyone busy You can please the campers, the kids, the shopaholics, the lounge lizards, the volleyball players, the sailors, and even the horseback riders. You just have to remember where to meet afterwards.



Blue Niagra, the new five-story ride at Las Vegas' Wet 'n Wild, gives you a big splash.

5. Roughing It. Houseboat rentals on Lakes Mead and Mohave allow you to be the skipper of your own cruise ship equipped with such necessities as a stereo and air-conditioning. Take a vessel suitable for six, 10, or 12 people and stake claim to one of the lakes' numerous coves.

6. The Great Pyramid. The hauntingly beautiful landscape of Pyramid Lake has a way of taking your mind off everyday life. The lake is 35 miles northeast of Reno, but when you get there it feels as if you are miles from nowhere.

7 Wild Wetland. Now in its fourth season, Wet 'n Wild is a popular place to cool off when waterdrops sizzle on the Las Vegas Strip. New rides at the water park include the Blue Niagra, which takes off from the mighty Der Stuka and carries riders 300 feet through intertwining tubes to a splash landing. In the children's park, youngsters can slip and slide on Bubble Up, a soft dome with cascading water. Old favorites include the Hydro-Maniac and Raging Rapids.

8. Taking the Plunge. While driving around Nevada, don't forget to stop and take advantage of its many community pools, expecially in the rural towns. Some of the towns offering pools are Austin, Fallon, Eureka, Wells, Elko, Winnemucca, Lovelock, Hawthorne, Tonopah, and Beatty Of course, the larger towns like Las Vegas, Reno, Sparks, and Carson City have pools, too. Most have a small admission fee and are adjacent to parks. If you want to cool off even more naturally, check out the McGill Pond in McGill, 13 miles north of Ely A diving board and slide have been added, and there are deep and shallow ends to the local swimming hole. Because the pond is surrounded by a sandy beach, an Ely chamber of commerce spokesman says, "It's the closest thing to California we have."

9. No Limits. If you're a fisherman looking for a challenge this summer, check out Wild Horse Reservoir. The water level is rather low, and the reservoir has not been planted with trout this year. But the limit has been removed, so you can keep all the fish you catch. They're hard to hook, but there are some rainbow trout, largemouth bass, and catfish to be had. When the water is anticipated to be at its lowest level, about mid-September, officials will poison the remaining fish to get rid of undesirable species, such as the Lahontan tui chub, that were put in the reservoir illegally. Wild Horse will be restocked in November.

10. Take a Hike. Go right to the source by taking a hike up a snow-covered mountain. Your reward will be cold, refreshing snow. Throw a snowball at your hiking partner and pretend it's winter again.

Contributors include Kate Butler Murray Fins, and Lisa Mariishka.

Photo: Wet 'n Wild

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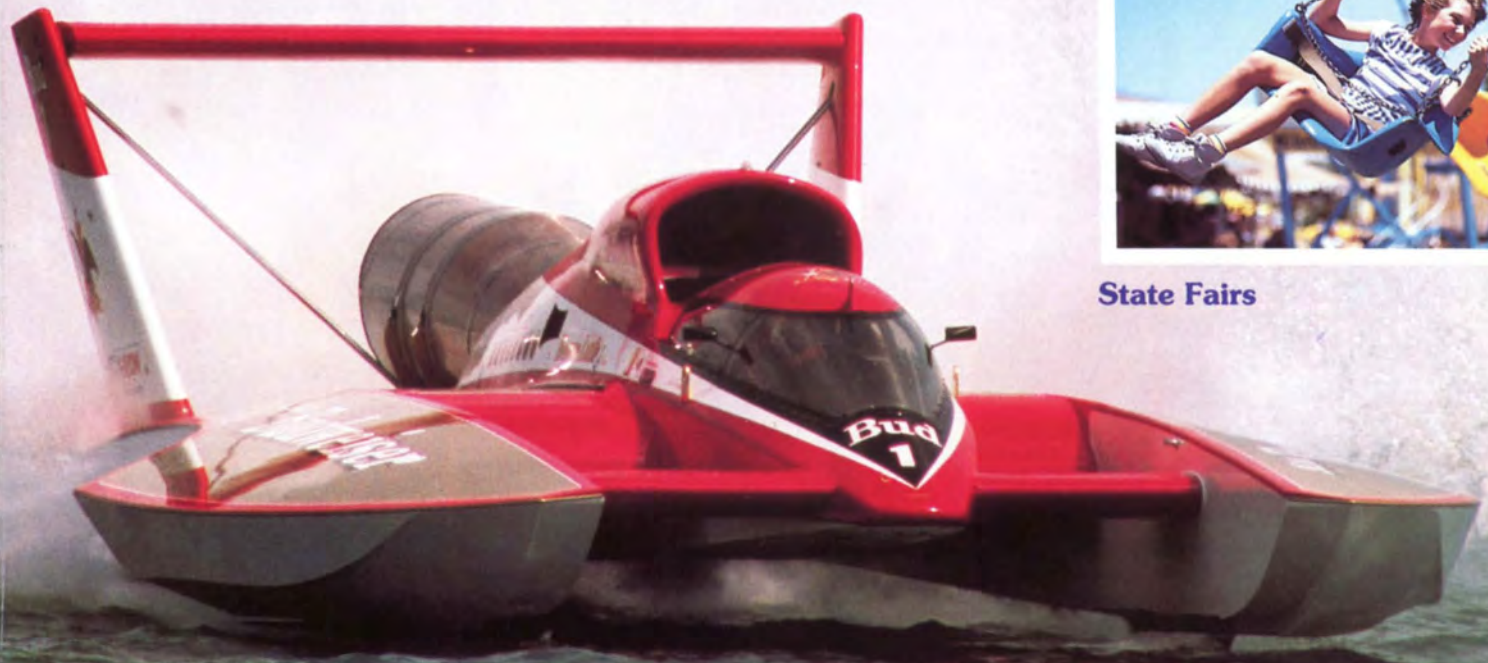
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NEVADA EVENTS

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July/August 1988

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Send information to **Nevada Events,** *101 S. Fall St., Carson City, NV 89710.*

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Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority, P.O. Box 16299, South Lake Tahoe, CA 95706.

GETAWAY HOT LINES

Here's where to call or write for tips on Nevada travel and attractions.

When planning your Nevada trip or vacation, be sure to write or phone these one-stop sources for information on scenic attractions, hotels, motels, sports, recreation, and historic sites.

The chambers of commerce (C of C) will send you their brochures and guides to local services. If you plan to stop by a chamber office, chances are it will be open in the daytime Monday through Friday.

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

STATEWIDE INFORMATION

Nevada Commission on Tourism: Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710; 885-3636 or 1-800-NEVADA-8 anywhere in U.S. and Canada

TOLL-FREE HOT LINES

Carson City Tourism Authority: 800-634-8700 outside Nevada

Elko Convention and Visitors Authority: 800-248-ELKO outside Nevada

Incline Village/Crystal Bay C of C: 800-GO-TAHOE outside Nevada

Jackpot Visitor Information: 800-821-3935 in Nevada, 800-821-1103 outside Nevada

Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority: 800-822-5922 anywhere in U.S.

Laughlin C of C: 800-227-5245 outside Nevada

Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority: 800-FOR-RENO outside Nevada

Tahoe North Visitors and Convention Bureau: 800-824-6348 anywhere in U.S.

LAS VEGAS AREA

Boulder City C of C: 1497 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; 293-2034

Boulder City Events Hot Line: 293-0137

Downtown Progress Association: 302 E. Carson Ave., Suite 808, Las Vegas, NV 89101; 382-6397

Henderson C of C: 100 E. Lake Mead Dr., Henderson, NV 89015; 565-8951

Henderson Convention Center: 200 Water St., Henderson, NV 89015; 565-2171

Las Vegas C of C: 2301 E. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89104; 457-4664

Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority: 3150 Paradise Rd., Las Vegas, NV. 89109; 733-2323

Latin C of C: 829 S. Sixth St., Las Vegas, NV 89101; 385-7367

Laughlin C of C: Box 2280, Laughlin, NV. 89029; 298-2214, or 800-227-5245 outside Nevada

Moapa Valley C of C: Box 361, Overton, NV 89040; 397-2160

Nevada Black C of C: Box 4850, Las Vegas, NV 89106; 648-6222

North Las Vegas C of C: 1023 E. Lake Mead Blvd., North Las Vegas, NV 89030; 642-9595



RENO AREA

Carson City C of C: 1191 S. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701; 882-1565

Carson City Tourism Authority: 1937 N. Carson St., Suite 211, Carson City, NV 89701; 883-7442, or 800-634-8700 outside Nevada

Carson Valley C of C: Box 1200, Minden, NV 89423; 782-8144

Greater Reno C of C: 133 N. Sierra St., Reno, NV 89503; 329-3558

Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority: 4590 S. Virginia St., Reno, NV 89502; 827-7600, 827-RENO, or 800-FOR-RENO outside Nevada

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Tribal Council: 98 Colony Rd., Reno, NV 89502; 329-2936

Reno Tahoe Visitors Center: 135 N. Sierra St., Reno, NV 89501; 348-7788

Sparks C of C: B St. and Pyramid Way, Sparks, NV 89431; 358-1976

Virginia City C of C: V & T Railroad Car, Virginia City, NV 89440; 847-0311

LAKE TAHOE

Incline Village/Crystal Bay C of C: Drawer CS, Incline Village, NV 89450; 831-4440, or 800-GO-TAHOE outside Nevada

Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority: Box 16299, South Lake Tahoe, CA. 95706; 916-544-5057 or 800-822-5922 anywhere in U.S.

North Lake Tahoe C of C: Box 884, Tahoe City, CA. 95730; 916-583-2371

Sierra Ski Marketing Council: Box 9137 Incline Village, NV 89450. Write for free skier's guide

Tahoe-Douglas C of C: Box 7139, Stateline, NV 89449; 588-4591

Tahoe North Visitors and Convention Bureau: Box 5578, Tahoe City, CA. 95730; 916-583-3494, or 800-824-6348 anywhere in U.S.

RURAL AREAS

Austin C of C: Box 212, Austin NV 89310; 964-2200

Battle Mountain C of C: Battle Mountain, NV 89820; 635-2171

Beatty C of C: Box 946, Beatty, NV 89003; 553-2225

Caliente C of C: Box 553, Caliente, NV 89008; 726-3129

Churchill County C of C: 100 Campus Way,

Fallon, NV 89406; 423-2544
Dayton C of C: Box 408, Dayton, NV. 89403; 246-3435
Elko C of C: 1601 Idaho St., Elko, NV. 89801; 738-7135
Elko Convention and Visitors Authority: 700 Moren Way, Elko, NV 89801; 738-4091, or 1-800-248-ELKO outside Nevada
Ely's Bristlecone Convention Center: Box 958, Ely, NV 89301; 289-3720
Eureka County C of C: Box 14, Eureka, NV 89316; 237-5484
Fernley C of C: Box 1606, Fernley, NV 89408; 575-4459
Gabbs, City of: Box 86, Gabbs, NV 89409; 285-2671
Goldfield C of C: Box 225, Goldfield, NV. 89013; 485-9957
Great Basin C of C: Baker, NV 89311; 234-7302
Jackpot Visitors Information: Box 508, Jackpot, NV. 89825; 755-2321, 800-821-3935 in Nevada, 800-821-1103 outside Nevada
Lincoln County C of C: Box 553, Caliente, NV 89008; 726-3129
Lovelock C of C: Box 821, Lovelock, NV 89419; 273-7213
McDermitt Information: Box 278, McDermitt, NV 89421
Mason Valley C of C: Box 327 Yerington, NV 89447; 463-3721
Mineral County C of C: Box 1635, Hawthorne, NV 89415; 945-5896
Pahrump Valley C of C: Box 42, Pahrump, NV 89041; 727-5800
Pioche C of C: Box 51, Pioche, NV 89043; 962-5544 (office hours: 11am-3pm Mon.-Sat.)
Tonopah C of C: Box 869, Tonopah, NV 89049; 482-3859
Wells C of C: Box 615, Wells, NV 89835; 752-3540
Wendover USA Visitors/Convention Bureau: Box 2468, Wendover, NV 89883; 664-3414
White Pine C of C: 636 Aultman, Ely, NV. 89301; 289-8877
Winnemucca C of C: 48 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; 623-2225
Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Bureau: 50 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; 623-5071

STATE AND NATIONAL PARKS
Nevada Division of State Parks: Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710; 885-4387
Death Valley National Monument: Death Valley, CA. 92328; 619-786-2331
Great Basin National Park: Baker, NV 89311; 234-7331
Lake Mead National Recreation Area: 601 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; 293-8907

MORE CAMPING AND HIKING
Bureau of Land Management: Box 12000, Reno, NV 89520, 784-5496; Box 26569, Las Vegas, NV 89126, 388-6403; 1523 Hot Springs Rd., Suite 300, Carson City, NV 89701, 882-1631; Box 831, Elko, NV 89801, 738-4071
Humboldt National Forest: 976 Mountain City Hwy., Elko, NV 89801, 738-4071
Toiyabe National Forest: 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431, 331-6444; 550 E. Charleston, Las Vegas, NV 89104, 388-6255 (for Mount Charleston area)

FISHING AND HUNTING
Nevada Dept. of Wildlife: Main: 1100 Valley Rd., Reno, NV 89503, 789-0500; Southern Nevada: State Mail Complex, Las Vegas, NV 89158, 385-0285



Las Vegas Silver Cup Unlimited Hydroplane Races, Lake Mead. *Sept. 23-25*

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THE NEVADA C ALENDAR







Baseball fans can watch triple-A action when the Las Vegas Stars play at Cashman Field (top) against Pacific Coast League teams. Other Vegas stars play in the showrooms, as in the case of Chita Rivera and the cast of "Can Can" (bottom) at Caesars Palace July 6-11.

EVENTS HOT LINES

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

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

Las Vegas Stars, triple-A baseball, San Diego Padres farm club, 6/30-7/3 v. Tucson; 7/14-17 v. Colorado Springs; 7/26-29 v. Portland; 7/30-8/2 v. Tacoma; 8/7-10 v. Albuquerque; 8/11-14 v. Phoenix; 8/28-31; Vancouver, Cashman Field, 386-7200

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

Silver Streaks: World Basketball League, 7/2 v. Fresno; 7/3 and 7/5 v. Chicago; 7/8-9 v. Vancouver; 7/14 v. Fresno; 7/16 and 7/27 v. Youngstown; 7/20 v. Chicago; 7/28 and 7/31 v. Calgary; 8/1 v. Fresno; 8/21-22 v. Calgary; 8/25-26 v. Vancouver; 8/29-30 v. Youngstown; 9/5-6 v. Fresno, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV 798-6464

UNLV Concerts: music and dance, 739-3101

UNLV Football: 9/17 v. Cal State Fullerton; 9/24 v. Ohio Univ., Sam Boyd's Silver Bowl, 739-FANS

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

EVENTS

July

West Coast Watercolor Society Show, thru 7/8, Las Vegas Art Museum, 647-4300

Imperial Japanese War Trophies Exhibit, thru 7/31, Clark County Museum, Henderson, 455-7955

Friends of Red Rock Canyon Annual Photography Show, thru 8/1, Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center, 363-1921

July 4th Celebration, 7/1-3, live music, Callville Bay Marina, Lake Mead, 565-8958

Nevada Paintings Exhibit, 7/1-31, paintings by Judith Stroh Miller of Lamoille, Jim Christison of Golconda, and Sidne Teske of Battle Mountain, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

Budweiser Boxing at the Boat, 7/2, Showboat Hotel, 385-9196

Fireworks, 7/3, celebration of 30th anniversary, Stardust Hotel, 732-6234

Damboree, 7/4, parade, pancake breakfast, food booths, games, arts and crafts, fireworks, Central Park, Boulder City, 293-2457

1930s House Opening, 7/4, a renovated 1930s Boulder City house that was built for workers at Boulder Dam joins the museum's Heritage Street collection of historic structures, Clark County Museum, Henderson, 455-7955

World Junior Frisbee Contest, 7/5, for ages 15 and under, Robison Community School, 459-0201

Federation of Historical Bottle Clubs Exposition, 7/7-10, antique bottle, jar, and insulation expo, Riviera Hotel, 415-321-8163

Top Rank/ESPN Boxing, 7/8, Caesars Palace, 731-7865

Willie Nelson/Merle Haggard Concert, 7/8, part of Concert Under the Stars program, doors open at 8pm, program begins at 9pm, $15, $20, and $25, Caesars Palace Outdoor Stadium, 731-7865

Four Freshmen Concert, 7/8-9, bring picnic and

Photo: Las Vegas News Bureau (top); Caesars Palace (bottom)

lawn chairs or blankets, gates open at 6pm, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 20 miles west of Las Vegas, 875-PLAY

Leonardo da Vinci Exhibit, 7/8-8/17 with 22 models based on Leonardo's scientific and technical drawings, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 486-5205

Art Exhibit, 7/12-8/31, works by Valerie Mon Petit from England, Las Vegas Art Museum, 647-4300

Third Annual World Championship of Coin Pitching, 7/14, sponsored by the World Coin Pitching Assn., Bob Stupak's Vegas World, 383-5252

Andrew Jackson Grayson's Birds of the Pacific Slope, 7/14-8/27 exhibition of bird portraits painted by Andrew Jackson Grayson from 1853-1869, Museum of Natural History, UNLV 739-3381

AWA Wrestling at the Boat, 7/16, Showboat Hotel, 385-9196

1988 U.S. Olympic Box-Off, 7/16-17 to determine the 12 boxers who will represent the U.S. in boxing at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, Korea; Caesars Palace, 731-7865

"Curse You, Jack Dalton," 7/16-17 part of Summer Melodrama in the Parks, 8pm, free, on Sat. at Jaycee Park, on Sun. at Lorenzi Park, 386-6211

Desert Sculptors Assn. Exhibit, 7/17-8/28, Las Vegas Art Museum, 647-4300

Summer Fun Field Day, 7/20, outdoor games, and surprises for children ages 6-12, Doolittle Community Center and Park, 386-6374

Planetarium Programs, 7/20-10/1, showing films "Space Shuttle: An American Adventure" and "Mars Mania," The Planetarium at Clark County Community College, North Las Vegas, 644-5059

"Finnian's Rainbow," 7/21-23, 7/28-30, theater under the stars presented by State Parks Cultural Arts Board, bring picnic and lawn chairs or blankets, gates open at 6pm, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 20 miles west of Las Vegas, 875-4141

"Curse You, Jack Dalton," 7/23-24, part of Summer Melodrama in the Parks, 8pm, free, on Sat. at Rotary Park, on Sun. at Angel Park, 386-6211

American Indian Arts and Crafts Show, 7/29-31, Sahara Hotel, 737-2771

Midsummer Opera Festival, 7/30, Nevada Opera Theatre, Boulder City High School, 739-9369

Joshua Tree Open Senior Chess Tournament, 7/30, Dula Community Center, 386-6307

Sailboard Race, 7/30-31 (tentative), Special Events Beach, Lake Mead, 293-8907

"Curse You, Jack Dalton," 7/30-31, performance is part of Summer Melodrama in the Parks Program, 8pm, free, on Sat. at Lorenzi Park, on Sun. at Jaycee Park, 386-6211

Steve Winwood Concert, 7/31, part of Concert Under the Stars, doors open at 7pm, program begins at 8pm, $15, $20, and $25, Caesars Palace Outdoor Stadium, 731-7865

August

Boulder City Art Guild Show, 8/1-31, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

Greater Las Vegas Coin and Stamp Show, 8/5-7 Sahara Hotel, 737-2771

U.S. BASS Open, 8/5-13, bass fishing tournament with three-day practice, one day off, and four-day tournament, large purse, Lake Mead, 602-834-5045 or Dunes Hotel (headquarters) 737-4110

Budweiser Boxing at the Boat, 8/6, Showboat Hotel, 385-9196

PREVIEW

Angling for Big Bass

The growing sport of bass fishing returns to Lake Mead on August 10, when an armada of anglers will cruise out on the lake to begin the eighth annual U.S. BASS Open. They will be fishing for the largest of largemouth bass. Total purse for the event is $354,000 based on a full field of 300 anglers.

This Ironman of bass tournaments has a unique format, with three days' practice (August 6-8), one day off (August 9), and a four-day tournament (August 10-13). An expected 300 participating anglers will converge on Las Vegas in the evening of Friday, August 5, and assemble at the Dunes Hotel for opening-night registration.

This Open is indeed open to any angler who is 16 or older, a member of the U.S. BASS organization ($18 annual dues), and able to come up with the lunker-sized entry fee of $1,250. Last year's entrants ranged from a 16-year-old newcomer to a 70-year-old veteran. Two women were in the field as well as a contingent of Japanese fishermen who for the second year crossed the Pacific to compete for the title.



Casting for lunkers—and dollars.

On Lake Mead the anglers will face fierce competition, unpredictable weather, and typically good fishing.

Spectators are welcome to attend the weigh-ins, which take place at 3 p.m. on tournament days. Anyone interested in competing or participating should contact U.S. BASS headquarters at 435 East Main Street, Mesa, AZ. 85203 or call 602-834-5045 for details.

Nashville Bluegrass Band Concert, 8/7, Jaycee Park, 386-6211

"Fiddler on the Roof," 8/11-13, 8/18-20, 8/25-27 theater under the stars presented by State Parks Cultural Arts Board, bring picnic, lawn chairs, or blankets, gates open at 6pm, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 20 miles west of Las Vegas, 875-4141



Waterskiing is a highly competitive sport during September's marathon races at Lake Mead.

