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JERRY TARKANIAN: THE WINNINGEST REBEL • NEON SPECTACULARS

NEVADA

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The Super Bowl
of Rodeo

Gable, Monroe and 'The Misfits' Revisited The Making of a Nevada Classic



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NEVADA

Volume 46, Number 6

November/December 1986

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Cover: *The Misfits'* makers. Counter-clockwise from bottom: Montgomery Clift, Marilyn Monroe, Clark Gable, John Huston, Eli Wallach, Arthur Miller, and Frank Taylor. Photo by Elliott Erwitt/Magnum. Corner photo: Benny Binion at the NFR, by Vern Howell.



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Up Front

Season's Greetings



Season's Greetings from everyone at Nevada. Bottom row, left to right: Morris Walker, Ann Henderson, Patty Noll, David Moore, Kirk Whisler (standing) and Steve Richer (standing). Second row: Brenda Craig, Mary Ann Mayo, Melissa Cronin Loomis, and Debi Frame. Top row: Jim Crandall, Cliff Glover, Billie Shaffer, Dale Smith, and Cynthia Kelley.

When I joined *Nevada Magazine* as publisher last July, the first thing I wanted to know was who our 240,000 readers really were, and what you would like *Nevada* to be. So I put together the questionnaire that appeared in the last issue.

It's hard to get people to fill out questionnaires. Readers don't usually get very involved. So I offered a free 1987 Historic Nevada Calendar to the first 500 people to respond. I had hoped to get lucky and maybe, just maybe, receive 500 responses.

Three questionnaires trickled in the first day. It was a Friday. I had to wait until Monday for the next response.

Five hundred came on Monday.

Another 1,500 came on Tuesday.

To date there are more than 10,000 responses, and counting. I'm not worried about reader involvement anymore. The only thing I'm concerned with now is evaluating the mountain of mail. At first glance, the most common opinions are "Great magazine!" and "Keep up the good work!"

As we tabulate the results, we'll be sharing them with you. With reader interest like this, *Nevada* stands an excellent chance of growing and prospering. For those of you who say, "Keep it coming!" we'll hope-

fully be able to give you more of what you seem so happy with already. For those who want changes, we should grow large enough to add some new features, too.

It's a very exciting prospect for us all, thanks to you.



Along with your ideas, we've made some staff changes and additions that should help the magazine sail smoothly and profitably into the new year, and I've taken this occasion to include a photo of the staff so you can get to know us better.

Among our new staff members is Morris Walker, our advertising director, who came to Nevada from Chico, California. His new assistant, Mary Ann Mayo, came from Temple City in Southern California. Both settled in the Carson Valley.

Patty Noll, a four-year *Nevada* veteran, now is assistant to the publisher. And Ann Henderson, formerly marketing director, is the new business manager. Ann's been with the magazine for seven years.

With a strong staff, and your involvement, the future looks bright indeed. I look forward to making the new year the best *Nevada* has ever had.

Thanks again for your support.

—Kirk Whisler

Letters

Highway 50, Jackalopes, and Lake Mead

That's Life Again

The "Up Front, That's Life" editorial in the Sept/Oct issue hit a pet peeve of mine, as the following letter shows.

I wrote it to the California State Automobile Association in 1970 after traveling Highway 50 while on vacation. The letter reads in part:

"Your office advised that Highway 50 across Nevada is not recommended nor would it be plotted for us. Therefore the Triptik was delivered to us a few days later showing Highway 80 as our route through Nevada to Salt Lake City.

"When we reached Carson City, we went to the State Highway Division Office to seek Highway 50 information. We were directed to Mr. Salansky, Nevada's chief mapmaker. He had traveled Highway 50 in the last week and could report that it was in excellent condition and not as lonely as it had been represented. It is a fine, well-graded, two-lane-plus-shoulder highway. The high desert scenery is ever changing and awesome at times. History is everywhere."

I included a long list of our stops and excellent attractions (and accommodations) we found along the way.

Love *Nevada Magazine*. My husband and I traversed all of the surfaced roads in Nevada, including the excellent Highway 50.

May K. Gilmore
Capitola, CA.

Coming from a small resort town in the Colorado Rockies a year ago to the city of Las Vegas was, to say the least, a great change but a nice one.

Nevada Magazine was our first subscription upon arrival and has helped us learn a great deal about the historic state we adopted as our home. We can hardly wait to get out and experience the things we have read about. Not one copy has been thrown away; they are kept on our bookshelf for future reference.

Hopefully you will be able to go with a monthly publication soon. Keep up the good work!

Don and Jenny
Las Vegas, NV

Questionnaires: New Routes

Enclosed please find the questionnaire which was in your Sept/Oct issue.

About two years ago one of our sons

sent us an Eastern Airlines Frequent Traveler certificate for anywhere on their system. John suggested that we might like Las Vegas. We tried it—and we liked it.

Two months before our departure I had bought up all the books I could find on casino gambling. I convinced myself that I would have the best chance at baccarat. I started playing the game, set up my own kitchen casino.

The wife and I have been to Las Vegas three times and to Reno-Tahoe once. I have played baccarat on 16 different tables. According to the 1984 Nevada Gaming Abstract, this represents 25 percent of the tables in the entire state of Nevada.

Shields E. Clark
St. Petersburg, FL.

Blue Teeth Mystery Solved?

In defense of the blue teeth mentioned by Terri Sprenger-Farley in "The Great Train Robbery," May/June '86, I would like to supply the following information.

Since Paracelsus, silver nitrate had been used for the treatment of various mental disorders and until the late 1800s was used to treat epilepsy. The absorbed silver is widely distributed in the body, especially in the subepithelial portion of the skin, and large amounts can impart to the skin a bluish pigmentation known as Argyria. The pigmentation is accentuated by exposure to light. The first sign of Argyria may be a slate blue "silverline" in the gingival margin adjacent to the teeth. There is a strong possibility that such a discoloration of the gums can make the teeth suddenly appear to turn blue when exposed to light.

By the way, I like your magazine and especially David Muench's photography.

Rosemarie Voorhees, R.N.
Schurz, NV

'Bachelors Beware' in Pioche

Thought you'd like to know that the Pioche Heritage Players used the material from the *Nevada Magazine* article, "Single Men's Protective Society" by Craig MacDonald, for their play "Bachelors Beware." The play was presented nightly at the old Courthouse the last week in July and was well received as we played to packed houses. This play was excellent thanks to your article.

We would also like to say hats off for

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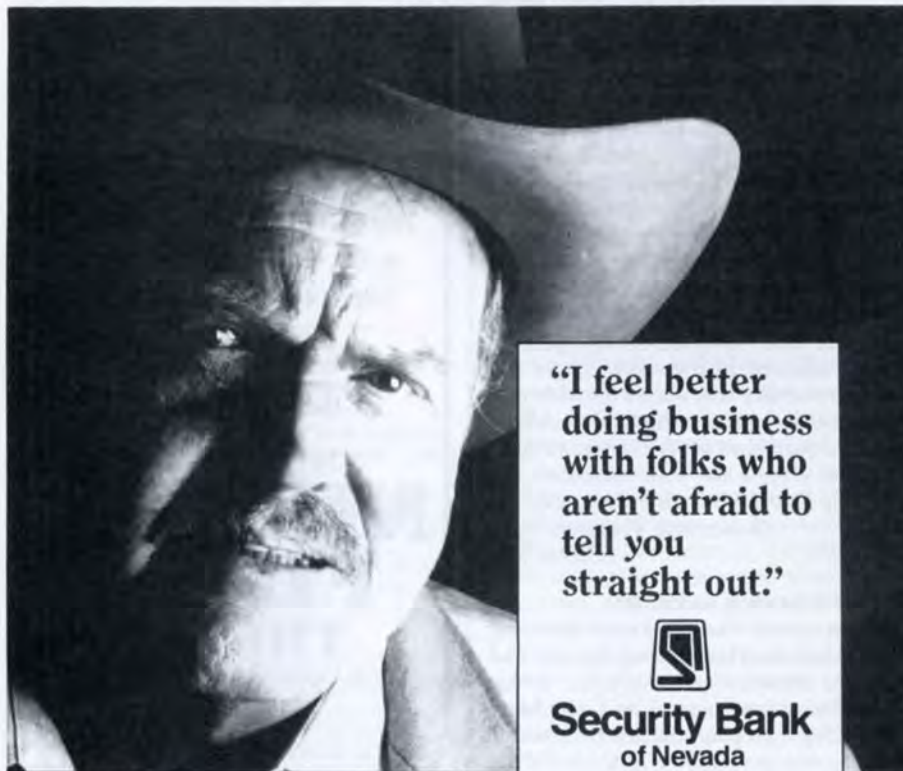
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A.D. Hopkin's article "Gunfighters of Pioche" and a big thanks for "Pioche: A New Look at the Old West" in Sept/Oct '86. We are trying so hard to sell a bit of our history, of which we have a great wealth, to the tourists who would like to share it with us.

Mary Louise Christian
Pioche, NV

I was pleased *Nevada Magazine* gave such good play to my article, "Gunfighters of Pioche," but one caption misinterpreted my point in a way other western buffs will surely resent.

The caption says "Most fighters used a double-action Whistler with the hammer filed flat and the barrel shortened for quick draws from coat pockets." I did not mean to say *most* fighters used Whistlers, but only that these double-action revolvers were often used in gunfights at a time when most people imagine only single-action types, such as the early Colt, were popular.

The example shown was especially interesting because of the "dehorned" hammer and shortened barrel, but I have never seen another Whistler so modified.

A.D. Hopkins
Las Vegas, NV

I am writing to find out how I can become a member of your prestigious organization, the Nevada Jackalope Society.

As a true believer of this rare creature of the Mothersierra and a longstanding member of E Clampus Vitus, I wish to fulfill a quest to see if a doe jackalope has horns!

Ron Long
Albany, CA.

Long, your secret subscription instructions have been sent. Good luck!—Ed.

Good Times at the Lake

I was pleased with the article by Rob Powers entitled "Their Life Is the Lake" in July/Aug '86. As a longtime resident of Nevada and frequent visitor to the lake, a great deal of enjoyment comes from the personal attention my family and I have received from the Gripenog family and those people who truly "run the lake." Certainly their contributions are part of the reason we have spent so many pleasant hours on Lake Mead. Thank you for making the lake come alive.

Denise Preussner
Las Vegas, NV

We have certainly received a lot of inquiries about the Tahoe Rim Trail since the article appeared in *Nevada Magazine*, (July/Aug '86). All of us who are concerned with the Tahoe Rim Trail thank you. Things are indeed on the upswing for us.

Incidentally, Caesars purchased a mile

(Continued on page 76)

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2451 May Peace be your Gift at Christmas and your Treasure through all the Year—artist *Katheryn Williams B.*



1205 Come join a dream of going back to those old-fashioned days...may you have a Merry Christmas in the good old-fashioned way! **A MEMORY OF CHRISTMAS**—artist *Joe Stahley*



1304 Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year—artist *Gordon Snidow*



3253 Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year (with "Take Time To See", 24-line nature poem)—artist *Ted Blaylock*



2243 Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year! **THE FRIENDLY ROADRUNNER ON DESERT PATROL**—artist *Ruth M. Lau*



2483 Wishing you all the Peace and Love of this Holy Season (with "...there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God..." Luke 2:13-14)—artist *Beverly Carrick Snow*



1496 May yours be a joyful Christmas and your New Year Happy!—artist *Hildred Goodwine*



4192 May the Peace and Joy of Christmas be with you through all the Year (with "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will towards men." Luke 2:14)—photo by *Fletcher Manley*



2140 Merry Christmas and Happy New Year (with "May your moccasins make happy tracks in many snows and the rainbow always touch your shoulder.")—artist *Lisa Danielle Lorimer*



2144 May you and yours this Christmas Day and every day this coming year be blessed with health and happiness **WHEN GOOD FRIENDS GATHER**—artist *Russ Vickers*



2388 Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year (with "In every home, in every heart..." 4-line poem)—artist *Ted Blaylock*



3319 Whatever else changes through the years, the glory of Christmas remains...may its light...bless you with joy...Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!—artist *Gene Dieckhoner*



2421 Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from our new digs!—artist *Ted Blaylock*



1674 ...and best wishes for a Happy New Year from Our Outfit to Yours **WHOA, HOSS, WHOA**—artist *Vic Donahue*



2322 May the Spirit of Christmas abide with you throughout the Coming Year (with "The heavens declare the Glory of God..." Psalm 19:1)—artist *Ruth M. Lau*



2422 May the meaning of the Season be deeper, its friendships stronger...as Christmas comes to you...(with "A Cowboy's Christmas Prayer" by S. Omar Barker)—artist *Dan Mieduch*



2398 May Christmas bring Friends to your Fireside, Peace to your Pathway, and Good Health throughout the New Year—artist *Robert Wagoner*



2222 "A Cowboy's Christmas Prayer" May the Peace and Good Will of Christmas always be with you (with "A Cowboy's Christmas Prayer" 26-line Western poem)—artist *Gordon Snidow*



3368 With Best Wishes at Christmas and Happiness through all the Coming Year—artist *Lisa Danielle Lorimer*



3372 May your Holiday Season be merry and bright!—artist *Lucille Martin*



1651 May the warmth and love that is all around us as Christmas time fill your heart with joy...(with "Tidings of Great Joy", 5-line inspirational poem)—artist *Pawnee Indian Brummett EchoHawk*



2454 May the Peace and Happiness of the Christmas Season abide with you through all the Coming Year (with 2-line inspirational poem)—artist *Beverly Carrick Snow*



1614 Wishing you all the love and promise that Christmas brings (with "Christmas is but one more word for love")—artist *Paula Butler*



1424 May the Peace and Joy of Christmas be with you through all the Year—artist *John W. Hilton*



1286 With Best Wishes at Christmas and Happiness through all the Coming Year—artist *Paul Salisbury*



2118 May you have the Spirit of Christmas which is Peace, the Gladness...which is Hope, the Heart ...which is Love (with Matthew 2:9, "...and lo, the star, which they saw in the east...")—artist *J. Claffin*



3050 May the Peace and Joy of Christmas be with you through all the Year (with "The Star That Stayed 'Til Morning" 7-line inspirational poem)—artist *Garé Barks*



2404 Best Wishes for your Christmas is all you get from me, 'cause I aint no Santa Claus... Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year—artist Charles M. Russell



2225 May Peace be your Gift at Christmas and your Treasure through all the Year —artist Pawnee Indian Brummett EchoHawk



3375 Merry Christmas and Happy New Year **ROADRUNNER'S CHRISTMAS**—artist Ruth M. Lau



2426 May your Holiday Season be filled with cheer! (with "Twas the night before Christmas, when me and my horse..." 12-line poem)—artist Boots Reynolds



1140 May Christmas bring Friends to your Fireside, Peace to your Pathway, and Good Health... **THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS FILLS THE NIGHT**—artist Bill Shaddix



1113 Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year **THE ROADRUNNER AND HIS DESERT FRIENDS**—artist Ruth M. Lau



1261 May the Peace and Joy of Christmas be with you through all the Year (with "When man begins to understand..." 4-line inspirational poem)—artist Vel Miller



2431 Wishing you an abundance of the good things in life at Christmas and throughout the New Year **BRINGIN' HOME A TREE**—artist Dan Mieduch



2410 Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year (with "In every home, in every heart..." 4-line poem)—artist Ted Blaylock

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CITY SIGHTS

What to Do in Town

Las Vegas

By Kate Butler

Where Minds Meet

If you want to learn something new on just about any subject, join the group at the Newsroom, a downtown Las Vegas gathering place which combines a European coffee house and American newsstand. Built by co-owners Lenadams Dorris and John Laub as an alternative to gambling, the Newsroom draws locals and tourists from all over the world. The wall racks stock more than 100 newspapers and 1,000 magazines in English and foreign languages. Small tables provide places for conversation, reading, and games of chess, Trivial Pursuits, and Go. You can browse at the bar for sandwiches, Italian ice, and gourmet coffee.

While classical music, jazz, or show tunes play lightly in the background, you're likely to overhear conversations in three or four different languages. "It's like a mini United Nations here," says Dorris. "To my knowledge, there's no place like this in the United States." The Newsroom, which is always open, is located at 132 Las Vegas Boulevard South. Phone 702-383-6397.

Natural History: Yesterday and Today

The Museum of Natural History has an excellent exhibit on ichthyosaurs, the ancient ocean-going creatures discovered east of Gabbs at today's Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park. The large display alone is worth the trip to the museum, which also exhibits Mexican dance masks, Indian jewelry and basketry, seashells, minerals, and fossils. Meet some live Mojave Desert animals—squirrels, beetles, reptiles, turtles, scorpions—and check regularly: the museum has a new show every month. There is no charge. The museum is located on the southwest side of the university, across from the Thomas and Mack Center, on Maryland Parkway and is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Phone 739-3381.

Family Night At The Circus

It's always family night at the Circus Circus Midway and Arcade. There are hundreds of games and free circus acts from 11 a.m. until midnight with trapeze artists, jugglers, magic acts, trained dogs, and more. Try the Circus Bowl (nine balls for 25 cents) or roll your camel to victory at the Camel Chase. Ace water pistol shooters can win at Lucky's Race; baseball pitchers can take home prizes at the

Strike-M-Out. Ride free on the Sky Shuttle that connects the buildings and RV park. Regulars usually avoid the weekend crowds. Phone 734-0410.

Reno/Tahoe

By Deborah A. Mawhar

City Holiday Touring

Enormous conifers are not plentiful in downtown Reno, but thanks to the little town of Garibaldi, Oregon, Reno will have a huge Christmas tree in celebration of the season. The tree, which will be displayed at the Pioneer Theater, arrives from Garibaldi with a contingent of more than 100 Oregonian well-wishers on November 23. Call the Chamber of Commerce for details at 702-786-3030.

Holiday lights sparkle in Wingfield Park, beginning on November 30 with a candle-light ceremony. A Christmas lights tour around Virginia Lake is also illuminating, especially the enchanting, mechanized display off Audubon Way and Lakeside. Then drive through the Hunter Lake Drive area south of Plumb Lane to see other neighborhoods decked out in cheery lights.

More Lights, From The Top

With a view of Reno's lights and a million stars that halo the Sierra, dining on the 21st floor in the Top of the Hilton is like dining in the upper stratosphere. After dinner and dessert, you can get in a romantic mood with live music and cheek to cheek dancing at the Top's lounge, only a two-step away. If you're ready to boogie, there's also dancing at the first-floor Primadonna Bar.

Snow Riders

For snowmobilers, Tahoe's backcountry presents a thrilling challenge, and several outfitters run regular guided tours designed to help you meet the challenge. At Zephyr Cove Snowmobile Center, three miles north of the Stateline casinos, you have a choice of several two-hour tours, all of which lead to breathtaking views of the Sierra and Lake Tahoe. Tour rates include snowmobile, helmet, and transportation from the Center to the trailhead and back. You can also rent such gear as parkas and gloves. Reservations required; phone 702-588-3833.

On the north shore near Carnelian Bay, Snowmobiling Unlimited tailors tours for groups. Reservations required; phone 916-583-5858. North Tahoe Sports Center tours leave from Incline Village to trailheads near Mount Watson. Phone 702-831-0472. □

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DON DONDERO PHOTOS



The Hollywood celebrities were treated like royalty in Nevada. Monroe was met at the Reno airport (top) by then-Governor Grant Sawyer's wife Bette and daughter Gail. Director John Huston (left) was crowned the winner of the first Virginia City camel races by Lucius Beebe of the Territorial Enterprise. And Frank Sinatra and Bert "Wingy" Grover entertained Monroe and company at the Cal-Neva Lodge at Tahoe.



When Arthur Miller found out his wife (Monroe) could work a paddleball, he wrote this scene into the script. Here Clark Gable, Thelma Ritter, Eli Wallach, Montgomery Clift, and extras count as Monroe sets a new record at the Odeon Saloon in Dayton.

The Making of 'The Misfits'

When John Huston, Clark Gable, and Marilyn Monroe came to Reno to make a movie 'about a world in change, the whole town got into the act.

By James Goode

Twenty-five years ago eager movie buffs filled theaters across the country for the debut of *The Misfits*. Shot entirely on location in and around Reno, the movie had all the makings of a blockbuster. Directed by John Huston and written by Arthur Miller, it starred Clark Gable and Marilyn Monroe, with Eli Wallach, Thelma Ritter, and Montgomery Clift sharing the bill.

But movie-goers expecting a shoot 'em up Gable western or a sexy Monroe comedy were disappointed. Although some critics gave it four stars, others panned it. Still, it remains a classic.

The story was based on Nevada reality. In 1956 Miller, seeking a divorce, spent his six weeks' residency in a cabin near Pyramid Lake. While there he met three Nevada mustangers who impressed him as

being "the last three unreconstructed originals in the United States."

So begins author James Goode in *The Making of The Misfits*. First printed in 1963 and republished this year, the book is a day-by-day account of the movie's production, which brought some of film-dom's best known figures to the Nevada desert. Here Goode describes the arrival of the Hollywood misfits.

JULY 18, 1960—This morning, at nine o'clock, *The Misfits* company, directed by John Huston, began shooting a series of random Reno scenes devised by Arthur Miller to alternate with the title and credits and establish the setting of the picture. These title shots, made without the principal actors, might have been photographed at any time, but the plan is to shoot in strict script sequence throughout, to enable the actors to stay in the context

of meaning as the intricate play unfolds; the day's shooting also serves to bring the crew together as a unit under Huston. The crew itself was incredibly swift, setting up camera, lights, and sound within 15 minutes at each new location and striking in the same time, loading and unloading three large trucks of gear at each stop in 104-degree temperature, providing power for the heavy lights from a large gasoline generator.

The scenes appear to be an unrehearsed look at Reno but are not in fact. For one short sequence, showing a wedding dress revolving in the Virginia Street window of Joseph Magnin, the second assistant director, Carl Beringer, found aging Freddy Parker in a Commercial Row saloon, saw

From The Making of The Misfits, copyright © 1963 by James Goode. Reprinted with permission of Proscenium Publishers/Limelight Editions.



LIMELIGHT EDITIONS



The saga of *The Misfits* went beyond the drama in the desert east of Dayton (top). Both Gable and Monroe (above) found themselves playing roles that revealed the bold yet fragile character of their own lives. Ironically, *The Misfits* was the last movie either of them would make.

him as a perfect cinematic drunk, and took him back to the waiting camera. It was no good because Parker, off a bar stool, froze into unrewarding poses. Beringer found it necessary to spend \$20 on whiskey before Parker could freely implement Huston's idea, to whirl drunkenly in balletic parody of the revolving wedding dress.

