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NEVADA

THE MAGAZINE OF THE REAL WEST

DECEMBER 1988 • \$2.25

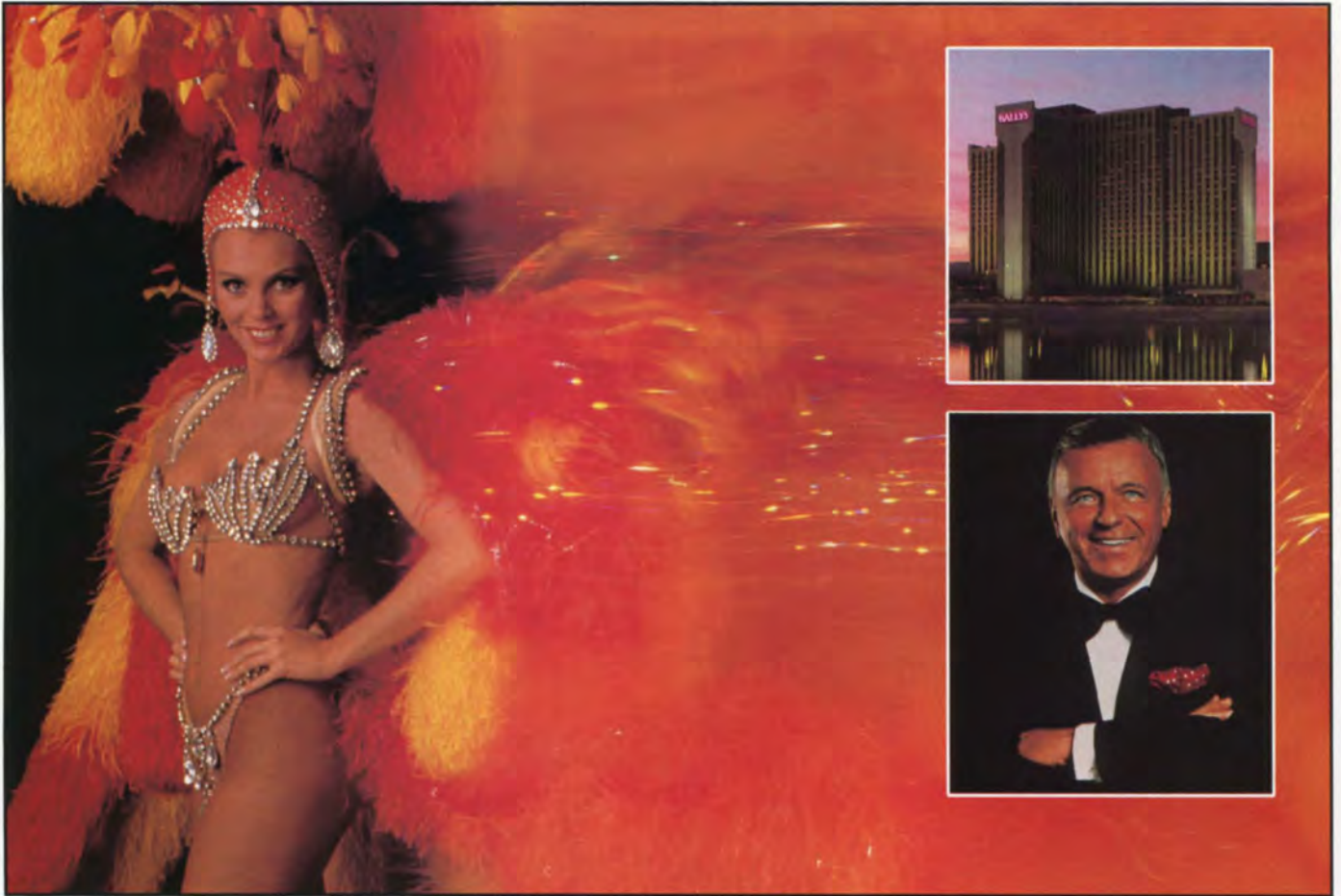
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NOV/DEC 1988

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Cover
Illustration:
Frank Sinatra,
Juliet Prowse,
and Sammy
Davis, Jr
in 1960s
Las Vegas.
By Brian
Buckley

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LETTERS

Slots, Cows, and Celebrity Buckaroos

His Name Rings a Bell

My wife and myself are planning a "loop" of your state, I-80 to Wendover, south to Las Vegas, and back to Reno via Tonopah. Being retired with an RV, plus enjoying every copy of *Nevada*, your ghost town map will help us to leisurely explore your state.

The only thing is, whenever I sign the register at a hotel, motel, or RV park in your state, with a name like mine, they always look over the top of their glasses.

Jack Potts
Newcastle, CA.

Piano Blues

I can't truly express my feelings when I read your magazine. The Sept/Oct issue made me want to jump in an airplane and fly out there and leave all my cares and worries behind. I felt like I could sit at that piano in the desert and play anything that came to mind. That really would be some feat because I don't play the piano. Maybe someday I will get to go to all those quiet places, and who knows? Maybe I could even learn to play well enough to do it in the desert.

Marilyn Blackshear
San Antonio, TX.

The First Dollar Slots

I read Frank Legato's article on slot machines in the July/August issue with some interest. However, I do differ with the statement that "Karl's Silver Club, then a small club across from John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, was the first to have dollar slots in the Reno area."

Long before John Ascuaga's Nugget replaced the railroad yards and roundhouse in Sparks there were one-dollar slots in the Reno area. Specifically, there were one dollar slots in Harolds Club in Reno in the 1940s. True, they were the "old" three-reel, one-coin play, mechanical machines. True, there were not a large number of them. True, they were not the most popular slots around. But they were there.