Top Rank/ESPN Boxing, 8/12, Caesars Palace, 731-7865

Cowboy Polo 1988 World Championship Tournament, 8/13-21, hosted by Peppermill Resort, event held at Cowboy Polo Grounds on Arvada Ranch, Mesquite, 346-5232

America's Singers Dream Contest, 8/15-18, winner will advance to state-regional finals, Holiday Casino, 369-5112

Bicycle Relay Ride, 8/19, 24 Houston Police Dept. officers leave Houston 8/15 and arrive at the Holiday Casino in Las Vegas on 8/19, benefits the Leukemia Society of America, 369-5112

North American Open Dart Tournament, 8/19-21, Sahara Hotel, 737-2771

Earth, Wind, and Fire Concert, 8/20, part of Concert Under the Stars, doors open at 7pm, program begins at 8pm, $15, $20, and $25, Caesars Palace Outdoor Stadium, 731-7865

AWA Wrestling at the Boat, 8/20, Showboat Hotel, 385-9196

September

Labor Day Celebration, 9/2-4, live music, Callville Bay Marina, Lake Mead, 565-8958

Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Telethon, 9/4, free admission limited to seating capacity, Caesars Palace, 731-7324

Laughlin River Days, 9/8-11, sixth annual featuring culinary competition, Miss Laughlin pageant, amateur magician's contest, art fes-

Photos: Gene Hertzog (top); Jim K. Decker (bottom)

tival, pancake breakfast, Gnat's Landing tube race, picnic and pig roast, Laughlin Olympics, fireworks display, Sportsman's Park, Laughlin, 298-2214

HDRA Nevada 500, 9/9-11, High Desert Racing Assn. off-road race, outside Las Vegas, 361-5404

50-Mile Marathon Ski Race, 9/10-11 (tentative), Las Vegas Boat and Ski Club, Special Events Beach, Lake Mead, 293-8907

Shanghai Acrobats 'n Magicians, 9/14, Chinese magic spectacular, famous acrobatic troupes, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3838

San Gennaro Feast, 9/15-25, Italian food festival, celebrities include Peter Anthony, Jerry Tiffee, and Frankie Avalon, Las Vegas Museum of Natural History, 739-7286

A Fiesta with Santiago Jimenez, Jr., 9/16, celebration of Mexico's Independance Day with Tex-Mex border music and Mexican food at Cashman Field (tickets go on sale 8/20 at Reed Whipple Cultural Center); fiesta coincides with opening of the Las Vegas exhibition of the Nelson Rockefeller collection of Mexican folk art at city cultural center galleries, 386-6211

Top Rank/ESPN Boxing, 9/16, Caesars Palace, 731-7865

Mexican Fiesta, 9/17, Mexican food fest, games, penny carnival, Hadland Park, 386-6297

Chili Cook-Off, 9/17 competition, beauty contests, children's entertainment, noon-7pm, Clark County Library, 1401 E. Flamingo Rd., 733-3613

Best in the West Motorcycle Grand Prix, 9/22-25, off-road racing, Peppermill Resort, Mesquite, 346-5232

Budweiser Las Vegas Silver Cup Unlimited Hydroplane Race, 9/23-25, final race of the

NIGHTLIFE

From Russia With Yakov

By Jackie Brett

He's Russian, and he's making America laugh.

That is all the more remarkable when you consider that Yakov Smirnoff stood in the American Immigration Office 10 years ago with an interpreter because he couldn't speak a word of English. Asked what he wanted to do in America, he replied in Russian, "I want to do comedy."

He recalls that everyone laughed when the interpreter gave his answer. Smirnoff figured he was doing great so far—after all, they were laughing.

"Nobody knew if comedy would work," he says today. "No one had done it before—come from another country and started to do comedy."

To accomplish his goal, Smirnoff first had to learn English. Fortunately, he landed a bartending job at Grossinger's Resort in the Catskills in New York. There he learned English and also had an opportunity to study the style of American comics.

Because Smirnoff was a funnyman in Russia, he had a couple of things going for him—impeccable timing and unique material.

"The process of being a comedian is the same as it is in Russia," Smirnoff points out. "And the timing is similar."

His comic observations about life in East and West tend to capture the imagination while tickling the funnybone.

"Americans are very curious about Russians," he says. "It's similar to your coming from Mars."

At the end of his nightclub act at the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas and Harrah's in Reno, he takes questions from the audience. People ask about life in Russia, and he doesn't mind answering. Usually he offers some humorous comments.

But Smirnoff is no longer a Russian. He became an American citizen at the Statue of Liberty ceremonies on July 4, 1986. In New York, he says, "it was just incredible. The whole city was a friendly, nice environment. Everyone was hugging and loving you.

"In Russia I was wanted, too," he adds. "A different kind of wanted."

Smirnoff has enjoyed success beyond

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the nightclub stage. Last November he published his first book, *America on Six Rubles a Day!* The publisher, Random House, had low expectations for the book. Now it's in its fourth printing and has sold more than 200,000 copies. Smirnoff wants to produce a home video based on the book for release next Christmas.

He has written three songs that he wants to record.

He has earned several movie credits: *Moscow on the Hudson* with Robin Williams, *Brewster's Millions* with Richard Pryor, *The Money Pit* with Tom Hanks and Shelley Long, and *Heartburn* with Jack Nicholson and Meryl Streep. To many television viewers Smirnoff is familiar as a star of the syndicated series *What a Country!*

He also has two movies in production. One is an action film about a Russian who witnesses a crime on a cruise ship. The other is a TV movie about a Russian man who marries an American woman whose father is a cop. The comedian hopes it will spin off into a regular series.

Nonetheless, Smirnoff is always cultivating new audiences, and Las Vegas is a good place for that challenge.

"When I do a concert in the middle of this country people come to see me. When they come to Vegas, it's to see Vegas," he says. "I'm second billing. They've heard of me or heard my name somewhere, so they just happen to come to see me. This has gotten me new audiences and new fans. It's conquering a different mountain."



Yakov Smirnoff: The 'dam police' and other humorous views of his adopted country.

Like the mountain he conquered as a 26-year-old, getting exit visas for him and his parents to leave their homeland. He only had $100 in his pocket, lots of hope, and no fear. "It's not scary when you're coming from a suppressed society " he says.

What happens after Smirnoff has lived in America 20 years? Will he run out of material comparing life in Russia to America?

"I will still stay a Russian comedian in America," Smirnoff says. "I try to write things that happen to me that I don't understand. Your observation never goes away."

For instance, one time he visited Hoover Dam and came up with all kinds of "dam" jokes. "What do you call the police there? The dam police."

Smirnoff has a high likeability factor in his favor. He's a nice person.

When he made his debut at the Golden Nugget last winter, he did two free shows for the employees as a way of thanking them for their warm welcome. "Everyone there went out of their way to make me feel at home and part of the family. I just wanted to offer something to them."

He seems to be a happy man. He's even seeing an American lady and may settle down. But he says his main goal is to stay happy.

Smirnoff has a two-year contract with the Golden Nugget and many more dates planned for 1989. Part of his future is already booked.

Yakov Smirnoff appears at the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas August 11-16. He plays Harrah's Reno December 1-4.



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national unlimited hydroplane season is held at Lake Mead's Special Events Beach, Boulder City will celebrate with games for children, food and beverage booths, and street dance, 731-2115

KNPR Craftworks Market, 9/23-25, blues concert, crafts, food, booths, Jaycee Park, 456-6695

COMING EVENTS

Art in the Park, 10/1-2, Boulder City, 293-2034
Clark County Basque Festival, 10/1-2, 361-6834
Las Vegas Jaycees State Fair, 10/11-16, 457-8832
General Tire Classic (formerly Las Vegas Senior Golf Classic), 10/27-30, 733-4488
Imperial Palace Antique Auto Run, 10/28-30, 794-3196
North Las Vegas Fairshow, 10/28-30, 642-1944
Nevada Day Celebration, 10/31, 383-6022
National Finals Rodeo, 12/3-11, 731-2115

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

SHOWGUIDE

Aladdin, 736-0240: *Bagdad Showroom:* "Abracadabra," magic, comedy, and dance, indf. (dark Tues.)
Bally's, 739-4567: *Celebrity Room:* Tom Jones, 6/30-7/13; Dean Martin, 7/14-20; *Ziegfeld Theatre:* "Jubilee!" indf. (dark Wed.)
Barbary Coast, 737-7200: Irish Show Band, thru 8/1
Bourbon Street, 794-3490: Entertainment TBA
Caesars Palace, 731-7110: Pointer Sisters, 6/29-7/4 and 8/31-9/5; Chita Rivera and the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes starring in "Can-Can," 7/6-11; Jay Leno, 7/13-18; David Copperfield, 7/20-25 and 7/27-8/1; Rodney Dangerfield, 8/10-16; Julio Iglesias, 9/14-19
California Hotel, 385-1222: Entertainment TBA
Circus Circus, 734-0410: Free circus acts, 11am-midnight
Desert Inn, 733-4566: Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers/Alex Cole, 6/30-7/3 and 7/7-9; Rich Little, 7/14-16, 7/21-23, and 7/28-30
Dunes, 737-4741: Comedy Store, indf.
El Rancho, 796-2222: Claiborn and Company, 7/12-31 (dark Mon.); Stone Street Band, 8/1-28 (dark Mon.)
Fitzgeralds, 382-6111: Nightly entertainment
Flamingo Hilton, 733-3333: "City Lites," stage spectacular featuring Mario and Daniel, Garza Brothers, Joseph Gabriel; indf. (dark Sun.)
Four Queens, 385-4011: Frank Sinatra, Jr., thru 7/17; Julius LaRosa, 8/9-21; Monday Night Jazz featuring Jimmy Heath Group, 7/4; Marva Josi, 7/11; Chris Connors, 7/18; Denny Zeitlin, 7/25
Gold Coast, 367-7111: Sorta Dixie Jazz Band, indf. (dark Tues.); Coady's Irish Express, thru 7/3
Golden Nugget, 386-8100: Don Rickles/Clint Holmes, thru 7/5; Harry Belafonte, 7/7-9; Paul Anka, 7/14-26; David Brenner, 7/28-8/2; Kenny Rogers, 8/4-6; Yakov Smirnoff, 8/11-16; Don Rickles, 8/18-23; Lou Rawls, 8/25-30

Hacienda, 739-5911: "Minsky's Burlesque," indf.
Holiday, 369-5222: "Roaring '20s Revue," starring the Walkers, thru 7/9; Glen Smith, 7/11-30; Sue Kim and the Kim Brothers, 8/1-10/8 (dark Sun.)
Imperial Palace, 794-3261: "Legends in Concert," indf. (dark Sun.)
Landmark, 733-1110: "'88 Follies Revue," starring Melinda, the First Lady of Magic, indf. (dark Sun.)
Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5755: Elvis, An American Musical, 7/1-8/28; Engelbert Humperdinck, 8/30-9/11

PREVIEW



Laughlin River Days: Tests of skill and daring.

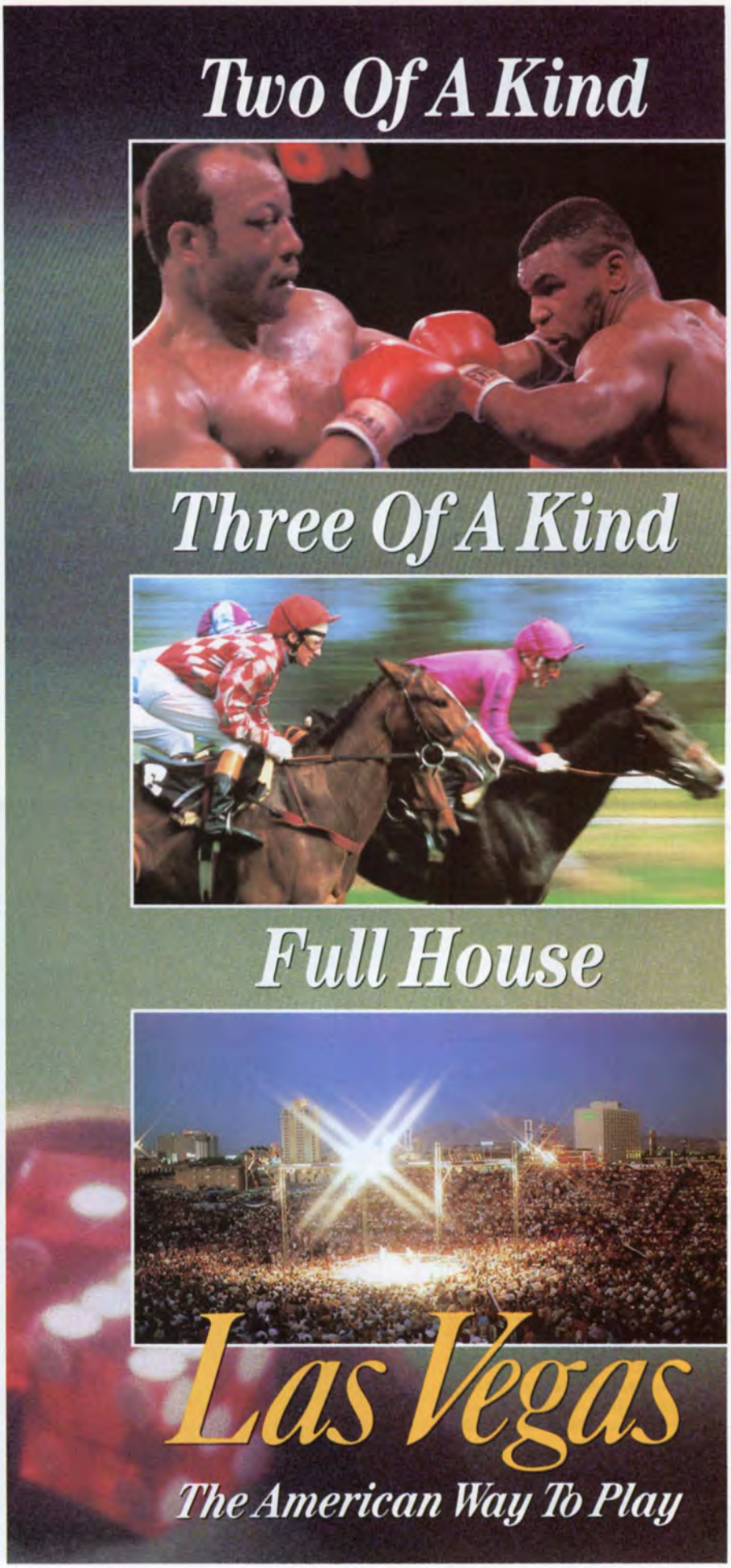
Endless Summer on the River

At a time when many Nevadans to the north are raking leaves and thinking fall, Laughlinites are still enjoying summer-like temperatures. And lots of sunshine is expected September 8-11 for the sixth annual Laughlin River Days in this Colorado River town.

The festivities are launched Thursday when chefs whip up food fantasies in the Culinary Magic competition. Other events include the Miss Laughlin pageant, a magic contest, and a fireworks display as well as a laser-light show on Friday. Many of the events follow this year's theme, "Laughlin: Experience the Magic."

Arts and crafts will be displayed during the Art Festival on Saturday. And that swimsuit you may have been getting ready to put away will come in handy if you decide to join the Gnat's Landing Tube Race down the Colorado River. There's also the Old Tyme Picnic and Pig Roast.

The celebration wraps up on Sunday with the Laughlin Olympics, which is open to all comers. A new feature this year is a Special Olympics segment.





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The GRAY LINE

Marina, 739-1500: "Dan-Sin Dirdy," indf.
Maxim, 731-4300: "Playboy's Girls of Rock and Roll," indf.
Mint, 387-6468: Entertainment TBA
Paddlewheel, 734-0711: Norbert Aleman's "Hot Lips," starring Pete Barbutti and the magic of Valentino, indf. (dark Wed.); "The Heat Is On," starring Male Express, indf. (dark Wed.); lounge entertainment, 5pm-5am nightly; on Wed. Stars of Tomorrow Showcase, 8pm-2am
Palace Station, 367-2411: Entertainment TBA
Peppermill Resort, Mesquite: 346-5232: Hot Lava/Sliced Bread, thru 7/3; Diahann Hall, 7/4-17; Karizma/Odessa, 7/18-24; Network, 7/25-31; American Made Band, 7/25-8/7; Perfect Circle, 8/1-14; Anita, 8/8-21; Lorado, 8/15-28; Gary Joe Wade and the Bump, 8/22-9/4; Fetish, 8/29-9/11; Joe Bob's, 9/5-19; Claiborne and Mixed Company, 9/12-25; Mid Life Crisis, 9/20-10/2; Douglas Allen Show, 9/26-10/9
Riviera, 734-5301: "Splash!" production show, indf.; "An Evening at La Cage," revue, indf.; "An Evening at the Improv," comedians, indf.; "Crazy Girls—Fastasie de Paris" revue, indf.;
Royal Casino, 733-4000: Dos Guys, indf.
Sahara, 737-2424: "42nd Street," Broadway musical, indf.
Sam Boyd's Fremont, 385-3232: Nightly entertainment
Sam's Town, 456-7777: Nightly entertainment
Sands, 733-5000: "Beach Blanket Babylon," revue, indf.;
Silver Slipper, 734-1212: "Boy-Lesque," revue, indf. (dark Thurs.)
Stardust, 732-6325: "Lido de Paris," starring Bobby Berosini and his orangutans, indf. (dark Tues.)
Tropicana, 739-2411: "Folies Bergere," indf. (dark Thurs.)
Union Plaza, 386-2446: A major presentation with dinner and cocktail shows nightly except Mon.
Whiskey Pete's, on I-15 near the California-Nevada border, 382-4388: Live entertainment

Laughlin

Colorado Belle, Laughlin, 298-4000: Earl Turner, thru 7/2; Big Tiny Little, 7/1-23; Big Band Bash with jitterbug contest every Sun.
Del Webb's Nevada Club, Laughlin, 298-2512: Hoyt Henry and the Dixie Jazz Kings, indf. Mon.-Fri.
Edgewater, Laughlin, 298-2453
Regency, Laughlin, 298-2439: Piano bar
Riverside Resort, Laughlin, 298-2535: Entertainment TBA
Sam's Town Gold River, Laughlin, 298-2242

MUSEUMS

Henderson

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

Las Vegas

American Museum of Historical Documents: 10-7 Mon.-Sat., 11-6 Sun., 3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., privately owned, 731-0785
Discovery, The Children's Museum: For information call 382-3445



Imperial Palace Auto Collection: 9:30am-11:30pm daily, 794-3174

Las Vegas Art Museum: 10-3 Tues.-Sat., noon-3 Sun., Lorenzi Park, 3333 W. Washington Ave., 647-4300

Las Vegas Museum of Natural History: 9-9 daily Easter thru Nov. 1; 9-6 Mon.-Thurs., 9-9 Fri.-Sun. Nov. 2 through Easter; 3700 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 739-7280

Liberace Museum: 10-5 Mon.-Sat., 1-5 Sun., 1775 E. Tropicana, 798-5595

Nevada State Museum and Historical Society: 11:30-4:30 Mon.-Tues., 8:30-4:30 Wed.-Sun., Lorenzi Park, 486-5205

Old Las Vegas Fort: 8-2 Sat. and Mon. and noon-3 Sun., Las Vegas Blvd. N. at Washington



The Ramada Express is so steamed up about its train theme that a three-foot gauge rail line circles the new Laughlin hotel.

(entrance from Cashman Field parking lot B only), 382-7198

Olde-Tyme Gambling Museum: 10am-6pm daily, Stardust Hotel, 732-6111

Ripley's Believe It or Not!: 9am-midnight Sun.-Thurs., 9am-1am Fri.-Sat., Four Queens Hotel, 385-4011

UNLV Museum of Natural History: 9-5 Mon.-Fri., 10-5 Sat., UNLV 739-3381

North Las Vegas

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

Overton

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

ART GALLERIES

The following Las Vegas area galleries offer original works. If you're calling from out of state, Nevada's area code is 702.

Boulder City

Art Exchange: 444 Hotel Plaza, 10-5 Mon.-Sat., 12-5 Sun., iron sculpture, photography, and original prints, 293-0172

Boulder City Art Guild and Gallery: 1495 Nevada Hwy., noon-4 daily, oils and watercolors by local artists, 294-9982

Brent Thompson Art and Framing: 1672 Nevada Hwy., 10-5 Tues.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., contemporary Southwest, 293-4652

Burk Gal'ry: 1229 Arizona, 10-5 Mon.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., western themes and polage, 293-3958

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Henderson

Studio West: 2708 N. Green Valley Pkwy., 10-6 Mon.-Sat., paintings, etchings, and limited-edition prints, 458-2535

Las Vegas

AA Gallery: 1812 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 10-6 Mon.-Fri., Sat.-Sun. by appointment, commissioned portraits, 386-2787

Allied Arts Gallery: 3207-1/2 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 9-5 Mon.-Fri., contemporary work by Nevada artists, 731-5419

Alta Ham Fine Arts Gallery: UNLV 4505 S. Maryland Pkwy., 8-5 Mon.-Fri., nationally known artists, 739-3893

American Museum of Historical Documents: 3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 10-6 Mon.-Wed., 10-9 Thurs.-Fri., 10-6 Sat., 12-5 Sun., historical documents framed as art, 731-0785

Art Lover's Gallery: 953 E. Sahara Ave., 10-6 Tues.-Fri., 10-5 Sat., posters, prints, and limited-edition lithographs, 734-2822

Canterbury Arts: 1566 Western, 8:30-5 Mon.-Fri., weekends and evenings by appointment, original graphics and limited-edition prints, 384-9640

Charleston Heights Arts Center: 800 S. Brush St., 1-8 Mon.-Thurs., 1-5 Fri.-Sun., students' work, 386-6383

Circle Gallery Ltd.: Bally's Shopping Arcade, 10-10 Sun.-Sat., lithographs and serigraphs, 734-0000

Clark County Library District: 1401 E. Flamingo Rd., 9-9 Mon.-Thurs., 9-5 Fri.-Sat., 1-5 Sun., local photography, 733-7810

Downtown Art and Gift Gallery: 321 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 11-2 Mon.-Fri., weekends and evenings by appointment, oils, acrylics, and sculpture, 384-3884

Emperor Galleries: 3000 Paradise Rd., 9-10 Sun.-Thurs., 9-12 Fri.-Sat., portraits and Violet Parkhurst seascapes, 731-0456



American boxers compete for places on the U.S. Olympic team this July in Las Vegas. Above, boxer Kenneth Gould.