The camera moved on to a pawnshop window, created by art director Steve Grimes, which displayed a sad collection of useless male artifacts traded in for another chance on the unremitting Reno slots; then to the slot machines themselves, anthropomorphic cast iron or carved

wood replicas of western badmen, with the usual long chrome lever in place of one arm, each with plaster eyes more evil than the last. This surrealistic touch was followed by a look at long rows of the standard slot machines and crap tables in action in the gambling clubs, in Arthur Miller's words "a sea of cold chrome."

The title shots ended with a bride and groom being escorted by Reno Junior Chamber of Commerce types in western dress into a "Black Maria" with accompanying gunfire, and driven under the Virginia Street neon sign, RENO, THE BIGGEST LITTLE CITY IN THE WORLD. The bride closed

the sequence by returning to her job as a blackjack dealer in the Mapes Hotel casino, still in her white wedding gown, the veil in place. The groom, Walter Ramage, returned to his office. Huston, in the first of a long series of appearances in the casino, celebrated the end of the first day's shooting by winning \$175.

July 20—Today's shooting call, listing the cast and crew needed for the day and posted in the Mapes Hotel lobby, was for 8 a.m., an hour earlier than usual. The reason was a scene showing Clark Gable, as Gay Langland, saying good-bye to a St. Louis divorcee at the Southern Pacific train station in the center of town. One of the first scenes in the picture, it called for the lady to board the train and wave good-bye as the train pulled out. Since the cost of a special train would have been prohibitive, even if one had been available, it was necessary to use the Overland Limited heading west from Chicago to San Francisco, holding it for a few minutes longer than usual. A train heading east might have been more accurate, but there were none during daylight hours.

Playing opposite Gable in this brief scene was blonde Marietta Tree, socialite and friend of John Huston, and most famous for the Democratic political salon that she runs in her upper-Eastside mansion in New York. Mrs. Tree had not intended to appear in the picture, but had simply stopped off to see Huston on her way to San Francisco. The day before, Huston had interviewed a local actress who was to play the part of the departing St. Louis divorcee, and had decided against using her. Gable, Huston, and Mrs. Tree were talking later at lunch when Gable suddenly said, "Why don't we have that one over there?" meaning that Mrs. Tree could very well play the part. Mrs. Tree protested, saying that she wasn't an actress, and not the type. Gable replied that she was just the type he wanted.

As the train pulled in at 8:25, discharging passengers, Gable and Mrs. Tree began the farewell scene, establishing Gay Langland's character as a Reno cowboy who has had frequent affairs with women in town for divorce actions, and also as a man who can't be bought and who refuses to be tied down. Mrs. Tree, as Susan, said, "Will you think about it? It's the second largest laundry in St. Louis!" Gay replied, "I wouldn't want to kid you, Susan. I ain't cut out for business."

Mrs. Tree, as Susan, was crying as she boarded the train, and waved good-bye from a window as the train pulled out of the station. She said later that she was scared silly about the moving train; knowing Huston's elaborate practical jokes, she feared that he had given the engineer instructions to keep right on going to San Francisco. But the train stopped after a few feet and backed up into position again

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Carson City

for an additional shot. In this one, Guido (Eli Wallach), a garage mechanic, pulling up to a lowered signal at the track, sees Gay and invites him over to Harrah's for a drink.

Completing the shot, with tiny microphones on sticks at ground level and inside Gable's shirt, the crew struck the lights and moved on to the next location, a two-story frame house belonging to the Reno USO and chosen by Steve Grimes as a likely boardinghouse for Roslyn (Marilyn Monroe) and her friend Isabelle (Thelma Ritter). Monroe had not yet arrived in Reno, but she wasn't required for the first shots at the USO.

The script called for the arrival of Guido in his garage truck to appraise Roslyn's new Cadillac convertible, a present from her husband in Chicago. Roslyn, it seems, would like to dispose of both the Cadillac and the husband. Isabelle says in the script that Reno men keep running into Roslyn's Cadillac just to start conversations, so it was necessary to pound dents into the body of the new car with a sledge hammer. The usual crowd of Reno onlookers winced with each blow, but the crew itself was calm, offering advice to the grip with the hammer.

Thelma Ritter appeared for the first time in this scene, her left arm in a sling and carrying a broken alarm clock in her other hand, and speaking in one of the memorable voices of the screen.

The afternoon was also marked by the arrival of Marilyn Monroe at the Reno airport. Arthur Miller, Frank Taylor, a United Artists publicity man, *The Misfits* still photographer, Al St. Hilaire, a few members of the Reno press, a newsreel photographer, and 200 fans were on hand when a United DC-7 landed at 2:45. In a preview of what was to happen throughout the filming of *The Misfits*, America's oldest *enfant terrible* did not emerge from the plane for 30 minutes. No one seemed to mind, and everyone waited patiently as she walked to the passenger gate, accompanied by Miller, Rupert Allan, her press representative, and Sydney Guilaroff, who had arranged her hair on the plane. She looked very young in a white blouse and skirt, and was already in character as Roslyn in the upswept platinum wig that she would wear during the picture. There were a few words of welcome, a presentation of flowers by the wife and daughter of the governor, and Monroe was escorted to Taylor's Thunderbird for a triumphant ride down Virginia Street to the Mapes Hotel. Taylor was hoping to get pictures for the wire services and newsreels of Monroe perched on the back of the open car under the sign, RENO, THE BIGGEST LITTLE. He did, and Monroe disappeared into the Mapes and her suite on the top floor. It was later explained that the

delay at the airport occurred because Miss Monroe was changing her clothes in the ladies' room on the plane.

July 21—Montgomery Clift and Kevin McCarthy both arrived in Reno today, McCarthy for a three-day appearance as Mr. Taber, Roslyn's husband, who comes from Chicago to ask Roslyn to reconsider the divorce.

July 23—In his suite at the Mapes Hotel that afternoon, Huston tried to explain "for what," and to tell why he had decided to direct *The Misfits*. As he spoke, he drew a succession of ink portraits of this writer, and smoked innumerable Gauloises cigarettes—

"I got the script in the mail with a letter from Arthur Miller. He was unbelievably modest. He asked me if it had any value. I read it and immediately cabled that I liked it very much

"What's behind it? It is about people who sell their work but won't sell themselves. Anybody who holds out—is a misfit. If he loses, he is a failure, and if he is successful, he is rare. This movie is about a

Rated 'N' for Nevada

From love stories to *Crime Story*, films made in Nevada continue to make dramatic appearances on both the big and small screens.

According to Bob Hirsch of the State Motion Picture Division, a number of Nevada-based movies are due to air this winter. They include Sylvester Stallone's *Over The Top*, in which Stallone, an arm wrestler, sweats bullets instead of shooting them during strong-arm battles in Las Vegas. Goldfield and the Central Nevada desert provide the backdrops for *Cherry 2000*, which stars Melanie (*Body Double*) Griffith. Charles Bronson and Jill Ireland filmed at Lake Tahoe for the tentatively-titled *The President's Wife*, which involves a terrorist plot to kidnap a future First Lady.

Other movies are in the making. *Surrender*, a romantic comedy with Sally Field and Steve Gutenberg, is set at Reno and Tahoe, while Sir Laurence Olivier visits Las Vegas for *One More Time*.

Prime-time TV hasn't overlooked Nevada, either. With Dan Tanna working under an alias in Boston, producer Michael (*Miami Vice*) Mann is taking over Tanna's Vegas turf with *Crime Story*. The show will be based in Las Vegas after it breaks out of Chicago.

Even Disney has its lenses set on the Silver State. One Sunday movie, *You Ruined My Life*, will be filmed entirely here. And Home Box Office is planning to make *Glory Days*, a six-episode Nevada series.

—Jim Crandall

world in change. There was meaning in our lives before World War II, but we have lost meaning now. Now the cowboys ride pickup trucks and a rodeo rider is an actor of sorts. Once they sold the wild horses for children's ponies. And now for dog food. This is a dog-eat-horse society.

"The part of Gay Langland is a point that should be underscored now, not as a preachment. It reveals itself dramatically. He's the same man but the world has changed. Then he was noble. Now he is ignoble."

July 25—After rushes, the party walked to Harrah's Club on Virginia Street, where the company was shooting a scene from the script in which Gay and Guido meet Roslyn and Isabelle in the bar in Harrah's. This marked the first time Gable had played opposite Monroe and the entire company was on hand.

It was also the first time in years that Harrah's Club, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, had been closed to the public. The stars emerged from their trailers parked at the curb, and policemen kept a crowd of 300 people from surging through the doorless air-curtain entrance. The atmosphere inside was realistic, jarred only in the bar where the lights, sound boom, and camera were already in place. A casual group of 75 extras, all hired in Reno for \$10 a day, milled through the dice and roulette tables and around the slot machines, but did not play. The familiar sounds were absent, and even the air-conditioning had been turned off to permit recording. The normal shift of Harrah's dealers, pit bosses, and waitresses stood silently at hand, the dealers losing about \$10 a day in tips, Bill Harrah losing an estimated \$50,000 each day in gambling revenue in exchange for the references to his club in the script.

The scene began with Gable and Wallach on adjoining bar stools with their backs to the camera, Monroe, and Ritter. Langland's hound, Tom Dooley, was beside a stool. In the script, Roslyn sees the dog and calls to it. Langland notices that his dog is missing, sees Roslyn, and advances upon her. Guido and Langland are introduced by Isabelle, who has met Guido at the boardinghouse, and the issue is joined. Marilyn Monroe was very nervous, Tom Dooley was unmanageable, and the scene was long, but Huston got the company out of Harrah's in a day and a half, a day and a half ahead of the estimated three-day shutdown, to Bill Harrah's vast relief. □

The Misfits was the last picture for both Gable and Monroe. Before the movie was released in 1961, Gable died of a heart attack. Goode's book was finished before Monroe's death in 1962. *The Making of The Misfits* (331 pages, 17 photos) is available in softcover for \$9.95 from Limelight Editions, 118 East 30th, New York, NY 10016.



SCOTT HENRY

REBEL WITH A CAUSE

Jerry Tarkanian, major-college basketball's winningest active coach, became one of Las Vegas' favorite sons by chewing towels, barking commands, and coaxing UNLV's Runnin' Rebels to victory.

By Mike Fitzgerald

Jerry Tarkanian sits at courtside, hands clasped atop his shiny head, watching the UNLV Runnin' Rebels alumni team trade baskets with former players from Brigham Young at the Thomas and Mack Center. His shirt looks like he slept in it, but his gold ring and watch glitter under the bright lights.

On the court, National Basketball Association stars Reggie Theus and Sidney Green—along with a team full of former Rebel greats—are spinning flashy passes and slamming dunks to the oohs and aahs of fans spread among the bright red seats.

This is the House That Tark Built, an immense, 18,000-seat arena that cost \$30 million to construct. And these are the players who made up the great teams that put the University of Nevada-Las Vegas on the national basketball map and at the same time created the biggest local attraction since Caesars Palace.

Even in the off-season you can't go any-

where in Las Vegas without hearing about the UNLV basketball team. Cab drivers, insurance salesmen, grammar school teachers—they can't get enough of their Rebels. Local newspapers and television and radio stations can't fill their space and time with enough UNLV basketball in the winter.

Before home games the rich and famous—casino owners, bankers, doctors, lawyers, and hotel entertainers—strut their stuff at courtside. In the higher seats, other Southern Nevada basketball fans file in with the kids and neighbors.

The games themselves are pure Vegas, with the lights dimmed amid flashing spotlights as the players are introduced; beautiful cheerleaders in scanty, showgirl-type suits; and, of course, the talented, fast-breaking Rebels.

Across from campus, the Runnin' Rebel apartments are going up. A store called Rebelabilia sells everything you could

imagine with the team's logo.

The coach who masterminded this explosion of scarlet and gray gestures toward the alumni players running up and down the court. "Isn't this nice?" he says as Theus slips the ball under his legs before tossing a behind-the-back pass into Robert Smith's hands for an easy layup. "Sure, it makes me proud, but these are the guys who did it. Give them the credit, too."

Who is this bald, sad-eyed, towel-chomping basketball coach—make that the *winningest* active coach in the country with a 442-101 (.814) record in 18 years of major-college coaching?

He is certainly a celebrity—make that a *big* celebrity in a town that ho-hums the likes of Wayne Newton and Diana Ross. Don Rickles at a restaurant? Big deal. But did you see Tark today at the airport? Hey. What did he say?

"I don't know if I like it or not," he says with a smile when asked about being a

local celebrity. "Sometimes I feel like going to have a wig made."

When Tarkanian walks into a restaurant, people come up to him for autographs, to ask questions, sometimes to offer free basketball advice. But the subject of basketball never tires the veteran coach. Whether he's at a black-tie dinner party or stopping in at a neighborhood tavern for a friend's birthday, he'll sit and chomp on a big cigar, sip wine, and tell recruiting stories.

Tarkanian's huge office at the Thomas and Mack is loaded with pictures of Tark and visiting celebs, a who's who of Strip performers, many of whom have sung the national anthem before the Rebels' games.

And there is no question that Tarkanian likes Las Vegas. Why else would he turn down two offers to coach the Los Angeles Lakers and opportunities to coach just about anywhere else in the country?

"I tell people this is the best city in America," he explains. "You have all the advantages of a big city—the restaurants, the entertainment, the lake [Mead], the mountains—but it has the life style of a small city. I love the weather, the dry heat, and the blue skies every day.

"I also like the attachment the community has to the university and the program. The people are really, really nice. Almost all of my kids' friends are sons and daughters of boosters. They make the whole thing very rewarding."

Tarkanian, 56, was born and raised in Ohio, but he found his basketball fortune in the West. He attended Fresno State, where he roomed with Darryl Rogers, now the head coach of the NFL's Detroit Lions. It was also where Tarkanian met his wife Lois.

His was not the most common way to take a bride.

"Jerry and his buddies kept unplugging the phonograph at a party and were sent to the student court, where I was one of the judges," Lois Tarkanian recalls with a smile. "After the preliminary hearing, before we made a judgment, he asked me out. Maybe he thought it would influence my decision, but I was the one who talked them into finding him guilty—and he had to set up election booths as his punishment."

After graduating from Fresno State in 1955, Tarkanian took his first coaching job at San Joaquin High School in Fresno and then moved to Antelope Valley High in Lancaster, California. He took over at Redlands High School in 1959-60 and earned a masters degree with honors in educational management.

He got his first college head coaching job at Riverside City College in 1961 and quickly made a name for himself as his teams won the state junior college cham-



SCOTT HENRY



SUSIE HADLAND



UNLV



SUSIE HADLAND



UNLV

Tarkanian receives a boutonniere from his wife Lois at their son Danny's last home game in 1984, when they and other seniors' parents were honored. At top left, Tarkanian is known for his sideline expressions and towel-chewing. At top right, after a benefit the bewigged coach is flanked, from left, by Sidney Green, who now plays with the Detroit Pistons; Steve Wynn, chairman of the board of the Golden Nugget; and Lonnie Wright, former president of the UNLV Basketball Alumni Association.

pionship four years in a row with a combined record of 131-9. In 1966 he moved to Pasadena Junior College, where his team again won the state JC crown with a 35-1 mark. A 32-3 year followed before taking over at Cal State Long Beach, where he turned a poor program around with some excellent recruiting. His first year the 49ers were 23-3 and the next four seasons made the NCAA tournament with a combined record of 99-17. It was in Long Beach that he began chewing wet towels during games to keep his mouth from getting parched.

Despite his success in California, Tarkanian left the beach for the desert and became the head coach of UNLV on March 23, 1973. He had agonized over the decision, and Lois at first was strongly in favor of staying at Long Beach. Their kids were still in school, which made the decision even tougher.

But a group of boosters, some of whom are Tarkanian's close friends today, convinced him that the income (well into six figures a year) and players would be good—and they were right. Playing before sell-out crowds in the Las Vegas Convention Center, the Rebels were 23-3 in 1973-74. The next year they were 24-5 and advanced to the second round of the NCAA tournament.

A second trip to the NAAs followed in 1975-76 as the team, 29-2, averaged an incredible 110 points per game. Then the Rebels made the big time.

Led by Theus, UNLV ran its way to the Final Four, averaging 106 points per game. Basketball fans across the country fell in love with the team that fast-broke like it was in the NBA and was coached by a bald guy who chewed on towels. The dream of a national championship ended with a heartbreaking 84-83 loss to North Carolina, but UNLV and Tarkanian had made it nationally.

What should have been an exciting new chapter in his career almost ended in disaster as the NCAA charged Tarkanian with minor past recruiting violations and tried to get UNLV to suspend him. The ensuing probation chased Theus to the pros a year early as a hardship case, but support for the embattled coach never wavered. Throughout Nevada, lawyers, politicians, and fans rallied behind Tarkanian. The case was finally thrown out of court in 1984, and the NCAA was severely criticized for its conduct.

It was a landmark victory, but Tarkanian says it left him a changed man. "I used to always think everything in the country was great. But what they [the NCAA] were able to do to me and my family was unbelievable. I'll never get over it completely."

But there was a good side, too. "The whole state was behind me, everybody," Tarkanian says.

"That's when I realized their sense of loyalty here. When I was offered the Lakers job, three or four of the boosters reminded me of how they stood behind me during the NCAA problem, and I knew they were right."

Tarkanian's Rebels have been on a roll ever since. UNLV has won 20 or more games every season except one since 1977. There have been four NCAA tournament appearances and two NIT bids. The Rebels reached another milestone in 1982-83 when the team was ranked Number 1 for two weeks.

The Tarkanian coaching combination—putting his players through the hardest college practices in the country in preseason, stressing man-to-man defense and fast-breaking offense, and developing a close personal rapport with each player—has never failed.

"Coach Tark really cared for me, and I always respected him for that," Theus reflected before the recent alumni game. "He was a great motivator, but also a friend you could count on."



Danny and Jerry in Long Beach days.

Twenty-five Rebels have been drafted by the NBA, the last two being Anthony Jones and John Flowers from last year's squad. Scouts and coaches love the running and pressure defense the players are taught—and knowing how it feels to be a winner.

After 25 years as a head coach, there are signs that Tarkanian has mellowed. A health kick he started two years ago, with a strict diet and plenty of exercise, is the biggest change. But the coach still yells in the torturous practices, still clasps his hands atop his head and stamps his cowboy boots during the games after a UNLV turnover or questionable call. He is very superstitious. He won't stay in the same hotel after a road loss the previous year; he takes his team off the court after pre-game warm-ups at exactly the same time; and he often gives away suits he wore during losses. He also writes a twice-weekly column for the *Las Vegas Sun*, although Lois sneaks in a few under his name.

In May, Tarkanian received perhaps his greatest honor when top coaches, including the legendary John Wooden, assembled at the Las Vegas Hilton to honor his 25th anniversary as a college coach. His friend Jim Valvano of North Carolina State was master of ceremonies and kept the crowd roaring with an assortment of one-liners.

The most moving tribute of the night was a videotaped history of Tarkanian's coaching career, followed by individual messages from his wife and four children: Pamela, Jodie, Danny (who started for UNLV for two seasons), and George. There wasn't a dry eye in the place as each finished their personal talks with "I love you, Dad."

Three of the children still live in the comfortable but not overly extravagant family home in Charleston Heights. Pamela, recently married, teaches in a local counseling-based program. Jodie is a registered nurse at Humana Hospital. Danny is in law school at the University of San Diego, and George attends the same school as an undergraduate. Lois is involved in an assortment of community activities and works with deaf children. Jerry and Lois help many local charities.

Last summer, after recruiting was pretty much finished, Tarkanian was a guest speaker at several basketball clinics and took a few trips to Southern California. He also attended the Nike shoe company's camp. "Most coaches play golf there," he jokes. "I just sit out by the pool and get my head suntanned."

He even made a second attempt at trout fishing with a group of friends—and this year he didn't get stuck in quicksand. The first time he had to be pulled out of some muck along a shoreline (a story that made all the rounds in town).

Now another season approaches. As three starters return, fans are hopeful the 1986-87 Rebels can approach last year's record number of wins (33) and maybe, just maybe, get into the Final Four.

What will Tarkanian do when he finally calls it quits? "We'll live here, but I'll go back and forth to the Balboa Bay Club [in Newport Beach]. I would even think about doing some scouting for an NBA team. I'll always love watching the games."

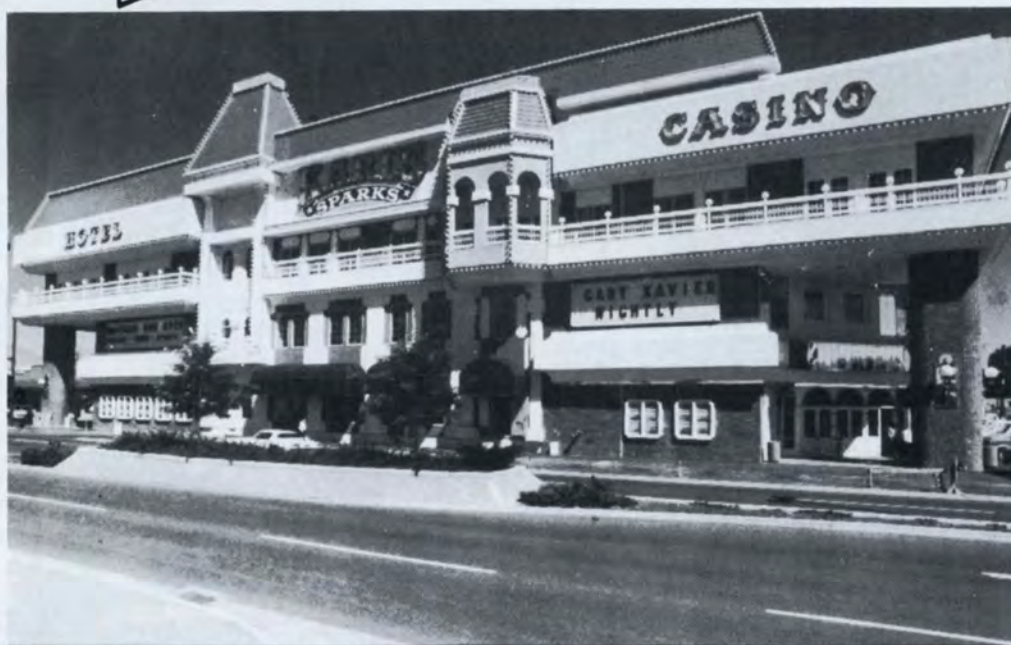
"Or maybe I'll just go down to Sun City," he says, flashing the famous grin. "I'll get me one of those golf carts and a baseball cap and just ride it to the store, and spend the rest of the time in the garden watering the roses. All I'll have to worry about is getting the roses watered."