They were not the most popular simply because they were "expensive." After all, a one-dollar bet was for "high rollers," what with candy bars a nickel, postage stamps three cents, and

men drooling over "high paying" jobs at less than three dollars an hour. And as Mr. Legato pointed out, slot machines were beneath the dignity of high rollers.

One other bit of trivia: Dime machines were never very popular. It seems the 10-cent coin was too small. It didn't lend itself to the rapid-fire fast play most slot players enjoy.

Finally, for the nitpickers, I am not criticizing the article. It was informative and, so far as I can tell, accurate except for this one technical point which I bring up for the benefit of nostalgia buffs who might be interested.

Milton Wray
Manhattan, KS.

Meaty Information

In Diane Banegas' article "A Nevada Cow Watcher's Guide" in the July/August '88 issue, you wrote that Dal Byington's ranch in the Genoa area had White Park cattle, a breed brought over to this country from Britain. Do they have a national breed headquarters to write for more information about the breed and a breeders listing?

Joe Hubbert
Bolivar, MO.

Hubbert, yes, and they have a complete breeders listing. Write the White Park Cattle Association, 419 North Water Street, Madrid, IA. 50156. —Ed.

Hollywood Buckaroos

I noticed that in "Nevada's Celebrity Ranchers" in July/August '88 you left out two very well known people.

In 1959, Wild Bill Elliott purchased the Joel McCrae ranch composed of 66,000 acres in the Ruby Valley. He and Dollie renovated the southern mansion-style home on the ranch into a magnificent place. I used to fly out there, land on the road, and taxi up into the area next to the home. Wild Bill died in Las Vegas of cancer in 1969 and I lost a good friend.

The other celebrity owned the largest ranch in Nevada. At 890,000 acres, it went over into California and was owned by Art Linkletter in the early '70s. It was known as the JV Bar, and headquarters were located at the old ghost town of Lida in Esmeralda County. The JV Bar brand is the second

oldest brand in Nevada.

I have been associated with Nevada and Nevada ranches since 1951, and Newt Crumley was a very good friend of mine. In the early '50s Newt invited me out to a barbecue in honor of Bing Crosby at the Arrowhead D Ranch, south of Elko. When Newt crashed, I lost a very good friend and an ex-Air Force buddy

Jerry Higgs
Sandy, UT

Marble in Goldfield

Regarding Richard Stephens' "Views of Amargosa" in the Sept/Oct issue, as a Goldfield native it is my understanding that Carrara was named after the marble in Italy and there was a mine of a type of marble in that area.

The marble was used in many buildings in Goldfield, but it was a softer quality and didn't withstand weather as Italian marble does.

The steps of the old Sundog school constructed in 1906 were of that marble. It was one of these that Anne Ellis wrote of in her book, *Life of an Ordinary Woman*. She stole the step, borrowed a wagon, and chiseled the name of her daughter Joy on the stone after Joy had died of diphtheria. She started to the cemetery in that wagon but was given a ride most of the way.

This headstone has now been replaced by the highway department with Italian marble and the little wagon engraved on the front. It is written up in many Nevada books.

Martha Reiley Johnson
Idaho Falls, ID.

Johnson, thanks for the historical tip and for the reminder about Anne Ellis' book, which was published in 1929 by Houghton Mifflin. —Ed.

Reading about Boulder City's "Brush With Fame" in the last issue, I was very interested and surprised at no mention of the Vale Hotel Restaurant. Fine cooking and serving is an "art" there.

Allen A. Chamberlain
Boulder City

Rhett Newton?

I've been reading for several months now about Wayne Newton playing Meade Slaughter in *Nevada* and Whip Holt in *Nevada* (Wagons West series).

Let's skip all that and get down to serious business. Anyone who saw Wayne in *North and South* as the cruel Major Turner should be convinced of his acting ability.

When the sequel to *Gone With the*

Wind is finished, what better role for Wayne than that of Rhett Butler? With Wayne's tall good looks and charisma, couldn't you see him as Rhett telling Scarlett "I don't give a d—" or in the legendary romantic scene carrying Scarlett up the stairs?

I rest my case. Rhett Butler he definitely is!

Renee Carter
Port Arthur, TX.

Lake Mead Lovers

Growing up in Las Vegas as I did meant spending every summer "on the lake"—so I too can't imagine Southern Nevada without Lake Mead (re: "The Great Lake" by Mitch Fox in July/August '88). I moved closer to the lake (to Boulder City) 11 years ago. It was here I met my husband, Desi Arnaz Jr. We spend as much time as we can boating on the cool lake in the middle of this hot desert. We also have discovered another kind of refreshment from the hot desert—classes on self-understanding taught by world-famous author Vernon Howard at New Life Foundation in Boulder City. He's kind of a natural wonder himself. People come regularly to hear Howard talk about a cool, refreshing, stress-free life. To quote him: "The more you let other people sail your boat, the less the boat belongs to you."

Nevada really does have something for everyone!

Mrs. Desi Arnaz
Boulder City

Resorts and People

I have been meaning to subscribe for years, and today I decided to stop fighting my dad over his copy. I am a third generation Lake Tahoe lakefront property owner and have often thought that an article on old-time resort area property would fit in with your scheme of things.

W.M. Wright
Concord, CA.

Wright, thanks for the idea. In the meantime, see "Tahoe by the Bay" on page 45.