Habitat: 4300 Meadows Ln., 10-9 Mon.-Fri., 10-6 Sat., 11-6 Sun., Southwestern prints, watercolors, 878-2434

Herigstad's Gallery: 2290 E. Flamingo Rd., 10-6 Mon.-Sat., Neiman and Dali signed lithographs, 733-7366

Las Vegas Art Museum: 3333 W. Washington Ave., 10-3 Tues.-Sat., 12-3 Sun., youth, Nevada, and guest artist displays, 647-4300

Las Vegas Artists Cooperative: 4300 Meadows Ln., 10-9 Mon.-Fri., 10-6 Sat.-Sun., 200 local artists, 877-0761

Markus Galleries: 3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., Suite 309, 10-6 Mon.-Wed. and Sat., 10-9 Thurs.-Fri., 12-5 Sun., contemporary art by area artists, Austine Wood polages, 737-7307

Mary Lou's: 5079 Arville, 9-6 Mon.-Fri., 9-1 Sat., Southwest Indian art, baskets, and pottery, 367-6465

Minotaur Fine Arts Ltd.: 3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 9:30-6 Mon.-Wed., 9:30-9 Thurs.-Fri., 9:30-6 Sat., 12-5 Sun., oils, etchings, and lithographic drawings, 737-1400

Nevada Frames and Gallery: 3061 Sheridan, 10-5 Mon.-Sat., paintings, 876-6734

Newsom's Art Gallery: 1141 S. Maryland Pkwy., 10-5 Tues.-Sat. and by appointment, western paintings and bronzes, 384-9865

Portfolio Ink: 2350 S. Jones Blvd., 2-7 Tues.-Fri., 11-6 Sat., limited-edition serigraphs and lithographs, 876-3587

Raphael Galleries, Ltd.: 3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 10-6 Mon.-Wed. and Sat., 10-9 Thurs.-Fri., 12-5 Sun., oils, lithographs, porcelain figurines, and plates, 732-9523

Reed Whipple Center Gallery: 821 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 2:30-8 Mon. and Thurs., 10-8 Tues., Wed., and Fri., 9-5 Sat., 12-5 Sun., local artists, 386-6383

Ryan Galleries: 3661 S. Maryland Pkwy., 10-5 Mon.-Fri., serigraphs and oils, 734-0650

Sandor Art Studio: 3390 Oneida Way, 9-6 daily, western and Indian subjects, 732-4808

Studio Workshop and Gallery: 608 E. Sahara Ave., 10-5 Mon.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., 734-8962

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Photo: Dave Black

PREVIEW

Boats, Balls, Basques, and Balloons

Come fall, temperatures in the Las Vegas area simmer down a bit, and folks come out of the air-conditioning to enjoy near-perfect weather. Celebrations involve the outdoors, too, and here's a sneak preview of some of them.

During the last weekend in September, the Budweiser Las Vegas Silver Cup Unlimited Hydroplane Race hits the water. The September 23-25 event pits pilots and their machines in an exciting final race of the national unlimited hydroplane season. Boulder City celebrates the event with games for children and food and beverage booths.

Boulder City's Art in the Park is the largest open-air festival in Nevada with fine arts and crafts. This year the fall festival's dates are October 1-2.

On the same weekend, the Clark County Basque Festival offers Old-World traditional dancing, contests of strength, and hearty food and drink.

The Las Vegas Jaycees State Fair is just clean fun, what with a greased-pig chase, pie-eating and tobacco-spitting contests, a diaper derby and arm-wrestling. There's also more sedate competitions in home arts, home science, gardening, photography, and art during the October 11-16 event.

This fall the Las Vegas Senior Golf Classic gets a new name, the General Tire Classic, but many of the great names in golf will be coming back to play at the Desert Inn Country Club on October 27-30. Many of the Senior Tour's players played at the D.I. during the Tournament of Champions between 1953 and 1966.

Approximately 500 antique cars, all built before 1937 parade down the Las Vegas Strip to Lake Mead and back during the annual Imperial Palace Antique Auto Run, October 28-30. It's a show of well-kept machines and colorfully costumed drivers.

Every October since 1979, for three days the desert sky above North Las Vegas is ablaze with color as 100 hot-air balloonists from across the U.S., Canada, and Europe join in the Fairshow. This October 28-30, besides watching the Nevada Balloon Championship Races, visitors can participate in balloon rides, a kiddie carnival, food fair, beer garden, and craft-making, and see an aeronautical light show in which the balloons form the shape of the state of Nevada.



The fall sporting season in the Las Vegas area gets a lift from events like the unlimited hydroplane races on Lake Mead.

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Photo: Gene Hertzog

Sturman Fine Arts: 101 Convention Center Dr., private collection open for viewing to major collectors, by appointment only, 734-2787

Torres Gallery and Frame Shop: 2470 E. Tropicana Ave., 9-6 Mon.-Sat., original and limited-edition prints, 454-6622

Touch of the West Gallery: Dunes Hotel, 10-8 Sun.-Thurs., 10-10 Fri.-Sat., Charles Smith paintings, western art, serigraphs, 731-1315

Winged Horse Gallery: 6380 Eastern Ave., 10-5 Mon.-Sat., contemporary ceramic, wood and bronze sculpture, paintings, 798-0778

CASINO NOTES

•The **Ramada Express Hotel/Casino** opens this summer in Laughlin. The $60 million property will have 400 rooms, 30,000 square feet of casino space, and a railroad theme. Dual B. Cooper, Jr., vice president and general manager, says, "Each floor will be named after a railroad. The casino, restaurants, lounge, and lobby will have the railroad theme. That's so our customers won't lose their train of thought."

•The **Tropicana** named six baby swans as Birdies of the Month on "The Island of Las Vegas." "We usually honor one special bird a month," said Tropicana horticulturist Don Davis, but tradition flew the coop when a black swan gave birth to six beautiful signets. The mother and her brood will get a special living area as the award. "After all," said Davis, "we couldn't possibly let them live in a (swan) dive."

•The **Sahara** has been busy renovating and adding to its casino this year. The latest project includes the complete renovation of guest rooms in the skyscraper. The Sahara expects to finish additional stories to the tower later in the summer.



Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, and Steve Winwood appear outdoors at Caesars *(see Events).*

•The **Desert Inn** has been awarded the American Automobile Association's Four Diamond Award for 1988. A Four Diamond rating is only awarded to those properties that offer luxurious accommodations and above-average staff, housekeeping, and other amenities.

•This year two Las Vegas hotels, **Caesars Palace** and the **Golden Nugget**, earned the Mobil Guide's four-star designation, a level achieved by 2 percent of American hotels. Other Nevada hotels at the four-star level are **Harrah's Reno** and three Lake Tahoe resorts, **Caesars Tahoe**, **Hyatt Lake Tahoe**, and **Harvey's Resort**.

•In July **Sam Boyd's Fremont Hotel** celebrates its slot club's first birthday with a month-long promotion.

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TOURNAMENTS

July

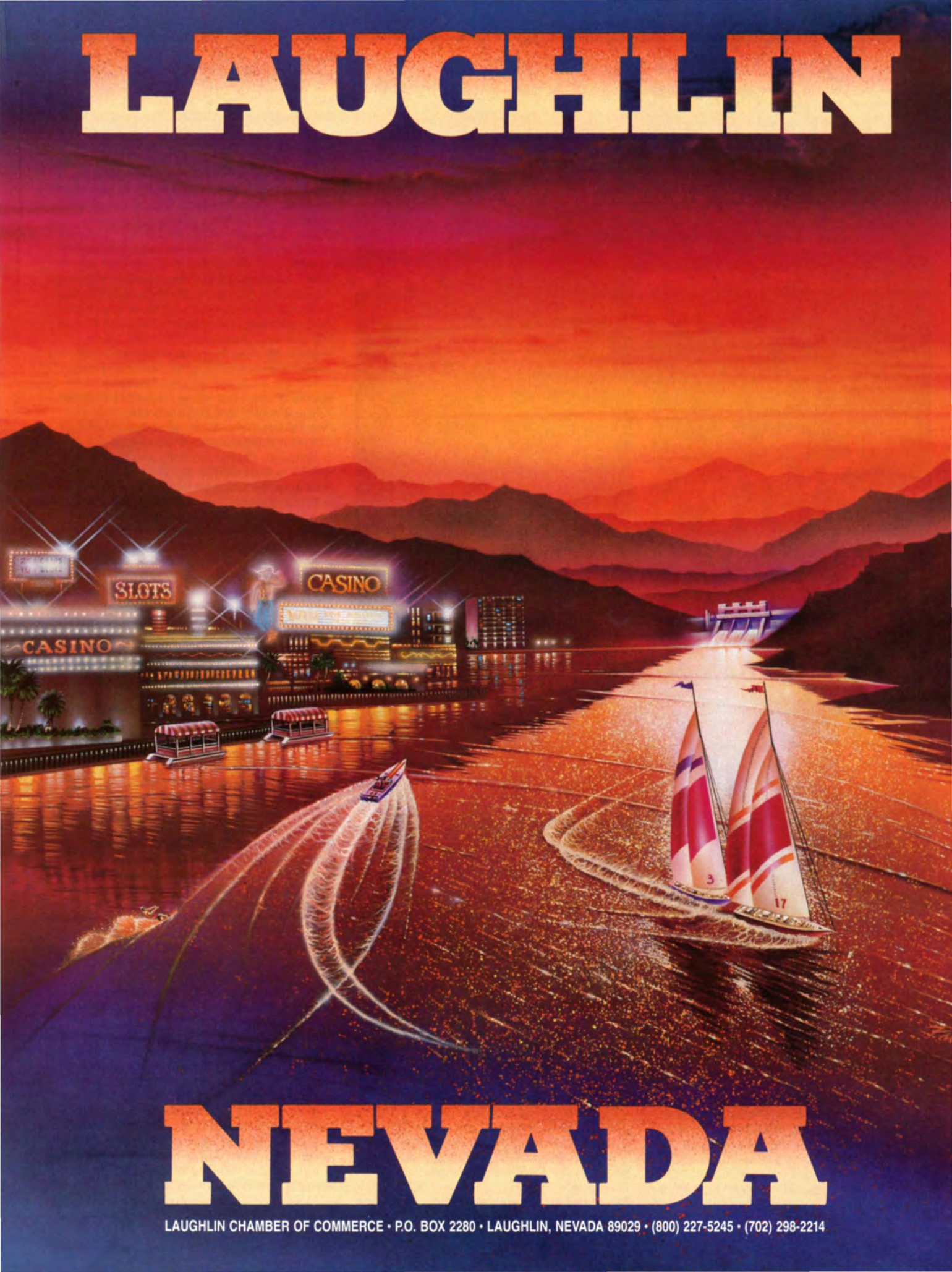
Bingo, Mon.-Fri., Marina, 739-1500
Blackjack, every Fri., Marina, 739-1500
Slots, 7/2-3, 7/10-11, 7/24-25, 7/31, Tropicana, 739-2222
World Cup of Thoroughbred Handicapping, 7/6-10, Caesars Palace, 731-7777
Slots, 7/7-11, Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5516
America's National Poker Championships, 7/7-22, Bob Stupak's Vegas World, 383-5252
Slots, 7/11-15, Union Plaza, 386-2253
Slots, 7/13-15, Sahara, 737-2361
Keno, 7/15-17 Stardust, 732-6587
Blackjack, 7/22-24, Tropicana, 739-2222
Keno, 7/25-26, Caesars Palace, 731-7777
Craps, 7/29-31, Tropicana, 739-2222
Blackjack, 7/31-8/4, Frontier, 734-0110

August

Poker, 8/11-15, Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5516
Slots, 8/14-17 Stardust, 732-6587
Craps, 8/19-21, Tropicana, 739-2222
Slots, 8/28-30, Tropicana, 739-2222
Slots, 8/28-31, Flamingo Hilton, 733-3117
Horse Race Handicap, 8/28-9/1, Stardust, 732-6587
Pan, 8/29-9/2, Union Plaza, 386-2253

September

Video Poker, 9/4-6, Tropicana, 739-2222
Slots, 9/9-12, Frontier, 734-0110
Slots, 9/11-13, Tropicana, 739-2222



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THE NEVADA CALENDAR









Summer means a chance to swing on a carnival ride at the Nevada State Fair in Reno, travel back to the '20s at the Pope Estate in South Lake Tahoe, and ride on a train in Carson City.

EVENTS HOT LINES

Festivals at Tahoe: For information on North Shore festivals call 916-583-7625

Nevada Division of State Parks: hikes, tours, stargazing, campfire programs at 21 parks around the state, District II, Carson City, 885-4379

Reno Municipal Band: free noon-time concerts weekdays during July and August in Wingfield Park, Wed. evening concerts at UNR Quadrangle, 851-0759

Reno Silver Sox: class-A baseball, 7/1-2 v. Visalia; 7/3-4 v. Bakersfield; 7/14-16 v. Stockton; 7/17-18 v. Palm Springs; 7/25-27 v. San Bernardino; 7/29-31 v. San Jose; 8/8-11 v. Modesto; 8/12-14 v. Fresno; 8/22-24 v. Riverside; 8/26-28 v. San Jose; 8/29-31 v. Fresno, Moana Stadium, 825-0678

UNR Football: 9/10 v. Northwestern Louisiana; 9/24 v. Murray (Kentucky) State, Mackay Stadium, UNR, 784-4500

UNR Music Department: concerts, recitals, 784-6145

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

EVENTS

July

Reno Jumping Classic, 6/29-7/3, A-rated horse show and grand prix competition, featuring prestigious horses and riders from throughout Nevada, California, and surrounding states. Competitors will use four competition rings, jumping hurdles over predetermined courses, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 852-8201

Music in Nevada, 1860-1920, thru 7/3, photos and artifacts, Nevada Historical Society, 789-0190

WIBC National Championship Tournament, thru 7/4, Women's International Bowling Congress tournament with more than 80,000 competitors, held at Bally's Reno and Carson Lanes in Carson City, 358-5592

Nevada 88, thru 7/10, traveling photo show from Elko's Northeastern Nevada Museum, Nevada Historical Society, 789-0190

Carson Valley Art Show, thru 7/15, Courthouse Museum, Genoa, 265-2518

Festival Reno, thru 7/31, gaming tournaments, food festivals, jazz festival, top name entertainment, citywide in Reno and Sparks, 827-7636 or 800-FOR RENO

John Ascuaga's Nugget Jazz Festival, 7/1-4, on Fri. dinner-dance, Sat.-Mon. bands play on a rotation basis in the Celebrity Showroom, convention center, and Mount Rose Room, 10 ensembles from coast-to-coast, at John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300

Master Indian Weaving Demonstration, 7/1-31, Stewart Indian Museum, Carson City, 882-1808

Kit Carson Project, 7/1-8/31, bronzes of Kit Carson statue on display, Great Basin Gallery and Frame, Carson City, 882-8505

Reno Fire Dept. Centennial Muster, 7/2-3, competition using antique fire equipment; on 7/2 parade at 9am followed by muster competition on Virginia Street, dinner and dance at UNR; on 7/3, 7am breakfast at Rancho San Rafael Park, 10am muster competition on Virginia Street; on 7/4 Skyfire fireworks with Reno Fire Dept. demo from 7-11pm at UNR, 747-2716

Nevada-California Triple Crown Championship, 7/2-4, softball competition, Reno and Sparks, 356-2376

Gala Grand Opening of Sparks' New Victorian B Street, 7/2-4, craft show, jazz festival, all-American food festival and ribbon cutting ceremony, town center, Sparks, 356-2284

Silver State Quarter Horse Show, 7/2-4, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 323-3073

Nevada State Dairy Goat Show, 7/2-4, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 323-3073

Virginia and Truckee Excursion Train Runs, 7/2-4, 7/16-17 8/6-7 8/20-21, and 9/3-5, restored Virginia and Truckee locomotive No. 25 will haul two former V&T open-air excursion cars and V&T caboose-coach No. 10 around a mile-long track; fare is $2.50 per adult and $1 per child; on other summer weekends the motorcar *Washoe Zephyr* offers rides for $1 per adult and 50 cents per child, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 885-4810 or 885-5168

Lake Tahoe Sail Week, 7/2-9, includes prestigious Olson 30 Nationals, sponsored by Windjammers Yacht Club, headquarters Tahoe Keys Marina, 916-544-5050

Music Festival on the Village Green, 7/3, 11am-6pm, performers include Reno Municipal Orchestra, High Strung Blue Grass

Photos: Larry Prosor/INSTOCK (top left); Syd Brown (bottom)

Group, Fiddlesticks, Bob Barnes Big Band Sound; booths, food, Village Green behind Hyatt Lake Tahoe, Incline Village, 831-4622

Northstar Family Day, 7/3, 916-587-0280

Make a Wish Show and Shine, 7/3, food, model car contest, awards, games, and raffles, Rancho San Rafael Park, 355-7707

Barbecue and Hoedown, 7/3, 6pm, Mills Park, Carson City, 882-1565

Northstar Sunday Jazz, 7/3-8/28, 916-587-0280

Harrah's Star Spangled Fourth, 7/4, airshow, sailboat regatta, fireworks, South Lake Tahoe, 916-544-5057

Virginia City July 4th Celebration, 7/4, parade, band concert, fireworks, 847-0389

Genoa July 4th Celebration, 7/4, Reno Philharmonic concert, park opens at 3pm, concert begins 5pm, free, Mormon Station State Park, Genoa, 825-5009

Carson City July 4th Celebration, 7/4, 11am parade, followed by games, picnics, live music, arts and crafts, game booths, horseshoes, fireworks at Mills Park, 882-1565 (picnic 885-8200)

Skyfire Festival, 7/4, fireworks, 7-11pm, Mackay Stadium, UNR, 784-6837 or 789-6299

Incline Village July 4th Celebration, 7/4, picnic, food, games, air show, Incline Beach, 831-7213

North Tahoe July 4th Celebration, 7/4, parades, picnics, barbecues, craft fairs, and fireworks; various events at Tahoe City, 916-583-2371; Truckee, 915-587-2757; Kings Beach, 916-546-7248

Mexican Dance, 7/5, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 323-3073

U.S. National Standard Class Soaring Championships, 7/5-14, cross-country soaring contest, Douglas County Airport, Minden, 916-961-0362 or 916-966-0737

Shakespeare Workshop, 7/5-8/11, on this summer's Shakespeare at Sand Harbor plays (8/8-21), meets Tues. and Thurs. nights, academic credit available, Sierra Nevada College, Incline Village, 831-1314

Sparks Festival Days, 7/6-10, melodrama, carnival, arts and crafts, petting zoo, mariachi dancers, held at various shopping centers, centered at Iron Horse Shopping Center, Sparks, 358-1976

Music on the Mountain, 7/7 and 7/13, chamber ensemble at High Camp, Squaw Valley, 916-583-6985

Governor's Dinner, 7/8, annual fundraiser at Governor's Mansion for UNR athletics, Notre Dame football coach Lou Holtz is featured speaker, Carson City, 784-4870

Little Britches Rodeo, 7/8-10, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 323-3073

Lake Tahoe Summer Music Festival, 7/8-16, chamber music at various North Lake Tahoe locations, 916-583-7625

Nevada Air Museum Chili Cook-Off and Flea Market, 7/9, chili cook-off, flea market, vehicle beauty contest (awards for best looking motorcycle, military vehicle, vintage car, and aircraft), Reno-Stead Airport, Stead, 747-7795

Tour of California Alps Death Ride, 7/9, bicycle race from Markleeville to Kirkwood and back to Markleville, 916-694-2203

Ultima Alpina Mountain Bike Race, 7/10, meet at Kirkwood, 265-5295

Sactopits Observed Trials, 7/10, motorcycle trials, Donner Ski Ranch, 916-426-3635

Tahoe Yacht Club and Chambers Landing Invitational Display Show, 7/10, Homewood, 916-581-4700

Summer Music Series, 7/10-31, classical music on Sun., Chateau, Incline Village, 831-4622

Comstock Arabian Horse Show, 7/11-17 Reno Livestock/Events Center, 323-3073

Lakefront House and Garden Tour, 7/13, wine and cheese tasting, North Lake Tahoe Historical Society fundraiser, North Shore Lake Tahoe (Brockway, Crystal Bay, and Incline Village), 916-583-1762

Mongoose Stage Race, 7/13-16, off-road bicycle race in Dayton, Carson City, and Incline Village areas, 832-0726

Nevada 88, 7/13-8/21, traveling photo show from Elko's Northeastern Nevada Museum, Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 885-4810

A Taste for Art, 7/14, wine tasting and music, followed by opening of West Coast contemporary artists' exhibit, which shows thru 8/14, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Music at Sand Harbor, 7/14-17 in outdoor amphitheater, groups include Zasu Pitts Memorial Orchestra, Zulu Spear, the Nylons, Montreux, dress warm and bring a picnic, Sand Harbor State Park, 3 miles south of Incline Village, 916-583-9048

"Annie Get Your Gun," 7/15-17 and 7/22-24, musical, Carson City Community Center, 883-1976

Pueblo Deco Architecture in the Southwest Exhibit, 7/15-9/11, photos of Southwestern architecture, Nevada Historical Society, 789-0190

Tombola, 7/16, games, picnic, food including barbecued lamb, fundraiser for Washoe Medical Center, Pickett Park, 328-4166

Carson Valley Heritage Days, 7/16, arts and crafts, chili cook-off, Minden, 782-2431

Boxing Match, 7/16, Evander Holyfield v. James Tillis, outdoor stadium, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515

Great Flume Race, 7/17, off-road bicycle race from Spooner Lake to Incline Village, 832-0726

Open Horse Shows, 7/17 8/14, and 9/18, Washoe Horsemen's Assn., Horsemen's Park, 849-1453

Friday Night at the Fights, 7/22, five bouts, refreshments, Eldorado Hotel, 786-5700

Truckee Townwide Celebration, 7/22-24, train rides, costume ball, street dance, 831-1547 or 916-587-2757

Reno Towne Faire, 7/23, children's carnival, pony rides, arts and crafts, music, Wingfield Park and West Street Plaza, 785-2262

Carson Valley Historic Home Tour, 7/23, tours of various homes in the Carson Valley including some that have not previously been open to the public, $20 ticket includes lunch and

PREVIEW



Old cars, old tunes, and a good old-time parade in Reno for Hot August Nights.