How many more seasons will there be?

"Oh, I don't know. I haven't set any time limit or anything like that," he says. "As long as we keep winning...." □

Mike Fitzgerald is sports editor of the *Las Vegas Sun*.

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THE SUPER BOWL OF RODEO

When the National Finals Rodeo returns to Las Vegas for the second year, it promises once again to be a bronc-bustin' success.

By Jim Fossum

They came in droves from all over the West. They wore 10-gallon hats, plaid shirts, jeans, boots, and spurs. They gambled at lavish modern-day saloons and whooped it up on dance floors.

Then they crowded into the Thomas and Mack Center for the biggest event in the sport of cowboys. The National Finals Rodeo had come to town.

The so-called Super Bowl of Rodeo, the largest and richest event of its kind, made its first Las Vegas appearance last December. It was, by nearly all accounts, a

certified smashing success.

Eight world champions were crowned before standing-room-only crowds that totaled a record 155,000 for 10 performances. Competition was considered the fiercest ever, and the purse was a record \$1.8 million. The riders and ropers were the top 15 qualifiers in seven events—bareback, saddle bronc, steer wrestling, bull riding, calf roping, team roping, and barrel racing—based on season-long competition at more than 600 professional rodeo events.

"This is the best rodeo I've ever been associated with," said Shawn Davis, the former president of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association who cast the deciding vote to move the NFR to Las Vegas after a 20-year stay in Oklahoma City.

Also waxing enthusiastic was Lewis Feild, the Utahan who was crowned both bareback champion and all-around cowboy. "I've never seen a better rodeo, and I've been to a lot of them," he said. "The fact that so much money was available and



TAD CHEYENNE SCHUTT

Gaming pioneer Benny Binion (above) is paying all the cowboys' and cowgirls' entry fees again. The crowd will be on its feet often during NFR week.

the competition was open enough for anyone to win the world title up until the last ride—that made it the most exciting rodeo ever.”

So ran the sentiments of the thousands of visitors who packed the town, rollicking

to the sounds of entertainers like Merle Haggard and Tammy Wynette while gambling and partying to their heart's content.

Equally high spirits could be found in the city's board rooms and executive offices as more than \$40 million was pumped

into the Southern Nevada economy. According to local officials, seldom had Las Vegas been so united behind an event. For example, many businesses with strict dress codes allowed employees to wear western clothes that week to heighten

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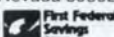
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enthusiasm, and the names of country and western stars clearly dominated the hotel's marquee.

So it will be this December, too, as the NFR returns for its second year. The rodeo starts on Friday, December 5, with a 7 p.m. performance at the Thomas and Mack Center. There will be a double-header on the first Saturday (as opposed to the last Saturday in previous years). The final performance will be Saturday, December 13. The final will be televised nationally during prime time, and the main sponsor, Hesston Farm Machinery, estimates it will be seen by 31 million households in 158 U.S. and Canadian markets.

Again, hotel people will be heavily involved with the NFR. According to Herb McDonald, executive director of Las Vegas Events, the coordinating sponsor, more than 50 hotels are offering rooms for as low as \$30, and most are participating in a city-wide rodeo shuttle that will cost only \$2 per person per day.

For the second time Horseshoe Club owner Benny Binion is paying all entry fees—a total of \$25,000—for the qualifying cowboys and cowgirls. Last year Binion was thanked with a long standing ovation as he circled the arena by stagecoach. He also was named pro rodeo's Man of the Year.

Sam's Town again will present the "Spirit of Rodeo" sculpture—akin to football's Heisman Trophy—by Wyoming artist Skip Glomb to the all-around champion. Wrangler repeats as sponsor of the crowd-pleasing bullfights, in which rodeo clowns taunt but avoid entanglement with brahma bulls for a \$100,000 purse.

The Sahara Hotel is headquarters for the PRCA's annual convention December 2-5, when rodeo officials will gather for meetings and seminars. The Tropicana Hotel will host the Miss Rodeo America Pageant and a trade show and serve as media headquarters. The Union Plaza will be the site of a western art auction, with proceeds benefiting Exceptional Rodeo, a special program for handicapped children. The NFR's Exceptional Rodeo event is December 12.

Ticket sales have been brisk. All plaza-level seats (\$19) are sold, but there still are tickets for the lower balcony (\$15) and balcony (\$12) for some early performances (the final two, December 12-13, are sold out). Tickets may be ordered with VISA or MasterCard by calling the Thomas and Mack Center at 702-739-3900. There will be a limited number of tickets available at the gate. For rodeo information contact Las Vegas Events, Box 72556, Las Vegas, NV 89170, 702-731-2115. □

Jim Fossum is a sports writer and rodeo watcher for the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

Western, Where?

Experts say the very fabric of this American style is held together with pearly buttons and copper rivets.

By Rob Powers

The western look. Is it more in the jeans, or in the genes? It's a question that reaches to the very fabric of a way of life. Some people answer by launching into lofty arguments about the merits of substance over style. You either have the look or you don't, they say, and trying to give it to those who don't is like explaining a Nevada sunset to a New Yorker—or roping a calf with kite string. Others counter that where clothing is concerned, style is substance.

Say you're on the outside looking in at all this. You want to dress for an occasion like the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas in December, but you don't want to come off looking like a rodeo clown. You want to be seen, but not as someone whose fashion inspiration is Yosemite Sam. You want to dress western and look like you know what you're doing. Only problem is, you don't.

But first, relax. Because that's at the heart of the western look, duds notwithstanding. Was the Marlboro man ever in a rush to light his cigarette? Did Duke Wayne spout like a hockey announcer when he pointed his gun at the bad guys and told them to move on? Shoot, no. He moved slowly, and with authority.

As long as we're on the subject, just what is the western look?

"What the real cowboys wear when they do real cowboy work," says Janda Coons of Miller Stockman in Las Vegas.

From Vicki Paulbick, owner of Adams Western Store, comes this observation: "Western wear is a way of life."

Whatever its definition, western wear is special. It's as uniquely American as anything we have, if you don't count gas station mini-marts. Some of it represents an evolution of fashions worn in other places at other times. But western wear in America, and especially in the West, has become

a standard. It's emblematic of a way of life; for the most part it transcends trends and is rooted in time-honored practicality.

Practicality has given way to fashion during the last century, says Jon English of Miller Stockman. But not completely, he hastens to add. Western wear will never completely sacrifice function for fashion.

Which brings us back to the people who want to look country but don't know where to start looking. That's the easy part: There are about a dozen western wear stores in the Las Vegas area, another dozen around Reno and Sparks, and even more are scattered around the state. The variety of goods they peddle is positively stupefying, so your job will be easier—and you may resist this initially—if you put yourself in their hands.

"We have customers who want to be western for a couple of days, for a certain event," says Sam's Town's Sandy Miller. For them, less expensive items are in order. "For people who have worn it their whole life," Miller adds, "they will invest the money."

Say you belong in the former group. You can start by dividing western wear into two basic categories: fashion and work. A common work outfit for both men and women includes a cotton long-sleeve shirt, maybe a Pendleton (don't get too off the wall or you'll look like the "before" picture in a fashion ad). Wrangler jeans (Levi's will do, but Wranglers are also popular among this set) and good bull-hide or goatskin boots are also called for. Toss in a straw hat and you're ready to toss your clothing worries to the wind.

The fashion look is slightly more complex, and more than slightly higher in price. To suit men, the Wranglers have turned into keystone belt-loop slacks. On the shirt are buttons where there were snaps. Then there's a nice yoked dress



ED OPSITOS

Here two Las Vegas put their best boots forward at NFR time. Don Butner, a calf roper who works as a bartender at Caesars Palace, sports a Resistol hat, Levi's coat, Wrangler shirt and jeans, Justin boots, and a silver bolo tie. Don won his silver belt buckle at a rodeo, but you can buy similar ones in stores. Linda Braund is wearing a Resistol hat, fringed leather coat, and Levi's jeans. Linda is a UNLV student, a part-time model, and tour person at the Tropicana.

jacket and a large, flashy belt buckle. That straw hat is now made of beaver, bear, hare, or mink. The better quality hats have finer mixtures of material; you might pay \$300 for a Stetson mix of mink and hare. A good rule to follow is, the softer the hat, the harder to keep the price down.

Did we skirt cowgirls here? For women, a soft, velvety shirt, basic denim skirt—

“

Western wear is emblematic of a way of life. It transcends trends and is rooted in time-honored practicality

”

make sure there are belt loops—and hightop boots usually work well together.

Boot prices vary according to style and material—and both vary enormously. Sam's Town, for instance, carries between 4,000 and 5,000 pairs. Western Boot World has about 20,000 pairs in stock. Boot prices start out at about \$100 and don't stop until they hit the stratosphere.

At the rarified end of the price range is Lucchese's best, a Domingo goat and horn-back lizard boot that the company made in celebration of its centennial. Lucchese produced only 500 pairs of them, and no wonder: each pair sells for \$1,000. It's presumed that the people who buy them don't plan to do much walking where the cows congregate.

Perhaps more than any other part of the ensemble, boots make a statement about their wearer. Nearly everyone wears Levi's or Wranglers nowadays. Western

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shirts with yokes and even cowboy hats are commonplace. But the boots come in so many styles that each pair becomes a signature of its wearer. Dirty, beat-up, oil-tan boots tell others that these boots were made for working. Exotic skins—elephant, elk, ostrich, boa constrictor, python, lizard, water snake, camel snake—make a statement in style. Of course, if you've never worn a boot before, it doesn't make a lot of sense to spend \$400 on a pair that might become nothing more than a pricey decoration for your closet.

For boots, you might want to consider a pair of "ropers," as in calf ropers. To the untrained eye they appear to be a concession to style over practicality. Ropers are lower in cut, the toe is rounder, and there isn't much of a heel. Here again, though, is an instance of the beautiful marriage of fashion and function: The shallow heel allows its wearer to get out of the saddle faster and run more comfortably.

But you don't want to rope calves; you want to avoid getting all tied up in knots when you walk into a western store. So keep your shirt on and remember: Real cowboys may be born, not made, but if you look the part, what others don't know won't hurt them. □

A Nevada Jeanealogy of Western Wear

When you step out at rodeo time—or any other occasion that demands sharp duds—Nevada's western stores will suit you right. Some, like J.M. Capriola's in Elko, can make you a pair of custom silver spurs. Contemporary stores like Sam's Town Western Emporium in Las Vegas have accessories to outfit you and your kitchen. Whether you pilot a palomino or a Porsche, a mustang or a Mustang, the following western stores can outfit you for any shindig, no matter how you get to town.

CARSON CITY

D-Bar-M Hitchin Post—3080 Hwy. 50 East, 883-3633. 9-5:30, Mon.-Sat. Owners, Dave and Sonya Schuler.

Rogers Western Store—1233 S. Carson St., 882-5663. 10-5:30, Mon.-Fri., 10-5 Sat. Owner, Virginia Rogers.

ELKO

Bob's Togs—453 Idaho St., 738-3950. 9-5:30 Mon.-Sat. Owner, Robert Higley. Manager, Duane Jones.

Elko General Merchandise—416 Idaho St., 738-3295. 9-11:45, 1-5 Mon.-Fri., 10-5 Sat. Owners, Margaret Anacabe and Anita Anacabe Franzoia.

J.M. Capriola Co.—500 Commerical St., 738-5816. 8-5:30 Mon.-Sat. Owners, Doug and Paula Wright.

ELY

Andy's Western Shop—501 11th St., 289-2504. 10-5:30 Mon.-Sat. Owners, Lee and Lloyd Anderson. Manager, Anne-marie Heckethorn.

Nanette Shops, Inc.—556 Aultman St., 289-2128. 9-6 Mon.-Sat. Owners, John and Gladys Fay. Managers, Gene and Maureen Vaught.

Kirkeby's White Pine Feed—1234 High St., 289-4521. 8-5 Mon.-Sat. Owners, Kay A. and Gordon Kirkeby.

FALLON

M Bar L Corral—116 S. Maine St., 423-2496. 10-5 Mon.-Sat. Manager, Jennie Norcutt.

Town and Country Fashions—2030 Reno Hwy., 423-6571. 10-6 Mon.-Sat. Owner-manager, George Ghiglia.

FERNLEY

High Desert Fashions—1330 Hwy. 40 East, 575-4280. 10-6 Mon.-Sat. Owners, Judy and Bob Estrala.

GARDNERVILLE

The Clothes Horse—1520 Hwy. 395 South, 782-9500. 9:30-5:30 Mon.-Sat. Owner-manager, Kris Knox.

Perry's Dry Goods—Hwy. 395 South, 9:30-noon, 1-5:30 daily. Owner, Frank Yparraguirre.

HENDERSON

Country Classics Western Wear—2762 N. Green Valley Pkwy., 458-5577 10-6 Mon.-Fri., 10-5 Sat. Owners, Linda Delaney and Imogene Herring.

LAS VEGAS

Adams Western Store—1415 Western Ave., 382-1522 or 384-6077 9-5:30 Mon.-Sat. Owner, Vicki Paulbick. Manager, Ray Adams.

Conrad's Western Store—1210 Hinson St., 870-5981. 9-6 Mon.-Sat. General manager, Alexander Campos. Manager, Joan Gurtner.

Cowtown Boot Company—328 W. Sahara Ave., 384-8622. 10-6 Mon.-Sat. Managers, Carol and Perry Kleinkopf.

Custom Leather—3216 W. Charleston Blvd., 870-2500. 9-5 Mon.-Sat. Owners, Maxine Deacon and Dorothy Payne.

Dudley's Western Wear—3540 W. Sahara Ave., 873-7949. 9-5 Mon.-Sat. Owners, Sanda and John Dudley.

Miller Stockman—3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 737-7236, and 4300 Meadows Lane, 870-2951. 10-9 Mon.-Fri., 10-6 Sat., 12-5 Sun. Manager, Pat Krovontka.

The Rowel—3049 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 735-2244. 8-midnight Mon.-Fri., 24 hours Sat.-Sun. Manager, Chuck Dougherty.



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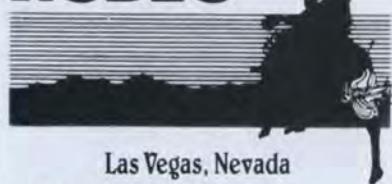
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9 Fri.-Sat., 1-5 Sun. Owner, Luann Baker.

T Bar M Saddlery & Feed—7230 Las
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825-7771. 9-5:30 Mon.-Sat. Owner, Bob
Peterson.

Circle T Boots & Saddles—6485 S. Vir-
ginia St., 851-3663. 9-6 Mon.-Fri., 9-5 Sat.
Owner, Bob Orsua.

Cowtown Boots—5030 S. Virginia St.,
826-9063. 10-6 Mon.-Sat., 12-4 Sun. Man-
ager, Tony Ramirez.

D-Bar-M Western Store—1020 E. 4th
St., 329-9107 9-5:30 Mon.-Sat. Owners,
Jack and Judy Bassett.

Get Up Ltd.—Bailey's Grand Hotel,
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825-0666. 10-7 Mon.-Sat., 12-5 Sun.
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Miller Stockman—5193 Meadowood
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Parker's Western Clothing—151 N.
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A-Bar-L Western Store—111 Main St.,
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Stockmen's Store, Inc.—100 S. Bridge
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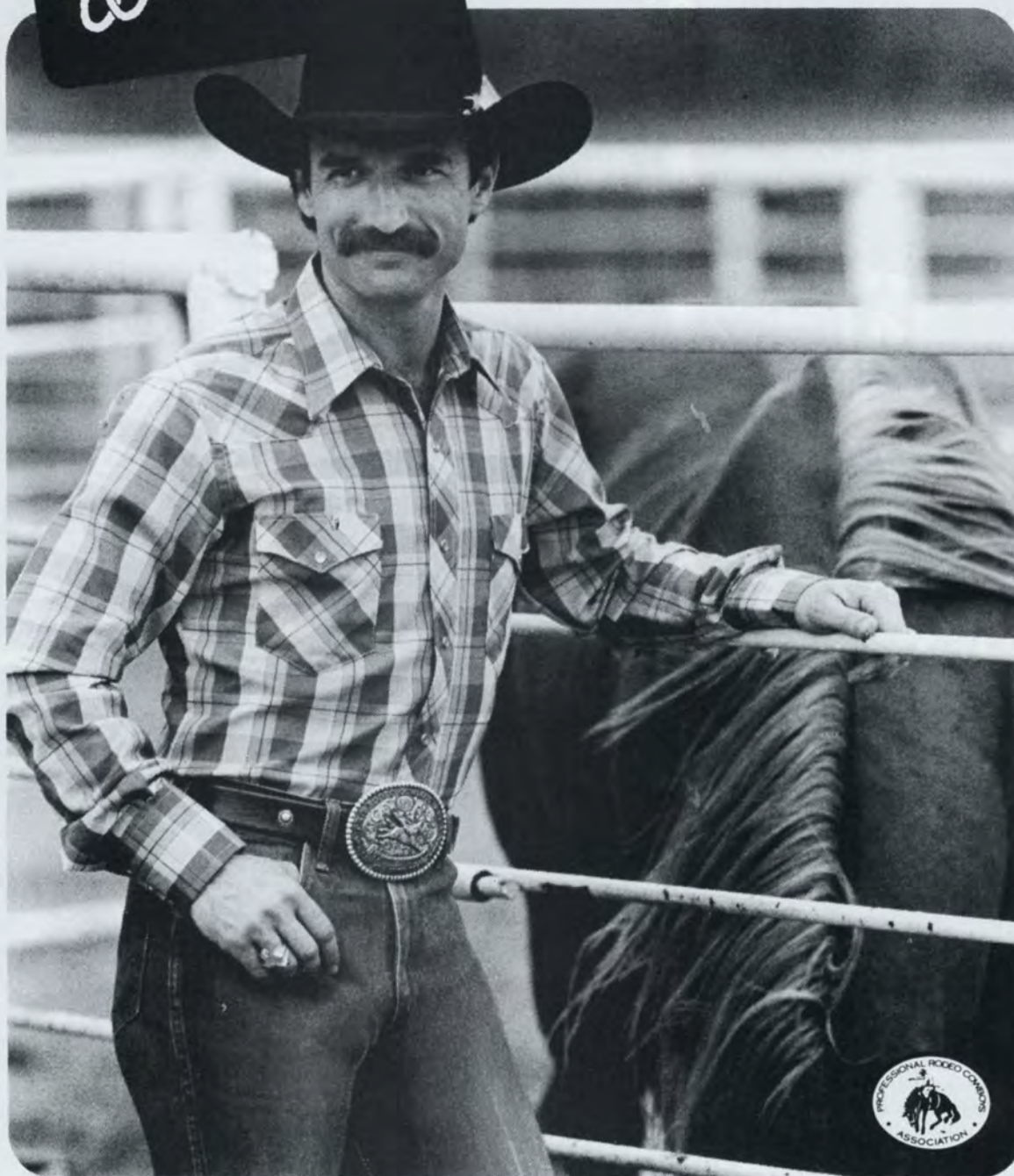
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BRIGHT CITY LIGHTS

In the 1940s, Las Vegas didn't mind taking a gamble on glitter, and Thomas Young was the man with the magic.

By Rob Powers

It seems an understatement to say that neon is to Las Vegas what the Statue of Liberty is to New York or what the Eiffel Tower is to Paris. Think about it. New York could get along quite well without the Statue, couldn't it? And Paris. Sure there'd be a hole in the landscape without the Tower, but there's always the Arc de Triomphe and the Louvre.

But Las Vegas without neon? Turn out the lights, the party's over. Try to imagine the Gulch without the glitter. The Strip without the strobes. The betting without the bulbs. Why, it's almost too dark a thought to comprehend.

So thought one Thomas Young.

Young was an Englishman who founded a lighting business in Ogden, Utah, around 1919. He knew something about neon lights, which had been developed in the 1800s largely through the efforts of a man named Nikola Tesla. Tesla—he collaborated with Thomas Edison on some projects—had found that putting neon, an inert gas, in a tube and running an electric current through it created all sorts of strange and wondrous effects. A Frenchman named George Claude recognized neon's commercial potential, and he patented and franchised the process. The first neon sign in the U.S. was placed atop the Packard Building in Los Angeles in 1922; it caused huge traffic jams.

All of this hadn't escaped the attention of Young. He envisioned neon spectacles, but his bright ideas didn't quite suit the staid social texture of Utah. So he extended his sales trips past St. George and over the border to rapidly growing, increasingly bawdy Las Vegas. In 1946 he convinced the owners of Fremont Street's Boulder Club, one of the first downtown gambling establishments, that an enor-



THOMAS YOUNG, JR. COLLECTION PHOTOS

Thomas Young's marquee for the Boulder Club (top left) was an early downtown spectacular.

mous, flashy sign would attract attention—and business.

"That wasn't the first use of neon in Las Vegas, but it was the first spectacular," says Thomas Young, Jr., who runs the Young Electric Sign Company (YESCO) from its base in Salt Lake City. "It was the biggest, and it was also the first free-standing sign. It set the stage for the whole town to follow."

The downtown area soon lit up the night. In the post-World War II era, among the more prominent signs was Vegas Vic, the five-story neon cowboy who talked to gamblers. He didn't say much—just "Howdy, Podner"—but his words spoke volumes. Among other things, they said this: Las Vegas was different.

"The ambience of the city was created

because of neon signs," says Gayle Rendleman, curator of the Museum of Neon Art in Los Angeles. "The great signs, in terms of size and scale, are the monuments to what was created in the heyday of neon in the '30s and '40s."

And what monuments they are. Las Vegas signs, most of which use both neon and regular lights, don't just shine—they shimmer and glimmer with excitement. As the sun slips behind the mountains, the signs rise from their slumber, wash out the stars, and scream to be seen. No place else in the world—not the Ginza in Tokyo, not Broadway in New York City—do the signs compare in size, variety, and sheer audacity.

How do you make a neon sign stand out in Las Vegas? It is competition of the keenest sort, rather like a grain of sand trying to stand out on a beach.

"You have to strive for some kind of identity," says Rich Larsen, general manager of Larsen Electric Sign Company. Larsen, who started the business with his dad, Ray, 17 years ago, likes "something that grabs you but isn't offensive. There's kind of a fine line to walk. There's a lot of personal taste involved."