I enjoy your articles, such as on Bing Crosby and other bio's in your state. Hope the magazine does not become 50 percent in advertisements, as they are in all the magazines.

Mrs. R. Anderson
Hollywood, CA.

History Lover

A short note from an avid Nevada fan. Your articles on Nevada history are my

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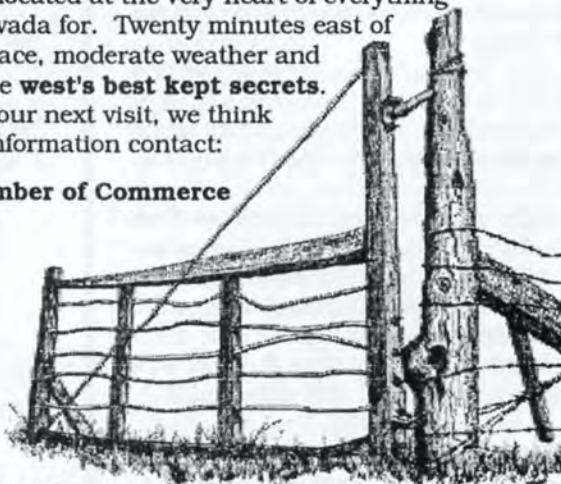
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favorite. I love the solitude and serenity of the country, and the 24-hour hype of Reno. I like to see the ads from all the hotels and tourist type areas, which keeps me up on what's happening.

Steve Daniels
Osoyoos, BC

Tobar Memories

"Amazing Facts" in your Jan/Feb '88 issue included the ghost town of Tobar. Very few folks are alive today who remember the Tobar that really had a past.

In the period 1914 to the early '20s, the town was alive with homesteaders. Promoter John Hoagland had painted a fantastic picture of the area between Tobar and Clover Valley, about 15 miles south of Wells. So attractive was his literature that folks from all over the nation arrived to stake their claims.

Homesteaders built cabin-like homes, dug wells, erected windmills, and fenced in their acreage with barb wire fastened to cedar posts. The green grass Hoagland had advertised was fast disappearing.

As World War I was starting in 1914, our government was in search of a spot to locate a military base. Hot-shot promoter Hoagland tossed Tobar's hat in the ring, re-naming it Clover City. He backed up his claim with pictures of beautiful homes in Clover Valley. The old Johnson Ranch was his prize to show what was supposed to exist in Clover City, Nevada.

Luckily Fort Lewis in Washington was chosen after a few military men visited and inspected the exact Clover City location.

As the water supply receded, the hot, dry summers and the cold, windy winters drove most of the homesteaders to leave. They just couldn't make a living and the area soon became deserted. Some buildings were moved and those left standing were soon demolished by wind, snow, and the elements.

At the height of the building boom Hoagland purchased the Outside Inn from the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco. After it was dismantled, it was shipped to Tobar for erection. It was renamed the Inside-Out and became a house of ill repute.

When I left the Clover Valley area in the spring of 1929, there was little left to remind one of the Tobar that used to be.

Ed Haymond
Gold Beach, OR.

NEVADA

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Football and Christmas Tree Passes

Holiday outings and cheer around the state.

LAS VEGAS

Christmas Tree Pass

The Christmas season—if it hasn't been raining—is an appropriate time to take the scenic route between Searchlight and Laughlin that goes over Christmas Tree Pass. This 17-mile, marked dirt road leaves U.S. 95 just south of the little town of Cal-Nev-Ari, winds east and south through the Newberry Mountains, and hits pavement on State Route 163 about six miles west of Davis Dam and Laughlin.

The road leads upward through sagebrush and cactus to the junipers and pinyon pines for which the pass was named. Mammoth granite outcroppings in wild and interesting shapes and stacks of huge boulders add a powerful element to the scenery. In years past miners decorated the trees with tin cans, presumably in the Christmas spirit, and since then travelers in the area have done some decorating of their own with unusual ornaments—glass balls, bright paper cups, plastic pipe, plaques, and pieces of clothing.

The pass is high—about 5,000 feet. On the way down to State Route 163 between the pass and Grapevine Canyon there are picturesque sites for camping, although there are no facilities. A side trip into Grapevine Canyon is rewarded with an outstanding display of petroglyphs.

Most cars can handle this graded dirt road, but there is a lot of washboard, and in the upper elevations, particularly after heavy rains, the surface can become rough and eroded. Caution and slow speeds are advised. For more information, call the Bureau of Land Management in Las Vegas, 702-646-



Christmas decorations stay up all year at Christmas Tree Pass.

8800, or the National Park Service, 702-293-8907

Mountain Sleigh Rides

For a crisp trot through the snow, the Mount Charleston Lodge is offering daily sleigh rides at the top of Kyle Canyon Road, 45 miles northwest of Las Vegas. The ride, on a sleigh pulled by four mules, runs from the restaurant's parking lot to the Cathedral Rock Picnic Area and back, a ride of about 30 minutes. Now in the second year of operation, these adventures are led by the lodge wrangler, who points out sights along the way.

When there isn't enough snow, the lodge runs carriage rides in old wooden coaches that hold up to about a dozen passengers. The rides begin mid-morning and continue until dusk. Reservations are not needed, but special evening trips can be arranged on request. The price is \$6 for adults, less for children under 12. Group rates are available. Call the lodge at 702-386-6899 or write Box 325, Kyle Canyon, Mount Charleston, NV 89124.

Arizona Charlie's

Arizona Charlie's in Las Vegas,

Nevada? Arizona Charlie (1860-1932) was said to have made and as quickly spent half a dozen fortunes. Perhaps it's that quality that most closely resembles the life within the halls of this unusual establishment plopped dead-center in a neighborhood shopping area along with Hallmark and Safeway.