Cruising Into the Past

Reno will be the cruise and crew-cut capital of the world when Hot August Nights brings nostalgic waves of classic cars and rock 'n' roll to the Truckee Meadows on August 4-7

The events are designed to send Reno visitors and locals into a gigantic time warp. On Thursday's prom night, August 4, nervous former high schoolers can dress up with corsages and boutonnieres, long dresses, and white sport coats, and dance the night away at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center.

The homecoming concert on Friday night at Lawlor Events Center promises to include '50s and '60s singers and bands.

On Saturday downtown Reno will offer a giant show-and-shine showcase for automobiles. Hot August Nights' organizers, through the Adopt-a-Car program at the William F. Harrah Automobile Museum, have adopted the 1949 Mercury that James Dean drove in the movie *Rebel Without a Cause*. They hope to restore it in time to lead the parade of a thousand automobiles (that's the estimate) late Saturday afternoon under the Reno Arch and up Virginia Street to Lawlor Events Center, where a cruise-in concert is set for that evening.

The final event is a class picnic on Sunday at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center.

For more information, call 702-829-1955. And get your wheels ready.

Photo: Jerry Aaron

wine tasting with music, Minden-Gardnerville area, 782-5008 or 782-8484

Nevada Paint Horse Show, 7/23, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 849-2240

California Dressage Society Show, 7/23-24, the Olympic sport of horsemanship, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 323-3073

American Opera Festival of the Sierra, 7/23-24, 7/29-30, and 8/7, festival dedicated solely to opera composed by Americans, for Americans, and performed by American singers, headed by Metropolitan Opera tenor William Lewis; an opera preview is given by Lewis before each performance; on 7/23 and 7/29 "Ballad of Baby Doe" at Cal-Neva Lodge in Crystal Bay; on 7/24 Opera on Top of the Tram Luncheon and Gordon Getty seminar at Squaw Valley, "Plump Jack" and "White Election" at Cal-Neva Lodge; on 7/29 "Ballad of Baby Doe" at Cal-Neva Lodge; on 7/30 Scenes from American Operas, "Amelia Goes to the Ball" and "Old Maid and the Thief" at Cal-Neva Lodge; on 8/7 Leonard Bernstein's Mass at St. Mary's in the Mountains in Virginia City, 831-5111

National Conference of State Legislatures, 7/24-29, Reno, 885-9090

Team Roping, 7/27-31, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 323-3073

South Shore Fair, 7/28-31, carnival rides, foods from around the world, arts and crafts, Round Hill Mall, S. Lake Tahoe, 916-544-5050

Capital City Fair, 7/28-31, rodeo, team roping, 4-H livestock, home arts, carnival, arts and crafts, fine arts show, Fuji Park, Carson City, 887-2262 or 887-2047

Barbershop Show, 7/30, celebrating the golden anniversary of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America (S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.), special guest quartet will be the New Tradition, 8pm, Pioneer Theater, 358-3349

Carson City Junior Rodeo, 7/30-31, Fuji Park, Carson City, 246-5039

North Tahoe Fine Arts Council Arts and Crafts Fair, 7/30-31, Truckee Regional Park, 916-583-9048

Nevada State Horseman's Assn. Show, 7/30-31, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 852-3011

Nevada Artists Assn. Photo Exhibit, 7/30-8/26, reception from 2-4pm on 8/6, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 882-6411



Photos from the Pyramid Lake Photography Competition will be on exhibit at the Nevada State Fair.

August

"Grease," 8/2-6, musical, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Hot August Nights, 8/4-7 a celebration of classic cars and classic rock 'n roll, featuring entertainment from the '50s, a classic car parade, burn-off contest, show and shine, car swap, sock hop, and prom night, Reno, 829-1955

Western Jazz Barbecue, 8/5, Ponderosa Ranch, Incline Village, 831-4440

Douglas County Junior Rodeo and 4-H Exhibit Day, 8/5-7 fairgrounds, Gardnerville, 782-8754

Peruvian Paso Horse Show, 8/5-7 Reno Livestock/Events Center, 463-3088

Live Tennis, 8/6, tennis action with Ivan Lendl v. Andre Agassi, outdoor stadium, Caesars Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, 588-3515

Tahoe Yacht Club Concours d'Elegance, 8/6, Tahoe Boat Company, Tahoe City, 916-581-4700

Sixth Annual Northstar Run, 8/7, 5-km. and 10-km. races, Northstar, 916-587-0280

Shakespeare at Sand Harbor, 8/12-28 (except 8/15 and 8/22), performed under the stars by the Valley Institute of Theatre Arts of Saratoga, California, on the shore of Lake Tahoe; featuring "Macbeth," "Much Ado About Nothing," and Henry Fielding's "Tom Jones," bring picnic, Sand Harbor at Lake Tahoe State Park, 916-583-9048

Wooden Boat Show, 8/13, Tahoe Keys Marina, South Lake Tahoe, 916-541-5022

Coors International Bicycle Classic, 8/13-14, on 13th race goes through Squaw Valley where a carnival will be held to celebrate (916-583-6985); on 14th race comes to Reno and Sparks for a road race and nighttime criterium followed by music, food, and bicycle equipment exhibits on B Street Victorian Plaza in Sparks, 356-2284 or 356-3438

Truckee Championship Rodeo, 8/13-14, 916-587-3963

Bonsai Show, 8/13-14, Tockoa Bonsai Club, 475 Gentry Way, 323-6666

Jackpot of Gems Show, 8/13-14, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 356-9864

Summer Music Series, 8/14-9/4, classical music on Sun., Chateau, Incline Village, 831-4622

Nevada State Fair, 8/16-21, carnival, demolition derby, live entertainment on four stages, cookie bake-off, livestock shows, 4-H and FFA exhibits, home arts competitions, aquarium contest, fine arts show, state fairgrounds, 322-4424

Pyramid Lake Photography Competition Exhibit, 8/16-21, photos from the second annual photo competition sponsored by Friends of Pyramid Lake, shown at the Nevada State Fair, state fairgrounds, 673-6335

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We supply the lips

The 11th Annual International Whistle-Off
August 20 & 21, 1988
Carson City, Nevada



Relax in the shade of Carson City's Mills Park and listen to melodic whistlers from around the world There is competition in classical, popular and novelty whistling. **Admission is free**. Contact Carson City Tourism Authority, 1-800-634-8700 or 883-7442 in Nevada, P.O. Box 1416, Carson City, NV 89702, or Carson City Chamber of Commerce (702) 882-1565.

Photo: Steve Cerocke

Sierra Nevada Museum of Art Biennial Art Exhibit, 8/19-9/18, works by Nevada artists chosen in a statewide competition, 329-3333

11th International Whistle-Off, 8/20-21, whistlers from all over the world pucker up for this melodic whistling competition in four categories: solo classical, solo contemporary, solo novelty, and dual competition, free, Mills Park, Carson City, 882-1565

Carson Valley Fine Arts and Crafts Street Celebration, 8/20-21, Minden, 782-8144

Pony Bob Junior Rodeo, 8/20-21, for boys and girls under 18, Gandolfo Arena, Sparks, 852-3291

North Tahoe Fine Arts Council Arts and Crafts Fair, 8/20-21, Village Green, Incline Village, 916-583-9048

Living History, 8/20-21, recreation of a summer weekend at the historic Pope Estate in the 1920s; visitors are welcome to wear period costumes and join in the fun, vintage automobiles, Tallac Historic Site, S. Lake Tahoe, 916-573-2600

Yuill Brothers Golf Classic, 8/21, benefit for Easter Seals, Wildcreek Golf Course, 322-6262

Live Theatre, 8/25-27 and 9/1-3, Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta "Pirates of Penzance," Homewood, N. Lake Tahoe, 916-583-7625

Paint Horse Show, 8/25-28, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 916-989-4820

Nevada 88, 8/26-9/12, traveling photo show from Elko's Northeastern Nevada Museum, Courthouse Museum, Genoa, 782-2518

Reno Basque Festival, 8/27, feats of strength, sokitira (five-man tug-of-war), sheep dog races, dances and ethnic food, Exhibit Hall at Reno Livestock/Events Center, 331-2010 or 747-6343

Chili Cook-Off, 8/27 Ponderosa Ranch, Incline Village, 831-8072

North Tahoe Fine Arts Council Arts and Crafts Fair, 8/27-28, Commons Beach, Tahoe City, 916-583-9048

Civil War Reenactment, 8/27-28, Nevada Civil War Volunteers reenact the War Between the States with battles, fashion show, and living history, Bowers Mansion Park, Washoe Valley, 329-5210

Sun Mountain Massacre, 8/28, off-road bicycle race, Virginia City, 847-0999 or 847-0311

September

"Mr. Roberts," 9/2-3, 9/9-11, and 9/16-17 dramatic comedy, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Numaga Indian Days, 9/2-4, major regional powwow with competitive and social Indian dancing, arts and crafts sales, food booths including Indian tacos, and Native American games and gambling, free and open to public, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Reno, 329-2936 or 786-8913

Landmark Society Historic Carson City Home and Building Tour, 9/3, tickets available at Roberts House Museum, Carson City, 885-4979

Splendor of the Sierra Fine Arts Show, 9/3-4, Northstar, 916-587-0280

Jazz Show, 9/3-4, Northstar, 916-587-0280

Sparks' B Street Craft Jamboree, 9/3-5, craft festival, handmade items, food, B Street Victorian Plaza, Sparks, 356-2284

Labor Day Train Runs, 9/3-5, restored Virginia and Truckee locomotive No. 25 will haul two former V&T open-air excursion cars and V&T caboose-coach No. 10 around a mile-long track; fare is $2.50 per adult and $1 per child; on other summer weekends the motorcar *Washoe Zephyr* offers rides for $1 per adult and 50 cents per child, Nevada State Railroad

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Museum, Carson City, 885-4810 or 885-5168
Muscular Dystrophy Telethon, 9/6-7 Peppermill, 826-2121
Camel Race 1880s Ball, 9/9, old V&T Depot, Virginia City, 847-0311
Carson Valley Inn Annual Golf Tournament, 9/9-10, open to public, Carson Valley Inn and Carson Valley Golf Course, Minden-Gardnerville, 782-9711
Great Reno Balloon Race, 9/9-11, mass ascension of more than 100 hot air balloons over the city and mountains; spectators can enjoy music, rides, crafts, and food, Rancho San Rafael Park, 786-1131 or 785-4319
Northstar Open Tennis Tournament, 9/9-11, Northstar, 916-562-0321
Chili Cook-Off and Armadillo Races, 9/10, Ponderosa Ranch, Incline Village, 831-4440
Virginia City Camel Races, 9/10-11, on Sat. 11am parade followed by races, on Sun. races, 847-0311
Biggest Little Quilt Show in the West, 9/10-11, Bally's Reno, 323-7326
Nevada Paint Horse Show, 9/10-11, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 849-2240
Kirkwood 10-Km Run, 9/11, 6/2-mile run, Kirkwood, 916-694-2203
Reno National Championship Air Races, 9/15-18, 1988 marks the 25th anniversary for the races; the show will have 32 closed-course pylon races in Unlimited, Formula, AT-6, and Sport Biplane classes; the Air Force Thunderbirds and Army Golden Knights, aerobatic stars, and military and civilian static displays, Reno-Stead Airport, Reno, 826-7500
Bowers Mansion Festival, 9/17, folk, bluegrass, and traditional acoustic music, and International Nevada Spoon-Off, Bowers Mansion, Washoe Valley, 849-0276
Dixieland-at-Tahoe, 9/17-18, featuring Devil Mountain Jazz Band, Fulton Street Jazz Band, Hogin's Heros, Hot Frogs, Monterey Bay Classic Jazz Band, Natural Gas Jazz Band, Stumptown Jazz, and Tuleburg Jazz Band, Incline Village and Crystal Bay, 831-1547
Spaghetti Dinner, 9/24, Highlands Volunteer Fire Station, Virginia City, 847-0256
Genoa Candy Dance, 9/24-25, 68th annual, art faire, egg toss, barbecue, white elephant booth, buffet dinner, dance, Mormon Station State Park and Genoa Town Hall, 782-8144
Ferrari Hill Climb, 9/24-25, Virginia City, 847-0311 or 415-521-0782
Great High Sierra Regional Championship Chili Cook-Off, 9/25-26, Del Webb's High Sierra, 588-6211
National Team Penning Finals, 9/30-10/2, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 358-4154
National Country Western Dance Festival, 9/30-10/2, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 322-3355
Miniature Horse Assn. Show, 9/30-10/2, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 323-3073








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COMING EVENTS

Carson Indian Colony La Ka Le l Be ("Gathering") Powwow, 10/28-30, 885-9759
Nevada Day Celebration, 10/31, Carson City, 882-1565
North American Indian Championship Rodeo, 11/10-13, Reno, 323-3073 or 605-733-2555
Christmas on the Comstock, 12/9-10, Virginia City, 847-0311

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



Coors Intl. Bicycle Classic comes to Reno in August.

SHOWGUIDE

Bally's Reno, 789-2285: *Ziegfeld Theatre:* "Hello Hollywood, Hello!" indf.
Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515: *Cascade Showroom:* Whoopi Goldberg, 7/1-4; Live From Saturday Night: Dana Carvey and Dennis Miller, 7/5-6; Kenny Rogers, 7/7-10; Willie Nelson, 7/12-17; Smokey Robinson, 7/19-24; Kenny Loggins, 7/26-31; David Copperfield, 8/2-7; Pointer Sisters, 8/9-14; Red Skelton, 8/16-21; Gallagher, 8/23-28; Chuck Berry, 8/30-9/4; Reba McEntire, 9/16-17; Suzanne Somers,

Photo: Jim McGuire

Toni Tennille: From Gershwin to Mule Days

By Guy Richardson

Pushing a cart through the Carson City Raley's strides a tall woman who catches your eye. Striking lady, sure, but there's something aha! It's Toni Tennille.

"Sometimes they do a double-take at me in the fresh fruit section," Tennille told me shortly after she and her husband Daryl Dragon (a.k.a. The Captain) moved to Northern Nevada in 1984.

In the mountains, gasping your little heart out at 10,000 feet or what feels like it on the John Muir Trail, you spot a tall woman heading toward you in full stride. Yup. Toni.

Applauding the Nevada Opera's dazzling "Joan of Arc" at Reno's Pioneer Theater, you see a stunning blonde lady also applau you're ahead of me.

Toni Tennille is one of us, if by "one of us" we mean someone wild about the eastern side of the Sierra. The Captain and Toni became Mr. and Mrs. Dragon in Virginia City on Valentine's Day, 1974. Their granite-and-log home in Glenbrook blends into Nevada's mountains.

She calls herself "a big strong mountain woman." Believe her.

On Memorial Day Weekend this summer she was grand marshal of Mule Days in Bishop, California. Bishop? Mule Days? Well, yes, but you're not the only one wondering. Tennille's Lozzangeles publicist, Mitch Schneider, is a New York-raised fella who has a hard enough time grasping L.A. as Big Deal City. "When I asked Mitch to mail a publicity package to the Mule Day committee, there was a silence on the phone," Tennille said. "Then he said, 'What is this, exactly?' I said, 'It's kind of like the Calgary Stampede, but with mules.'"

Another silence. Long one. "Then he said, 'Oh, I see—it's reverse chic.'"

Nooo. Tennille is a woman at home in front of a symphony orchestra, doing her Gershwin-Kern-Berlin show, but she's equally at home on a mule. Listen to her two albums of classic pop, and the image of a glamorous singer forms and floats in the air as her voice does elegant things to wonderful music.

Then take a look at her booming across a snow-covered meadow on cross-country skis, all muscle and power as she laughs about the "size-five sea-level nits" getting in her way.



Toni Tennille: Looking good in Nevada.

This is a woman to match our mountains. Big, elemental, earthy. A lady at home on a mule.

After a lifetime of envying teeny women, Tennille says, "I've dieted, and been up and down all my life. Now I'm what they call 'that certain age' in France, and I'm never going to diet again. If you take it off, you only put it back on again. I'm a big lady, and I always will be. I just decided to accept myself—I'm never going to be Morgan Fairchild."

The Captain is happy about that. "He doesn't like it when I get too thin," Tennille said. "Of course, he's going through a mid-life thing where he doesn't like the way he looks in a swim suit. We all compare ourselves to the *Sports Illustrated* swim suit issue, and nobody looks that good. I like the way Daryl looks."

She weighs—a *Nevada Magazine* exclusive coming up here—160 pounds. On 5'll" it stretches out quite spectacularly. "During the Winter Olympics they talked about a speed skater who was exactly my height and weight," Tennille says. "They called her statuesque, and I said, All right!' Of course, she has more muscles than I'll ever have."

Sure, I said, but can she speed-skate in an elevator? Tennille can bowl you over by humming—think of a statuesque cat purring.

Tennille laughs. "And when she slows down, I'll still be singing."

Between shopping trips to Raley's.

Toni Tennille and the Captain will appear at Harrah's Reno July 28-August 3.

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Harbor Nights

By David Fenimore

"It's the best gig in the world," declares singer-songwriter Peter Rowan, tuning his guitar beneath a broad-brimmed Panama hat. Judging from the assortment of technicolor groundcloths, portable bars, gourmet picnic dinners, and smoking hibachis spread out in front of him this summer night, more than a thousand locals and visitors agree.

For six years the North Tahoe Fine Arts Council and Nevada State Parks staff have been teaming up to bring popular musicians like Rowan, David Grisman, Jesse Winchester, the Riders in the Sky, Queen Ida, members of the old Jefferson Airplane, and an eclectic assortment of other acts to one of Nevada's most beautiful parks: Sand Harbor, a sandy bowl rimmed with white granite boulders and 300-foot ponderosa pines, overlooking a turquoise cove on Tahoe's pristine east shore.

Tonight the crowd is streaming in early, lugging armloads of food and bedding to stake out their territorial claims. Champagne corks pop, samples of pasta salad make the rounds, and old friends try to get each other's attention across the sea of faces and bodies. It's like a large cocktail party, one where the guests elbow their way around for a while before settling in and snuggling up against each other in the crisp mountain air.

Just as the sun decides to paint the 2,500-foot granite wall of Marlette Peak with a soft, rich alpenglow the opening act brings an acoustic guitar and mandolin to the stage, strumming folk music and inviting the audience to sing along. Later the main attraction offers a more aggressive mixture of rock, jazz, rhythm, and blues. The sound system and lighting, enhancing rather than competing with the natural values of sun and stars, are unobtrusive and professional.

When the music is right, members of the audience shuffle over to dance in a roped-off corral alongside the stage, kicking up clouds of sand that transform them into dreamlike figures of frenzy. Less lively listeners huddle under blankets like disaster victims, overcome by food and drink.

Meanwhile, an all-volunteer crew continues to sell tickets and T-shirts, discreetly but efficiently controlling the dancers and cheerfully pampering the musicians with home-cooked meals specified by their contracts right down to the brand of mustard.





Sand Harbor has musical concerts (top) and Shakespeare (right) this summer

The audience, having earlier vied with each other for the trendiest food-to-go, can easily sympathize with such culinary fetishism. Along with the enthusiastic applause and extraordinary scenery Sand Harbor's combination of Nevada hospitality and California savoir-faire brings most of the players back for another round. Nights like this are repeated this July 14-17 with groups like the Zasu Pitts Memorial Orchestra and Zulu Spear.

Next, Shakespeare by the Shore

Take the above scenario, subtract the musicians and the megawatt sound system, keep all the Chardonnays, sleeping bags, and sun-dried tomatoes, add a professional theater company, and behold! The Bard on the Beach!

When Shakespeare's plays were first produced four centuries ago in the open-air Globe Theatre, Tahoe's east shore looked a lot like it does now. On August 8-21 Sand Harbor brings his famous tales of evil men, clever maids, and socio-political skulduggery to life in much the same transcendent surroundings as when Elizabethan groundlings were swilling sack and roasting pigeons in the cheap seats down front.

> Sand Harbor looks a lot like it did when Elizabethan groundlings were roasting pigeons in the cheap seats.

Such closeness to human as well as Mother Nature is especially appropriate for the outdoor scenes in popular "forest" comedies such as *As You Like It* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In *The Tempest*, for example, Ariel can fly down from the top of a towering pine as fish-faced Caliban skulks in from between two titantic slabs of granite. This year witches and lovers will be upstaging kings and generals in *Macbeth, Much Ado About Nothing*, and Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones* among the trees.

Sometimes Mother Nature even writes herself a leading role, as when a real thunderstorm cut loose during *The Tempest's* shipwreck scene. Most of the time, however, only gently lapping waves and the clink of wine glasses compete with the poor players, strutting and fretting their two hours onstage.

David Fenimore is teaching a short course on this year's Sand Harbor plays on July 5-August 11 at Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village. For information, call 702-831-1314. For details on the events, see this issue's Events listing or call 916-583-9048.