You want grabby? How about one of Larsen's products, the sign at the Palace Station. Constructed to look like the front of a train engine, dripping in red, blue, and yellow lights, it is billed as the biggest free-standing electric sign in the world. Almost 130 feet tall at its highest point and 126 feet wide, it features 11,500 individual bulbs and more than four miles of neon tubing. Some 975,000 pounds of concrete and 250,000 pounds of steel support the sign, which stands sentry over nearby Interstate 15.

The sign was built two years ago chiefly because Palace Station officials wanted



LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU PHOTOS



On the Strip (top row) the Stardust once had the world's tallest free-standing sign at 184 feet. Caesars Palace's 10-story computerized readerboard is clearly a sign of things to come. Of today's free-standing marquees, Palace Station's is said to be the biggest and the Sahara's (sometimes) the tallest. Above, Vegas Vic and Vegas Vickie welcome visitors to downtown's Glitter Gulch, one of the highest concentrations of bulbs and neon in the world.



CIRCUS CIRCUS

Las Vegas doesn't hold a monopoly on sign spectaculars. Topsy, the 127-foot-tall Circus Circus clown in Reno, easily dwarfs visitors on Virginia Street.



attention when they expanded and renamed their casino, formerly the Bingo Palace. "I think it's one of the landmarks in Las Vegas now. I don't see how anybody could go by on I-15 and not see it there," Larsen says.

Another landmark is the sign that scales the side of Vegas World. At 227 feet, the \$1.2-million sign is called the world's tallest by its creator, Ad/Art. The Stockton-based company is well versed in lofty signs. "When we broke into the Vegas market in '62, the Dunes was the tallest sign in town at 180 feet," says Ad/Art VP Chuck Barnard. "We built the Frontier's sign at 184 feet in 1966, and it became the world's tallest. Then we built the Stardust sign at 188 feet in '67 and later the sign

“

**Biggest and brightest
is not always best.
'It's like art,'
says Harold 'Ducky'
Bradford of YESCO.
'Half the population may
think a painting is
wonderful, the other half
thinks it stinks.'**

”

outside the Superdome in New Orleans at 200 feet. YESCO topped that with the Sahara sign at 220 feet or so, so when Bob Stupak asked us to build Vegas World's big sign, he said, 'Make it a few feet higher. It just goes on and on, but I guess that's show business.' Among Ad/Art's other showy Nevada signs are the old wagon wheel atop Harvey's at Lake Tahoe and the Reno arch.

"Neon is an excellent vehicle for animation," says Ken Moultray of Sign Systems Inc., YESCO's biggest competitor, which has done work at the Flamingo Hilton, the California, the Frontier, and the new Circus Circus high-rise. "Neon makes a sign come alive. It's tremendously artistic. You can do many things with it, take the tube



The Flamingo Hilton on the Strip features an exotic array of light sculptures—bouquets of feathers, a flock of flamingos, and even a rainbow on the main marquee. "Barron Hilton told me he wanted something totally unusual," says Raul Rodriguez, the main sign's creator.

and bend it any shape you want. It's a tremendously flexible vehicle for advertising."

The Flamingo Hilton offers a good lesson in sign language, Las Vegas style. Its main sign—there are several smaller ones around the hotel—is a cascade of pink and orange neon feathers whose function, presumably, is to steal attention from Caesars Palace, located right across the Strip. Built in 1977 at a cost of about a million dollars, the Flamingo sign features about 10,000 lamps and a mile of neon tubing, counting the marquee that runs the length of the hotel.

"Barron Hilton told me he wanted something totally unusual," says the main sign's creator, Raul Rodriguez. The Los

Angeles-based designer, who creates floats for the Parade of Roses, also conceived the Dunes Oasis' shimmering palm trees and the Circus Circus neon in Reno. Rodriguez thinks neon's function is not purely aesthetic. He says, "My feeling is that these spectaculars are the calling card out front."

If so, you can call Caesars Palace's read-board the sign of the times. More of an electronic marquee than anything else, it was unveiled on New Year's Eve, 1984. It cost a million dollars. It's 10 stories high, with 32,000 lights, and it's computerized, says Debbie Munch, the hotel's manager of editorial services. The computer controls thousands of multi-colored lights, creating an infinite variety of images—a

baseball player hitting a ball, a rotating roulette wheel, a slot machine. "It allows us to get a lot of information up there without it looking busy," Munch says. "And it's also kind of attractive." Adds Dub Norman, assistant division manager at YESCO, which built the sign, "It's one we are very proud of."

Another YESCO product, the Stardust sign, does the seemingly impossible: It manages to attract notice on the Strip. And no wonder. Even by Las Vegas standards, the Stardust is flashy. The numbers are mind-numbing: The main sign itself is a collection of 26,000 lamps, 30 miles of wiring, 38 tons of steel. There's enough paint to coat 27 houses. The whole casino is bathed in blinking red, yellow, blue, and

gold lights, many of them electronically controlled. In all, 40,000 bulbs illuminate the place—said to be the most of any hotel in Nevada.

Ah, the wonderful excess.

Harold "Ducky" Bradford, art director at YESCO, says biggest and brightest is not always best. "It's like art," says Bradford, who supervises 10 designers. "Half the population may think a painting is wonderful, the other half think it stinks." Or, as YESCO designer Rudy Crisostomo says, designing a neon sign here "is a combination of what you might call schmaltz and sophistication. We like to express to

the tourists that we are a great resort area. The neon, the skyline, reflect this. And some signs reflect the old-time schmaltz. It's part of the area. We are not Denver."

Richard Linford, YESCO's service manager, would never confuse Las Vegas with Denver. He supervises a staff of 40 that roams the city at night in teams, looking for burned-out bulbs, lackluster letters, and neglected neon. He has his hands full. "I used to go out and check signs—it took 45 minutes," says Linford, who has been with YESCO for 25 years. Now the city is divided into segments that his teams cover one by one, taking about four hours per

LV NEON DATEBOOK

In Las Vegas you can find out more about neon at three upcoming events. On November 21 at a 7 p.m. reception, the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society premieres the slide show "Neon Skyline," a short documentary about the Mint's casino marquee, and a neon sculpture and photo show. The Smithsonian Institution's "Magic of Neon" opens at the Flamingo Library with a 3 p.m. reception on November 23 and runs through December 19, featuring photos of neon from throughout the nation. On December 3 Michael Webb, curator of the Smithsonian's exhibition, lectures at 7 p.m. on neon as an art form, also at the Flamingo Library. Details are given in this issue's Nevada Calendar.



HARRIS

RENO NEON: A GENTLEMEN'S BET

While Las Vegas casinos dress flamboyantly in neon, Reno's gambling halls wear their colored bulbs more as fine jewelry. The difference in styles didn't come from a Parisian designer, however. It was, ironically, the result of a gentlemen's bet.

"My father was thinking of expanding his sign business into either Reno or Las Vegas in the '40s," Thomas Young, Jr. of the Salt Lake City-based Young Electric Sign Company says. "Reno was booming, while Las Vegas was still a small town. But my dad ran into Dewey Laughlin in Reno, a friendly competitor from San Francisco. They decided Reno wasn't big enough for them both. So they flipped a coin." Young, Sr. lost the toss and took his bright ideas to Las Vegas.

During the '50s, Laughlin shared Reno's sign business with the Heath Sign Company, Sierra Neon, and Federal Sign and Signal. Ad/Art, based in Stockton, California, joined the throng in the early '60s and

built a new Reno arch for the state's centennial in 1964. That year Young Electric bought Sierra Neon from Bill O'Donnell and returned to Reno. Today O'Donnell, a YESCO vice-president, says the company is the biggest outfit in town, employing 110 people.

But it doesn't get all the big jobs. The most dominant sign on Virginia Street, the 127-foot-tall Circus Circus clown with its 20,000-pound rotating lollipop, was built by Los Angeles-based W. Heath and Company.

Of course, the sign companies would gladly make downtown Reno even brighter, an idea that has been considered by city planners. One recent redevelopment plan called for seven glowing arches spanning Virginia Street and laser shows lighting up downtown. That plan was shelved, but Reno's lights still put plenty of sparkle in the night skies over the Truckee Meadows.

—Jim Crandall

section, he says.

The most difficult sign to maintain? "I think the Las Vegas Hilton has a whole lot of signs. It's not the toughest, but they and Circus Circus call right away if one light bulb is out."

YESCO's assistant service manager, Don Lesins, points to the dangers of servicing signs like the Sahara's main marquee, which looms 222 feet above the Strip, just five feet short of the Vegas World sign. Since the latter is braced against the building, the Sahara still claims the world's tallest free-standing sign. To service it, workers ride a 135-foot boom from the ground, or dangle in swing chairs lowered from the top.

Despite the hazards, Lesins says injuries among sign maintenance workers are rare. "Our record's been very good over the years," he says, hastily adding, referring to the Sahara sign, "but it is a dangerous occupation once you get that high off the ground."

If Thomas Young, Sr. were still around, he might not recognize Las Vegas, but it's a sure bet he'd appreciate it. YESCO controls about 70 percent of the city's sign building and maintenance—about 1,000 signs. And the signs have become tourist attractions in themselves.

"A lot of people ask me what would have happened to the company if Las Vegas hadn't grown the way it did," Thomas Young, Jr. says. "I answer them by saying, 'What would have happened to Las Vegas if my dad hadn't put up all those signs?'" □

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

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The View From the Leather Throne

Rancher-author Owen Ulph believes that cowboy fact is more interesting than the myth.

By Richard Menzies

At his hillside horse ranch overlooking Lamoille, Owen Ulph sits writing longhand before a picture window that frames a perfectly composed landscape of barn, corrals, and the snow-capped peaks of the Ruby Mountains. A dozen head of deer browse contentedly in the yard, unperturbed by the sound of human voices. The proprietor lives alone and doesn't own a television set, a device he regards as "the enemy of conversation."

The 72-year-old author has written two books about cowboys, neither of which appears destined to become a best seller, neither of which is likely to be made into a movie. His latest, *The Leather Throne*, runs 469 pages and took him 25 years to write. Louis L'Amour probably could knock out 200 westerns in as much time; however, to categorize Owen Ulph as a writer of westerns is like saying Herman Melville wrote about the whaling industry.

For one thing, there's the matter of plot. *The Leather Throne* doesn't seem to have one.

There are no clearly-defined good guys and bad guys. There isn't any gunplay to speak of. It doesn't have a single fist fight. What it offers is a chronicle of daily life on a cattle outfit in Central Nevada, peopled with characters Ulph rode and worked with during a five-year stretch back in the early 1950s.

"What I started out to do," Ulph recalls, "I thought I'd show the Louis L'Amour fans how you can write a genre western and still make it a work of literature. I'd had a lot of practical experience. I know how you run cows, I know what cowboys are, I know their work. And I thought, it's gonna be a goddamn good genre story with gunplay, and all the hokum will be there, but it'll be in an authentic context. It'll be a work of literature and still be every bit as good as trash."

Ulph got about 60 pages into his story before he ran into trouble in a barroom brawl scene set in the Tonopah Bar.

"I had my cow boss, Ed Fisher, whom I'd called Ed Forrest in it, and I had my villain, Casey, and they get into an argument.

And Casey gets up—he's a big man—and I had Ed just clobber him. I dropped my pencil. I thought, oh hell, Ed Fisher would never do that. Talk about non-revelation—that was a moment. I just wanted to throw up."

Five or six years passed before Ulph picked up his fallen pencil. Older and wiser, he decided to cast off what he calls the "straitjacket" of plot and start over on a story worthy of the material. Instead of pseudonyms, he used the real names of his characters and resolved to set them down on paper as truthfully as artistic license would permit.

"When I finished, I said, 'I'm gonna leave 'em just the way they are, whether they sue me or not.'"

One of those characters is Ulph himself, known to his fellow cowpunchers as Doc, in reference to his rather august academic credentials. Doc doesn't say much, but he's an astute observer, and it's his intelligent insights that make *The Leather Throne* a lot more than just another cowboy yarn.

Ulph, who was born in England and

received a Ph.D. in European history from Stanford, spent 30 years "doing time" as a distinguished lecturer at Oregon's Reed College. He also put in assorted stints at UCLA, Montana State, and the University of Nevada-Reno. During the McCarthy era, he says, he was fired from his post at UNR for alleged communist leanings—an event that led to his sabbatical in the saddle.

Finding refuge in Big Smoky Valley, the defrocked professor signed on as a rider for the RO Ranch, which is known in his writings as the Fiddleback. Although set in the middle of the 20th century, life on the Fiddleback still savors of the Old West. Isolated from mainstream America and ruled by the obstinate matriarch Emma Rogers, the ranch encompasses a vast open range where the hands pass their days contending with devious "critters" and malevolent horses, struggling against the elements and waging epic battles with mud holes. At night in the line camp they complain endlessly about the food, rats, low wages, and living conditions, and they spend countless hours in incessant and profane "argufying." Contrary to the popular ballad, discouraging words were evidently a staple on the open range.

"But there was also a serenity to their character," Ulph hastens to add. "They were craftsmen. They had pride and instinct of workmanship. And they all had something in common. It was a way of life, companionship. That was central. Our life was out there on the ranch. With the ranch, with the cattle, with our group. There was an elitist image we had of ourselves as cowhands, an aristocratic sense of superiority. I began to see the dignity to tradition. I got a sense, an aesthetic sense and a moral sense of tradition."

If Ulph's book has no plot, it does have a theme, which is the gradual and inevitable erosion of the cowboy tradition. Ranching today, in Ulph's view, has turned into a purely capitalistic venture, and the American cowboy has become corrupted by the forces of technology, mechanization, and urbanization. Sadder still, his memory has been profaned in print and film and popular culture by a passel of counterfeit copies.

Take the sport of rodeo, for example. It's more akin to pro football than it is to cowboying, declares Ulph. The carefully groomed roping arena of the Cow Palace bears no resemblance to the pocked and rocky terrain of Nye County, where only a fool would run the risk of crippling a \$50,000 cutting horse in pursuit of a calf worth, maybe, a hundred bucks. And contrary to movie mythology, John Wayne would have made a mediocre buckaroo. "Fred Astaire," writes Ulph, "is the model in physical structure and personality of



The Elko County rancher has his sights set on a historical novel and also on a book about the rise and fall of the mythical cowboy hero.

the classic cowboy."

Ulph maintains that the cowboy hero celebrated on screen and in western novels has little basis in fact or history, but instead derives from chivalric legend and the feudal epics of the Middle Ages. In a future book he plans to trace the development and eventual dissolution of the mythical cowboy hero, who first came to life in Owen Wister's *The Virginian*,

achieved ultimate apotheosis in the movie *Shane*, subsequently deteriorated in *Hud* and *Midnight Cowboy*, and was finally killed off in *Urban Cowboy*—a title Ulph sees as a contradiction in terms.

The writer is also hard at work on a historical novel set in the Southwest in the time of Billy the Kid, once again in high hopes of producing a work of literature "just as good as trash." In the meantime, he basks in critical acclaim if not landslide sales. *Playboy* Magazine declares that reading *The Leather Throne* is "like feeling genuine cowhide in a vinyl world." The *Dallas Times-Herald* says, "When he hits a smooth lope and gets his prose and thoughts in rhythm, he is something very special," while adding that Ulph can also be "tiresome, overbearing, pompous, and shrill."

"Sure, I've got some crud in there," counters Ulph, "but I know it. When you say you're going to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth, you're lying. You can't do it. It's impossible. But my ideals are always high. You know, you can set the bar pretty high. You may knock it off, and you may not make it. If you miss, you miss. But you have to have the target out there to put the arrow to."

To his credit, it's a noble target, and when Owen Ulph takes aim, I for one wouldn't recommend standing in his line of sight. □

Richard Menzies, who lives in Salt Lake City, says he never met a horse he liked or a cowboy who made more sense than Owen Ulph.

The Leather Throne An Excerpt

In the morning, the starless sky was tinged with pink. The eastern horizon, lacking the vivid intensity of the sunrises we were accustomed to riding the flat, had the cast of smoke-smothered flame. As the tint faded to confederate gray, I pulled on levis and boots, donned the shirt and jacket that, along with the levis, doubled during the night as an impliable, stratified pillow, took my tie-rope, and limped to the pasture. The closeness of the crouching hills and the dull cloud cover created an atmosphere of gloom. The air had a damp, chilling quality.

Come-Along unhurriedly detached himself from the bunch and followed me out the gate where I grained, groomed, and left him with a thin pad of hay while I collected bridle, blanket and saddle. I was usually first to "ketch up" my horse, but not from zeal. Every animal in my string was easily caught when calm. Custom, carried over from the days of Little Joe the Wrangler was responsible for a practice that had become impractical. A band of

half-wild cayuses would be driven into a cordon and each member of the crew would rope his mount during a bedlam of cussing, shouting, arm waving, and clowning amid eddies of dust. Horses would crowd together, kick, squeal, nicker, and run the enclosure. On the Fiddleback, enough of this outworn tradition survived to be a nuisance. I scorned what I called "infantile hooliganism." Whether grazing under fence or in the open, patient prattle peppered with pacifying profanity had a hypnotic effect. After being permitted ritual gestures of independence, our noble corsairs would consent to be haltered. "They have pride, they like to pretend the choice is theirs," I explained in defense of sane strategy.

"With you, it is," Zane commented. □

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NEVADA

To: Our Readers and Advertisers
From: Kirk Whisler, Publisher
Re: Improvements

Some exciting changes are taking place at Nevada Magazine and I would like to take this opportunity to tell you more about what you will be seeing in the upcoming issues.

- First of all, our format will be changing slightly in order to offer more for our readers and advertisers.
- Our Jan/Feb issue will present our first reader service card. This response card will offer our readers a chance to let us know which advertisers they would like to know more about.
- There will be new and more effective editorial and ad deadlines, and all new special rates for our retail advertisers.
- Our readers will be happy to know that we will be dedicating more time and space to providing an in depth restaurant section.
- Last but not least, we are in the process of obtaining an ABC audit which will verify our substantial circulation.

We are making these changes and more to come, so that we may constantly improve Nevada Magazine for the benefit of all concerned. For more information on these and other changes please contact Morris, Patty, or Mary Ann within our advertising section.

Thanks for your support,

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New on the Shelf

By Guy Shipler

The Ignoble Conspiracy: Radicalism on Trial in Nevada, by Sally Zanjani and Guy Louis Rocha. University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV 89557 \$16.50, 209 pages, hardcover.

The Goldfield murder trial of union organizers Morrie Preston and Joseph Smith in 1907 incited debate nationwide because it epitomized the battle of radical labor unions against monopolistic industrialists. The two men's conviction was a major setback for labor, especially the International Workers of the World, which hoped to establish a model union in Goldfield. *Ignoble Conspiracy* vindicates Smith and Preston (the only Nevadan ever nominated for the presidency) and shows that a mine owners' association falsely accused the pair in order to discredit the popular union. The carefully researched book by two eminent Nevada historians studies significant social conflicts and presents a vivid view of a turbulent period in Nevada politics.

Silver Kings, by Oscar Lewis. University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV 89557 \$10, 280 pages, softcover.

The story of Nevada's Comstock Lode has been told over the years in countless works of history and fiction. But few have attained the authenticity of *Silver Kings*, first published 40 years ago. Oscar Lewis, a San Francisco writer, has long been respected for his research on the boom and bust days of 19th century Nevada. Subtitled "The Lives and Times of Mackay, Fair, Flood and O'Brien, Lords of the Nevada Comstock Lode," the book reaches well beyond the biographies of those four silver giants. Lewis's vivid prose gives a complete and fascinating account of the big camp's sights and sounds, of the roar of the stamp mills, of the sweat of the 140-degree mines, of the broad sweep of Virginia City's social and political life.

The Town That Died Laughing, by Oscar Lewis. University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV 89557 \$8.95, 235 pages, softcover.

Another new edition of Lewis' rich research into early Nevada, this entertaining piece of history was first published in 1955 and is based on writings in the *Reese River Reveille*, the Austin newspaper founded in 1863 and now the oldest continuously-published paper in the state. The *Reveille* was much concerned with fun and humor in the early days, as in the story about the miner who discovered Nevada's atmosphere had so much electricity that when he shook his blankets in bed at night, the room lit up. Obviously there was no other explanation. □

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Muench's Gallery

David Muench visits the Granite Range

What prospectors and pioneers traveled these ruts? Muench records an immemorial Nevada image: a weathered track, a broad desert slope, a sagebrush-ragged ridge, and a wall of snowbound mountains—here, the Granite Range in the state's northwest corner

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



Each Sierra resort has a claim to fame. At Heavenly it's the view of Lake Tahoe, among a mountain of other things.

TAHOE SKIING

THE VIEW FROM THE TOP

As the snow begins to fly, Sierra resorts tell why you wouldn't want to ski anywhere else.

Every Tahoe skier, it seems, has a favorite resort. Some skiers argue that Squaw Valley, home of the 1960 Winter Olympics, reigns supreme. Others contend there's nothing better than barreling down a Heavenly Valley run toward the pristine blue of Lake Tahoe. And the small resort champions might rather stir up the powder at Tahoe Donner.

So which of the Sierra's 18 ski resorts is right for you? Because the people who work or regularly ski at the resorts know best, we've asked them to briefly describe the unique qualities of their favorite ski areas. The areas are listed going counter-clockwise from Reno, followed by Las Vegas' closest snow area, Lee Canyon.

Slide Mountain: "At our family-run ski resort you should not hesitate to ask the owners or employees where the best snow is hiding. Many local skiers try to keep the seemingly endless tree skiing a secret, leaving crowds at a minimum. Once you

find it, look down to pick your next few turns and contemplate the striking view of the Truckee Meadows, Washoe Lake, and Carson Valley. For a thrill, take Gold Run, once rated one of the steepest lift-served runs on the West Coast."

Mount Rose: "Traditionally the first Nevada ski resort to open (generally mid-November), Mount Rose at 8,620 feet some years receives more than 400 inches of snow. Only 22 miles from downtown Reno, we have an uphill lift capacity of 6,500 skiers per hour, so lines are minimized even when the parking lot seems full. Four strategically located lifts carry skiers to 400-plus acres of skiing terrain."

Ski Incline: "One year from now Ski Incline will offer twice as much terrain, twice the vertical, and a brand-new quad chair. Fifty-three percent of the new ski terrain will be for experts only. But some things won't change, from being one of the most scenic ski resorts in the Lake Tahoe area to the fine mountain-top res-

taurants overlooking the lake. When other ski areas are shy of early season snow, Ski Incline makes it aggressively. The area's wind-protected, sunny slopes are a great hideaway for comfort-seeking skiers. And the Reno airport is only 28 miles away."