Located on the west side of Las Vegas, this is the place to rub elbows with local folks who prefer Charlie's odds to fighting the traffic "downtown." It's close to home, the

food is good, parking is easy, and you can buy your groceries and slip into the casino all in the same breath. There are 50 bowling lanes (Charlie's took over a neighborhood alley), a children's game room, 24-hour restaurant, buffet, two bars, live entertainment, and 100 rooms. For more information, call 702-258-5200 or 1-800-342-2695 for hotel reservations. Or write, Arizona Charlie's, 740 South Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107 —*Kate Butler*

RENO-TAHOE

Wolf Pack Football

The University of Nevada-Reno's Wolf Pack has two home football games in November, and if you wear silver and blue, a wolf-snout hat, or a "Zonies" T-shirt ("We're the elite meat!"), you'll blend right in with the crowd at UNR's Mackay Stadium.

The homecoming game is Saturday, November 5, and after the parade the Pack will take on Idaho's Vandals at 1 p.m. At the same time on Saturday, November 12, the Pack plays the Eastern Washington Eagles.

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from \$5 for kids to \$10 for an adult-reserved sideline seat. "Zonies" prefer the cheap seats in the end zone, where they can see the action up close.

For UNR football information and tickets, call 702-348-PACK. Homecoming Weekend features lots of activities. For details contact the Alumni Association at 702-784-6620.

Brewing Up Fun

Carson City's Brewery Arts Center may be located in a historic building, but it offers contemporary programs for today's tastes. In November members and nonmembers can take classes on drama, music, sculpture, calligraphy, silversmithing, drawing, and painting in the former home of the Carson Brewing Company.

The center also presents a series of guest performers as well as local talent in plays and concerts. The Side Street Strutters, Disneyland's Dixieland jazz band, play on November 28 at the Carson City Community Center, and the Brewery's own Proscenium Players perform "A Christmas Carol" December 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, and 17.

To celebrate the center's former life as a brewery, the center is opening a permanent display on Nevada Day, October 31, with photographs, equipment, a neon "Tahoe Beer" sign, and other breweriana from the collection of Addison Millard, the son of the brewery's last owners, Arnold and Alma Millard.

For more information call 702-883-1976 or write the Brewery Arts Center, 449 West King Street, Carson City, NV 89703. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The building also is home to the Northern Nevada Artists Association Gallery, where 20 to 30 members display their art. Through November 7 you can browse the juried Nevada Day show in the gallery. There is a gift shop, too, featuring ceramic ware and jewelry with California-quarried turquoise. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For more information contact the Northern Nevada Artists Association at 702-882-6411. —Deborah A. Mawhar

Tahoe Sleigh Ride

A faint jingling of bells fills the air. In the distance a sleigh pulled by two Belgian horses, the pride of Sam Borges, comes into view.

"Whoa, Ace! Whoa, King!" he cries. "Time for a rest." Sam climbs down and hands over a ticket in exchange for

seven dollars. His face is tanned from the sun and wind, and his brown eyes shine as he tells us, "Ace and King will have no problem transporting the 10 of you across the meadow and over the hills. Each horse weighs over 2,000 pounds. Find your seats while I tuck these blankets around your knees."

Feeling like pampered children, we settle down for the ride.

Considerate of Ace and King, Sam explains the reason for the slow pace uphill: "In the thin air of this high altitude it's harder for horses as well as humans to get enough oxygen. That's why I let the horses rest from time to time."

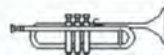
Our breath vaporizes at 6,200 feet above sea level. Noses and toes tingle. Sam directs our gaze west. Lake Tahoe sparkles more beautiful than the postcards I'd been addressing. Pointing east he says, "See the great Sierras rising like giant white saw teeth? The tallest peak you see is Pyramid Mountain." He laughs when someone says it looks like an upside-down snow cone. "Look over there at the steep break in the mountains where there are no trees. That's Gunbarrel, a part of the Heavenly Valley slopes. You have to be a darned good skier to try that one."

At each rest stop Sam tells a fascinating, often humorous story of the meadow's history or of a recent event. Near the top of the hill he points out a big snowcapped rock close to the forest's edge. "See those footprints? Just yesterday a bride and groom rode by sleigh to this spot and walked to the rock while the bride's veil trailed in the snow. The couple repeated their vows while relatives and friends gathered 'round dressed in the warmest clothing. I tended the horses and sleigh, trying hard in the wind and snow to keep the seats of the sleigh covered and dry. After the ceremony the guests threw handfuls of snow on the newlyweds instead of rice."

Going downhill now, Ace and King break into a trot. The 10 of us do the natural thing—sing "Jingle Bells," while the horses' sleigh bells jingle in perfect rhythm.

The sleigh rides start across from Caesars Tahoe on the corner of U.S. 50 and Parkway in Stateline. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and under. Rides usually run from 10 a.m. until dark, November through March, snow permitting. For more information contact Borges Sleigh Rides, Box 7496, South Lake Tahoe, CA. 95731 or call 916-541-2953. —Barbara S. Ferguson

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The ENTERTAINMENT CAPITAL

From Block 16 to the Golden Age, Las Vegas earned its nickname with the greatest shows on earth.

By Bill Willard



From the beginning Las Vegas was destined to be a party town and a resort center. It all began in 1905 when the bluenose bosses of the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad allowed two blocks to be set aside for fun and games.