Photos: Larry Prosor/INSTOCK (top); Chaco Mohler (bottom)

9/23-25; Joan Rivers, 9/30-10/1; *Crystal Cabaret:* Playboy's Girls of Rock 'n Roll, indf.

Carson City Nugget, 883-3854: Entertainment TBA

Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711: Wrays, 7/1-3; Claiborne and Mixed Company, 7/4-9; Network, 7/11-23; Craig Harrison, 7/25-8/6; Motifs, 8/8-20; Whiskey Ridge, 8/22-9/3; Perfect Circle, 9/5-17

Circus Circus, Reno, 329-0711: Free circus acts, 11am-midnight

Crystal Bay Club, North Tahoe, 831-0512: Touch, 7/4 and 7/6-17; Summit, 7/19-31; Silent Partner, 8/2-14; Yours Truly, 8/16-28, Focus, 8/30-9/11; Headlines, 9/13-25; Expertease, 9/27-10/9; Summit, 10/11-23

Del Webb's High Sierra, Stateline, 588-6211: Wayne Newton, 6/17-7/3 and 8/22-9/4; Joe Savage, 6/21-7/3; Willie Tyler and Lester, 7/5-17; Pat Collins, 7/19-31; Danny Marona, 8/2-21; Joe Savage, 8/23-28; Rob Hanna: A Tribute to Rod Stewart, 8/30-9/4; Robert Attias, 9/6-18

Eldorado, Reno, 786-5700: Sonny Turner, 6/28-7/17; Frankie Fanelli, 6/27-7/10; Gary Raffanelli and Sandy Selby, 7/11-31; Entertainment Committee, 7/18-8/7; Diamonds, 8/2-21; Tony Tillman, 8/8-21; Pat Collins, 8/23-9/11; Krush, 8/22-9/11; Joe Savage, 9/13-10/2; Dae Han Sisters, 9/12-10/2

Fitzgerald's, Reno, 785-3300: George Picard, 7/1-3; Passion, 7/1-17; David Proud, 7/4-10; Craig Harrison, 7/11-24; Ohana, 7/18-24; Whiskey Ridge/David Proud, 7/25-8/7; Silk, 8/8-28; Perfect Circle, 8/15-28; Reta and the Wizz Kidz/Motifs, 8/29-9/11; Garfin Gathering, 9/12-10/2; Network, 9/19-10/9

Harolds Club, Reno, 329-0881: Entertainment TBA

Harrah's Reno, 329-4422: *Headliner Room:* Eddy Arnold, thru 7/10; Debbie Reynolds, 7/11-20; Roger Whittaker, 7/21-27; Captain and Tennille, 7/28-8/3; Ronnie Milsap, 8/4-10; Mickey Gilley, 8/11-24; Dionne Warwick, 8/25-31; Waylon Jennings/Jessi Colter, 9/1-11; Rich Little, 9/12-21; Bobby Vinton, 9/22-28; Don Rickles, 9/29-10/5; *Casino Cabaret:* Frenz, thru 7/17 and 8/18-indf.; Larry Collins, 7/13-18; Tanzania, 7/19-8/14; Zasu Pitts Memorial Orchestra, 7/21-8/3 and 9/15-28; Lil' Elmo and the Cosmos, 7/27-8/8; Platters, 8/4-17; Al Stewart, 8/18-31; Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles, 9/29-10/12

Harrah's Tahoe, 588-6606: *South Shore Room:* Spellbound: A Concert of Illusion, thru 9/11; Johnny Mathis, 9/13-14; Engelbert Humperdinck, 9/15-18; Crystal Gayle/Loretta Lynn, 9/20-25; Tom Jones, 9/27-10/2; *Stateline Cabaret:* Frederic Apcar's "Fast Company," indf.; Busboys, thru 7/5; Larry Collins, 7/7-12; Rosie Gaines and the Curtis Ohlson Group, 7/14-19; Lydia Pense Band, 7/21-26; Little Anthony, 7/28-8/2; Guess Who, 8/4-16; Platters, 8/18-30; Wayland Flowers and Madame, 9/1-13

Harvey's, Stateline, 588-2411: Lou Rawls, 7/7-10; Pia Zadora, 7/14-16; Ron Rose, indf.; Show of Power, 7/4-24; Three of Hearts, 7/25-8/21

Hyatt Lake Tahoe, Incline, 831-1111: Entertainment TBA

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3304: *Celebrity Showroom:* Legends in Concert II, thru 7/1; Dixieland Jazz Festival, 7/2-4; T.G. Sheppard/David Strassman, 7/5-18; Dottie West/Joe Carvalho's Exotic Bird Review, 8/4-17; Lettermen, 8/18-31; B.J. Thomas, 9/1-4; Sha Na Na, 9/15-28; *Casino Lounge:* Louie Fontaine and the Rockets/Motifs, thru 7/3; Winchester Cathedral, 7/4-24; Martha's Children, 7/5-24; Freddy Cole, 7/25-8/14; Kenny Laursen Show, 7/26-8/14; Links/Command Performance, 8/15-9/4

Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890: Jo Bobs, 7/1-17; Motifs, 7/19-24; Whiskey Ridge, 8/15-21; Motifs, 8/23-28; Big Tiny Little, 9/5-18

Peppermill, Reno, 826-2121: David Proud, thru 7/3; Robert France Band, thru 7/10; Cameron, thru 7/17; Lelands, 7/4-17; Leoni-Hecht/Lucy Lucille, 7/11-24; St. Romain, 7/18-31; Cheryl Cotten, 7/18-31; Leno and Company, 7/25-31

Reno Hilton, 322-1111: "Night Magic," revue, indf.; Silk/Leoni-Hecht Group, thru 7/10; Latisha and Foxworth/Reta and the Wizz Kidz, 7/11-31

Reno Ramada, 788-2000: Entertainment Wed.-Sun.

Sharkey's Nugget, Gardnerville, 782-3133

Tahoe Biltmore, North Tahoe, 831-0660: "Lipstick," revue, thru 9/28; Stearns and Chandler, thru 7/17; Hall and January, 7/19-8/7; Joe and Terry, 8/9-9/3

Topaz Lodge, Topaz Lake, 266-3339

Western Village, Sparks, 331-1069: Gary Wade and the Bump/Stew Stewart, thru 7/3; St. Romain, 7/4-17; David Proud, 7/11-24; France, 7/18-24; Gary Wade and the Bump, 7/25-8/14; Tommy Bell, 7/25-8/7; Wrays, 8/15-29; Latisha and Foxworth, 8/8-21; St. Romain, 8/22-9/4; Gary Wade and the Bump, 9/5-25; France, 9/26-10/9



Nevada State Museum in Carson City.

MUSEUMS

Carson City

Nevada State Archives: 8-5 Mon.-Fri., 101 S. Fall St., 885-5210

Nevada State Museum: 8:30-4:30 daily, 600 N. Carson St., 885-4810

Nevada State Railroad Museum: 8:30-4:30 Fri.-Sun. and holidays Memorial Day thru Nov. 1, S. Carson St. at Fairview Dr., 885-5168

Stewart Indian Museum: 9-4 every day, 5366 Snyder Ave., 882-1808

Warren Engine Co. No. 1 Museum: 1-5 Mon.-Fri., 111 N. Curry St., 887-2200

Genoa

Genoa Courthouse Museum: 10-4:30 daily May 15-October 15, 782-2518

Reno

Fleischmann Planetarium: 8-5 and 7-10 Mon.-Fri., 10:30-5 and 7-10 Sat.-Sun., UNR, call 784-4811 for schedule of shows

Harolds Club Gun Collection and Museum: 10-10 daily, 329-0881

Mackay School of Mines Minerals Museum: 8-5 Mon.-Fri., UNR, 784-6988

Nevada Air Museum: 10-5 weekends, Reno-Stead Airport, 10 mi. north of Reno, 853-3488

Nevada Historical Society: 10-5 Wed.-Sun., 1650 N. Virginia St., 789-0190

Sierra Nevada Museum of Art: 10-4 Tues. and Thurs.-Fri., 10-8 Wed., 12-4 Sat.-Sun., 549 Court St., 329-3333

UNR Anthropology Dept. Research Museum: 9-1 Mon.-Fri. Sept.-May, open all year by appt., UNR, 784-4686

Wilbur D. May Museum: 10-5 Wed.-Sun., 1502 Washington (Rancho San Rafael Park), 785-5961

Sparks

William F. Harrah Automobile Museum: 9:30-5:30 daily, 970 Glendale Ave., 355-3500

Sparks Heritage Foundation and Museum: 1-4 Mon.-Fri., 820 B St., 355-1144

Virginia City

Comstock Firemen's Museum: 10-4 daily, May-Oct., 847-0717

Julia C. Bulette Red Light Museum: 7:30-9 daily, 847-9991

Mark Twain Museum: 10-6 daily, 847-0525

Museum of Memories: 9:30-5 daily, 847-0454

Nevada Gambling Museum: 10-6 daily, 847-0789

The Way It Was Museum: 9:30-5 daily, 847-0766

Wild West Museum: 9-5 daily, 847-0400

ART GALLERIES

Carson City

Abell House: 1114 Curry St., 10-5:30 Mon.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., monthly shows by local artists, 883-5300

Austin Arts: 1505 N. Carson St., 9-5:30 Mon.-Fri., 9-1 Sat., visiting and local artists, 883-5531

Donna's Gallery: 1307 S. Carson St., 11-5:30 Tues.-Sat., handcrafted gifts, 883-9132

Great Basin Gallery and Frame: 110 S. Curry St., 9-6 Mon.-Sat., works by Jeff Nicholson, Mary Chadwell, Judith Stroh Miller, Barbara Moore, Jim Christison, Buckeye Blake, Steven Saylor, 882-8505

Nevada Artists Association Gallery: 449 W. King St., 10-4 Mon.-Sat., primarily Nevada themes, 882-6411

XS Gallery: Western Nevada Community College, 2201 W. Nye Ln., 8-10 Mon.-Thurs., 8-5 Fri., contemporary fine art, 887-3000

Gardnerville

East Fork Gallery: 1427 Main St. (U.S. 395), 10-5 daily, paintings, photographs, and ceramics by local artists, 782-2769

Lake Tahoe

DeCurtis Art Gallery: Round Hill Mall, Zephyr Cove, 10-5 Mon.-Sat., Sun. by appointment, oils, watercolors, 588-7310

High Sierra Gallery: Del Webb's High Sierra, Stateline, 9-5 Mon.-Fri., 9-9 Sat.-Sun., oils and photos, Tahoe themes, 588-6707

Lake Gallery: Boatworks Mall, Tahoe City, 10-10 Sun.-Sat., contemporary sculpture, prints, and limited editions, 916-583-1002

Potlatch: 324 Ski Way, Incline Village, 10-5:30 Sun.-Sat., Anthony Sinclair oils, 831-2485

Royal Art Gallery: Round Hill Mall, Zephyr Cove, 10-8 daily, limited-edition prints, oils, and sculptures, 588-2461

Sierra Galleries: Caesars Tahoe, Stateline, 8:30-9:30 Sun.-Thurs., 8:30-11 Fri.-Sat., western and Tahoe paintings, 588-8500

Timberline Crafts Gallery: 590 Lakeshore Dr., Incline Village, 10-5:30 daily, pottery studio, more than 100 regional artists' works, 831-2460

Photo: Don Dondero

Minden

Lone Tree Frame Co. and Gallery: 1592 Esmeralda, 10-5:30 Tues.-Fri., 10-2 Sat., Mimi Jobe acrylics, 782-2522

Reno

Addi Galleries: Bally's Reno, 9-11 Sun.-Sat, Red Skelton clown paintings, 323-1920

Artemisia Gallery Ltd.: 606 W. Plumb Ln. Suite 7 (in Arlington Gardens), 10-5:30 Mon.-Sat., ongoing exhibitions of signed Sierra Nevada artists, 825-2744

Artist's Co-op Gallery: 627 Mill St., 10-5 Tues.-Sat., 1-4:30 Sun., 20 local artists' 322-8896

Barnwood Is Beautiful: 135 N. Sierra, 12-5 Mon.-Sat., antique Nevada photos lacquered on barnwood, 329-6106

Casazza Art Gallery and Studio: 2200 Thornwood, by appointment, watercolors, winterscapes, abstracts, and florals, 322-0233

Custom Framing by Clark: 135 W. Liberty, 10-4:30 Mon.-Thurs., 10-4 Fri., oils and watercolors, 329-1177

Earth Window: American Indian Art: 2001 E. Second St., 10-5:30 Sun.-Sat., American Indian art in oil, acrylic, sandpainting, and beadwork, 786-5999

Fallen Leaf Gallery and Framery: 907 W. Moana Ln., 10-6 Tues.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., Frank McCarthy western prints, 826-7477

Feats of Clay: 20 C Hillcrest Dr., 10-5 Mon.-Sat., 60 western potters' works, 826-1131

Frame Shop: 3366 Lakeside Dr., 9:30-5 Mon., 10-6 Tues.-Fri., 9:30-5 Sat., duck stamps and limited-edition prints, 825-7117

Frame-Up: 145 W. Plumb Ln., 10-6 Mon.-Fri., 10-3 Sat., Lyle Ball western paintings, Mary Chadwell miniatures, 329-7557

Hagar's Gallery: 4056 Kietzke Ln., 9:30-5:30 Tues.-Sat., Phillipe Noyer, Luongo, Jerry Schurr, 826-0323

Hermitage Gallery: 245 California Ave., 10-6 Mon.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., George Foster oils, graphics, limited-editions, 786-6880

Kate Hanlon Weaving Studio and Craft Gallery: 45 Lockwood Rd., Sparks, call ahead, hand-



The Reno Basque Festival is August 27

woven clothing, custom chess sets, 342-0196

Manville Gallery: School of Medicine, UNR, 8-5 Mon.-Fri., contemporary paintings and sculpture, 784-6063

Norris-Allovio Gallery: 3430 Lakeside Dr., 10-5:30 Mon.-Sat., lithographs and fine art, 825-5000

Powers Frameworks: 2317 Kietzke Ln., 10-6 Mon.-Fri., 10-5 Sat., Roy Powers prints, Steve Davis photography, 825-8060

Sheppard Art Gallery: UNR, 9-4 Mon.-Fri., contemporary western art, 784-6658

Sierra Nevada Museum of Art: 549 Court St., 10-4 Tues., Thurs., Fri., 10-8 Wed., 12-4 Sat.-Sun., visiting and Great Basin artists, 329-3333

Stremmel Galleries: 1460 S. Virginia St., 8-5:30 Mon.-Fri., Sat. by appointment, leading American artists, 786-0558

Valle Art Gallery and Studio: 213 E. Plumb Ln., 12-6 Mon.-Sat., watercolors by Esteban Valle, pottery by Kelsie Harder, 323-1887

Wildlife Galleries: 565 California Ave., 9-5 Mon.-Fri., Nevada issue duck and trout stamps, 322-0323

Virginia City

Riata Gallery: 88 South C St., 10-5 Tues.-Sun., Olag Wieghorst lithographs and western prints, 847-0502

CASINO NOTES

•If all goes well, Reno's first smoke-free hotel-casino will open this summer. Bob Rusk and Joe Keshmiri, the new owners of the long-vacant **Ponderosa Hotel-Casino** on Virginia Street, plan to revamp the hotel's 165 rooms. They have been negotiating with gaming groups to run the public areas as a non-smoking casino. If the plan works, the suites will be smoke-free as well. Rusk also is an owner of the smoke-free Truckee River Lodging House.

•Expansion is underway at the **Ormsby House** in Carson City. According to V.P. Bill Ferris, plans include more than 27,000 square feet of new and renovated property and will feature a new restaurant, bar, banquet and convention space, and additional casino area.

AN OLD FASHIONED, PIE-EATIN' FOOT-TAPPIN' SHEEP-SHOWIN' COOKIE BAKIN' FERRIS WHEELIN' BLUE RIBBON GOOD TIME FEELIN'.

BUY YOUR TICKETS EARLY AND SAVE

Adults and kids can save $1 off the regular admission price when you buy tickets in advance. Seniors save 50% as well.
Also available:
Advance Carnival Booklets
70 coupons $20 *save 45%*
30 coupons $10 *save 33%*
Advance tickets available before August 13 at the State Fair Office—1350-A North Wells, or call (702) 322-4424 and reserve your tickets with VISA or MASTERCARD.

NEVADA'S BIGGEST SHOW
The State Fair
RENO
AUGUST 16-21
NEVADA STATE FAIRGROUNDS
AN OLD TIME GOOD TIME.

Photo: Reno News Bureau

•Conjuring up a world of silk top hats, Cajun spice, and Dixieland banjos, the owners of the **Riverboat** celebrated the casino's grand opening with champagne, cake, and prizes in April. Partners William Douglass, John Douglass, and Daniel Douglass opened the casino on the site of the old Gold Dust. Its corner entrance on Second Street has plenty of open air, and the atmosphere inside is based on a riverboat theme.

•The **Peppermill's** most recent expansion, valued at $110 million, will add 296,000 square feet, including 87 new hotel rooms. Further construction is planned for spring 1989 and spring and summer 1990.

TOURNAMENTS

July

Golf/Craps, 7/1-5, Peppermill, 689-7100
Slots, 7/4-7 7/31-8/2, Eldorado, 786-5700
Slots, 7/6, 8/10, 9/7 Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890
Blackjack, 7/21, 8/18, 9/22, Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890
Video Poker, 7/22-24, Reno Hilton, 785-7300
Blackjack, 7/26 and 8/30, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711
Slots, 7/29, Club Cal-Neva, 323-1046

August

Keno, 8/14-16, Eldorado, 786-5700
Slots, 8/19-21, Peppermill, 689-7282
Pai Gow, 8/26-28, Reno Hilton, 785-7300
Dice, 8/26-28, Peppermill, 689-7100

September

Blackjack/Keno, 9/23-25, Peppermill, 689-7100

PREVIEW

Fall Roundup



The Virginia City Camel Races are coming September 9-11.

Some of the Reno-Tahoe area's biggest events are scheduled for September, when summer's warm weather lingers. Here are a few of those early-fall celebrations; for details, see this issue's Events listing.

Numaga Indian Days, at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, start the month with a grand powwow. Events are free and open to the public. The Grand Entry on Friday evening, September 2, begins the festival, which runs through the 4th.

The Great Reno Balloon Race again constructs a colorful canopy over the Reno area on September 9-11. The race brings more than 100 hot-air balloons together in the early morning hours for a mass ascension, accompanied by a live orchestra and chorus at Rancho San Rafael Park.

On the same weekend, crowds will marvel at the brave riders and unruly steads in the Virginia City Camel Races. An Australian contingent will return to compete with Nevada jockeys for the prestigious Camel Cup.

Then the Reno National Championship Air Races will keep things buzzing on September 15-18. The Air Force's Thunderbirds will perform on Friday and Saturday.

The Dixieland-at-Tahoe festival each year attracts jazz fans to Incline Village. This year's dates are September 17-18.

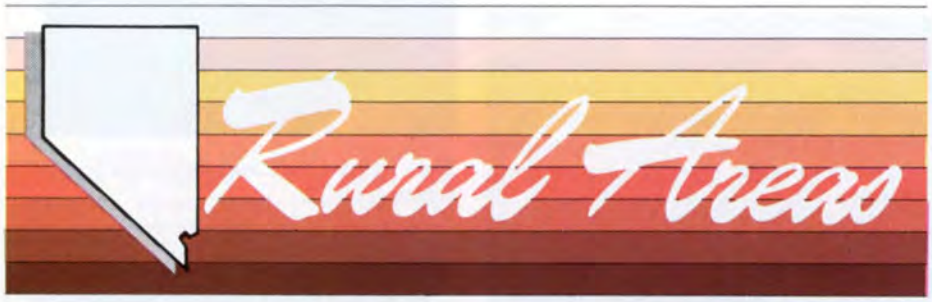
October brings a new event to Reno-Sparks: the Columbus Day Parade, honoring Christopher Columbus and prominent Italian-Americans. The parade caps a week of festivities at the Eldorado's Italian Festival, which features grape stomping, Italian music, and wine tasting.



THROUGH SEPT. 21
Lipstick
AN ADULT REVUE
Starring
TEMPEST STORM
In the Newly Remodeled Savoy Lounge
Featuring Illusionist BEAUX CARSON
2 Shows Nightly — 8 p.m. & 10 p.m.
NO COVER • 2 Drink Minimum • Must be 21
Reservations Recommended
(702) 831-0660 or (800) 527-7117
Produced by Al Bello and Danny Marona.
Choreographed by Linda Cotner.
Highway 28, Crystal Bay, Nevada
Tahoe BILTMORE LODGE / CASINO

Photo: Athalia A. Toivonen

THE NEVADA CALENDAR







Some rural events are not for the faint of heart. Ione Days, September 3-4, has women's mud wrestling (top), a tobacco-spitting contest, and greased pig chases. Goldfield Treasure Days, August 13-14, features the World Championship Bar Stool Sitting Contest (bottom), a mud bog, toad races, and greased pigs.