Northstar: "Trees from Mount Pluto, Lookout Mountain, and nearby forests supplied timber to the railroad for building snowsheds across Donner Summit and to the booming mining towns of Nevada. Basque sheepherders left tree carvings in this area. Now Northstar is a 2,500-acre year-round destination resort, offering alpine and cross-country skiing, golf, tennis, and other activities. Skiers can come for a weekend or long vacation and find two restaurants, a pizza parlor, deli, child-care center, three bars, live music, shops in the Village Mall, outdoor spas, saunas, and a shuttle service."

Tahoe Donner: "This resort offers more variety in skiing terrain than one would expect in a small area," says ski school director Don Frye. "My first impression of the area was 12 years ago when I applied for a job. I saw the ski hill from a distance, and there seemed something special about it. I've since discovered that it is a great place to train for racing, and the pitch of the hill is ideal for setting gates. There's also a back ridge where instructors, and some of the public, ski powder. But what's most unique is the people. Our guests and instructors return year after year because they enjoy Tahoe Donner's warm friendliness and non-threatening environment."

1986-87 Nevada Skier's Guide

Area	Phone	Top Elevation	Vertical	Lifts	Rating Bg-Int-Adv	Lift Price* Adult/Child	Rental Adult/Child
Tahoe Basin							
Alpine Meadows	916-583-4232	8,637	1,800	13	25-40-35	\$26/\$11	\$15/\$11
Boreal	916-426-3666	7,800	600	9	30-60-10	\$19/\$11	\$14/\$10
Donner Ski Ranch	916-426-3635	7,751	720	4	25-50-25	\$18/\$9	\$13/\$8
Echo Summit	916-659-7154	7,950	550	3	40-40-20	n/a	n/a
Granlibakken	916-583-4242	6,480	280	2	50-50-0	\$10/\$6	\$10/\$8
Heavenly	916-541-1330	10,100	3,600	26	25-50-25	\$26/\$13	\$14/\$9
Homewood	916-525-7256	7,880	1,650	9	20-50-30	\$12/\$10/\$5**	\$13/\$10
Kirkwood	209-258-6000	9,800	2,000	11	25-50-25	\$25/\$10	\$14/\$10
Mount Rose	702-849-0704	9,700	1,440	5	30-40-30	\$17/\$9	\$13.50/\$9.50
Northstar	916-562-1010	8,600	2,200	11	25-50-25	\$25/\$13	\$18/\$9
Sierra Ski Ranch	916-659-7475	8,852	2,212	10	20-60-20	\$21/\$12	\$13/\$10
Ski Incline	702-832-1177	7,600	900	7	30-40-30	\$20/\$14	\$14/\$10
Slide Mountain	702-849-0303	9,700	1,450	2	30-30-40	\$17/\$10	\$10/\$7
Soda Springs	916-426-3666	7,350	650	3	30-50-20	\$15/\$10	\$14/\$10
Squaw Valley	916-583-6985	8,900	2,700	27	25-45-30	\$27/\$5	\$15/\$10
Sugar Bowl	916-426-3651	8,383	1,500	9	20-30-50	n/a	n/a
Tahoe Donner	916-587-9400	7,350	600	3	50-50-0	\$14/\$8	\$13/\$11
Tahoe Ski Bowl	916-525-5224	7,880	1,630	5	20-40-40	n/a	n/a
Mount Charleston (Las Vegas)							
Lee Canyon	702-872-5462	9,320	1,030	3	15-80-5	\$18/\$12	\$12/\$12

*Price subject to change. Most resorts offer "half-day" rates of 1/4 to 1/3 off regular price after noon, and nearly all offer lessons.
**Includes juniors, ages 13-16. Night skiing only at Boreal, Squaw Valley, Sugar Bowl.





For better than twenty years, the award-winning designers and craftspeople of Ad / Art have been putting the glitter on some pretty impressive signatures in Nevada, like the free-standing spectaculars in front of the Stardust, Frontier, Flamingo, M-G-M, Caesars Palace, Maxim, Vegas World, El Rancho, Holiday Casino, Las Vegas Hilton and the spectacular building signs at the Dunes Oasis, Union Plaza, Mint, El Cortez, Golden Nugget, Lady Luck, Fremont, Cal-Neva, Harold's Club, Onslow, Horseshoe Club, Fitzgerald's, El Dorado, Circus-Circus, John Ascuagias Nugget, Riverside, Carson Nugget, Ormsby House, Barney's, High Sierra, Harvey's Wagon Wheel, Hyatt Lake Tahoe — and, of course, the Reno Arch!

Ad / Art — still shaping the look of Nevada.

ad|art



Boreal: "When I want to go skiing, I want to avoid all the usual hassles, a need Boreal satisfies very well," says Reno skier D. Tyler Warren. "Because of its location right off Interstate 80, getting there is a cinch. Also, I can get from my car to the top of the mountain in 15 minutes when I'm really itching to ski."

"Boreal's high elevation and snowmaking capabilities make up for Mother Nature's fickle ways. The resort is also great for late sleepers. Because Boreal is open until 10 p.m., I still can get in a full day and watch a beautiful sunset to boot, and there are never lift lines at night (but please don't tell anyone). Another fun thing to do is take a picnic lunch up to "wine rocks" off Chair No. 1. The view of Castle Peak is unsurpassed, besides being a great place to catch a few rays with a friend."

Soda Springs: "Imagine having a ski hill all to yourself and your friends for an entire day," says Thomas Fairbrother of Chicago. "At Soda Springs on Donner Summit, the group pays a flat fee, either subsidizing it or charging people for the day. I was lucky enough to attend a convention in Reno last winter where the organizers scheduled a day at Soda Springs. It's a big company, so it didn't cost us anything to ski. While there, I heard of another group that did charge for lift tickets (\$3, I think) and made a healthy profit for their cause. It was great being able to use the entire mountain and not worry about spoiling the public's ski day with our crazy antics. After skiing, we had a buffet dinner in the lodge and a band played for dancing. Also, Soda Springs is open to the public on weekends."

Sugar Bowl: "With a 46-year tradition of good skiing, Sugar Bowl has one of the deepest snow packs in the Sierra, a quaint lodge nestled at the base of mountains, and old-fashioned courtesy and charm. Because cars are banned from the resort, skiers first get the feeling of escape on the Magic Carpet, a four-passenger gondola, that takes them into the resort. This gondola replaced the original tractor-drawn sleds, which were 40 minutes of bone-jarring clatter each way. Here there's a daily limit on the number of skiers, too."

Donner Ski Ranch: "This area started out in the 1930s with a single rope tow on land leased from the railway, making it one of the first ski resorts in the West. We now have one triple and three double chairs, and you can ski all sides of our mountain, following the sun. By limiting ticket sales, we insure skiers a good day's skiing. There are many regulars. People chat with newcomers on the lifts, take turns watching each other's kids, and often have impromptu pot-luck lunches on the sundeck. It's a bunch of energetic people who like to turn left and right while enjoying a very special place."

Squaw Valley: "I may be a spoiled West Coast skier, but I like to ski when the sun is bright, the weather warm, and the only ice around is floating in my cocktail," Kerry Bullock says. "Squaw Valley offers me all of this. Squaw has 27 lifts catering to all levels of skiers, so long lines are not a problem. The runs and bowls are so wide open there are no worries of crashing into a beginner. Spring skiing, sunning at 8,200 feet, and sipping fresh strawberry margaritas on the Goldcoast deck are some of my favorite pastimes. And when the sun goes down, the nightlife begins in the Chamois loft, the Plaza Bar and at Bar 1."

Alpine Meadows: "This resort stands apart from Lake Tahoe's other areas in its natural advantages. First of all, it's only six miles from Tahoe City and 12 from I-80. The base lodge is located at 7,000 feet, where snow falls when it's raining at lower elevations. (In fact, an average 350 inches of snow falls annually at the bottom of the mountain, while 215 inches falls at lake level, only a few miles away.) The skiable terrain offers runs in all sun exposures, an advantage during both winter and spring. There is also a wealth of terrain. Two-thousand acres provide wide bowls, narrow chutes, tree-lined trails, and open glades. Also, we try to maintain a low-key ambiance: big-mountain skiing,

Skier's Hot Lines

These three agencies can help you plan where to stay, ski, dine, party, and relax during a Reno/Tahoe ski vacation.

Reno/Lake Tahoe: The Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority (800-FOR-RENO toll-free from outside Nevada, or 702-827-RENO) has a recording that tells about special events, shows, and nightlife in the Reno and Incline Village areas. You also can talk with an operator who has information on ski packages and can send you the Reno/Tahoe Skier's Planning Guide, Reno Travel Planner, and Reno/Tahoe Quarterly Newsletter if you are calling from outside the Reno area. The operator also can transfer you to hotel, motel, condominium, or bed-and-breakfast reservation desks in Reno, Sparks, Incline Village, or Crystal Bay.

South Lake Tahoe: The Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority (800-822-5922 nationwide, or 916-544-5057) has some information on ski packages and can help with room reservations at South Tahoe.

North Lake Tahoe: Ski Tahoe North and Tahoe North Visitors and Convention Bureau has three numbers: 800-824-8557 for outside California, 800-822-5959 in California, and 916-583-3494. The bureau offers interchangeable lift tickets for participating North Tahoe ski resorts and lodging advice.

small-mountain friendliness."

Granlibakken: "Loosely translated, Granlibakken means 'hill sheltered by fir trees' in Norwegian. It was so named by sea captain Rusty Rustaad after his hometown when he operated the resort in the mid-1940s. Trials for the 1932 Olympics in ski jumping were held here. This is a cozy, secluded resort frequented by locals and families and is one of the region's least expensive resorts. The management emphasizes friendliness and casualness, and guests staying at the bed-and-breakfast lodge can ski free all day."

Homewood: "The most unique quality here is the 'Old Tahoe' atmosphere. Homewood was designed for the skiing family, and offers reasonably-priced lift tickets, exceptional views of Lake Tahoe, short lift lines, and uncrowded slopes. Homewood features a quadruple chair, triple chair, and T-bar on the Out of Sight upper mountain. The lower mountain has a double chair and three novice platter lifts. After your family has skied its favorite runs in the morning, get the gang together on the deck of the Upper Mountain Warming Hut and enjoy a fabulous view of the Lake."

Sierra Ski Ranch: "What really sets our area apart is a well-protected mountain with very little wind. When the wind starts kicking up, local skiers know that Sierra Ski Ranch is the best bet. Growing pains are a way of life at Sierra, and, not content to sit still, we're growing again. Plans to remodel the base facilities should be completed and ready for the 1986-87 ski season. The resort will take on a whole new look this winter, both inside and out. Bigger and better facilities will take shape, and Sierra Ski Ranch will continue to dream of better prescriptions to take care of the ski fever."

Echo Summit: "Perched near U.S. 50 west of South Lake Tahoe, Echo Summit attracts many Sacramento-area families out for a day on the snow. With two double chairs and one rope tow, the area offers special lessons for kids."

Kirkwood: "Since the area's inception in 1972, the developers' original philosophy, slow growth to provide for a quality ski area, has prevailed. In addition to a massive mountain and modern lifts, one of the most appealing qualities of Kirkwood is the dining. The Cornice Cafe, new this season, offers classic California cuisine. Cafeteria menus include breakfast and lunch specials. And when the sun goes down, the Kirkwood Inn, built in 1864, is also a popular meeting place."

Heavenly Valley: "With more than 20 square miles (9,000 acres) of ski terrain within its boundaries, Heavenly is America's largest ski resort. Terrain ranges from gentle slopes for first-timers to some of the steepest skiable terrain in North America. Also, there is something unusual

about the weather at Heavenly. It snows 300 to 500 inches a year, but the sun shines nearly 80 percent of the days in the winter season. Perhaps best of all is the average daytime winter temperature—35 degrees. Even with fantastic skiing, breathtaking views, and lots of sunny days, a ski vacation cannot be truly spectacular without life after skiing. World famous casinos offer superstar entertainment and 24-hour gaming just five minutes from our slopes. This is why we say Heavenly, there's no place like it on earth."

Lee Canyon (Las Vegas): "Occupying a unique niche in the Las Vegas recreational scene, Ski Lee invites you to experience the winter wonderland above the desert.

Almost 12,000 feet above the yucca and the Joshua trees, Mount Charleston has ponderosa pines, fir, aspen, and winter snow. Alpine skiing has been popular in Lee Canyon since a CCC camp was established here in the 1930s. The U.S. Forest Service began surveying winter sports possibilities in the area in 1941. In the beginning, skiers were towed by ropes behind horse-drawn sleds to a rope tow and warming hut. Since it became a winter sports facility in 1963, Ski Lee, at about 8,000 feet, has added three double chairs, a rental shop, restaurant and cocktail lounge, and more than 30 acres of groomed slopes—all just 47 miles northwest of Las Vegas." □

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GREAT NEVADA PICTURE HUNT

Winning Pics

Taking first place in this year's Great Nevada Picture Hunt was child's play.

By Jim Crandall

This year's Great Nevada Picture Hunt was an outrageous success. In all, 295 sharp shooters submitted a record 1,094 images that captured intimate, provocative views of the Silver State.

Naturally, the quality resulted in spirited debates among the three judges. Soon after Nevada publisher Kirk Whisler, art director Dale Smith, and Patricia Mortati, deputy director of the Nevada State Council on the Arts, entered the judging chambers, battle lines were drawn. Smith and Mortati favored artful photos while Whisler liked shots on every angle of Nevada life. After some grudging ground-giving they finally agreed on the top winners.

The judges weren't the only participants to engage in such banter. Two of the top five finishers had argued halfway across the state enroute to their winning photos. Winnemucca native Teresa Willis was a student in the Nevada Photography Workshop that travels more than 1,000



"CHILD'S PLAY, CURRIE"
TERESA WILLIS, VACAVILLE, CA.
1ST, \$200

miles each spring with instructors John Tylczak and Roy Herrick. "Herrick was picking on me the whole way," said Willis, a photojournalist now working in Vacaville, California. "He uses a tripod, slow film, and a 4x5 camera. I carried a 35-millimeter camera, never touched a tripod, and shot Tri-X black-and-white film."

When told that her photo "Child's Play" had won first place, and that Herrick took third, fifth, and an honorable mention, Willis said, "He's going to die when he hears this."

Herrick said, "She blew me out of the water!" But he added, "Teresa's really good." An artistic photographer, Herrick uses a 35-millimeter camera only for research. He had shot the aging facade of Caliente's theater with a 35 before returning with his 4x5. The resulting transparency, "Old Deserted Movie House," took third place. Herrick's fifth place "Black Rock Desert" and his honorable mention, "Manoukian," were both shot on black-and-white film through his 4x5. "The

images are so much richer with a large format camera," Herrick said.

Freelancer Jim McGuire's second-place winner, "Season's Greetings, Landrum's," was a sort of Christmas present to himself. "I've lived in Reno for 26 years but never got around to taking a photo of Landrum's," McGuire said. "I was going out of town and decided I *had* to have a photo of the place. I didn't know whether it would be there when I got back."

Matthew Barulich, a Reno gynecologist, was visiting friends at the Stowell Ranch in northern Elko County when he noticed two mad pigs. "They were real hungry and aggressive, and when they saw me, they started charging the fence and snorting like crazy," Barulich recalled. "For a split second they jumped up on the fence and put their heads together. That's when I snapped the picture." His photo of the two hams also jumped out at the judges, and "Two Snorts on the Stowell Ranch" took fourth.

This year special recognition was given

to Chad Foley of Reno for offering the most eye-catching caption: "Two beetles mating next to two mushrooms on a cow patty," which concisely described the subject of his color print. Other award winners included Joe Ross of Las Vegas for best events photo; Linda Dufurrena of Winnemucca and Kip Rano of Beverly Hills for wildlife; and Joanna Lucas of Carson City for people.

The judges spent the greater part of a day picking the 29 winners while reluctantly setting aside other jewels. Whisler, who moved to Nevada from Southern California to take the publisher's job, said that even though he was sometimes outvoted by Smith and Mortati, the contest was valuable as an introduction to his new state. He's also making plans for next year's contest, saying he'll expand the categories to include a wide variety of Nevada subjects. "That way, even if I get outvoted, I still win."

(CONTINUED)



"SEASON'S GREETINGS, LANDRUM'S"
JIM MCGUIRE, RENO
2ND, \$100



"OLD DESERTED MOVIE HOUSE, CALIENTE"
ROY HERRICK, RENO
3RD, \$75



"TWO SNORTS ON THE STOWELL RANCH"
MATTHEW BARULICH, RENO
4TH, \$50

(CONTINUED)

"ROAD TO LAS VEGAS"
DAN WINDLER,
LAS VEGAS



"TAHOE STREAM"
CHARLES DUCKWORTH,
RENO



"PELICANS"
LUCY SNYDER, YERINGTON



"GARDNERVILLE"
LYNN JANSSEN,
MINDEN



"UNTITLED"
JANET PARKER,
GARDNERVILLE



"OWYHEE MUSTANGS"
LINDA DUFURRENA,
WINNEMUCCA



"PETER UNDERWOOD"
LARRY PROSOR, TRUCKEE



"SNOW SHOWER"
JOHN R. DOXEY,
MODESTO, CA.



"FORT CHURCHILL"
HARRY UPSON, RENO



"LAKE MEAD"
KIP RANO,
BEVERLY HILLS, CA.



"LANDSAILING"
JOE ROSS,
LAS VEGAS



"PYRAMID MOONRISE"
BRENDA STONE,
SPARKS



"VIRGINIA LAKE"
GERRY KELLEY,
RENO



"HALLEY'S COMET"
R.C. RAVEN, RENO



"SALOONKEEPER"
JOANNA LUCAS,
CARSON CITY



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"BLACK ROCK DESERT"
ROY HERRICK, RENO
5TH, \$25

Photo Finishers

Honorable Mention

- "Soaring, Carson Valley,"
Patricia Coyner, Carson City;
"Midas,"
Don Edgington, Carson City;
"Golden,"
Stewart Freshwater, Las Vegas;
"Manoukian,"
Roy Herrick, Reno;
"Day's End,"
Lynn Janssen, Minden;
"Carson River Canyon,"
Jeff Jensen, Reno;
"Gone Forever Cafe,"
Butch Lowe, Anaheim, CA.;
"Sand Harbor,"
Larry Prosor, Truckee, CA. □



Smith, Mortati, and Whisler (from left) ponder finalists.

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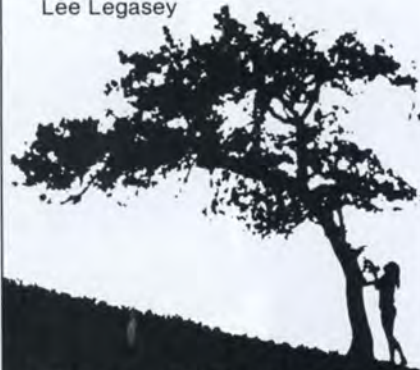


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Harry Stimler (above), who was part Indian, was one of the founders of Goldfield. But Tom Fisherman was the man who drew the treasure map.

Indian Prospectors

When it came to finding gold and silver,
Nevada Indians knew the land like nobody else.

By Sally Zanjani



Tom Fisherman should have been one of Nevada's best known prospectors when he died in 1923, but his fatal fall down the open slope of Tonopah's Silver Tom Mine attracted little attention outside of Central Nevada. Like many other Indian prospectors, Fisherman, a Shoshone, received no credit and little reward for his discoveries, even though he may have been the most gifted prospector the Silver State has ever produced.

The discovery of Goldfield is a good example of Fisherman's skill and anonym-

ity. William Marsh and Harry Stimler, himself part Indian, were credited with finding the site during a desert sandstorm in November 1902. The two men became legends, but in fact Fisherman had been the first to strike gold there and had shown his ore to Stimler and Marsh.

Prospector Shorty Harris was unlikely to forget Fisherman's role, however. Harris used to tell about an Indian, believed to be Fisherman, who had agreed to show him the gold but became too ill to set out with Harris' prospecting party, which had been grubstaked by Tonopah silver king

Jim Butler. Instead, Fisherman drew Harris "a lot of funny-looking maps." They were so unreadable that Harris missed the future site of Goldfield by 16 miles and ended up at Indian Springs. Soon afterwards Stimler and Marsh followed the route correctly and were the beneficiaries of Harris' mistake and Fisherman's nose for paying ore.

Goldfield, which for a time was the world's richest and most boisterous gold camp, was just one of Fisherman's discoveries. Indeed, he may have discovered a good many more sites than he bothered to

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Goldfield was on the upswing in 1906 (above). Two years later the town had 20,000 people, five banks, five newspapers, and countless saloons.

locate. Carl Glasscock, in *Gold in Them Hills* (1932), says that Fisherman liked to show a handy specimen of ore studded with gold to wealthy strangers and ask innocently, "What do you think about this piece of rock?" Feeling no sense of urgency about heading into the desert on behalf of those patrons, Fisherman, like many Nevada prospectors before and since, often would take his grubstake and cheerfully begin work at the nearest saloon.

The sites that Fisherman definitely located include a claim at Reveille, near Warm Springs; the Gibraltar Mine in the Rhyolite area; and Stimler, later renamed Nivloc, west of Tonopah in the Silver Peak region, where he was born. When Fisherman struck rich ore at the latter site in 1907, he again took his find to Harry Stimler, to whom he may have been related through Stimler's Indian mother. A rush ended quickly, but when mining resumed on the site in the 1930s, the Desert Silver Mine became Nevada's leading silver producer.

Also, some white prospectors who claimed full credit for their discoveries may have benefited from Fisherman's advice. In an essay on Nye County that appears in Sam Davis' *History of Nevada* (1913), P.E. Keeler observes that Jim Butler spoke perfect Shoshone, was friendly with the Indians, and was far off his logical route when he made his great Tonopah silver discovery in 1900. Keeler suggests that Butler's find was not the result of happenstance—his searching for stray burros and then stumbling on the ore—that Butler later recounted. Keeler states, "The probability is that he was looking for ledges he had been told of by the Indians, and that he found them exactly where he expected to find them, with a little help from the straying burros." In *Loafing Along Death Valley Trails* (1951), author William Caruthers tells of an intriguing rumor that Butler's Indian informant was named Fisherman, which

raises the possibility that Tom Fisherman stood at the very source of Central Nevada's 20th-century mining boom.