Party time and entertainment dawned in the downtown area that quickly became known as Block 16. Its reputation as one of the notorious red-

The opening of the Meadows was the poshest thing Las Vegas had seen up to that time.

light districts of the West lured gawkers to the bars and flesh hawkers in droves. The downtown district spawned the type of romance expected of a town let loose from its somnolent beginnings as a way station for travelers on the Spanish Trail. Block 16 lasted until the Secretary of the Air Force shut down the bordellos after Pearl Harbor, but the little city was already attracting big spenders.

The first resort away from down-



When Frank Sinatra and the rest of the Rat Pack (opposite page) held their famous gatherings at the Sands in the early '60s, Las Vegas was well into what is called its Golden Age. The gang snaking through the showroom crowd includes (from left) Dean Martin, Peter Lawford, Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Jr., and Joey Bishop. An earlier Strip fun place—in fact, the first—was El Rancho Vegas (top), which featured the George Moro Dancers in the '40s and '50s (bottom).

town was the Meadows, a combination hotel-casino-cabaret with cribs for prostitution that opened in May 1931. The owners were the Cornero brothers, Tony, Frank, and Louie (Stralla). Booted out of Southern California after their gambling ships were raided and scuttled, the siblings headed inland for the wide-open town now fortified by the legalized-gambling bill and six-week divorce law approved that year by the legislature.

The opening of the Meadows, wrote historian John Cahlan many years later, "was the poshest thing Las Vegas had seen up to that time. Black ties were the dress. This was the start of the entertainment capital of the world and look at it now."

A throng of 5,000 people from Nevada and California attended the opening as film was reeled of the crowds around the gambling tables and in the cabaret dancing to the music of Jack Liddell's orchestra. A floor show was imported from Hollywood with vaudeville acts and a dance line of cuties described as "star babies."

The Apache's opening in 1932 was headlined in Hollywood as Roscoe Ates, the stuttering comedian of many films, became the first guest to register. When the Kiva Club opened as a speak-easy in the basement with a convenient backway exit, it was the top cabaret and nightspot in town. Opening the Kiva were headliners Moreno and Valencia, Spanish dancers in the film *Flying Down to Rio*, backed by Ray Mack's orchestra. Guests, when not spending their time and money downstairs, rode the first Las Vegas elevators up and down three floors, inspected the \$50,000 casino, and admired the large banquet hall, ready for the first of the town's conventions.

By then there was no competition from the Meadows. It had burned down. But Tony Cornero surfaced in the '50s as money-raiser starter of the Stardust. Never to see his Strip dream resort opened, he died shooting craps across the street at the Desert Inn after a hot all-night game.

The first resort hotel on U.S. Highway 91, later to be known as the Strip, was El Rancho Vegas. Opened in April 1941, it began as a hacienda-type structure with casino and small stage. Owner Tom Hull later was to assure the government that the outlying bungalows built with taxpayer's money were for the officers of Nellis Air Force Base north of town. Those so-called billetings for the men in training made



neat hideaways for playboys and playgirls in the years ahead.

With El Rancho a beacon, Las Vegas was about to embark upon a new decade with a bevy of top entertainers in the wings. Meanwhile, Newton Crumley paid Ted Lewis and band \$12,000 to headline the Commercial Hotel in Elko. The news made the wires throughout the country as Nevada entertainment for the moment upstaged Hitler's blitzkriegs.

Another coup took place when two women were named entertainment directors in Las Vegas. At El Rancho Vegas, Hull's sister, Sally Stewart, signed on headliners and supporting acts, and when the Last Frontier was opened in 1942, owner R.E. Griffith named singer Maxine Lewis to be chief of bookings, production, and publicity.

At the Last Frontier, Lewis brought in Will and Gladys Ahearn, song and dance entertainers, supported by singer Diana Del Rio and the dance team of Darby and Ardella.

"I'll never forget that opening night," recalls Lewis, now in retirement in the Palm Springs home she shares with sister Diane, widow of screen actor William Powell. "All the town's leading citizens attended, stepping over the rugs as the carpet men were putting down the last tacks. I also will never forget the crowd shaking their heads and saying it would never be a success as the hotel was too big and plushy for Las Vegas."

"My show budget at that time was \$1,000 for three acts. Advertising for the show consisted of just two pictures of the stars, and they were always dressed in Western style. The ads I ran in the *Hollywood Reporter* and *Daily Variety* consisted of the hotel personnel on horseback going for the mail and all sorts of gimmicks such as meeting guests at the train or plane with a stagecoach or any other Western vehicle I could find."

After her budget was raised to \$5,000, she was able to sign her first big-name attraction, Sophie Tucker, a friend from vaudeville days. The Last of the Red Hot Mamas didn't know where Las Vegas was located when first contacted, but when Lewis and the town's fire chief picked her up at the



The stylish Meadows opened in May 1931 (top). Liberace and Elvis are shown with Liberace's brother George (center). Another dynamic trio consisted of (from left) Louis Prima, Keely Smith, and Sam Butera on sax (bottom).

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The opening of the Desert Inn in 1950 signaled the start of the Golden Age.

railroad station and sat her on the hook and ladder truck, the visitor was overwhelmed. La Tucker, a firelady who loved firemen and all accoutrements, said it was the biggest thrill she had ever experienced. Further, while at the early Strip hotel Lewis discovered Liberate for Las Vegas and brought in the first ice show and the first big musical revue, "Earl Carroll's Vanities."