EVENTS HOT LINES

Nevada Division of State Parks: District III office in Fallon: 867-3001; District IV office in Elko County: Northfork 6493; District V office in Panaca: 728-4467

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

EVENTS

COVERED WAGON TERRITORY

July

Team Roping, thru 8/28 on Sundays, Wells Roping Club, rodeo grounds, Wells, 752-3355

Earth Mandala Exhibit, thru 9/22, Nathalie Marshall-Nadel's artwork entitled "Earth Mandala" shows the similarities of Native American (Paiute) and Indian (Tibetan Buddhist) sacred circles; the outdoor exhibit is constructed on the south end of Pyramid Lake, 7.5 miles from Nixon, 747-7114

Peppermill's Third Birthday Party, 7/1, cake and champagne, talent showcase, Peppermill Inn, Wendover, 664-2255

Winnemucca Junior Rodeo, 7/1-3, fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-2225

National Basque Festival, 7/1-4, on Fri. 7pm dance, music, and games; on Sat. 11am parade, traditional dancing, music, and food, handball games, public dance; Sun. 11:30am Mass, festival games including woodchopping, weight-lifting, relays, and sheep-hooking; on Mon. yell contest, bread-baking contest, Basque feast, and fireworks, Elko, 738-7547

IVHC Homebuilt Fly-In, 7/2-4, Cactus Pete's, Jackpot, 755-2259

Twin States Stampede, 7/2-4, on Sat. non-card roping, on Sun.-Mon. rodeo at rodeo grounds, on Sun. after rodeo street events in downtown McDermitt with dance in the evening, McDermitt, 532-8269

Sagebrush Spinners Annual Campout, 7/2-4, open to all square dancers, Camp Lamoille in Lamoille Canyon, 738-3666

Owyhee July 4th Celebration, 7/2-4, open rodeo, junior rodeo, powwow, horseshoe tournament, foot races, Duck Valley Indian Reservation, Owyhee, 757-3211

Elko July 4th Celebration, 7/4, fireworks, fairgrounds, 738-3616

Angel Lake Run, 7/4, from Wells to Angel Lake, starts at Wells City Park, 752-3326

Wells July 4th Celebration, 7/4, fireworks, 752-3355

Jackpot Hollerin' Contest, 7/4, contest honoring hollering as a forgotten language of frontier times when messages were sent from one settler to another by voice inflection, 2pm, Shoshone Canyon, 1 mile south of Jackpot, 755-2259

Stock Car Races and Fireworks 7/4, Lovelock Racing Assn., fairgrounds, Lovelock, 273-7185

Lovelock July 4th Celebration, 7/4, parade, flea market, 273-7144

Wendover July 4th, 7/4, fun run, 10:30am parade, barbecue, carnival booths, softball tournament, fireworks, 664-3414

Horse Show, 7/8-10, fairgrounds, Elko, 738-3616

Denver Fly-In, 7/9, Cactus Pete's, Jackpot, 755-2259

Photos: Joanna Lucas (top); Goldfield Chamber (bottom)

Birdzell Memorial Golf Tournament, 7/16-17 Chimney Rock Golf Club, Wells, 752-3928
Blackjack Tournament, 7/16-17 Silver Smith Casino, Wendover, 664-2231
Elko Safety Olympiad, 7/18-23, national showcase for safety field, surface mine rescue teams compete, exhibit booths, fire safety and extrication demos, convention center, Elko, 738-4091
Square Dance, 7/23, at City Park if weather is good, at Girl Scout House if weather is bad, Elko, 738-3666
Art in the Park, 7/23-24, artwork, handcrafted items for show and sale, petting zoo, City Park, Elko, 738-7135
31st American Indian Boy/Girl Scouting Seminar, 7/23-27 Duck Valley Indian Reservation, Owyhee, 757-2811
Silver Smith's Fourth Anniversary Celebration, 7/24, Wendover, 664-2231
International Feed Lot Ropers, 7/24-28, fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-5071
Shrine Circus, 7/26, fairgrounds, Elko, 738-3616
Elko Quarry Gem and Mineral Show, 7/27-30, first annual mineral and gem show, free, convention center, Elko, 738-4091
Charlie Daniels Band Concert, 7/29, convention center, Elko, 738-4091
Little Britches Rodeo, 7/29-30, fairgrounds, Elko, 738-3616

August

Sky Lark Fly-In, 8/5-6, Cactus Pete's, Jackpot, 755-2259
Lovelock's Frontier Days, 8/5-7 parade, flea market, booths, games, 273-2687 or 273-2272
Frontier Days Racing, 8/6, featuring POSSE (Pacific Outlaw Super Stocks) unlimited wedge cars, Lovelock Racing Assn., fairgrounds, Lovelock, 273-2320 or 273-7185
McDermitt Junior Rodeo, 8/6, rodeo grounds, McDermitt, 503-522-8796
Miss Elko County Pageant, 8/6, convention center, Elko, 738-6713
Gun Show, 8/6-7 Cactus Pete's, Jackpot, 755-2259
Woody Herman Orchestra, 8/9, big band concert, $10, convention center, Elko, 738-7118
First Annual Elko Express, 8/11-13, tribute to the railroad industry with exhibits, demonstrations, model railroading, old-time railroaders, booths, free, convention center, Elko, 738-4091
Tom Duncan Junior Rodeo, 8/13-14, Lovelock, 273-7169
Junior Buckaroo Rodeo, 8/13-14, rodeo arena, Wells, 752-3896
Bonneville Speed Week, 8/13-20, various classes of automobiles try to break the world's land speed record, Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 664-3414
KELK-KLKO Presents Tommy Dorsey, 8/16, dance, $10, convention center, Elko, 738-4091
Golden Open Golf Tournament, 8/19-20, open to all involved in mining industry, Spring Creek and Ruby View golf courses, Elko, 738-4091
Open Horse Show and Futurity, 8/20-21, fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-5071
Geothermal Connection, 8/25-27 forum with exhibits, demonstrations, seminars, booths, free, convention center, Elko, 738-4091
4-H Fashion Show, 8/30, convention center, Elko, 738-4091

September

Fall Festival of Art, 9/1-10/3, art exhibition by the Elko County Art Club, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418
Elko County Fair and Livestock Show, 9/2-4, horse racing, parimutuels, exhibits, stock contests, fairgrounds, Elko, 738-5241
Winnemucca Rodeo and Tri-County Fair, 9/2-5, parade, rodeo, fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-5071 or 623-2225
Western Art Round-Up, 9/2-4, art show and auction, wine and cheese tasting, quick draw, banquet, and awards, convention center, Winnemucca, 623-5071 or 623-2225
Festival of Planes, 9/10, Elko Airport, 738-6030
Parimutuel Horse and Mule Races, 9/10-11, fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-5071
Horseshoe Tournament, 9/10-11, Cactus Pete's, Jackpot, 755-2259
World Championship Mule Show and Race Meet, 9/16-18, barbecue, fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-5071
Annual Nevada Dirt Track Championships, 9/17 and 9/24, Lovelock Racing Assn., fairgrounds, Lovelock, 273-2320 or 273-7185
Western States Rodeo Finals, 9/17-18, Wendover, 664-3414
Wells Amateur Golf Tournament, 9/17-18, golf course, Wells, 752-3355
Annual Square Dancers Picnic, 9/18, City Park, Elko, 738-3666
Elko Senior Citizens Benefit Round-Up, 9/24, includes dance, local entertainment for families, benefits the Senior Citizens Center, Elko, 738-4091
Mitts Little Rodeo, 9/24-25, Spring Creek Horse Palace, south of Elko, 738-7809
Presbyterian Harvest Festival, 9/27 Presbyterian Church, Wells, 752-3355
Nevada 4-H Exposition, 9/28-10/2, exhibits, contests, convention center, Winnemucca, 623-5071



Ely celebrates Pony Express Days with horse races on August 20-21 and 27-28.

PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY

July

"Ghost Train of Old Ely" Steam-Up, thru 10/2, steam-up and operation of the train every Sat. and Sun, railroad museum open daily for tours, Nevada Northern Railway Museum, East Ely, 289-2085
Reno Artists Co-op Exhibit, 7/1-8/31, Office Gallery, Fallon, 423-6078
Austin July 4th Celebration, 7/2-4, parade,

BUCKAROO HERITAGE
WESTERN ART ROUND-UP
SHOW AND SALE
Winnemucca Convention Center
SEPT. 2-4



FEATURING·
- Invited Artists
- Buckaroo Poetry
- Handmade Horse Gear
- Quick Draw
- Wine Tasting
- Awards Banquet
- Auction

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 p.m. Preview **5 p.m.** Cocktails **6 p.m.** Awards Banquet; Buckaroo Poetry	**8 a.m.** Show Opens; Demonstrations **4 p.m.** Wine Tasting **5 p.m.** Quickdraw Auction; Buckaroo Poetry	**9 a.m.** Show Opens; Artist Demonstrations **6 p.m.** Show Closes

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS WRITE:
Western Art Roundup • Carl Hammond, Coordinator • Hot Spring Ranch • Golconda, Nevada 89414 • **702-529-0452**
or Winnemucca Convention & Visitors Bureau • **702-623-5071**

Photo: June Stone

PREVIEW

Fairs and Rodeos

Mainstays of both rural and urban life in Nevada, fairs and rodeos come into full swing during the summer and fall.

The fairs offer a colorful sampling of Americana, Nevada style—preening animals and their 4-H owners, carnival rides, corndogs, and snowcones.

Another summer tradition is the rodeo. In many rodeos, top professional cowboys compete; others feature youngsters who dream of becoming rodeo stars.

The following is a sampling of Nevada fairs and rodeos still to come this year. Check the Events listings for others.

McDermitt Twin States Stampede, July 3-4, 532-8269

Nevada International Invitational Rodeo, July 7-10, Fallon, 423-4674

All-Indian Stampede and Pioneer Days, July 15-17 Fallon, 423-3968

Capital City Fair, July 28-31, Carson City, 887-2262

Eureka Rodeo, July 30-31, 237-5484

Lincoln County Fair, Aug. 11-14, Panaca, 726-3333

Eureka County Fair, Aug. 12-14, Eureka, 237-5326



Nevada has rodeos for cowboys of all sizes this summer

Churchill County Fair, Aug. 12-14, Fallon, 423-5121

Nevada State Fair, Aug. 16-21, Reno, 322-4424

Lyon County Fair, Aug. 25-28, Yerington, 463-3341

White Pine County Fair, Aug. 27-28, Ely, 289-8877

Elko County Fair, Sept. 2-4, 738-5241

Winnemucca Rodeo and Tri-County Fair, Sept. 2-5, 623-5071

Hearts of Gold Cantaloupe Festival, Sept. 3-5, Fallon, 423-2544

Western States Finals Rodeo, Sept. 17-18, Wendover, 664-3414

Pahrump Harvest Festival and PRCA Rodeo, Sept. 17-18, 727-6739

Las Vegas Jaycees State Fair, Oct. 11-16, 457-8832

North Las Vegas Fairshow, Oct. 28-30, 642-1944

North American Indian Championship Rodeo, Nov. 10-13, Reno, 916-663-4255

National Finals Rodeo, Dec. 2-10, Las Vegas, 731-2115

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Wendover USA, Visitor & Convention Bureau, Box 2468, Wendover USA

street games, dancing, live music, roping, 964-2200

Junior Rodeo, 7/3-4, for boys and girls, main events on 7/3, finals on 7/4, Out-of-Town Rodeo Grounds, Fernley, 575-4459

Fernley July 4th Celebration, 7/4, family fun day, 10am parade, games, crafts booths, deep-pit barbecue, live music 9pm-1am, fireworks, Out-of-Town Park, 575-4459

Ely Jaycees July 4th Celebration, 7/4, parade, picnics, 289-8877

Eureka VFD July 4th Celebration, 7/4, Main Street is blocked off for parade, street activities, dance, and barbecue, 237-5484

Nevada International Invitational Rodeo, 7/7-10, contestants from 36 states and Canada compete for four days; barbecue, dance, Regional Park, Fallon, 423-4674

American Indian Baskets Program, 7/9, visitor center, Great Basin National Park, 5 miles west of Baker, 234-7331

Hidden Cave Tours, 7/9 and 7/23, meet at 9:30am, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

Mongoose Stage Race, 7/13-16, off-road bicycle race in Dayton, Carson City, and Incline Village areas, 832-0726

All-Indian Stampede and Pioneer Days, 7/15-17 parade, rodeo, Indian stick games, powwow, Miss Indian Nevada contest, western dance, Calcutta, women's mud wrestling, arts and crafts, fairgrounds, Fallon, 423-3968 or 423-6821



Wendover is always looking for a few good floats for its Fourth of July parade.

Belmont Courthouse Open House, 7/16 and 8/20, the 112-year-old building will be open to visitors, Belmont, 867-3001

White Pine Basque Festival, 7/16-17 parade, contests, dancing exhibition, dance, picnic, National Guard Armory and Broadbent Park, Ely, 289-2218 or 289-2100

20th Anniversary Pot Luck and Celebration, 7/20, Churchill County Museum, which opened July 10, 1968, celebrates its 20th anniversary, pot luck and slide program, Fallon Community Center, 423-3677

VFW Rodeo, 7/30-31, rodeo grounds, Eureka, 237-5484

14th Annual Community Hall Garage Sale, 7/30-31, benefit for Smith Valley Community Hall, Wellington, 465-2304

Bristlecone Country Horseshoe Pitching Contest, 7/30-31, open to public, Ely, 289-3369

August

Arts in the Park, 8/6-7 works by artists and craftsmen displayed, food, booths, train rides on Old Engine 40 at East Ely Depot, White Pine County Park, Ely, 289-8877

Eureka County Fair, 8/12-14, horse show, junior rodeo, hay contest, exhibits, games, barbecue, dance, bonfire, Eureka, 237-5326

Churchill County Fair, 8/12-14, 4-H and livestock exhibits, handicrafts, garden exhibits, carnival, tennis tournament, horseshoe pitching, 4x4 and tractor pull, ATV races, salute to agriculture photo exhibit, Regional Park, Fallon, 423-5121

Santa Maria Day, 8/13, Dayton, 246-3435

Hidden Cave Tours, 8/13 and 8/27 meet at 9:30am, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

Fernley VFD Muster and Firemen's Ball, 8/13-14, all surrounding fire departments compete, Main Street, Fernley, 575-4459

Great Basin Art Exhibit, 8/13-9/15, exhibit of watercolors and etchings featuring scenes from Great Basin National Park by Nevada artist Jill Mueller, reception held on 8/13 from 1-4pm, visitor center, Great Basin National Park, 5 miles west of Baker, 234-7331

Poetry Reading, 8/20, a poetry reading of Great Basin poets by John Garmen and Charles Crump, visitor center, Great Basin National Park, 5 miles west of Baker, 234-7331

Ely Fly-In, 8/20-21, sponsored by Nevada, California, and Utah Ultra-Lite Clubs, Ely, 289-4687

Pony Express Days, 8/20-21 and 8/27-28, horse races (fair on second weekend), Ely, 289-8877

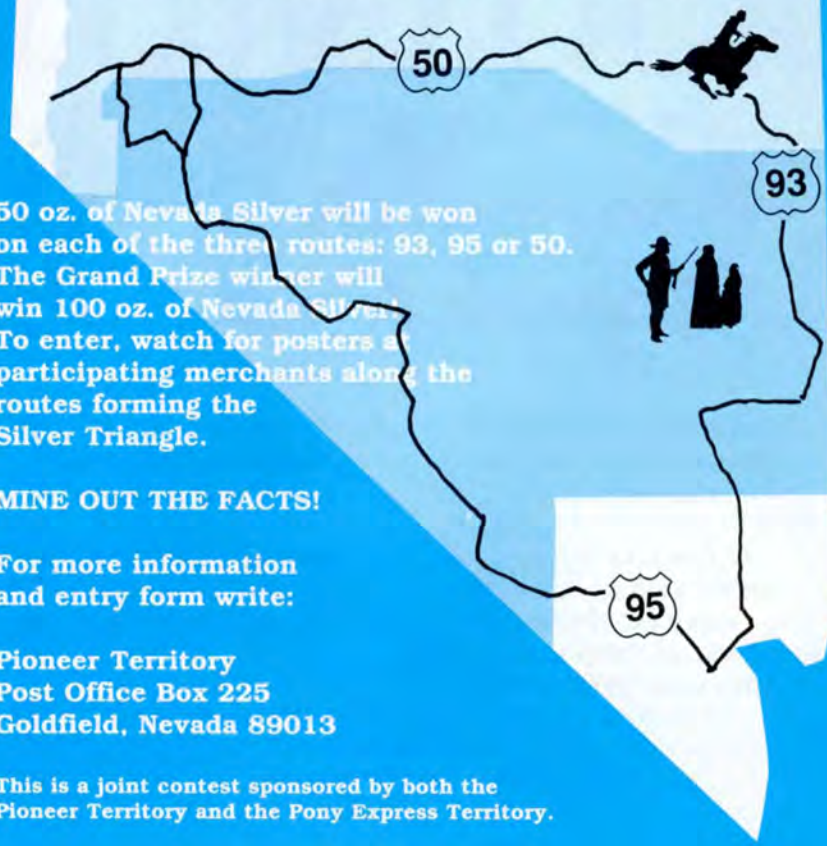
Lyon County Fair, 8/25-28, parade, rodeo, horseshoe pitching, frog jump, hay booming, truck-tractor pull, demolition derby, fairgrounds, Yerington, 463-3721 or 463-2635

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MINE OUT THE FACTS!

For more information and entry form write:

Pioneer Territory
Post Office Box 225
Goldfield, Nevada 89013

This is a joint contest sponsored by both the Pioneer Territory and the Pony Express Territory.

Photos: Judith Bergfors (top left); Paul Wayman (above)

Steptoe Steppers Fifth Annual Pony Express Hoedown, 8/26-27 convention center, Ely, 289-8877

Fifth Annual Beer Can Collectors Swap Meet, 8/27 Dayton State Park, 246-0142

Chamber of Commerce Street Dance, 8/27, live music, Warehouse Shopping Center, Fernley, 575-4459

White Pine County Fair, 8/27-28, Ely, 289-8877

September

VORRA Yerington 250 Desert Race, 9/3-4, off-road race, Yerington, 463-3721

Hearts of Gold Cantaloupe Festival, 9/3-5, parade, rodeo, farmer's market, hay palace, craft booths, carnival, ice cream socials, western poets and entertainment, barbecues, old fairgrounds, Fallon, 423-2544

Labor Day Train Steam-Up, 9/3-5, steam-up and operation of "Ghost Train of Old Ely," Nevada Northern Railway Museum, East Ely, 289-2085

Hidden Cave Tours, 9/10 and 9/24, meet at 9:30am, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

Loneliest Road Bike Race, 9/13-17 from Carson City to Ely, 237-5484 or 289-8877

Open House and Singalong, 9/15, join Lahontan Valley Concert Choir, bring brown bag supper, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677

Second Annual Covered Wagon Trail Ride, 9/18, ride on a horse or flat-bed outside Battle Mountain, signups at 9am, ride begins at 10am, the trail is directly off of I-80 on Argenta Exit No. 244 on the Frontage Road, destination will be the Lion's Club Park in Battle Mountain, 635-2171 or 635-2220

Bike Race, 9/18, loop race in Ely, 289-8877

Pony Express Bonanza 88 Horse Race, 9/19-23, horse race starting in St. Joseph, MO. on 9/5 and finishing in Sacramento, CA. 9/27 route will retrace the original Pony Express trail of 1860 to 1861 as closely as possible, $2,500,000 purse, race goes through Ely, Eureka, Austin, Fallon, Carson City, and Virginia City during 9/19-23, 505-292-9191

Nevada 88, 9/19-10/3, traveling photo show from Elko's Northeastern Nevada Museum, Fallon Community Center, 423-4556

PIONEER TERRITORY

July

Caliente Firemen's July 4th Celebration, 7/1-4, parade, baseball tournaments, dances, craft fair, fun run motorcyle race, 726-3129

Stock Car Races, 7/2-8/28, Central Nevada Racing Assn. races every other weekend, Tonopah, 482-3859

Firecracker Open Invitational Stock Car Race, 7/3, Pahrump, 727-5286

Beatty's July 4th Celebration, 7/4, kids' contests with three-legged, egg, and wheelbarrow races, watermelon-eating contest, firemen's waterfights, fireworks, 553-2951

Tonopah July 4th Celebration, 7/4, parade, barbecue, and fireworks, 482-3859

Pahrump July 4th Celebration, 7/4, parade, barbecue, games, booths, fireworks, 727-5658

Walker 100, 7/9-10, 100-mile boat race with $8,000 purse plus contingencies and a 50-mile mini boat race; boat parade in Hawthorne, banquet at El Capitan, barbecue at lake, Cliff House Marina, 12 miles north of Hawthorne, Walker Lake, 945-5570

Pioneer Day Celebration, 7/23, 123rd annual, parade, barbecue, family reunions, Panaca, 728-4666 or 726-3196

Mormon Pioneer Days, 7/23, wagons, horse show, barbecue, pioneer dress, fairgrounds, Pahrump, 727-5107

Pioche Heritage Days, 7/27-30, three original plays written, directed, and acted by local people and based on Pioche history, 7pm, Town Hall, Pioche, 962-5544 or 962-5308

August

Lincoln County Fair, 8/11-14, parade, exhibits, craft fair, BMX race, barbecue, final rodeo in Tri Valley Rodeo Series, Panaca, 726-3333

Goldfield Treasure Days, 8/13-14, parade, chili cook-off, bar stool sitting contest, street dance, arts and crafts, mud bog, toad races, and children's activities including greased pig contest, Goldfield, 485-9957 or 485-6365

Tonopah Old Timers Picnic and Dance, 8/13-14, Butler Park, 482-3859

September

Pioche Labor Day Celebration, 9/2-5, parade, plays, kangaroo court, art exhibits, mining competitions, wrist wrestling, baseball tournaments, children's events, street dance, fireworks, Pioche, 962-5205

Ione Days, 9/3-4, hand drilling, women's mud wrestling, horseshoe tournament, tobacco-spitting contest, children's games, greased pig chases, turkey shoot, music, 847-0571

Pahrump Harvest Festival and Fair, 9/16-18, PRCA rodeo, fair, parade, barbecue, games for all ages, contests, rides, stock car races, craft and food booths, bluegrass bands, dances, community center, Pahrump, 727-5107 or 727-5791

Meadow Valley Days, 9/23-24, Caliente, 726-3129

Goldfield Psychic Fair, 9/30-10/2, psychic workshops, lectures and sharing of experiences, treasure hunt, and raffles, workshops to be held at Goldfield Hotel, 485-9957

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RURAL COMING EVENTS

Hawthorne's Victorian Fair, 10/15-16, 945-3671

Nevada Day and Halloween Fun, 10/31, Austin, 964-2200 or 964-2440

Elko All Breed Bull Sale, 11/11-12, 738-3616

Walker Lake Fishing Derby, 11/25-27 945-5896

Annual Lighting Contest and Turkey Drawing, 12/16, Austin, 964-2200

125th New Year's Eve Dance, 12/31, Austin, 964-2482

Tonopah Elks New Year's Eve Party, 12/31, 482-3859

SHOWGUIDE
Covered Wagon Territory

Elko: Commercial Hotel, 738-3181; Red Lion, 738-2111: Marty Davis, 7/5-10; Tommy Bell, 7/12-24; Motifs, 7/26-8/7; Big Tiny Little, 8/9-21; Bruce Hauser and Sawmill Creek, 8/24-9/5; Phil Harris and Whiskey Ridge, 9/6-11; Lelands, 9/13-25; Stockmen's Hotel, 738-5141

Jackpot: Cactus Pete's, 755-2321: Sergio Alberta, 7/5-17; Louie Fontane, 7/18-24; Lelands, 7/25-8/7; Entertainment Committee, 8/8-21; David Proud, 8/22-9/4; Terry Gregory, 9/5-11; Rays, 9/12-18; Cissy Lynn, 9/19-25; Horseshu Casino, 755-2331

Wendover: Nevada Crossing, 664-4000: Alexander, The Master Hypnotist, thru 7/3; Charlie Dawson/Mutual Fun, 7/4-17; Cadillac Band, 7/19-31; Natale, 8/2-21; Peppermill, 664-2255; Red Garter, 664-2111: Marshall Law, 7/1-25 and 9/20-30; Ron Nicholas, 7/26-31; Hyram and Lorri, 8/2-14; Keynotes, 9/6-18; Silver Smith, 664-2231: Entertainment nightly; State Line, 664-2221: Entertainment nightly

Winnemucca: Winners Hotel, 623-2511

Pony Express Territory

Battle Mountain: Owl Club, 635-5155

Fallon: Fallon Nugget, 423-3111

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

Pioneer Territory

Pahrump: Saddle West Casino, 727-5953

Tonopah: Station House, 482-9777

MUSEUMS

Covered Wagon Territory

Northeastern Nevada Museum, 9-5 Mon.-Sat., 1-5 Sun., 1515 Idaho St., Elko, 738-3418

Marzen House Museum, 9-2 Mon.-Fri., 1:30-4 Sat.-Sun., Lovelock, 273-7213



Fallon will be jumping with activity during the Hearts of Gold Cantaloupe Festival, September 3-5.