Fisherman may have been the state's greatest Indian prospector, but there were other good ones who shared his missed fortune. In 1870, for example, a Shoshone revealed to some whites that rich silver ore could be found in a narrow canyon in the Hot Creek Range. The result was the booming camp of Tybo, whose name came from the Shoshone *tybbabo*, meaning "the white man's district." Tybo, 50 miles east of present-day Tonopah, became second only to Eureka in national lead-silver production. Indians also discovered Belmont, Hot Creek, Weepah, and Ellsworth.

The role of the Shoshone prospector emerges even more clearly in the story of the fabulous Montgomery-Shoshone Mine at Rhyolite. In 1904, having learned that Shorty Harris and Ed Cross had found promising ore 90 miles south of Tonopah, mining entrepreneur Bob Montgomery headed there in a hurry. He staked a few claims and hired Shoshone prospector Hungry Johnny to search for more, supplying him with two location notices. On his way home, Montgomery heard glowing reports about the assays of ore samples from the region. He decided he should return to teach the ignorant Johnny how to distinguish good ore from bad. When the Indian appeared for his lesson, Montgomery showed him a desirable outcropping. Johnny, perhaps with an ironic glint in his eye, remarked that he already had found the ledge. He then showed Montgomery the location notices he had posted after tracing the rich ore along what soon became known as Montgomery Mountain. Bob Montgomery made a fortune from the claims the Indian found that day. Legend has it that he paid Hungry Johnny \$2 and gave him a pair of new overalls.

If that seems slight recompense, Hungry Johnny at least fared better than

other Indian gold seekers. Prospectors at Helene in 1891 recalled that their predecessors 25 years earlier had shot an Indian named Bitter Sweet when, having promised to lead them to good ore, he refused to continue the journey. The strikes at Helene were followed by even richer discoveries at nearby Delamar, but Bitter Sweet, the region's original discoverer, is remembered only as the name of one of the ledges.

Indian women were no less talented prospectors than the men. That fact was recognized by an unscrupulous white man, Jim Richardson, who bought Indian girls from their tribes and forced them to prospect for him during his travels around the state. When Richardson was compelled to leave Nevada in 1907 he sold his last slave girl back to her tribe for \$80.

Why did Nevada Indians continue to lead whites to rich ground when they were treated so poorly and often risked a bullet in the back? One reason was that a pair of overalls or a fistful of dollars meant a great deal to someone who had little to eat. Also, some tribal leaders believed that Indians would share in the general prosperity that followed each mining boom.

The Shoshone chief Kawich made that view clear at an appearance in Belmont in the 1890s, when a severe depression gripped Nevada's economy. He asked why didn't the whites work the mines so that Indians could work and eat? The aged chief demanded, "What's the matter with you?" Kawich knew, of course, that Indians could sell wood and wild game in the mining camps and find work as teamsters and laborers. Remote camps in which white labor was scarce and operations were primitive sometimes employed Indian miners. In 1890, for example, at least 75 were working on rockers and arrastras in Tule Canyon south of Goldfield.

Besides promoting prosperity, there was an element of pride in Shoshone prospecting. Nevada Indians of the late 19th and early 20th centuries could no longer pursue their traditional way of life, of hunting and foraging, within the limited area of reservations. Yet no one knew the land—their land—as well as they did. In the end, even if the world never acknowledged it, Tom Fisherman knew who really discovered Goldfield. □

Sally Zanjani, who lives in Minnetonka, Minnesota, is the descendant of Carson Valley pioneers and has written many articles on western history. She and Guy Louis Rocha of Reno are coauthors of a new University of Nevada Press release, *The Ignoble Conspiracy: Radicalism on Trial in Nevada*. The book deals with Goldfield labor-management rivalries and a 1907 murder trial in that city.



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THE NEVADA CALENDAR

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

Listing by Melissa Loomis, Prose by Lee Adler

LAS VEGAS TERRITORY

November

"Six Characters in Search of an Author," thru 2, Dept. of Theatre Arts, Black Box Theatre, UNLV, 739-3353

Nevada Day Celebration, 10/31 performances by UNLV's dance, music, and theater departments, art show, campus tours, barbecue, UNLV, 739-3621

Nevada Day Celebration, 1 9am parade downtown followed by barbecue, western band and dancing, firemen's water fights, Landmark Hotel, 733-1110

1940s Exhibit Opening, 1 1940s-period home dedicated to Basic Magnesium workers, Clark County Museum, Henderson, 565-0907

UNLV v. North Texas State, 1, football, 7pm, Sam Boyd Silver Bowl, 739-3900

Art Show, 1-30, works by Katie Aumen and Sharon Graf, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193
(Continued on next page)



VERN HOWELL

DECEMBER 5-13 A National Rodeo

Such extra-padded distractions as a Tight-Fitting Jeans Contest will broaden the dimensions of this year's National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas. But they'll likely take a back seat to the thrills and spills of what has been called the Super Bowl of Rodeo—the world's winningest riders, ropers, and steer wrestlers bucking, and being bucked, for close to two million bucks in prize money and bonuses. Also featured will be bullfighting, a dance, a beauty pageant, and an auction of western art, December 5-13, at the Thomas and Mack Center and participating hotels and casinos.



LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU

NOVEMBER 6-9 Classic Golf in Las Vegas

You don't have to be a golf fan to realize the upcoming Las Vegas Senior Classic is something more to Las Vegans than just another professional golf tournament. It's an event locals have been discussing and dreaming about for nearly two decades. That's because the November 6-9 tourney promises to be a nostalgic return of past Tournament of Champions winners to the city where it all began. At the same time it will be played at the Desert Inn Country Club, site of some of the most thrilling moments in T of C history.

For 16 years the Tournament of Champions was a fixture on the Las Vegas scene before moving in 1969 to Southern California. Local links enthusiasts have been reminiscing ever since about some of the tourney's classic moments, such as Al Besselink's 18th-hole putt that clinched the inaugural event in 1953, the amazing six-stroke win by Art Wall, Jr. (above, with the DI's Wilbur Clark and 10,000 silver dol-

lars) the following year, and Gene Littler's three straight wins from 1955 to 1957.

So when the Las Vegas Senior Classic rolls into town, Las Vegans will be out in force to relive past T of Cs and watch Besselink, Wall, and Littler in action along with past winners Jerry Barber (1960) and Don January (1968). A few of the other prominent golfers in the over-50 age bracket who are scheduled to compete are Lee Elder, Miller Barber, Billy Casper, Bobby Nichols, Orville Moody, and Chi Chi Rodriguez.

The Desert Inn course should prove to be a good test for their skills, particularly so on the seventh hole, a wicked par-3. Spectators will find good viewing near the snack shack in the middle of the course, which provides easy access to holes 4, 7, 12 and 13. Other popular spots for spectators are the 9th and 18th; of course, many fans will be following their favorite pros around the course, perhaps remembering faces from days gone by. —Geoff Schneider



LISA J. TOLDA

OCTOBER 31 Nevada's Day

Nevada—as both a state and a state of mind—will pass in review October 31 to celebrate the 122nd anniversary of its admission to the Union. Carson City will offer its capital mix of parade floats (Deanna Huseman, above, leads the 1985 Douglas High School Band), dances, band concerts, bed races, water fights, contests of strength and skill, and patriotic fervor. The Carson Indian Colony will present a three-day powwow over the weekend with dancing and crafts shows.

The University of Nevada-Las Vegas will celebrate the day with performances by the dance, music, and theater departments, an art show, campus tours, and barbecue. On Saturday, the birthday party continues with a parade in downtown Las Vegas and a barbecue and beer garden at the Landmark Hotel.



JOHN RUNNING

NOVEMBER 7 Native Images

Indians once disliked being photographed, fearing the loss of their souls, but in *Honor Dance: Native American Photographs*, published last year by the University of Nevada Press, John Running presents striking portraits of Native Americans who were willing to reveal themselves. Running, of Flagstaff, Arizona, will autograph copies of his book between 4 and 7 p.m. on November 7 when the University of Nevada-Las Vegas' Museum of Natural History opens an exhibition of 80 of his color and black-and-white portraits and festival images.

DECEMBER 13 Lake of Lights

Lake Mead becomes Lake Luminous December 13 during the Parade of Lights, when boats of all shapes and sizes put on a light show rivaling the casino marquees of Las Vegas 25 miles away. Using such aids as computers, lasers, and dollops of ingenuity, "everything that can be lighted is," including, in some cases, crew members, says Judy Critz, co-chairman of the annual pageant. Boats are classified into different categories for the judging and trophies are given out in each category. An estimated 45 to 50 craft will shove off from Lake Mead Marina at 5:30 in the afternoon for a round trip past Boulder Beach and Hemenway Harbor. About 20,000 people will be there to watch. If you plan to be one of them, show up at least an hour early wearing warm clothes and bearing warm beverages.



GINGER BRUNER

DECEMBER 18-23, 26-30 Tutus & Mistletoes

The *Nutcracker* ballet, as rich and sweet as plum pudding, as irresistible to children as Santa, as evocative of Christmas as sleighbells and snowscapes, will ornament the stage of the Judy Bayley Theatre on the University of Nevada's Las Vegas campus, December 18-23 and 26-30. In Reno, the Nevada Opera Association performs Tchaikovsky's Christmas gift to the world on December 20-23 at the Pioneer Theater.

DECEMBER 20-21 Some Like It Hot

Macho "chiliheads" delight in placing *Danger* signs by their flaming potions as if they were high-tension wires or incendiary amalgams of tequila, old tires, and beef. Others insist that this tasty primal stew needn't (and usually doesn't) produce primal screams. Chili "should have some bite," says connoisseur Ormly Gumsudgin, "but eating it is not an exercise in your ability to endure pain." These differences represent nothing less than a battle for the hearts and minds of our society, not just its taste buds and intestines. Master chef Auguste Escoffier recognized this when he said "the history of a table of a nation is a reflection of the civilization of that nation." Therefore, our civilization may hang in the balance on December 20-21, when the chili elite face off at Circus Circus in Las Vegas for the 11th annual Nevada Championship Chili Cook-Off.



NOVEMBER 30- DECEMBER 20 Big Deal!

Once upon a time poker had the social status of a sweaty T-shirt. "People saw these cowboy pictures with six or seven guys sitting around a table smoking and drinking. And that's what poker came to mean to everybody," says Frank Cutrona, coordinator of the upcoming Grand Prix of Poker tournament at the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas.

But that's all changed, he says. "Now people are proud to be called poker players, proud to be called professionals."

Undoubtedly, most of the estimated 2,000 tourney participants would be equally proud to make off with some of the roughly \$3.5 million in prize money and the bragging rights that go with it, as did Dewey Tomko (above), winner of last year's tourney, being congratulated by the Golden Nugget's president, Bobby Baldwin. But most of the men and women take part for the fun and comradery of it, Cutrona says. "They just want to invest \$1,000 to see if they can come away with \$100,000."

It all happens November 30 through December 20 at the Golden Nugget. For registration or information, call 1-800-223-6196 or 385-7111.

ONGOING History on Tap

Arnold A. Millard, the last proprietor of the Carson Brewery, recalls: "On each Dec-oration Day [Memorial Day] the Carson City Band proceeded slowly to the cemetery playing funeral marches. On the way back they played lively tunes, such as 'Roll Out the Barrel,' and marched directly to the brewery bar, where they had a standing invitation for a beer bust."

Once among the capital's most cherished watering holes, the brewery became a memory in 1948. (The building is now part of the Brewery Arts Center.) But some of its artifacts, along with remnants of a century of Nevada and western brewing history, will be exhibited through September 1987 at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City.

You'll find rare photos, bottles, cans, and trays, and if you let your imagination hyperventilate, you may savor something of a cool, dark taproom on a hot summer day and the aromatic golden elixir that the brewmaster's exertions produced.

CALENDAR (Continued from page 57)

Fall Art Roundup, 2-26, juried show open to Nevada residents; also pen and ink and gouache works by Ellen Sargent, Las Vegas Art Museum, 647-4300

Las Vegas—Past and Present, 6, fashion show followed by dance, for Easter Seals, Alexis Park Resort, 739-7771

Las Vegas Senior Classic, 6-9, PGA senior golf tournament with \$250,000 prize money (\$37,500 first place), play at Desert Inn, also hosted by Frontier and Sands hotels, 733-4653

Horseshoe Pitch Tournament, 7-8, Pepper-mill, Mesquite, 346-5232

Photo Exhibit, 7-20, photos of UNLV's Runnin' Rebels basketball team by Susie Hadland, players will be at autograph party on 11/15, Flamingo Library, 733-7810

Indian Photo Exhibit, 7-30, photos from John Running's book, *Honor Dance: Native American Photographs* (University of Nevada Press); on 11/7 he will appear at an autograph reception from 4-7pm; Museum of Natural History, UNLV, 739-3381

UNLV v. Fresno State, 8, football, 8:05pm, Sam Boyd Silver Bowl, 739-3900

Las Vegas Symphony Orchestra Concert, 10, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3420

Nevada 86, 12-12/10, Elko museum's photo show, Las Vegas Library, 382-3493

Las Vegas Civic Ballet, 14, Charleston Heights Art Center, 386-6511

PRCA Wilderness Circuit Finals Rodeo, 14-16, top 15 cowboys in each event and top 15 lady barrel racers from Nevada, Utah, and Idaho compete, Peppermill, Mesquite, 346-5232

"The Importance of Being Earnest", 14-16, Oscar Wilde comedy, 8pm Fri.-Sat., 2pm Sun., Clark County Community College Theatre, North Las Vegas, 644-7529

Steve Powers Craft Festival, 14-16, Cashman Field Center, 386-7100

Musical Pops '86, 15, Boulder City Cultural Center, High School, 294-9982

English Leather Calendar Girl Pageant, 16-22, Frontier Hotel, 734-0385

UNLV v. Yugoslavia, 18, exhibition basketball game, 8:05pm, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 739-3900

"The Importance of Being Earnest", 20-22, Oscar Wilde comedy, 8pm, Clark County Community College Theatre, North Las Vegas, 644-7529

Nite of Stars, 21, celebrity fundraiser for St. Jude's Ranch for Children in Boulder City, Caesars Palace, 293-3131

Coca-Cola NIT Classic, 21 National Invitational Basketball Tournament, UNLV v. Arizona, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 739-3900

Las Vegas Neon Exhibit Opening, 21 7pm reception followed by "Neon Skyline" slide show and documentary on the making of the Mint Hotel's sign. Reception is for the Las Vegas neon exhibit, which includes a permanent photo-and-sculpture exhibit and a photo show available for travel after 12/31 Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 385-0115

Desert Burro Program, 22, wear sturdy shoes and warm clothes, 9:30-11:30am, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 20 mi. west of Las Vegas, 368-2885

Indian Prehistory Program, 22, meet at Atlatl Rock Picnic Area for hike and lecture, 1pm, Valley of Fire State Park, 397-2088

(Continued on next page)



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CALENDAR (Continued from page 59)

Star Program, 22, bring flashlight, warm jacket, reservations required, 7-9pm, BLM's Red Rock Canyon Visitors Center, 17 mi. west of Las Vegas, 363-1921

"La Boheme," 23, 2pm; Nevada Opera Theatre, Ham Hall, UNLV, 451-6331

The Magic of Neon, 23-12/19, Smithsonian Institution's traveling photo exhibition of neon from around the country; the 11/23 opening reception includes Nevada State Museum and Historical Society's slide show "Neon Skyline" and documentary on the Mint Hotel's sign, Flamingo Library, 733-7810

"A Christmas Carol," 28-12/7 musical, Dept. of Theatre Arts, Black Box Theatre, UNLV, 739-3353

Art Exhibit, 28-12/14, drawings by Tad Cheyenne Schutt, Markus Gallery in Fashion Show Mall, 737-7307

Grand Prix of Poker, 30-12/20, close to \$4 million prize money, Golden Nugget, 385-7111

December

Art Exhibit, 1-31, works by Max Bunnell, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

Shoot-Out 86, 1-31, Nevada Camera Club's awards exhibit, Clark County Museum, Henderson, 565-0907

30th Birthday Celebration, 1-31 Fremont Hotel, 385-6239

Neon Lecture, 3, Michael Webb, curator of the Smithsonian Institution's "The Magic of Neon" and author of a book of the same name, gives a slide-illustrated lecture on neon as an art form, 7pm, Flamingo Library, 733-7810

National Finals Rodeo Celebration, 5, Wrangler Bullfighters from the National Finals Rodeo (12/5-13) autograph party and Wrangler Tight Fitting Jeans Contest and Dance, Holiday Casino, 369-5112

"The Testimony of Elsie Beckmann in the Case Against Hans Beckert, the Child Murderer," 5-7 drama, Rainbow Company Theatre, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6553

National Finals Rodeo, 5-13, world's top rodeo athletes compete in the Super Bowl of Rodeo, \$1,865,400 in total prize money; events include bareback bronc riding, steer wrestling, team roping, saddle bronc riding, calf roping, bull riding, barrel racing, at 7pm Fri., 1pm and 7pm Sat., 1pm Sun., 7pm Mon.-Fri., and 5pm Sat., Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 731-2115

Christmas Parade, 6, 11am down Nevada Highway, Boulder City, 293-2034

Night-Lighted Christmas Parade, 6, down Lake Mead Blvd., North Las Vegas, 642-9595

Rock Formations Program, 6, 1pm, Valley of Fire State Park, 397-2088

Exhibits, 6-1/18/87 graphics, 3 mounted muskoxen from the Arctic, Eskimo images, Museum of Natural History, UNLV, 739-3381

Arm Wrestling Tournament, 7 pro baseball players compete, Imperial Palace, 731-3311

Art Show, 7 reception, paintings by local artists, Boulder City Art Guild, 294-9982

National Finals Rodeo Art Auction, 7, benefit for Exceptional Rodeo, Union Plaza, 871-0008

Las Vegas Symphony Orchestra Concert, 7 Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3420

Exhibit, 8-1/12/87 the 1920s-'30s Beckley House is decorated in historic Christmas fashion, Clark County Museum, Henderson, 565-0907

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"The Testimony of Elsie Beckmann in the Case Against Hans Beckert, the Child Murderer," 11-14, drama, Rainbow Company Theatre, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6553

DeRose Christmas Craft Show, 12-14, Cashman Field Center, 386-7100

Parade of Lights, 13, flotilla of lighted boats starts at Lake Mead Marina, floating past Boulder Beach and Hemenway Harbor on a round trip, Lake Mead Boat Owners Assn., Judy Critz, 565-7945

Children's Christmas Parade, 13, 11am, for ages 18 and under, Henderson, 565-8951

Red Rock Hike, 14, moderate 5-mile hike up to La Madre Springs, bring quart of water, lunch, and jacket, BLM's Red Rock Canyon Visitors Center, 17 mi. west of Las Vegas, 363-1921

Nevada 86, 15-1/4/87, photo exhibit, Valley of Fire State Park, 397-2088

UNLV v. UNR, 17 basketball, 8:05pm, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 739-3900

U.S. Motor Racing Awards Week, 18-21 national championship Kart and Quarter Midget racing, Showboat Hotel, 385-9123

"Nutcracker," 18-23 and 26-30, Tchaikovsky's ballet, Nevada Dance Theatre, Judy Bayley Theater, UNLV, 739-3838

UNLV Miller Lite Rebel Round-Up, 19-20, basketball, UNLV, Duquesne, Louisiana Tech, and Ohio, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 739-3900

Nevada Championship Chili Cook-Off, 20-21 \$3,500 first prize, country music contest, Circus Circus, 734-0410

Christmas Tree Jamboree, 22, trees cut and decorated by residents, Peppermill Resort, Mesquite, 346-5232

ESPN/Top Rank Boxing, 26, 6pm, \$10 and \$15, Sahara Hotel, 737-2111

Storytelling and Puppet Show, 27 12:30-1:30pm, Spring Mountain Ranch, 20 miles west of Las Vegas, 368-2885

UNLV Bud Light Holiday Classic, 27 and 29, basketball, UNLV, Navy, Idaho State, and Old Dominion, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 739-3900

New Year's Eve Party, 31, Peppermill Resort, Mesquite, 346-5232

New Year's Eve Gala Ball, 31, dinner and dancing, Keith Hall Orchestra, \$75 per person, Flamingo Hilton, 733-3211

New Year's Eve Fireworks, 31, celebration downtown with live music and fireworks at the Union Plaza, 386-2317

GAMING TOURNAMENTS

These Las Vegas gaming tournaments range from casual to high-roller affairs, so call ahead for details.

November

Match Play Blackjack, 10/31-11/2, Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5516

Grand Prix of Poker Satellite, 2-4, 10-12, 16-18, 23-25, Four Queens, 385-4011

Slots, 2-5, Caesars Palace, 731-7777

Blackjack, 3-24, every Mon., La Mirage, 733-7777

Blackjack, 8-10, Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5516

Pan, 16-19, Union Plaza, 386-2110

(Continued on page 65)

The University of Nevada Press
announces the publication of

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Great Tahoe Skiers
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Mark Twain's Duel
Water Sports



May/June 1985
Special Section
on Hoover Dam



March/April 1985
Ghost Towns
Poisonous Creatures



Jan/Feb 1985
State Parks
Yerington



Nov/Dec 1984
Bighorn Sheep
Nellis Flyboys



Sept/Oct 1984
Geothermal Energy
Julia Bulette



May/June 1984
Rodeo Cowboys
Two Boomtowns



March/April 1984
The Real Reno
Rockhounding



Jan/Feb 1984
Boulder City
X-C Skiing



Nov/Dec 1983
Las Vegas Shows
Petticoat Prospectors



Sept/Oct 1983
Promoting Early Nevada
Ely Goes Hollywood



July/Aug 1983
Basque Festivals
Roadside Attractions



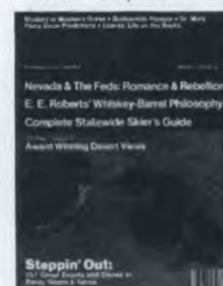
May/June 1983
Lake Mead
Butch Cassidy



March/April 1983
Pioche & Belmont
Flying Doctor



Jan/Feb 1983
Ronald Reagan
Solar Pioneers



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U.S.S. Nevada
Nevada & the Feds



Sept/Oct 1982
Death Valley
Las Vegas Grand Prix



July/Aug 1982
Lost Indian Village
Nevada Lakes



May/June 1982
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March/April 1982
Laughlin
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Jan/Feb 1982
MX Debate
Searchlight Mayor



Sept/Oct 1981
Benny Binion
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Lake Tahoe
Mel Tillis



Jan/Feb 1981
Ice Fishing
Old Time Saloons



Nov/Dec 1980
Bottle Collecting
Donner Party



July/Aug 1980
Gold
Fairs & Festivals



May/June 1980
Las Vegas, 1905
Silver Dollars



March/April 1980
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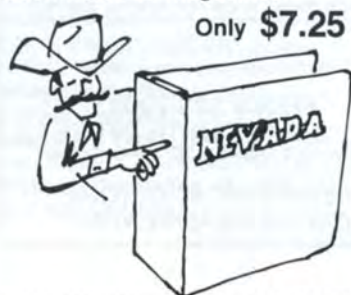


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Sagebrush Gourmet

A diner's guide to the Silver State

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

CATTELEMENS

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A ranch-style restaurant, the cozy Cattlemens offers excellent meals at moderate prices. The special sirloin steak dinner is a popular and good buy. Currently \$7.95, this dinner includes a baked potato, salad, bread, ranch-style beans, sirloin steak and a glass of wine. Other entrees range from a simple hamburger steak to a filet mignon and lobster. The Alaska king crab is delicious! Open seven days a week for dinner from 5 p.m. No reservations. AE, MC, VISA.