The next decade saw what is known as the Golden Age of Las Vegas, generally regarded to have begun with the premiere of Wilbur Clark's Desert Inn. Before the DI's debut on April 24, 1950, the three radio stations in Las Vegas plugged the opening show day and night. Television was not even on the town's horizon, but two newspapers were flashing big ads about the extravaganza, which led off with Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy, and invited Las Vegans to attend the opening of the new Bermuda-pink resort. "Come as informally as you like," intoned the announcers. "Remember, it's still the old West even though you're in the glamorous setting of Wilbur Clark's Desert Inn."

It was a sensational opening for not only the DI but also for the Golden Age. The hoopla was featured in *Time* and *Life*, accompanied by articles on the Senate investigation on crime headed by Senator Estes Kefauver. Some of the new Desert Inn owners had made Kefauver's list.

For the event an opening-record \$50,000 was spent to bring in Bergen, singer Vivian Blaine, Pat Patrick, Les

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

'Those really were
the good ol' days.
You could see
any major show
on the Strip
for the price
of a cup of coffee.'

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Charlivels, Ray Noble Orchestra, and the Arden-Fletcher Dancers for a fortnight. For the first 37 months the Desert Inn spent \$2.13 million for entertainment, big bucks in those times.

Beginning with the 1950 debut of the Desert Inn and lasting 15 years, the excitement created by new resorts being built and the astonishing influx of stars, revues, and Broadway touring shows set the era apart from all other years. Suddenly, so it seemed, Las Vegas became a mecca for outcasts from the laws of other constituencies, mobsters and minions of the big boys, who became the giants of this new entrepreneurial paradise.

And these giants, with renewed faith in their religion—gambling—and houses of worship—casinos—gave the desert town of 30,000 a cachet that has rarely been equaled since. Talk to the old-timers, get a slant from the early entertainers, and they'll wax



Jayne Mansfield and Mickey Hargitay.

all misty, sentimental, and lachrymose about the good old days. There was a certain class, maybe an elegance about the ambiance, although it was a "come as you are" freedom. Yet no one schlepped around in tank tops, cutoffs, and bare feet guzzling beer from a bottle amid the swank surroundings as in the '70s and '80s.

Columnist Murry Hertz, writing in the now defunct *Valley Times* eight years ago, caught the spirit beautifully:

"Yeah, those really were the good ol' days. If you're a newcomer to Las Vegas, you'll eat your heart out when you discover that in the '50s and part of the '60s you could see any major show on the Strip for the price of a cup of coffee. There were no such things as cover charges and minimums. A man with a necktie and jacket stood out like an Arab in Israel. It was strickly 'come as you are,' and they took it literally.

"It wasn't unusual for a local to walk into a hotel—any hotel—and be greeted by a half-dozen friends who all wanted to buy a drink, dinner, or whatever. It was a loose, liberal time, and Las Vegas was still a frisky pup and believed in giving half the joint away free, because in the long run the gaming tables would account for the profits."

The hotels on the Strip and downtown's Glitter Gulch took chances, frequently gambling on something different in entertainment. Shows were put together with a sense of the old, solid values of production and pizzazz. To a great extent entertain-



Streisand opened the International in '69.

ment directors knew their business and bosses allowed them to put the shows together for better or worse. If the worse shows never got better, there were changes, but by and large the record was a notable one for introducing new faces among the old for excellent contrast.

All of this glitter and glam called for a new slogan. Forget the simple logo of the Western cowboy character and his "Howdy Partner" blurb. Knock out "Daytime Sun, Nighttime Fun" and "Where World-Famed Celebrities Meet and Play on the World-Famed Nevada Gay White Way" as pertinent slogans.

"Go dream up a humdinger," the boosters sledgehammered.

Aided by the best phalanx of publicists ever assembled, each to his own hotel, the line finally run up the flagpole was "Las Vegas, Entertainment Capital of the World." That hyperbolic wow-non pareil statement was pilfered from the Hollywood Tourist and Convention Bureau, whose bimonthly slick publication screamed out, "Hollywood: Entertainment Capital of the World." What worked for Tinseltown has worked for Glitter City.

Mark down 1961 as one of the outstanding years for entertainment variety in Las Vegas. The roster 27 years ago and continuing for another four or five years into the decade had not been duplicated, nor could it be in these parlous times.

Imagine these choices in 10 Strip and Fremont Street hotels and lounges in a



Sammy and Coz are among the stars for whom one name says all.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Martin and Lewis ignored each other for 20 years until Martin was persuaded by Sinatra to appear on Jerry's Muscular Dystrophy Telethon.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

scan of attractions including Jayne Mansfield with Mickey Hargitay, Louis Prima and Keely Smith, Johnny Mathis, the musical "La Plume de ma Tante," Jane Froman, Victor Borge, Nat "King" Cole, Allen and Rossi, Rosemary Clooney, Frank Sinatra, Billy Daniels, Andy Williams, Harry James Orchestra, Jack Carter, Mary Kaye Trio, Johnny Ray in "A Night at Minsky's," Duke Ellington Orchestra, Jerry Colonna Revue, "Scandals on Ice," Dinah Shore, Bobby Darin, "Around the World in Sixty Minutes," Dunhills, Hank Henry and Sparky Kaye, Nalani Kele's Polynesian Revue, Sarah Vaughan, Dick Shawn, Vagabonds with Baby Pier, Tony Bennett, Hank Thompson, Benny Goodman Orchestra with Red Norvo, Charlie Shavers, Zoot Sims and Jimmy Rushing, and "Good Nudes of 1961," with Cathy Ryan and Bobby Sargent. All of these major and minor-major perform-

ers and revues played Las Vegas within the first month of 1961!