Humboldt Museum, 10-4 Mon.-Fri., 1-4 Sat., Winnemucca, 623-2912

Pony Express Territory

Nevada Northern Railway Museum, 8:30-5 Fri.-Tues., May 14-Oct. 1, East Ely, 289-2085

White Pine Public Museum, 9-4 Mon.-Fri., 10-3 Sat., 2000 Aultman St., Ely, 289-4710

Eureka Sentinel Museum, noon-5 Mon.-Fri., 10-3 Sat.-Sun., May 23-Sept. 7, Eureka

Churchill County Museum and Hidden Cave, 10-4 Mon.-Wed. and Fri.-Sat., noon-4 Sun., 1050 S. Maine St., Fallon, 423-3677 For Hidden Cave tours call Carson City BLM, 882-1631

Lyon County Museum, 10-4 Sat., 1-4 Sun., Yerington

Pioneer Territory

Mineral County Museum, 2-4:30 Mon.-Fri., Hawthorne, 945-3185

Lincoln County Museum, 9-5 Mon.-Sat., 10-5 Sun. (closes from 12:30-1:30 for lunch), Pioche, 962-5207

Central Nevada Museum, 12-5 Tues.-Sat., Tonopah, 482-9676

ART GALLERIES

Desert Images: 459 Fifth St., Hawthorne, noon-5 Mon.-Sat. or by appointment, features monthly guest artist, artwork representative of Mineral County and rural Nevada, 945-2138

Gallery: 2051 North St., Ely, 10-5 Mon.-Fri., Sat. and Sun. by appointment, pastels, watercolors, and oils by local artists, 289-4750

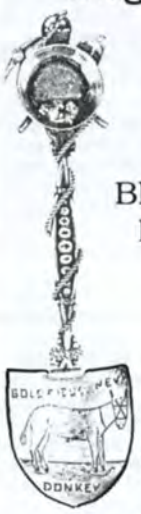
Northeastern Nevada Museum: 1515 Idaho St., Elko, 9-5 Mon.-Sat., 1-5 Sun., photos, pen and ink, sculpture, and oils on Nevada themes, 738-3418

The Office Gallery: 178 S. Maine St., Fallon, 8-5:30 Mon.-Fri., 8:30-5 Sat., original artwork of all kinds, 423-6078

Planet X Pottery: Box 4, State Highway 81-447 outside Gerlach, hours vary, call ahead; original pottery, 557-2500

Goldfield Treasure Days

August 13-14



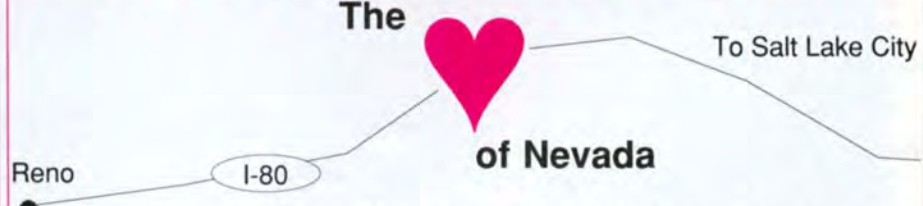
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Photo: Cheryl L. Olson

DINING GUIDE

The following Nevada dining directory includes restaurants that responded to recent surveys and also advertisers. Each listing gives sample dishes; whether breakfast, lunch, or dinner (B, L, D) are served; accepted credit cards; and if reservations are required or recommended. Price ranges refer to typical entree price per person: up to $10 ($), $11 to $20 ($$), $21 to $30 ($$$), and more than $30 ($$$$). To phone from out of state, the area code is 702 throughout Nevada.

LAS VEGAS

AMERICAN

42nd Street Deli—3737 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 798-0986. Sandwiches, pizzas, pastries, and gourmet room. L, D. $-$$. AE, MC, V.

Circus Circus/Skyrise—734-0410. Prime rib, steak and shrimp. B, L, D. $, major.

Desert Inn/La Promenade—733-4444. Pasta sala tricolore, steak sandwich. Open 24 hrs. $-$$, major.

Flamingo Hilton/Flamingo Room—733-3111. Seafood salad bar, fresh fish of the day, veal cutlet Viennoise. B, L, D. $-$$, major, res.

Flamingo Hilton/Lindy's Deli—733-3111. Grilled Rueben, New York steak, marble cheesecake. B, L, D. $, major.

Imperial Palace/4th Floor Rib Room—731-3311. Prime rib and barbecue entrees. D. $$, major, res.

Mint/Food Court—387-MINT Burger King, Godfather's Pizza, and Haagen Daaz. B, L, D. $-$$.

Mount Charleston Lodge—Kyle Canyon, 30 miles NW of Las Vegas at the end of Highway 157, 386-6899. Beef Wellington. B, L, D. $-$$$, major, res.

Rainbow Club—122 Water St., Henderson, 565-9777. Prime rib, New York steak, California chicken fingers, tostada salad, B, L, D. $, no CC.

Sam's Town/Mary's Diner—5111 Boulder Hwy. 454-8073. Fifties-style restaurant, blue plate specials, sundaes, and malts. B, L, D. $, AE, MC, V, DC.

Sands/Garden Room—733-5000. Variety of entrees and chinese cuisine after 5 p.m. B, L, D. $$, major.

Stardust/Tony Roma's—732-6111. Ribs and chicken. D. $, major, res.

Union Plaza/Center Stage—386-2110. Prime rib, lobster tail, and New York steak combo, chicken Sicilian. D. $-$$, major, res.

CAJUN

Holiday Casino/Joe's Bayou—369-5000. Shrimp Creole, blackened catfish, Memphis-style barbecue. D. $-$$, major.

FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

Aladdin/The Florentine—736-0428. French, Italian, and Continental cuisine, tableside preparation. D. $$$-$$$$, major, res.

Alexis Park/Pegasus—375 E. Harmon Ave., 796-3300. Roast duckling, escargot. D. $$$$. Jackets preferred on weekends. AE, MC, V res.

Bally's/Gigi—739-4651. Cote de Veau Nouveau Chasseur mormard Grille, Beurre Fondu. D (closed Mon-Tues.). $$$$, major, res.

Barbary Coast/Michael's—737-7111. Spring lamb chops with mint jelly, fresh imported Dover sole, chateaubriand for two. D. $$$$, major, res.

Botany's—1700 E. Flamingo Rd., 737-6662. Artichoke chicken, Cajun orange roughy, Kentucky chip pie. D. $-$$, major, res.

Caesars Palace/Bacchanal—731-7110. Seven-course Roman banquet. D (closed Tues.-Wed.). $$$$, major, res.

Caesars Palace/Palace Court—731-7110. Langoustines, steak Diane. D. $$$$, major, res.

California/Redwood Bar and Grill—385-1222. Steak Diane, cherries jubilee. D. $-$$, major, res.

Desert Inn/Monte Carlo Room—733-4444. Nevada Bob Quails Veronique, hobo steak for two, chicken marengo. D. $$-$$$, major, res., jackets.

Dunes/Sultan's Table—737-4681. Breast of capon ala kiev, brochette of beef tenderloin, medaillion of veal ala sultan. D. $$-$$$, major, res.

Four Queens/Hugo's Cellar—385-4011. Veal Dijonnaise, roast duckling flambe anise, filet DeBoeuf-Atlantis. D. $$-$$$, major, res.

Frontier/Diamond Jim's—734-0110. Roast prime rib with Yorkshire pudding, veal Francaise. D (closed Mon.-Tues.). $$-$$$$, major, res.

Golden Nugget/Elaine's—385-7111. Veal chop, brace of quail. D. $$$, major, res.

Lady Luck/Burgundy Room—477-3000. Coquille St. Jacques provencale, tournedos Rossini, beef Wellington. D. $$, major, res.

Las Vegas Hilton/Le Montrachet—732-5111. Dover sole, medallions of veal. D. $$$$, major, res.

Riviera/Delmonico's—734-5110. Moules Dijonnaise, bouillabaisse. D. $$$, major, res.

Riviera/Ristorante Italiano—734-5110. Chateaubriand, beef Wellington, baked Alaska, souffles a la mode du chef. D (closed Mon.). $$$$, major, res.

Sahara/House of Lords—737-2111. Steak Diane, roast rack of lamb flouerise, Long Island duckling lingonberry. D (closed Wed.). $$$$, major, res.

Sands/Regency Room—733-5000. Scampi provencale, beef Wellington. D. $$$-$$$$, major, res.

Savoia—next to St. Tropez at Harmon and Paradise, 369-5400. French and Italian Riviera cuisine, indoor and outdoor seating. D. $-$$$$, major, res.

Tropicana/Rhapsody—739-2222. Scampi, smoked salmon, dover sole, clams casino. D (closed Sun.-Mon.). $$$$, major, res.

GERMAN

Alpine Village Inn—3003 Paradise Rd., 734-6888. Roast chicken, St. Moritz schnitzel, D. $$, major, res.

Rathskeller—3003 Paradise Rd., 734-6888. Hot and cold sandwiches, soup, salad bar, and sing-a-longs nightly. L (Mon.-Fri.), D. $, major.

Waldemar's German European Restaurant—2202 W. Charleston, 386-1995. Veal rouladen, chicken la mar. L (Mon.-Fri.), D. $-$$, major.

INDIAN

Paul Bhalla's Cuisine of India—4433 West Flamingo Rd., 367-4900. Tandoori dishes, vegetarian curries. L (Mon.-Fri.), D. $$, AE, MC, V, res.

ITALIAN

Bally's/Caruso's—739-4656. Gamberoni alla griglia, pollo alla fiorentina. D (closed Wed.-Thurs.). $$$$, major, res.

The Bootlegger—5025 S. Eastern, 736-4939. Veal Lorraine, veal in cream and wine sauce, seafood diabolo with linguine. L, D (closed Mon.). $-$$, major.

Caesars Palace/Primavera—731-7110. Fettuccine Primavera, pasta specialities, Caesars salad. B, L, D. $$-$$$, major, res.

Cafe Carlo—3246 E. Desert Inn Rd., 735-2220. Fried squid, fettucine Alfredo, tiramisu, L, D (closed Sun.). $-$$. MC, V, res.

California/Pasta Pirate—385-1222. Homemade pasta, mesquite broiled seafood. D. $-$$, major, res.

Desert Inn/Portofino—733-4444. Veal Oscar, osso buco, and lobster Diablo. D. $$-$$$, major, res.

Fortunato's—3430 E. Tropicana Ave., 458-3333. Shrimp Italiano, chicken angelo. L, D (closed Sun.). $, major, res.

Golden Nugget/Stefano's—385-7111. Unique pastas, cioppino. D. $$$$, major, res.

Imperial Palace/Pappa's Pizza—731-3311. Pizza, pasta, and salads. L, D. $, major.

Las Vegas Hilton/Andiamo—732-5111. Northern Italian specialties, 25 pastas, veal, lamb, and fish entrees. L, D. $-$$, major, res.

Manfredi's Limelight—2340 E. Tropicana in Renaissance Center East, 739-1410. Veal marsala, linguini tutto mare, scampi diavolo. D. $$, major, res.

Mint/Spaghetti Red's—387-MINT. Chicken Piccante, veal parmigiana, pastas, and salads. D (closed Wed.-Thurs.). $-$$, major, res.

Palace Station/Pasta Palace—Off I-15, 367-2411. Pasta specialties and gourmet dinners. D. $, major, res.

MEXICAN

El Sombrero—807 S. Main St., 382-9231. Albondigas soup, Mexican steak, chili Colorado. L, D. $, MC, V.

Sam's Town/Willie and Jose's—5111 Boulder Hwy., 454-8044. Enchiladas, rellenos de Cangrejo. D. $, AE, MC, V DC.

Sante Fe—4930 W. Flamingo Rd., 871-7119. Fajitas, chimichangas, steak picado. L, D. $, major.

Taqueria Mexico—1612 Civic Center Dr., North Las Vegas, 649-7000. Menudo, soft tacos, tortas. L, D. $, major, res.

ORIENTAL

Bally's/Tracy's—739-4930. Kung pao gai, mongo ngow. D (closed Wed-Thurs.). $$, major.



Tableside service is a specialty at the Desert Inn's Portofino restaurant in Las Vegas.

Caesars Palace/Ah So—731-7110. Sushi and Sashimi, Teppan Yaki-style. D. $$$$, major, res.

Desert Inn/Ho Wan—733-4444. Peking duck, Ho Wan lobster, lemon chicken. D. $$-$$$, major, res.

Luigi's and Wong's—46 Convention Center Dr., 796-5440. Italian and Chinese. B, L, D. $$, MC, V, res.

Flamingo Hilton/Peking Market—733-3111. Nine-course family dinner, lemon chicken and lobster Cantonese. D. $, major, res.

Golden Nugget/Lillie Langtry's—385-7111. Moo goo gai pan chicken, ginger beef. D. $$, major, res.

Imperial Palace/Ming Terrace—731-3311. Cantonese and mandarin cuisine. D. $$, major, res.

Las Vegas Hilton/Benihana Village—732-5111. Four restaurants: tempura, robata, sukiyaki, hibachi; animated show. D. $$$, major, res.

Sahara/Don the Beachcomber—737-2111. Specializing in Polynesian dishes. Shrimp Hong Kong, bahala na combo. D (closed Tues.). $$, AE, MC, V.

Tokyo Japanese—953 E. Sahara in Commercial Center, 735-7070. Sushi hibachi tempura. L (Mon.-Fri.). D. $-$$, major.

SURF AND TURF

Aladdin/Fisherman's Port—736-0426. Fresh seafood, Cajun menu, bouillabaisse. D. $$, major, res.

Aladdin/Wellington's—736-0427. Steak house, Black Angus aged beef. D. $$-$$$, major, res.

Bally's/Barrymore's—739-4661. Blackened red fish, surf and turf. L (Mon.-Fri.), D. $$-$$$, major, res. (dinner only)

Bourbon Street/French Market—120 E. Flamingo, 737-7200. Cajun food, seafood. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

Caesars Palace/Spanish Steps Steak and Seafood House—731-7110. Fresh seafood, prime dry-aged steaks, Mediterreanean dishes. D. $$-$$$, major, res.

Circus Circus/Steak House—734-0410. Steak, prime rib, lobster, seafood appetizers flown in fresh daily. D. $$, major, res.

Dunes/Dome of the Sea—737-4254. Picata of lobster dome of the sea, shrimp Christina, scallops Bruno. D. $$-$$$, major, res.

Flamingo Hilton/Beef Barron—733-3111. Prime rib special, chateaubriand, crisp roast duck. D. $$-$$$, major, res.

Fremont/The Hualapai—385-3232. Salmon, grilled shrimp, shells and bones. D. $$, major, res.

Frontier/Branding Iron Steak House—734-0110. Steak and Florida stone crab. D (closed Wed.-Thurs.). $$-$$$, major, res.

Golden Steer—308 W. Sahara, 384-4470. Steaks, prime rib, seafood, veal. D. $$$, AE, DC, MC, V, res.

Hacienda/Charcoal Room—739-8911. Veal chop, queen and king filet mignon, mesquite-broiled seafood. D. $$$, major, res.

Holiday Casino/Claudine's—369-5000. Steaks and seafood, open kitchen, piano bar nearby, excellent wine list. D. $$-$$$, major, res.

Imperial Palace/Kobe Steak House—731-3311. Steak

and lobster. D. $$, major, res.

Landmark/Sunset Room—733-1110. Choice seafood, prime rib and steak. D. $$$, major, res.

Marina/Captain's Cabin—739-1500. Steak by the ounce, prime rib. D. $-$$, major, res.

Marina/Port of Call—739-1500. Seafood, steak, chicken, and veal. D. $$, major, res.

Mint/Sky Room—387-MINT. Prime rib, shrimp scampi maison, breast of chicken balsam. Live ent. D (closed Mon.-Tues.). $$-$$$, major, res.

Palace Station/Fisherman's Broiler—Off I-15, 367-2411. Fresh seafood. L, D. $, major, res.

Sam's Town/Diamond Lil's—5111 Boulder Hwy. 454-8009. Steak house, fresh fish selections. D. $$, AE, MC, V, DC, res.

Starboard Tack—2601 Atlantic St., 457-8794. Seafood, prime steaks, salad bar. L (Mon.-Fri.), D. $-$$, AE, MC, V, res.

Stardust/William B's—732-6111. Broiled halibut, lamb, veal, rib eye steak. D. $$, major, res.

The Tillerman—2245 E. Flamingo Rd., 731-4036. Sole, bay scallops in cream sauce. D. $$-$$$, major.

Tropicana/El Gaucho—739-2222. Argentian steakhouse, fish, lobster, daily specials. D (closed Tues.-Wed.). $$-$$$, major, res.

BOULDER CITY

Gold Strike Steak House—Between Boulder City and Hoover Dam, 293-5000. Steaks, lobster, veal, and daily specials. D. $-$$, major.

Harbor House—LV Boat Harbor, Vegas Wash at Lake Mead, 565-9111. Homemade desserts, weekend specials. B, L, D. $, major.

Vale Hotel—704 Nevada Hwy., 293-1463. Lobster, lamb, chicken marsala, Sunday brunch, piano bar. B, L, D. $$, major, res.

LAUGHLIN

Colorado Belle/Orleans Room—298-4000. Steak, seafood, prime rib, lamb chops, linguini. D. $$, AE, DC, MC, V, res.

Del Webb's Nevada Club/Wheelhouse Coffee Shop—298-2512. Breakfasts, steak, lobster. B, L, D. $, MC, V.

Edgewater/The Embers—298-2453. Steak, seafood, prime rib, Midwestern beef. D. $$, major, res.

Riverside/Gourmet Room—298-2535. Chateaubriand, Cajun dishes, steak and quail, rack of lamb, wine steward. D. $$, major, res.

Riverside/Prime Rib Room—298-2535. Salad, potato, vegetable, and dessert bar, prime rib. D. $, major.

Sam's Town Gold River/Sutter's Mill—298-2242. Mesquite-broiled steaks. Brunch Sat.-Sun. D. $$, AE, MC, V, res.

RENO-CARSON AREA

AMERICAN

Bailey's Cafe—4124 Kietzke Lane, 825-6600. Gourmet brunch-luncheon, Cajun. B, L, D. $$, V, MC, AE.

Boomtown—I-80 at Verdi, 345-6000. Changing buffet, regular menu. B, L, D. $, major.

Carson Valley Inn/Katie's—Minden, 782-9711. Four-course prime rib dinner, steak and lobster, half-pound burgers. B, L, D. $, major.

Comstock Hotel/Miner's Cafe—200 W. 2nd St., 329-1880. One-pound New York steak dinner. 24 hours. $, major.

Delta Restaurant—Virginia City, 847-0353. Hamburgers, sandwiches, breakfasts. B, L, D. $, V, MC, DC.

Doc and Eddy's—1537 S. Virginia St., 786-7529. Seafood burger, nachos. L, D. $$, V, MC.

Eggception—Gardnerville, 782-8690. Quiche, homemade soups. B, L. $, no CC.

Eldorado/Mardi Gras—786-5700. English sole, shrimp salad croissant sandwich, won ton soup. B, L, D. $, major.