EL CHARRO AVITIA

4389 S. Carson Street
Carson City. 883-6261
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LOUIS' BASQUE CORNER

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Gin, 30-12/4, Union Plaza, 386-2110
Grand Prix of Poker Tournament, 30-12/20, Golden Nugget, 385-7111

December

Blackjack, 1-29, every Mon., La Mirage, 733-7777
Slots, 4-7 Sands, 733-5000
Slots, 12-14, Marina, 729-1500
Blackjack and Craps, 14-17 Riviera, 734-5110
Blackjack, 14-17 Frontier, 734-0110
Pan, 14-18, Union Plaza, 386-2110
Slots and Blackjack, 14-21 Lady Luck, 384-4680
National Handicapping Tournament, 16-20, Caesars Palace, 731-7777

PIONEER TERRITORY

November

Halloween Carnival, 10/30, costume contest, haunted house, Hawthorne, 945-2411
Nevada 86, thru 11/5, photo show, Central Nevada Museum, Tonopah, 482-9676
Ichthyosaur Fossil Shelter Tours, thru 12/31, 10am and 2pm Fri.-Mon., Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, 23 miles east of Gabbs, 867-3001
El Capitan Cutthroat Derby, thru 4/25/87 Hawthorne, 945-3321
Walker Lake Fishing Derby, 28-30, thousands of dollars in prizes for catching tagged cutthroat trout, rules available from Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce, 945-5896

PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY

November

Austin Halloween Parade and Dance, 10/31, costume parade down Main Street, dance at Town Hall, 964-2440
Art Show, thru 11/30, oils by Marcelia Crossen, Jeff's Office Supply, Fallon, 423-6078
Jackpot Arm Wrestling, thru 2/87 every Mon. until Feb., Bank Club, Ely, 289-8778
Holiday Fashion Show, 8, luncheon, Bristlecone Convention Center, Ely, 289-8877
Hidden Caves Tours, 8 and 22, meet 9:30am, County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

December

Art Show, 1-2/28/87 Lahontan Valley Artists Assn. members, Jeff's Office Supply, Fallon, 423-6078
Christmas Faire, 5-6, handcrafted gifts, decor displays, entertainment, free, 6-9pm Fri., 9am-6pm Sat., Fallon Community Center, 423-2181
Holiday Celebration, 6, Santa Claus parade, downtown decorations, Ely, 289-8877
Hidden Cave Tours, 13 and 27 meet 9:30am, County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677
Christmas Decorating Contest, 19, Town Hall, Austin, 964-2440

(Continued on next page)

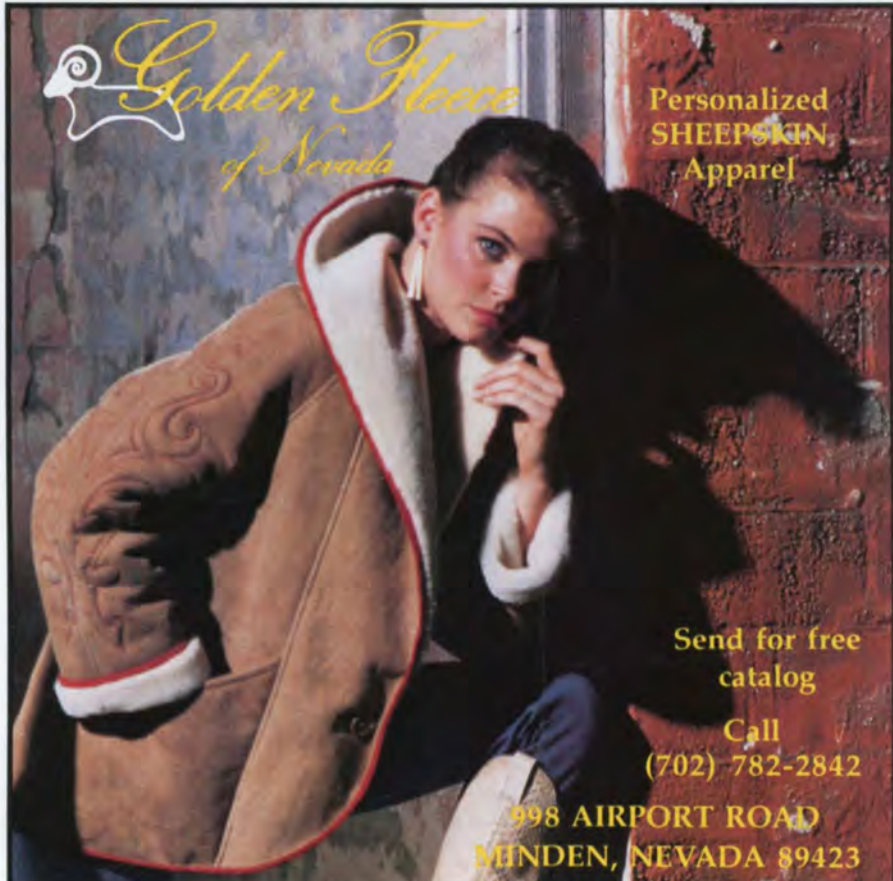


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COVERED WAGON TERRITORY

November

Art Exhibit, thru 19, works by Lady Jill Mueller and Nick Ali, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Antique Show, 1-2, Cactus Pete's, Jackpot, 555-2321

St. Benedict's Hospital Benefit Dinner, 6, Cactus Pete's, Jackpot, 755-2321

All-Breed Bull Sale, 7-8, Elko County Fairgrounds, 738-3807

Ducks Unlimited Auction and Dinner, 8, Cactus Pete's, Jackpot, 755-2321

4-H Pheasant Hunt, 8-9, sponsored by Pershing County, Lovelock, 273-2923

Art Exhibit, 12-12/15, works by Carl Hammond and Judith Stroh Miller, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Christmas Celebration and Celebrity Auction, 22, cocktails, dancing, reunion, 7pm, Winnemucca Convention Center, 623-5071

Pre-Holiday Show, 22-23, booths by local merchants with merchandise and Christmas items, Elko Convention Center, 738-4091

December

Northeastern Nevada Nurses Bazaar, 6, handcrafted items, Elko Convention Center, 738-4091

Winnemucca Crafters Christmas Show, 6-7, Winnemucca Convention Center, 623-3518

PTO Children's Christmas Bazaar, 15, Elko Convention Center, 738-4091

New Year's Eve Celebration, 31, at midnight Utah (Mountain) time and again at midnight Nevada (Pacific) time, Red Garter Casino, Wendover, 664-2111

New Year's Eve Celebration, 31, Cactus Pete's and Horseshoe casinos, Jackpot, 755-2321

RENO/TAHOE TERRITORY

November

Nevada Day Art Show, 10/26-11/7, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 882-6411

Haunted House, 10/29-11/1, Mills Park, Carson City, 882-3206

Auction Display, 10/29-11/6, preview of items before 11/7 auction, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Photo Exhibit, 10/29-11/30, works by Edward Weston, Ansel Adams, Cole and Brett Weston, Imogen Cunningham, and others influenced by Weston, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Halloween Party, 10/30, fairgrounds, 785-4307

Nevada Day Celebration, 10/31, the 122nd anniversary of Nevada's statehood includes pancake breakfast, parade, bed races, World Championship Single Jack Rock Drilling Contest, '50s and '60s car parade and dance; on 30th is the 1864 Grand Ball at Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-2600

MDA Fright Night, 10/31, costume party and dance, Peppermill, 329-7727

Mexican Dance, 10/31, fairgrounds, 785-4307



Carson Indian Colony Powwow, 10/31-11/2, follows Nevada Day parade; features competitive dancing by groups from western Indian tribes, authentic arts and crafts, traditional hand games, tug-of-war, jackrabbit run, horseshoes, and Indian foods, 2900 S. Curry St., Carson City, 885-9759 or 883-6431

History of Lake Tahoe Exhibit, thru 10/31, Lake Tahoe Historical Society Museum, South Lake Tahoe, 916-541-5458

Planetarium Program, thru 1/4/87 on weekdays "Voyage to a Million Moons" and "Beautiful Nevada," on weekends "Voyage to a Million Moons" and "The Space Shuttle: an American Adventure," Fleischmann Planetarium, UNR, 784-4812

Brewed in Nevada, thru 9/1/87 exhibit, history of Nevada's beers and breweries, Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 885-4810

Interfaith Gospel Concert, 1, Pioneer Theater, 827-7660

Native American Art Festival, 1-24, traditional and contemporary Indian art, in conjunction with the National Indian Education Assn. Convention, at Stremmel Galleries, Reno City Hall, Jones Visitors Center at UNR, 329-6114

Del Webb Hotels' 25th Anniversary, 1-12/22, Del Webb's High Sierra, Stateline, 588-6211

Bicycle Motocross Racing, 2, fairgrounds, 785-4307

Auction, 7 Sierra Nevada Museum of Art fundraiser, Harrah's Reno, 329-3333

Concert, 7 dance to Bob Barnes' Big Band, 8pm-midnight, free, The Chateau, Incline Village, 831-0781

Fall Antiques Show and Sale, 7-9, fairgrounds, 785-4307

Western States Craft Jamboree, 7-9, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 827-7600

Turkey 'N Tinsel Bazaar, 8, 10am-6pm, Park Lane Mall, 788-4554

Art Exhibit, 8-12/6, works by Mary Kay Kaluza, reception on 11/15 from 3-5pm, Nevada Artists Assn. Gallery, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 882-6411

Turkey Run, 9, poker run open to public, Rambolin' Wheels Motorcycles, Inc., sign-in at Hobeys', Sun Valley, 972-0107

(Continued on page 70)

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N/D 86

Southern Nevada Show Notes

By Pete Mikla

When Bally Corp. bought the MGM Grand Hotels last spring, it wasn't long before a rumor surfaced that the new owners planned to close down the Las Vegas hotel's Celebrity Room when contracts with the superstar entertainers expired at the end of the year. Bally entertainment director Bill DeAngelis knew there was only one way to dispel such a rumor. He started signing stars to 1987 contracts. Dean Martin, who opened the showroom back in 1973, was one of the first to sign. So was Tom Jones. Stars moving from other hotels to Bally's in 1987 include Sammy Davis, Jr. and Jerry Lewis, who will be teamed in one show, and Tony Bennett and the Count Basie Band.

☆

Illusionists Siegfried and Roy have been "disappearing nightly" in the Frontier Hotel's "Beyond Belief" for five years now. That may not be as long as the Stardust's "Lido de Paris" (28 years) or the Tropicana's "Folies Bergere" (27 years), but it's long enough to attract two million fans. Fan Number 2,000,000 was Mrs. Kathleen Daugherty of Austin, Texas. Siegfried and Roy presented her and her husband with a free vacation to West Germany, homeland of the Superstars of Magic.

☆

TV stars like Bill Cosby and Bob Newhart have found that a successful series increases the demand for their nightclub acts, but arduous production schedules can limit their Las Vegas dates. However, Bally's headliner Roy Clark, star of *Hee-Haw*, has maintained a full concert tour schedule all these years while managing to tape a season's worth of shows. "Instead of taping one show a week for 20 or 30 weeks like the rest, we tape only five weeks each year, but we do enough material to cover a whole season," Clark explains.

☆

For the second year the Las Vegas Strip will be transformed into a country music lover's paradise during the first two weeks of December, thanks to the National Finals Rodeo. Mel Tillis, at the Sahara, and Clark, at Bally's, will be in town. Willie Nelson will headline at Caesars Palace. Mickey Gilley will be at the Desert Inn. The Judds will star at the Las Vegas Hilton, Lee Greenwood at the Frontier, and George Strait at the Golden Nugget—all at NFR time. □

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

SHOWGUIDE

Where the stars and shows are playing
this November and December.

By Melissa Loomis

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

LAS VEGAS TERRITORY

Bally's Grand Hotel, 739-4567: *Ziegfeld Theatre*: "Jubilee!" indf., *Celebrity Room*: Wayne Newton, thru 11/12; Tom Jones, 11/13-26; Roy Clark/Reba McEntire/Williams and Ree, 11/27-12/3; Dean Martin and the Goldiggers, 12/4-10; Wayne Newton, 12/26-1/7/87

Barbary Coast, 737-7111: Irish Showband, thru 12/10; Carleen Terrano, thru 11/5; Jonas, 11/6-19; Scot Fransino and Ginger Rogers, 11/20-12/3

Caesars Palace, 731-7333: Kool and the Gang, 10/29-11/3; Donna Summer, 11/5-10; Johnny Cash/Gatlin Brothers, 11/12-17; Red Skelton, 11/19-24; Oak Ridge Boys/Forester Sisters, 11/26-12/1; Willie Nelson, 12/5-13; Buddy Hackett, 12/26-31

Circus Circus, 734-0410: Circus acts, free
Desert Inn, 733-4566: Smothers Brothers/Doc Severinsen/Pat Paulsen, thru 11/5; Sammy Davis, Jr., 11/6-26; Mickey Gilley/Dan Riley, 11/27-12/14; Suzanne Somers/Smothers Brothers, 12/26-1/14

Dunes, 737-4110: Comedy Store, indf., continuous lounge entertainment

Edgewater, Laughlin, 298-2453: Lounge entertainment nightly

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

Four Queens, 385-4011: Dondino, thru 2/7; Ink Spots, 10/21-11/30; Frank Sinatra, Jr., 11/4-16; Gary Puckett, 11/18-30; Doug Kershaw, 12/2-14; Monday Night Jazz, indf.

Frontier, 734-0240: Siegfried & Roy in "Beyond Belief," thru 11/29 (dark Mon.) with family performance (no nudity) 11/1; Paul Revere and the Raiders/Righteous Brothers, 12/2-7; Bill Medley/Lee Greenwood, 12/9-14; Siegfried & Roy resume 12/30-indf.

Golden Nugget, 386-8100: Lou Rawls, 11/6-18; Frank Sinatra, 11/21-22; Paul Anka, 11/27-12/9; George Strait, 12/11-13; Frank Sinatra, 12/27-30; David Brenner, 12/31

Hacienda, 798-0571: Minsky's Burlesque, indf.

Holiday, 369-5222: Showroom being revamped, closed until 12/25

Imperial Palace, 794-3261: "Legends in Concert"

Landmark, 733-1110: Entertainment TBA

Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5661: Mac Davis, 11/4-13; Bill Cosby, 11/14-20; Engelbert Humperdinck, 11/21-30; The Judds/Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, 12/2-11; Hank Williams, Jr., 12/12-13; Jeffrey Osborne, 12/26-1/4

Marina, 739-1500: "A Touch of Burlesque"

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

Mint, 387-6468: International Affair/Tony Tillman, thru 11/19; Mike Dibri Band, 11/4-30; Bob Anderson, 12/1-27; Tom Christl, 12/2-28; Sante Fe, 12/3-29; Sandy Hackett's Talent Showcase, every Sun., indf.

Palace Station, 367-2411: David Julian, thru 11/2; G.G. Shinn and the TSC Band, thru 11/17; Keith Hall Orchestra, indf.

Peppermill Resort, Mesquite, 346-5232: Live entertainment nightly

Regency, Laughlin, 298-2439: Piano bar

Riverside Resort, Laughlin, 298-2535

Riviera, 734-5301: "Splash!" production show, indf., featuring Barclay Shaw, thru 12/31; "An Evening at La Cage," revue, indf., "An Evening at the Improv," comedians, indf.

Royal Casino, 733-4000: Nightly entertainment

Sahara, 737-2424: "A Chorus Line," Broadway musical, thru 11/30; Don Rickles, 10/30-11/9; Mel Tillis, 12/1-14

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

Sam's Town, 456-7777: Randy Anderson, thru 12/4; Danny Byrd, thru 12/5; Don Holiman, 11/8-1/9

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

Sands, 733-5000: "Sizzle," revue, indf.

Silver Slipper, 734-1212: "Boylesque," revue, indf.

Stardust, 732-6325: "Lido de Paris," indf.

Sundance, 382-6111: Kathy Dahl/Richard Yusco



Willie Nelson is on the road again with stops at Las Vegas and Lake Tahoe this winter.



Dean Martin and the Goldiggers add to the glitter of Bally's Grand in Las Vegas, December 4-10.

Tropicana, 739-2411: "Folies Bergere," indf.

Union Plaza, 386-2444: Broadway entertainment

Whiskey Pete's, on I-15 at the California-Nevada Border, 382-4388: Lounge entertainment

RENO/TAHOE TERRITORY

Bally's Grand Hotel, Reno, 789-2285: *Ziegfeld Theatre*: "Hello Hollywood, Hello!" indf., *Lion's Den Lounge*: Danny Marona/Glenn Smith, thru 11/11; Miss Pat Collins, *The Hip Hypnotist*, 11/12-12/9; *Leo's Lair*: In The Mood, 11/19-12/9; Cleveland, 12/10-1/6

Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515: *Cascade Showroom*: George Carlin, 11/28-29; Willie Nelson, 11/29-30; Pointer Sisters, 12/26-1/4; *Crystal Cabaret*: "Star Street," revue, indf., *Ritz Fashion Auction*, indf., *High Steppin*, thru 12/21

Carson City Nugget, 883-3854: *Mother Lode*, thru 11/16; Lelands, 11/18-30; Cheryl Cotten, 12/2-21; *Motifs*, 12/23-1/25

Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711: *Motifs*, 11/1-16; Ben Crocker and the Dealers, 11/17-30; Steve Walker Band, 12/1-13

Circus Circus, Reno, 329-0711: Circus acts

Crystal Bay Club, North Tahoe, 831-0512: Nightly top 40 rock entertainment (dancing)

Del Webb's High Sierra, Tahoe, 588-6211: "Flesh n' Fantasy," revue, indf.; Miss Pat Collins, *The Hip Hypnotist*, thru 11/9; Doug Kershaw, 11/11-23; Pete Barbutti, 11/25-30; Danny Marona, 12/2-21

Eldorado, Reno, 786-5700: *Treniers/Reycards*, 10/28-11/2; Par 3, 11/3-9; *Treniers*, 11/4-9; Par 3, 11/10-12/7; Entertainment Committee, 11/11-12/7; *Mugleston's*, 12/23-1/4

Harolds Club, Reno, 329-0881: Ricky Santos/Bobby Reynon/Edell Anglin/Lin Maureen and Dennis, 12/21

Harrah's Lake Tahoe, 588-6611 *South Shore Room*: Sammy Davis, Jr., thru 10/30; Oak Ridge Boys, 10/31-11/6; Rich Little, 11/7-13; Engelbert Humperdinck, 11/14-20; Bill Cosby/Sarah Vaughan, 11/21-30; *Stateline Cabaret*: "Bottoms Up '87," revue, thru 1/12 (dark Tues.); Bill Medley, 10/28-11/2; Bus Boys, 11/4-9; Williams and Ree, 11/11-16; Paul Revere and the Raiders, 11/18-23; Tower of Power, 11/25-12/7; Mitch Ryder and the Detroit Wheels, 12/16-21

Harrah's Reno, 329-4422: *Headliner Room*: Mel Tillis, 10/30-11/12; Don Rickles, 11/13-19; Debbie Reynolds/Donald O'Connor, 11/20-30; Merle Haggard, 12/1-7; Roy Clark Show, 12/8-14; Charley Pride, 12/15-21; Sammy Davis, Jr. 12/26-31; *Casino*

Cabaret: "New Attitude," revue, indf. (dark Tues.); Bus Boys, 10/28-11/2; Paul Revere and the Raiders, 11/4-9; The Blues Other Brothers, 11/11-16; Rob Hanna Salutes Rod Stewart, 11/18-23; Bill Medley, 11/25-30; Tower of Power, 12/9-14

Harveys, South Tahoe, 588-2411 *Top of the Wheel*: Ron Rose Sound, indf., *Room Mates*, thru 11/2; McNasty, 11/3-23; Sixth Avenue, 12/15-1/4; *Theater Lounge*: "Broadway Varieties," revue, indf., "20th Century Foxes," revue, indf., *Command Performance*, thru 11/9; Atlantis, thru 11/9; David Proud/Reycards, 11/10-30; Sonny Turner, 12/8-1/18

Hyatt Lake Tahoe, 831-1111: Dae Han Sisters, 11/11-12/7

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300: B.J. Thomas, 10/28-11/10; Montana Band, 11/11-29; Donna Fargo/Philip Wellford, 12/26-31

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

Mother Lode, Carson City, 883-0900: Two's Company, 11/4-23; ETS, 11/25-12/7; Spice, 12/9-1/4

Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890: Four Tunes, thru 11/2; Sundance, 11/4-23; Big Tiny Little, 11/25-30; David Proud, 12/2-21; Cathy Lee and Don Lee, 12/23-1/11

Peppermill, Reno, 826-2121: The Wrays, thru 11/2; Tommy Bell, thru 11/9; Connection, 11/3-30; Gloria Michaels, 11/10-12/7; The Wrays, 12/1-1/1; Go, 12/8-14; Lelands, 12/15-1/11

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

Reno Hilton, 785-7100: "Branded," revue, indf., "Hot and Stormy" starring Tempest Storm, indf.