The high-flying mood had been established in January 1960, when Frank Sinatra called a Summit meeting at the Sands with Dean Martin, Sammy Davis, Jr., Peter Lawford, and Joey Bishop. Sinatra and Company were filming *Oceans Eleven* at the Sands, Hoover Dam, and surrounding neon fields and desert.

It was during a wild night in the Copa Room when Dean Martin rushed over to diminutive Sammy Davis, Jr., lifted him high off the floor, and pealed, "I want to thank the NAACP for this trophy." Actually the deathless line wasn't from the fertile mind of Dino. According to waiter Pan Larson, now 87 and still pushing drinks in a different Copa Room, it was comedian Joey Bishop who provided the whispered hoot into Martin's ear.

As for that famous Dean Martin quip about Sammy Davis, Jr., Jerry Lewis went through the same business lifting Sammy and shot the same line at Bally's last spring when they were co-headlining. Delicious irony—Jerry Lewis stealing Dean Martin's line provided by Joey Bishop. After their breakup in the '50s, Martin and Lewis had ignored each other for 20 years until Martin was persuaded by Sinatra to appear on Jerry's Muscular Dystrophy Telethon.

The '60s became a high-rising decade, not only in towering buildings on the Strip and downtown, but in prices to view entertainment in showrooms,

and even in some lounges.

Starting with a minimum of \$2.50 per person, the privilege of being seated in major showrooms rose to \$10 as the '70s came sidling in. It came to pass as 10 more years zoomed by that minimums of up to \$50 per person were leveled upon masochistic customers. For example, two cups of coffee with a shot of Tia Maria liqueur at a Caesars Palace opening for Diana Ross was tabbed at \$143.10. (Fortunately, I was comped.)

The late years of the '60s were influenced by the reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes. Affairs of state, county, and city became weighed by his presence after 1966, when he bought properties from one end of Nevada to the other.

His resort empire included the Desert Inn, Sands, Frontier, Landmark, Castaways, Silver Slipper, and Harolds Club in Reno. He vanished from his Desert Inn aerie on Thanksgiving morn 1970. Six years later he was dead and his empire continued as Summa Corporation and Howard Hughes Properties.

Hughes was the subject of many tall tales. There were these collections of quidnuncs—gossips—whose rumor



Rosemary Clooney at the Thunderbird.

mills floured constantly. One circulating yarn had Hughes locking horns

with Frank Sinatra, and the same one was bandied about only with band-leader Tommy Dorsey in the belligerent role.

The story takes place at one late, late show at the Silver Slipper in the early '50s, where both men, or the third, take your pick, brought their entourages night after night to watch the antics of hilarious Hank Henry and Sparky Kaye in burlesque epics. On this particular night Hughes came in early with his devotees and took tables usually reserved by Sinatra. When Sinatra arrived and saw his space usurped, he bumped the billionaire and made a thumbing gesture.

"Out, Howard," was all he said. And Howard moved.

For verification of the tale, Hughes was too elusive and Dorsey died. Therefore it was up to Sinatra to approve or deny the charges about the rude episode.

Many years later when Sinatra made his debut at Bally's, I asked him about the incident at the Silver Slipper. He looked blank for a moment, wrinkled his brow, and replied, "Not true. My confrontation with Howard was at the Sands where Jack Entratter and I were

(Continued on page 71)

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JUST FOR LAUGHS

*In Nevada, if you wanna be the top banana,
you gotta start at the bottom of the bunch.*

By Jack E. Sheehan



Shecky Greene, who has a unique view of the world, has been known to floor himself and the audience at the same time.

In the back lounge of the bowling alley, or the smoky bar next to the dry cleaner in the mini-mall, or the talent showcase held every Tuesday night at the Elks Lodge, you'll find them. They are the comedians of yesterday and the hopefuls of tomorrow, and they're playing somewhere near you, wherever you live.

Nine times out of 10 they bill themselves as "Straight from Las Vegas," or "Soon to open in Lake Tahoe," or "Played to packed houses in Reno." No one ever bothers to verify these claims. There's no point in rubbing it in.

Dropping Nevada's name is supposed to give instant credibility to a comic, despite the fact that he's currently working for the crumpled dollars sympathetic patrons stuff in the fishbowl on the piano. The bartender smiles as he watches the comedian stick two five-spots in the bowl before the first show. He knows that big dreams seldom come true. He had a few of his own, years ago.

But every now and then, maybe one in 5,000 cases, a comic breaks out of the

back room and into the big leagues. Through equal measures of talent and resilience—the tough-hidedness that comes from enduring years of hecklers and bad microphones and friends asking him gently when he plans to get a real job—the comic jokes his way to the main showrooms of Nevada. The secret once he gets there is the same as it's been all along: Make 'em laugh.

But showroom stakes are much, much higher than in small-town lounges. When you bomb in Sheboygan, you can still play Sheboygan. Bomb in Las Vegas, and you get blown out of the state.

Some talented comedians never adapt to showroom comedy. The late Ted Knight, for one, was a terrific television comic. He had great timing, a dependable variety of facial expressions that worked well in close-ups, and a distinctive voice that defined his character. But he was not a good storyteller, and he was used to getting more than one take.

Knight bombed as an opening act in Las Vegas on his first try, and threw in the towel. He admitted as much in an

interview at the time. "I thought, 'Hey, I'm a comic actor,'" he said. "I can do Vegas. I was wrong."

When Knight returned to television, he had another hit series.