Harolds Club/Nickelodeon—329-0881. American, Chinese, and buffet. B, L, D. $, major.

Harrah's/Garden Room—786-3232. Eggs Benedict, avocado clubhouse, triple dragon. B, L, D. $, major.

Harrah's/Skyway—786-3232. Buffets, Sunday brunch. B, L, D. $$, major.

Holiday Inn/Greenhouse—5851 S. Virginia St., 825-2940. Sandwiches, burgers, dinners. B, L, D. $, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/General Store—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, giant apple pancake, seafood Louis. B, L, D. $, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Rotisserie—Sparks, 356-3300. Buffet with menu that includes rack of lamb and scampi, Sunday brunch. L, D. $-$$, all major.

Juicy's Giant Hamburgers—3820 S. Virginia St., 825-2770, and Wells at Ryland, 322-2600, Reno; Glendale at McCarran, 883-5600, Sparks; U.S. 395 at Winnie, 883-5600, Carson City; Highway 50 and Tahoe Keys Blvd., 916-544-8133, South Lake Tahoe. Cheeseburgers, baked chicken, breakfast. B, L, D. $.

Julia C. Bulette Saloon and Cafe—Virginia City, 847-9991. Variety of omelets, sandwiches, pizza from scratch. B, L, D. $, no CC.

Ormsby House/Comstock—Carson City, 882-1890. Burgers, prime rib, breakfasts. B, L, D. $, major.

Peppermill/Coffee Shop—2707 S. Virginia St., 826-2121. Fruit salads, lasagna, gourmet omelets. B, L, D. $$, major.

Reno Ramada/Gaming Tables—Sixth and Lake, 788-2000. Porterhouse steak, locals choice prime rib, chicken piccata, ranch stew, B, L, D. $, major.

Sharkey's Nugget—Gardnerville, 782-3133. Prime rib is house specialty. B, L, D. $, no CC.

Sands Regent/Tony Roma's—348-2200. Onion rings, baby back ribs, grilled shrimp. L, D Mon.-Fri., D Sat.-Sun. $, major.

Walley's Hot Springs/Zephyr—2001 Foothill Rd., 782-8155 or 883-6556. Coconut shrimp, chicken chardonnay. L, D (closed Mon.-Tues.). $$$, AE, MC, V res.

BASQUE

Carson Valley Country Club—U.S. 395 two miles south of Gardnerville, 265-3715. Tongue stew, crab sandwich, cabbage soup. L (except Sun.), D (closed Tues.). $-$$, no CC.

J&T Bar—Gardnerville, 782-2074. Top sirloin steak, oxtail, tongue stew, chicken and rice. L, D (closed Sun.). $$, no CC.

Louis' Basque Corner—301 E. 4th St., Reno, 323-7203. Sweetbreads, tripe, paella, other seafood dishes. L, D. $$, major, res.

Overland Hotel—Gardnerville, 782-2138. Lamb chops, steak, chicken. L, D (closed Mon.). $$, MC, V.

Santa Fe Hotel—235 Lake St., Reno, 323-1891. Chops, chicken, stew, Basque card games. L, D. $$, no CC.

FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

Adele's—1112 N. Carson St., Carson City, 882-3353. Continental San Francisco style, 75 dinner entrees, announced specials. L, D. $$-$$$. MC, V, res.

Bally's/Cafe Gigi—789-2266. French, cracked crab, snails, lobster bisque, chateaubriand, veal Oscar. D. $$$$, major, res.

Eldorado/The Vintage—786-5700. Fresh Sonoma duckling, chateaubriand, prawns amaretto, extensive wine list. D. $$, major, res.

Gold Hill Hotel/Crown Point—1 mile south of Virginia City, 847-0111. French and Cajun cuisine. D. $$, major, res.

Harrah's/Steak House—786-3232. Steak Diane, fresh fish daily, roast rack of lamb. L (Mon.-Fri.), D. $$$, major, res.

La Table Francaise—3065 W. 4th St., 323-3200. French, Mobil 4-star restaurant. D (closed Sun.-Mon.). $$$, major, res.

OG's Classic Cuisine—442 Flint, 329-1173. Pheasant, trout, flaming dishes served tableside, set in Victorian home. L, D. $$$, major, res.

Ormsby House/Woody's—Carson City, 882-1890. Rack of lamb persillade, veal Cordon Bleu. L (Tues.-Fri.), D (Tues.-Sat.). $$-$$$, major, res.

Peppermill/Le Moulin—826-2121. Tournedos of beef a la Dianne, veal a la Oscar, dover sole meuniere. D. $$, major, res.

Reno Hilton/Top of the Hilton—322-1111. Salmon with three sauces, roast duck with raspberry sauce, roast prime rib of beef au jus. D. $$$, major, res.

ITALIAN

Bally's/Caruso's—789-2267. Fresh oysters, canneloni, calamari. D. $$$, major, res.

Eldorado/La Strada—786-5700. Saltimbocca, gnocchi al pesto, raviolli verdi con spinaci. D nightly. $$, major, res.

Leonardo's—2450 S. Virginia St., 827-6200. Northern Italian, veal, steak, seafood, pasta. Nightly 4-course special. D. $$-$$$, major, res.

Marrone's—2729 N. Carson St., Carson City, 883-7044. Design your own dish from selection of pastas and sauces. L, D. $-$$, major.

Olive Garden—4900 S. Virginia St., 829-1500. Northern

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and Southern Italian cuisine. L, D. $-$$, major.

Silvana's—1301 N. Carson St., Carson City, 883-5100. Gnocchi al pesto Norma, veal and crab Daniela. $-$$, major.

MEXICAN

Bertha's—426 E. Fourth St., 322-9706. Refried frijoles from scratch, homemade tamales, Tampiquena stead. B, L, D. $, MC, V.

Cantina Los Tres Hombres—7111 S. Virginia St., 852-0202. Chingalingas, calamari, burritos, carnitas, fruit margaritas. L, D. $, major.

Comstock Hotel/Amigos—329-1880. Steak fajitas, chimichangas, fruit margaritas. D. $, major.

El Charro Avitia—4389 S. Carson St., Carson City, 883-6261. Flauta, chimichanga, combinations, fajitas, margaritas. L (Mon.-Fri.), D. $$, AE, MC, V.

Pipeline Inn—1681 Hwy. 395, Minden, 782-7408. Pipeline Special, carne azada, chicken or beef fajitas. L, D. $, MC, V, res.

Western Village/Pancho and Willie's—Off I-80, Sparks, 331-1069. Fajitas, chili verde. L (res.), D. $$, major.

ORIENTAL

Bally's/China Seas—789-2268. Mandarin shrimp, Mongolian beef, cashew chicken. D (closed Sun.). $$, major, res.

China East—1086 S. Virginia St., 348-7020. Cantonese-style dishes, Szechwan dishes. L, D. $, no CC.

Golden Pheasant—Meadowdale Center, Gardnerville, 782-5504. Sweet and sour shrimp, Dan's creama frita (deep fried almond pudding), no MSG used. L, D. $, MC, V.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Trader Dick's—Sparks, 356-3300. Cashew chicken, Szechwan specialities, flaming dagger brochette. L, D. $$, major.

Mandarin—5089 S. McCarran Blvd., 827-0222. Seafood plate, strawberry chicken. L, D. $-$$, major, res.

Miramar House—202 Fairview Dr., Carson City, 882-0262. Pu pu platter, Thai. L, D. $, major.

Panda Kitchen—2416 Hwy. 50 E., Carson City, 882-8128. Peking shrimp, house special duck, Mandarin and Szechwan. L, D. $, MC, V.

SURF AND TURF

Anchor Inn—1105 S. Carson St., Carson City, 882-0600. Scampi, baked stuffed shrimp, chicken teriyaki, New York steak. L, D. $, V, MC.

Bally's/Bounty—789-2000. Steamed clams, cracked half crab, oysters. L, D. $, major.

Bally's/Steak House—789-2270. Broiled T-bone steak, Columbia River salmon. L (except Sat.-Sun.), D (except Sun.-Mon.). $, major, res.

Carson Nugget/Steak House—882-1626. Veal scallopini, scampi in dill sauce, chicken picata, escargot. D. $$, major, res.

Carson Valley Inn/Fiona's—Minden, 782-4347. Fresh seafood, steaks, and salad bar. L, D. $-$$, major.

Cattlemen's—555 Hwy. 395 S. in Washoe Valley, 849-1500. Sirloin, filet mignon, lobster, Alaska king crab. D. $$, major.

Circus Circus/Hickory Pit—329-0711. One-pound prime rib, New York steak. D. $$, major.

Comstock Hotel/Dinner House—329-1880. Steak and lobster, veal picata, stuffed shrimp. D. $$, major, res.

Famous Murphy's—3127 S. Virginia St., 827-4111. Steaks, oyster bar. L, D. $-$$, major.

Harolds Club/Orleans—329-0881. Cajun, steak, lobster, shrimp, veal Oscar. D. $$, AE, MC, V, res.

Harrah's/Seafare—786-3232. Fresh fish specials, calamari, lobster tail, veal parmigiana, eggplant Romano. L, D. $$$, major, res.

Inn Cognito—Genoa, 782-8898. Swordfish, veal picata, pork chops. D (closed Tues.). $$, major, res.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/John's Oyster Bar—Sparks, 356-3300. Lazyman's cioppino, seafood stews. L, D. $$, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Steak House—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, steak and lobster, snapper, shrimp Louis. L, D. $$, major.

Liberty Belle—4250 S. Virginia St., 825-1776. Prime rib, famous spinach salad. L, D. $$, V MC.

MacKay's—336 Mill St., 348-6222. Steak and seafood, sandwiches, scotch bar. L (Mon.-Fri.), D. $$, AE, MC, V, res.

R'Onions—8195 S. Virginia St., 851-1777. Cajun chicken and steak, mesquite grill. Brunch Sat.-Sun, L, D, daily $, AE, MC, V.

Western Village/Steakhouse—Off I-80, Sparks, 331-1069. Prime rib, Australian lobster, veal scallopini, steak Diane. D. $, major.

LAKE TAHOE

AMERICAN

Bill's Casino/Bennigan's—Stateline, 588-5977. Cajun, Southwestern, steaks, burgers. L, D, $, major.

Caesars Tahoe/Cafe Roma—Stateline, 588-3515. Lamb chops, prime rib. B, L, D. $-$$$, major.

Fire Sign Cafe—Tahoe City, CA., 916-583-0871. Blueberry pancakes, huevos rancheros. B, L. $, major.

Harrah's Tahoe/Forest—Stateline, 588-6611. Honey-dipped fried chicken, veal stew madeira, mahi mahi. B, L, D. $$$, major.

Harrah's Tahoe/Sierra—Stateline, 588-6611. Daily specials, Chinese entrees. B, L, D. $$, major.

Harvey's/Cafe Metro—Stateline, 588-2411. European sweet shop, coffees, retail bakery, $, major.

High Sierra/Sugar Pine Bistro—Stateline, 588-6211. Croissants, quiche, special coffees. B, L, D. $, major.

High Sierra/Chicken and Rib Barn—Stateline, 588-6211. Baby back ribs, chicken. D. $, major.

High Sierra/Four Seasons—Stateline, 588-6211. Coffee shop, steaks. B, L, D. $, major.

Hyatt/Alpine Jack's—Incline, 831-1111. Fajitas, pizza, sandwiches, open 24 hours. B, L, D. $, major.

Jackson's—Incline, 831-1480. Homemade pastas, smoked pork tenderloin, fresh seafood. D (closed Mon.). $-$$, AE, DC, MC, V.

Steven—341 Ski Way, Incline, 832-0222. Homemade pasta, fresh seafood, mesquite-grilled lamb, outside deck. L, D. $$, major, res.

Tahoe Queen—S. Lake Tahoe, CA., 916-541-3364. Afternoon Emerald Bay cruise with luncheon menu, Evening dinner-dance cruise, $$-$$$, major.

FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

Caesars Tahoe/Le Posh—Stateline, 588-3515. Award winning California cuisine. D. $$$, major, res.

Christy Hill Lake Tahoe—Tahoe City, CA., 916-583-8551. B, L, D. $$-$$$, AE, MC, V, res. for dinner

Harrah's Tahoe/The Summit—Stateline, 588-6611.



Patrons of Stetson's find continental cusine at Del Webb's High Sierra.

Saddle of veal flamed with morel mushrooms, Grand Marnier souffle. D. $$$$, major, res.

Harvey's/Sage Room—Stateline, 588-2411. Rack of lamb persille, prime dry-aged cuts of beef, beef Wellington. D. $$-$$$, major, res. except Sat.

Harvey's/Top of the Wheel—Stateline, 588-2411. Continental cuisine, mahi mahi with macadamia bourbon, Sun. brunch, D. $$-$$$, major, res. except Sat.

High Sierra/Stetson's—Stateline, 588-6211. Rack of lamb, chateaubriand. D. $$$, major.

Hyatt/Hugo's—Incline, 831-1111. Steak, seafood, and roasted duckling. D. $$, major, res. preferred.

ITALIAN

Caesars Tahoe/Primavera—Stateline, 588-3515. Linguini Carbonara, tenderloin pizzaiola, pollo allo spumante, D, weekend brunch, $$, major, res.

MEXICAN

BuenoRico's Long Bar and Grill—Round Hill Mall, 588-7555. Calamari, Sante Fe fajitas. L (Mon.-Sat.), D (daily). $, major.

Hacienda de la Sierra—931 Tahoe Blvd., Incline, 831-8300. Fajitas, chimichangas, combination plates. L, D. $, AE, MC, V, res. for 8 or more.

Harvey's/El Vaquero—Stateline, 588-2411. Camerones Veracruz, carnitas. L, D. $$, major.

ORIENTAL

Caesars Tahoe/Empress Court—Stateline, 588-3515. Szechwan, Mandarin. D. $$, major, res.

SURF AND TURF

Caesars Tahoe/Broiler Room—Stateline, 588-3515. Prime rib, succulent seafood, Cajun specialties. D. $$, major, res. for large parties.

Fresh Ketch—Tahoe Keys Marina, South Lake Tahoe, CA. 916-541-5683. Live Maine lobster, fresh fish, rack of lamb. L, D. $-$$. AE, MC, V res.

Harrah's Tahoe/Friday's Station—Stateline, 588-6611. Fresh fish, steaks. L, D. $$$, major, res.

Harvey's/Seafood Grotto—Stateline, 588-2411. Wide seafood selection plus Chinese dishes. L, D. $$-$$$, major.

Hyatt/Pines—Incline, 831-1111. Changing menu of continental cuisine. D. $$, major, res.

ELKO

AMERICAN

Commercial Hotel—738-3181. Breakfasts, specials, dining room. B, L, D. $, major.

Red Lion Inn—738-2111. Coffee shop and gourmet restaurant. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

Stockmen's Motor Hotel—738-5141. Casino coffee shop, evening dinner house. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

BASQUE

Biltoki—405 Silver St., 738-9691. Tongue, prime rib, clams, squid. D (closed Wed.). $, MC, V.

Nevada Dinner House—351 Silver St., 738-8485. Basque food served family style. D. $$, AE, MC, V.

Star Hotel—246 Silver St., 738-9925. Chicken, steaks, chops. D (except Sun.). $-$$, MC, V.

AROUND THE STATE

Bruno's Country Club—Gerlach, 557-2220. Homemade ravioli and sauce, rib steak. B, L, D. $, major.

Cactus Pete's/Plateau Room—Jackpot, 800-821-3935 in Nev., 800-821-1103 outside Nev. Peppersteak Michelle, tableside service available. D. $-$$, major.

Carol's Country Kitchen and Tea Room—Austin, 964-2493. Beef stew, fried chicken, steaks. B, L, D. $, major.

Del Pueblo—Alamo, 725-3337. Large servings of tacos, enchiladas, burritos, tostados, fajitas, and American food. B, L, D. $, AE, MC, V.

Evah's Copper Queen—Ely, 289-4271. Prime rib, prawns, Mexican dishes. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

Fallon Nugget—Fallon, 423-3111. Buffets, specials. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

Jailhouse/Cell Block Dining Hall—Ely, 289-3033. Prime rib, scampi, ribs. D. $$, major.

Juanitas Cantina—1469 Hwy. 395 S. (Holbrook Junction), 266-3697. D. $, MC, V.

Lee's Old Fogy's Saloon and Casino—Dayton, 246-3435. Hamburgers, sandwiches. B, L, D. $, major.

Martin Hotel—Railroad and Melarkey, Winnemucca, 623-3197. Basque, choice of entree. L, D. $$, MC, V.

Midas Bar and Pack Station—Midas, 529-0531. Lobster tail, prime rib (with reservations, please), scampi, steak. B, L, D. $$$, no CC.

Ormachea's Dinner House—U.S. 95 and Melarkey, Winnemucca, 623-3455. Basque, steak, chicken, oxtail soup. D (closed Sun.-Mon.). $, MC, V.

Peppermill/Steak House—Mesquite, 346-5232. Gourmet continental cuisine, B, L, D. $$, major.

Red Garter/Lucille's—Wendover, 664-2825. Daily specials. B, L, D. $, no CC.

Searchlight Nugget—Searchlight, 297-1201. Sunday prime rib special, 10-cent coffee, B, L, D. $, MC, V.

Silver Smith—Wendover, 664-2231 ext, 729. Dinner buffet Sun.-Fri., fine dining Sat.-Sun. res., Sunday brunch, 24-hour coffee shop. $-$$, major.

Station House/Whistle Stop—Tonopah, 482-9777. Hamburgers, steak, seafood. B, L, D. $, AE, MC, V.

Stockman's/Nevada Room—Reno Hwy., Fallon, 423-2117. Steak and lobster, prime rib, hot and cold specials. B (weekends), L, D. $-$$, major, res.

Whiskey Pete's/Bushwacker Steakhouse—I-15 near Nev.-Calif. border, 382-4388. Porterhouse, prime rib, trout almondine. D. $-$$, major.

Winnemucca Hotel—95 Bridge St., Winnemucca, 623-2908. Basque, steak, lamb. L, D. $, MC, V, DC.

Winners/Grandma's House—Winnemucca, 623-2511. Steak, prime rib, lobster. D. $-$$, major.

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REVIEW

IT'S A SPLASH!

The Riviera's production show is full of mermaids, marionettes, and lots of H_2O

By Jackie Brett



The three-year-old show features dance numbers in and out of the water.

To maintain a competitive extravaganza in the Las Vegas show world, it's important to be instantly identifiable. "Splash" has that kind of trademark. Ask 10 showgoers to describe the Riviera's show in an instant, and they all will say the same thing: "Water."

The water in "Splash" is literally center stage, encased in a giant fish tank that serves as the focus for mermaids, divers, and underwater dancing. This is one show where a critical element is bubble control.

"Splash" has lived up to its name since the night it opened at the Riviera, June 21, 1985, and there's no end to its run in sight. Why tamper with a hit? The show, inspired and produced by Jeff Kutash, has been honored as International Show of the Year in 1986, Best Stage Spectacular in 1987 and Best Mid-Sized Stage Production in 1988.

The opening and closing numbers in "Splash" are built around the 60,000-gallon tank. With fountains and water jets adding to the spectacle, synchronized swimmers, some of them dressed in full evening attire, dance underwater in a suspended ballet while divers splash into the tank amid high-tempo original music.

From the start, the idea of H_2O as the show's star presented Kutash with a challenge. Besides building the enormous tank he had to learn how water would spray under pressure. Special underwater lighting needed to be designed so that it was visible from the dry side of the glass. It is ironic that the show's greatest creative challenge dealt with water, one of nature's most simple elements.

Initially "Splash" brought in guest performers such as the Fifth Dimension, Norm Crosby and Buddy Grecco. For two years now the special guest has been Barclay Shaw illusionist and marionette master.

The bearded Shaw's act is wide ranging. He begins with Toto, a tiny puppet that steals the act. Then Shaw turns the table and introduces a much larger marionette, Madame Clara Cluck, whose risqué language earns her the title of the World's Foulest Chicken.

On the magic side, Shaw does his mystifying "Levitation Miracle." While levitating an assistant, he somehow encases her in a plexiglass box.

The show has other magical elements. One is a street-theme dance number that segues into one of the show's outstanding specialty acts, the Globe of Death. The triple-threat act has three Brazilian daredevils speeding and spinning around inside a 13.5-foot sphere on motorcycles—simultaneously. The act's name derives from a tragic accident, in which a cousin of Douglas Mac-Valley, the act's leader, died when his motorcycle stalled upside down and fell on him.

Another nervy act is presented by Murillo and Ulises, who offer remarkable feats of balance and give new meaning to the phrase "performing under pressure." Their most dangerous stunt is the "Knife to Knife Equilibrium," in which one balances the other in the air—with two razor-sharp daggers between them.

Roby Gasser presents his precocious and acrobatic sea lion, Adolph, who in real life lives in a 52-foot air-conditioned trailer.

Then there is Kentucky Country, which is made up of two brother-sister teams who also are cousins—Seth, four years old; Elizabeth, six; Sara, eight; and Nathan, 10. They all play fiddles, sing, and clog dance.

The finale, "A Salute to the U.S.A. and Lady America," stars the Statue of Liberty and underwater dancers. The scene is lavish and emotional, which is fitting, considering how this musical aquacade plays on the audience's emotions from the start.

The final tribute is enough to send everyone off with stirring thoughts of country, patriotism—and that incredible jumbo water tank.

Splash Scene

"Splash" plays two cocktail shows nightly in the Riviera's Versailles Theatre in Las Vegas. The 8 p.m. show is $17.50, and the 11 p.m. performance is $14.50, including two drinks but not tax. There is an additional $3 charge on Saturdays and holidays. For reservations call 702-794-9301.

Jackie Brett, a longtime showroom watcher is Nevada's *Las Vegas representative.*

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