Reno Ramada, 788-2000: Live entertainment

Sharkey's Nugget, Gardnerville, 782-3133

Tahoe Biltmore (formerly Nevada Lodge), 831-0660: entertainment and dancing nightly 10pm-4am

Topaz Lodge, Topaz Lake, 266-3339

Western Village, Sparks, 331-1069: Neal Kell, 10/27-11/2; Gary Joe Wade and the Bump, 10/27-11/9; Wray Brothers, 11/3-30; Tommy Bell, 11/10-12/21

COVERED WAGON PONY EXPRESS & PIONEER TERRITORIES

Battle Mountain: Owl Club, 635-5155

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

Fallon: Fallon Nugget, 423-3111

Jackpot: Cactus Pete's, 755-2321; Horseshu, 755-2331

Pahrump: Saddle West Casino, 727-5953

Tonopah: Station House, 482-9777: Loco Pony Band, 12/16 and 1/4

Wendover: Nevada Crossing, 664-4000: Live entertainment nightly, Tues.-Sun., Peppermill, 664-2255; Red Garter Casino, 664-2111; Silver Smith, 664-2231; "Dangerous Curves," revue, thru 11/17; Danny Gale, 12/9; Martha's Children, 12/23; State Line Casino, 664-2221

Winnemucca: Winners Hotel-Casino, 623-2511

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

Northern Nevada Show Notes

By Guy Richardson

'Tis the season to be merry, and there are some jolly shows for the end of '86. We've got Roger Miller at John Ascuaga's Nugget with the world's most creative rhyme schemes. Bill Cosby and Sarah Vaughan—together!—are at Harrah's Tahoe, and Willie Nelson is at Caesars. If that's not a wide enough range for you, in Harrah's Reno lounge are (or is) the Blues Other Brothers.

☆

Mercury released a 17-record compilation of Vaughan's work earlier this year. You read that right: 17. Now if we can get Tony Bennett back in Northern Nevada, the music biz here will be All Right.

☆

By the time you read this, "Hello Hollywood, Hello!" was supposed to be kaput. The ax was to fall in October, but the world's largest show, now eight years old, got renewed through April, and that sigh of relief is from a hundred dancers who won't have to look for work.

Bally's management probably will keep the show longer, but if you haven't seen it—or not for a while—I'd advise you to catch it while you can. "Hello H'wood," with airplane, acres of dancers, a waterfall, an earthquake, and other improbables, is one of the Seven Wonders of Showbiz. It may last a few more years but not forever.

☆

On the other hand, Debbie Reynolds could last forever. Sure, she's cute and cuddly, but she's tough. She's not hard, which is something entirely different. Reynolds is a sweet woman, but I once told her, "I'd hate to be in any kind of contest against you, whether it was a negotiation or arm-wrestling." She flashed that ingenuite smile and said, "That's just the survivor in me, dear."

The survivor, a grand lady, teams with Donald O'Connor at Harrah's Reno in November. From rehearsal reports, it should be a terrific show.

☆

Another legend is back after a few year's absence. Big Tiny Little, the pianist with the astounding left hand, returned to Reno in August, playing the new Eldorado lounge. He'll be at the Ormsby House in late November. Large—as his friends sometimes call him—also has a great combo whose members may also call him Tiny, or whatever, but seldom by his real name, Dudley. □

Guy Richardson covers the entertainment beat for the Reno Gazette-Journal.



Appearing in a special show at Harrah's Reno is Debbie Reynolds and...



Donald O'Connor, as the dynamic duo heat up the main showroom November 20-30.

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CALENDAR (Continued from page 67)

Gary Burton Jazz Group Concert, 12, 8pm, Pioneer Theater, 784-4444

UNR v. Alberta, 12, exhibition basketball game, 7:30pm, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4500

International Dinner, 14, food and entertainment by UNR foreign students, Student Union, UNR, 784-6874

Fall Dance Concert, 14-15, performance by Sierra Repertory Dance Theatre, Laxalt Theatre at Old College, 355-8662

"Twelfth Night," 14-15, Shakespeare, 8pm, Nevada Repertory Company, Church Fine Arts Theatre, UNR, 784-6123

Reno Home Improvement and Energy Expo, 14-16, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 323-6055

UNR v. Northern Arizona, 15, football, 1pm, Mackay Stadium, UNR, 784-4500

Holiday Art Show, 15-16, mixed media by area artists, Donner Lake Village, 916-587-5662

Reno Philharmonic Orchestra Concert, 18, Pioneer Theater, 329-8866

Winter Wonderland: Gifts For All Seasons, 20-21, benefit for Washoe Medical Center, Mack Auditorium at 77 Pringle Way, 785-4166

Opening Party, 21, ski movies, slide show, free, 7pm, Tahoe Nordic, Tahoe City, 916-583-0484

Great American Craft Fair, 21-23, with demonstrations by High Sierra Chefs Assn., Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 747-6392

"Twelfth Night," 21-23, Shakespeare, 8pm Fri.-Sat., 2pm Sun., Nevada Repertory Company, Church Fine Arts Theatre, UNR, 784-6123

Sierra Nevada Rabbit Club Show, 22, fairgrounds, 785-4307

Powwow, 22, exhibition and social Indian dancing along with arts and crafts exhibits, in conjunction with National Indian Education Assn. Convention, Bally's Grand, 786-7029

Gold's Gym Fall Classic, 22, body building, regional finals to Mr. America competition, Pioneer Theater, 747-4944

Christmas Fair, 22-23, Carson City Community Center, 882-1565

Sierra Wind Quintet Concert, 23, 8pm, Student Union, UNR, 784-6145

Garibaldi Christmas Tree Express, 23, Reno's official 60-ft. Douglas fir Christmas tree is presented as a gift from the 1,070 citizens of Garibaldi, OR., caroling, Pioneer Theater, 786-3030

Mexican Dance, 26, fairgrounds, 785-4307

Biathlon Clinic and Race, 29, Glenn Jobe,

member of 1980 Olympic Ski Team, gives a morning clinic on biathlon (rifle and x-c) followed by 10-km. race, Kirkwood Cross-Country, 209-258-8864

UNR v. Cal Berkeley, 29, basketball, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4500

Magic of Santa Claus Christmas Faire, 29-30, free, California Bldg., Idlewild Park, 785-2265

Kirkwood Klassic/Karhu 10-km. Citizen Race, 30, 10am, Kirkwood, 209-258-8864

December

Holiday Concert, 5, Sierra Nevada Chorale, Pioneer Theater, 329-1324

"Heaven Can Wait," 5-6, comedy, 8pm, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

"The Man Who Came to Dinner," 5-7 comedy, 8pm Fri.-Sat., 2pm Sun., Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Christmas at Harveys, 5-23, Santa visits with children, Harveys, Stateline, 588-2411

Art Show, 5-1/18/87, paintings of the American Southwest, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Fashion Show, 6, St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church fundraiser, Carson City Nugget, 329-7180

Christmas Bazaar, 6, local handcrafts, high school gym, Virginia City, 847-0266

UNR v. San Diego, 6, basketball, 7:30pm, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4500

Nordic Demo Day, 6, try new equipment free, Tahoe Nordic, Tahoe City, 916-583-0484

Snow Sculpture Contest, 6, Kirkwood, 209-258-6000

Christmas Fair, 6, Town Hall, Genoa, 782-8144

Art Show, 6-1/3/87, paintings by Jeff Nicholson, Nevada Artists Assn. Gallery, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 882-6411

Fischer-Tahoe Nordic Ten, 7, 10-km. citizens race, Tahoe Nordic, Tahoe City, 916-583-0484

Bicycle Motocross Racing, 7, fairgrounds, 785-4307

Holiday Concert, 7, Voices Unlimited, Pioneer Theater, 825-2592

UNR v. San Francisco, 9, basketball, 7:30pm, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4500

"The Man Who Came to Dinner," 11-13, comedy, 8pm, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

"Christmas With Mother Goose," 11-13, for preschoolers through the 4th grade, 1pm Thurs. and Sat., 10am Fri., bring a can of food for donation, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

"Heaven Can Wait," 12-13, comedy, 8pm,

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Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976
UNR v. UNLV, 13, basketball, 7:30pm, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4500
Ceramics Show and Sale, 13-14, Planet X Pottery, near Gerlach on Hwy. 81, 557-2500
Royal Gorge Cup/Swix Race, 14, 10-km. cross-country ski race, Royal Gorge, Soda Springs, 916-426-3871
Christmas Program, 14, Santa, caroling, free, The Chateau, Incline Village, 831-0781
UNR v. Pepperdine, 15, basketball, 7:30pm, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4500
"Christmas With Mother Goose," 18-20, for preschoolers through the 4th grade, 1pm Thurs. and Sat., 10am Fri., bring a can of food for donation. Reno Little Theater, 329-0661
"When An Elf Goes Bad" and "Not Even A Mouse," 18-21 one-act plays, RLT's Youth Theater Workshop, 7pm Thurs.-Sat., 2pm and 7pm Sun., Reno Little Theater, 329-0661
Ski Free Day, 18, Christmas gift of free lift tickets (based on capacity), Donner Ski Ranch, Norden, 916-426-3635
UNR v. Sacramento State, 19, basketball, 7:30pm, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4500
"Heaven Can Wait," 19-20, comedy, 8pm, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976
Christmas on the Comstock, 19-20, music, lights, shopping on historic boardwalk, Virginia City, 847-0311
Snowboarding Classic, 20-21 Donner Ski Ranch, Norden, 916-743-7669
"Nutcracker," 20-23, Tchaikovsky's ballet, 2:15pm, Nevada Opera Assn., Pioneer Theater, 786-4046
Royal Gorge Flying Kilometer, 21 1-km. downhill x-c speed race, Royal Gorge, Soda Springs, 916-426-3871

Torchlight Parade, 24, Squaw Valley, 916-583-6985
Equitable Family Ski Challenge Race, 28, Northstar, North Lake Tahoe, 916-562-1010
Ski Race, 28, 10-km. x-c race followed by barbecue, Spooner Lake, 749-5349
Wolf Pack Classic, 29-30, basketball tournament with UNR, Northeast Louisiana, Eastern Illinois, North Texas State, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4500
Torchlight Parade, 31 Tahoe Donner Truckee, 916-587-9400
Mexican Dance, 31 fairgrounds, 785-4307
New Year's Eve Dance, 31 Bally's Grand Hotel, 789-2016
New Year's Eve Impromptu Celebration, 31, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515

GAMING TOURNAMENTS

These gaming tournaments are scheduled for Reno and Lake Tahoe. Call ahead for details.

November

Blackjack, 10/30-31, Eldorado, 786-5700
Slots, 2-4, Eldorado, 786-5700
Blackjack, 7 Harolds Club, 329-0881
Blackjack, 8-9, Western Village, 331-1069
Handicapping, 13-16, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515
Slots, 20-22, Harolds Club, 329-0881
Slots, 21-23, Reno Ramada, 788-2000
Slots, 21-24, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515

December

Blackjack, 12-14, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515

COMING ATTRACTIONS

January

Free National Learn-To-Ski Day, 9, at various ski resorts, 1-800-238-2300
South Lake Tahoe Winter Carnival, 27-30, Sierra Ski Ranch, 916-659-7519
Cowboy Poetry Gathering, 28-31 Elko Convention Center, 738-7508
Super Bowl of Poker, 29-2/12, Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, 731-7110

February

Nevada Winter Special Olympics, 3-6, Ski Incline, 832-1177
Ski Incline Celebrity Ski Classic, 7-8, 832-1177
John Denver Celebrity Ski Classic, 20-22, Heavenly Valley, South Lake Tahoe, 916-541-1330
Snowfest, 27-3/8, North Lake Tahoe and Truckee, 916-583-7625 □

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

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WILLIAM VERRILL

This Henderson artist doesn't mind bucking tradition.



When William Verrill isn't at his work at Miller & Associates in Las Vegas creating ads and billboards, he's out exploring ghost towns, Indian reservations, and rodeo arenas. His attention to authenticity in his western watercolors makes him popular with art buyers, although his crisp style sometimes causes him problems.

"Traditionally, transparent watercolor paintings have a washed out, free-form look," Verrill says. His vividly detailed watercolors have been disqualified from a few art shows because some judges don't believe that he can attain such realism without adding pigments, which is taboo among watercolor purists. But Verrill, who studied art in school and has been working with watercolors for 15 years, says he works exclusively with transparent watercolors and invites disbelievers to take a closer look.

Verrill came to Nevada from Indiana five years ago to live and paint in the real West. His dream is to become a member of the prestigious Cowboy Artists of America, but he says he wouldn't give up his commercial career. The 34-year-old artist gets almost as much satisfaction from seeing his contemporary billboards as he does from his western creations.

His work can be seen at Newsom's Western Art Gallery in Las Vegas, at Studio West in Henderson, and on the billboard at Paradise and Flamingo roads advertising the new sports book at the Frontier Hotel.—JC

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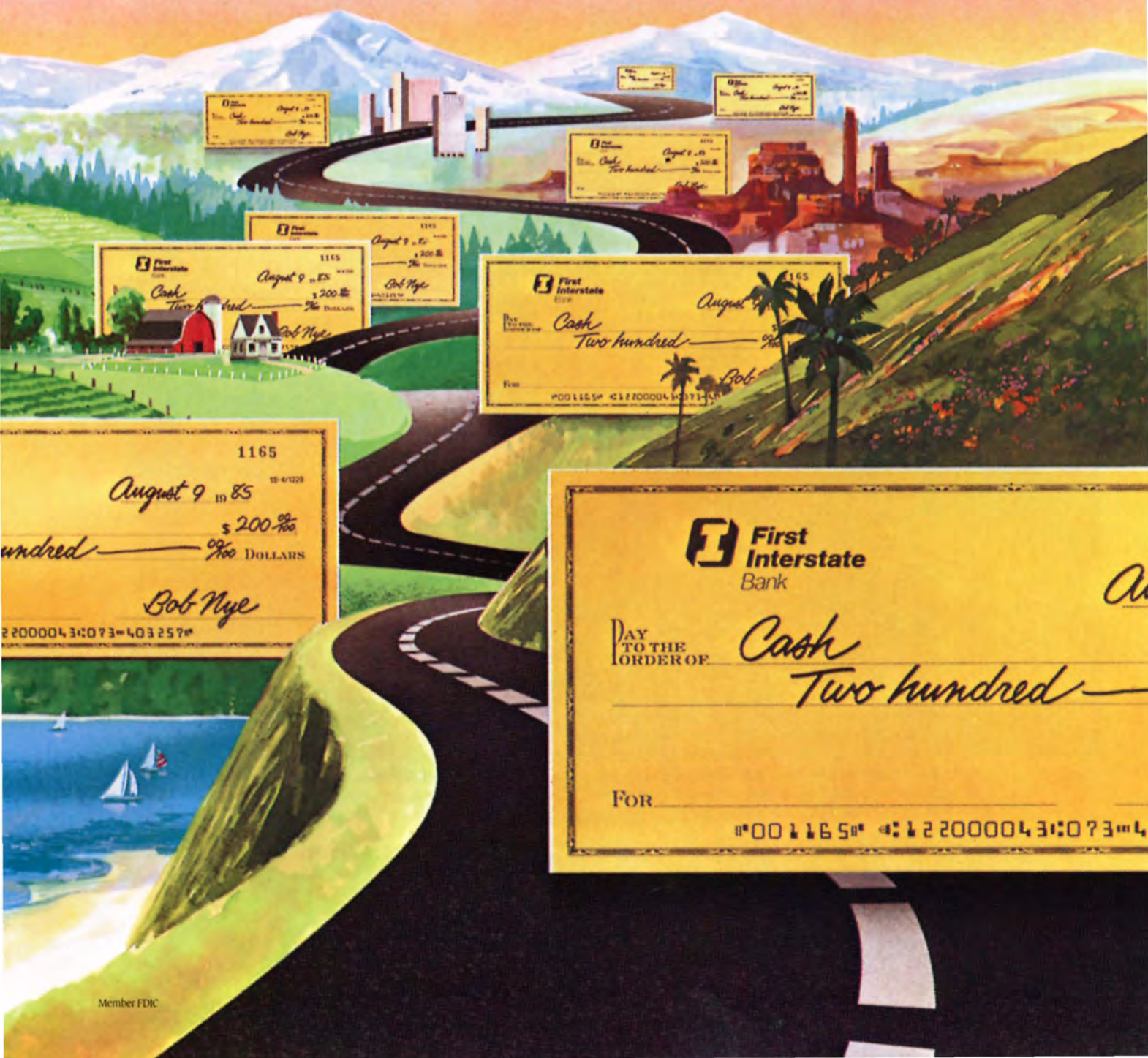
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BOOKS

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HISTORY OF THE NEVADA STATE CAPITOL AND GOVERNOR'S MANSION. 36 pages incl. 96 photos. \$2.50 ea. Dept. of General Services, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV. 89710. Telephone: (702) 885-4070.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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for \$5,000 and then turned around and built that mile in four days, and they will also maintain it in the future.

Recently the Washoe County Sheriff's Posse (mounted) set up camp up in Freel's Meadow and we had a fantastic time. Had 32 for dinner one evening, and over the weekend we built over a mile of good trail.

William M. Tisher, President
Tahoe Rim Trail, Inc.
South Lake Tahoe, CA.

More Questions and Answers

I am returning the questionnaire from the current issue of *Nevada* and hope it will help in future planning. We read your fine magazine from cover to cover every issue and urge you to ignore those who criticize the magazine and sometimes even the great state of Nevada.

We have saved every issue since our first subscription, plus we have been adding back years a few at a time.

Richard W. Ellithorpe
Gansevoort, NY

As a subscriber to *Nevada Magazine* and soon-to-be resident of Nevada, I welcome Kirk Whisler to head up your fine staff. I was only too glad to express my comments on the outer cover pages questionnaire, but wanna know somethin'? I really can't see room for much more improvement in your already super magazine, but one does come to mind. Could you possibly kick out a copy per month? P.S.: I'd be glad to pay the extra cost.

Henry G. Moser
Bell, CA.

Another View From Texas

Regarding "No Slack From Texas" in July/Aug '86: I do not agree with my fellow Texans about your magazine. To me there is no comparison between the two because each is well written and pertains to the state. However, my fellow Texan did not specify which state magazine he was referring to.

Please renew my subscription to your wonderful magazine. I have been a subscriber for a number of years and will continue to be. Thanks from a True Texan who knows a quality magazine when read.

Sandra Surovik
Houston, TX.

I really look forward to your magazine and read it cover to cover including all the advertisements. My wife and I come out to Nevada at least once every year, and this year is no exception. We are flying out to Las Vegas and returning from Reno. Thank you for adding so much pleasure to our lives.

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Nevada Notes

Nevada on the high seas and a free day for ski rookies.
By Jim Crandall

U.S.S. Nevada: Trident True

Last August a delegation of Nevada dignitaries joined a deck full of salty dogs at Groton, Connecticut, for the commissioning of the new U.S.S. Nevada. The sub and its sister ship, the U.S.S. Ohio, are the two largest and most sophisticated nuclear submarines in the Trident fleet of eight. The \$2-billion U.S.S. Nevada is nearly as long as two football fields, runs on its own nuclear reactor, and packs two dozen missiles.

The sub also carries a proud name. The previous U.S.S. Nevada, a battleship, was one of our country's most decorated vessels. Commissioned in 1916, the ship served in World War I, survived the attack on Pearl Harbor, and fought in many major battles of World War II. She even

survived atomic-bomb target practice off Bikini Atoll just after the war, while the other 11 doomed ships were blasted to smithereens. When the Navy finally sank her in 1948, she had seven battle stars.

The name U.S.S. Nevada also was given in 1869 to a gunboat that had served in the Civil War. Another gunboat built in 1900 was commissioned the U.S.S. Nevada in 1903. That ship's name was changed to the U.S.S. Tonopah to free up the Nevada moniker for Battleship Number 36.

Hopefully, the new U.S.S. Nevada won't ever have to prove its worth. Each of its 32-foot-long missiles can pack a nuclear payload and travel up to 4,000 miles. So the U.S.S. Nevada's two captains hope to cruise in peaceful waters for a long, long time.



Proud vets, sailors, and 5,000 spectators attended the commissioning of the new U.S.S. Nevada.

Show Stoppers

Illusionists Siegfried and Roy, known for making exotic animals vanish in "Beyond Belief" at the Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas, made history when some of their animals appeared.

One night last summer their snow white tiger, Zenza, a trooper to the end, did a full show, went home, and gave birth to four cubs. "This is the first time a snow white tiger has had babies," Siegfried said proudly. "There are only three snow white females in existence."



Siegfried (left), Roy, Zenza, and historic cubs.

LV and Reno Top the Charts

In national surveys last summer Las Vegas and Reno beat out such places as Hawaii and New Orleans as getaway choices.

In Rand McNally's new book, *Vacation Places Rated*, author Sylvia McNair compared statistics on 107 popular resort areas. Under "Fun in the Great Outdoors," Reno-Tahoe came in first place, followed by Miami and the Gold Coast in Florida and then Hawaii. The fun category was based on six criteria—golf courses, tennis courts, skiing, water sports, hiking territory, and state parks and beaches.

Then Las Vegas was ranked second as a convention destination in a poll sponsored by *Business Travel News*. Coming in just behind San Francisco, Las Vegas was ranked ahead of New Orleans, Orlando, and Chicago as places most preferred by conventioners. The poll of 133 executives, representing organizations of 15,000 or more members, was based on the size of meeting halls, hotel room rates, availability of entertainment, recreation, transportation, and safety.

The Lonely and the Brave

The "Loneliest Road in America" isn't quite so lonely anymore. Last July *Life* Magazine gave U.S. 50 across Nevada that title when it quoted an AAA expert as saying, "We warn all motorists not to drive there unless they're confident of their survival skills."

In response, U.S. 50 boosters and the Nevada Commission on Tourism launched an "I Survived U.S. 50" campaign. It features a Highway 50 Survival Kit that contains a state map, brochures, and a special poster map illustrating attractions on the 287-mile stretch.

Motorists who have their poster maps validated at chambers of commerce in Fernley, Fallon, Austin, Eureka, and Ely qualify for "I Survived U.S. 50" certificates and bumper stickers.

"If I had a million dollars right now, I'd invest in Survival Kits," says Ferrel Hanson of the Ely Chamber. "I've already given out probably 700 to people from all across the country, and we get more requests every day."

Free Ski For All

On Friday, January 9, 1987 ski resorts across the country—including several at Lake Tahoe—will offer free lifts, rentals, and skiing to beginners. "Let's Go Skiing, America!" is a joint effort of the National Ski Areas Association and Ski Industries of America. On the free day novice skiers will be allowed on bunny hills and given beginner's lessons.

Some of the Sierra participants are Heavenly, Ski Incline, Slide Mountain, Alpine Meadows, Northstar, Sugar Bowl, Kirkwood, and Royal Gorge. Lee Canyon near Las Vegas also will participate. For information, call 1-800-223-2121. □

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