An opposite case is Shecky Greene, who possesses a rare art for showroom comedy that doesn't translate well to television. His style is to tell long, winding stories that circle back to punch lines and key words. Watch Shecky in a one-hour performance, and you leave knowing you've seen a comic genius. His style requires more than the three minutes allowed in the impatient world of television.

One longtime Shecky-watcher recalls a night the comedian rose from the dead: "He was up there doing his routine and nothing was hitting, so he laid down on his back, folded his arms across his chest, stared up at the ceiling, and just kept on with his spiel.

"Well, Buddy Hackett was in the audience, and he came on stage and laid next to Shecky. And Victor Borge followed suit. The three of them were just lying there lined up, staring up into the lights, shooting the bull. The



Alan King and George Carlin say they appreciate savvy audiences.

audience went nuts."

Those who have survived in Nevada have thoughts on the nature of the audiences here, and what they've done to maintain—or perhaps "suspend" their sanity through the years.

George Carlin says the key to acceptance in Nevada is to be well-known. "I didn't like Vegas when I started there," he says. "I had to do the opening act,

and I got 22 minutes and people were dropping their knives and eating and throwing up on each other and nobody really knew me or cared about me."

With his success on television, in movies, and with comedy albums, Carlin saw the indifference gradually melt away. "Now people come to see me because they already know something about me. They have a totally different attitude. I get an hour and 10 minutes and there's no censorship of what I say "

Don Rickles loves Nevada audiences because they tend to be more carefree. "The people are away from home, and therefore more uninhibited," he says. "They are out of sight of the local sheriff, shall we say. They've also probably had a few more drinks than they'd normally have."

Alan King, who like Carlin has been successful because of multi-media exposure, says, "Nevada audiences are infinitely better than those you'll find in other parts of the country because they're more knowledgeable. They've seen the best and selected your show. They definitely are more relaxed than your typical audience. There used to be a cliché about Nevada audiences really having their hearts in the casino—that they weren't attentive because of that. But that doesn't apply anymore. I think Nevada audiences are probably the best I've ever worked in front of."

Norm Crosby says that with the growth of television, and cable channels beaming comedians into rural America at all hours of the day, Nevada has lost its edge on savvy audiences. "Nowadays, people in Spitball, Arizona, know all the comedians," he says. "TV is the great equalizer."

Crosby has more than a quarter cen-



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tury of memories from playing Las Vegas and Reno, but one stands out. "I was between shows at the Frontier," he says, "and I was hurrying to get next door to watch the fights at the Silver Slipper. We all used to catch the weekly fight cards there. So I'm really dashing and just as I'm about out the front door, this little old lady grabs my arm.

"You're wonderful, she says. 'Can I have your autograph?'

"Now I'm running late and wondering whether I should just bolt out the door. But I thought, 'Hey, if this is not why I'm in the business, then what's it really for?' She was a genuine fan. So I say, 'Do you have a pencil?'

"No, she says.

"Do you have paper?' I ask.

"No, she says.

"Then how can I give you an autograph?' I say.

"Just a minute,' she says, and turns to her friend.

"Mildred,' she says, 'Give me a pen and paper. I'm about to get Tony Bennett's autograph.'

"I about fell over laughing," says Crosby. "I signed it, 'God Bless You, Tony Bennett,' and dashed out the door."

No comedian has more Nevada ex-



Sheeky turned the stage into kindling on what he thought was the last night.

perience than Sheeky Greene, who best exemplifies the joy and torture of doing stand-up comedy for a living.

Perhaps Sheeky's grandest memory, one that can be savored by comedians playing everywhere from Caesars Palace to Mom's Diner, sums up all the rage and desperation that comes with the profession.

Back in the early '60s, Greene was playing the lounge at the Riviera Hotel, and night after night it was packed with admirers and many celebrities who frequently caught Sheeky's act between their own performances. Just before the final show of a two-week stint, Sheeky was informed that the next day the room would be converted into a keno parlor.

He came out on cue with a pickaxe, chopped the stage into kindling, and gave the pieces of wood to his fans for souvenirs. The next morning Riviera owner Ed Torres, not having heard what transpired the previous night, called Greene with the good news: "Guess what, Sheeky?" he said. "We've decided to keep the lounge open another month."

Jack E. Sheehan of Las Vegas is a widely published free-lance writer

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NORTHERN LIGHTS

Reno and Tahoe try harder with blockbuster billing and show-stopping concepts.

By Guy Richardson



Cheeks bulging, Las Vegas trumpets: "Entertainment Capital of the World!" A cynic from Northern Nevada might suggest that the real capital is a former swamp in New Jersey where the Giants play football and Madonna can fill a stadium with 50,000 fans on a moment's notice.

But if Las Vegas can call itself the capital in lore and deed, where does that leave Reno and Tahoe?

Depends on how you look at it.

True, Las Vegas has more revues and a couple of more big shows (Reno's main extravaganza is "Hello Hollywood, Hello"). But look carefully at this issue's show listings. Las Vegas is barely ahead in number of showrooms with a star policy. While perhaps five Southern Nevada hotels present the likes of Joan and Engelbert and Frank, in Reno-Tahoe the count is four, sometimes five—not bad considering that the Entertainment Capital is three times the size of the Biggest Little City.

But if Reno must take the role of Second City, it might call itself the Innovation Capital.

When Sinatra and Denver played their landmark double bill at Harrah's Tahoe, the phones were jumping with record reservations.

Generally, experts say, it's easier in Las Vegas to pack a showroom. "Las Vegas has that huge Los Angeles market to pull from," pointed out Bob McClure, former entertainment manager at Harrah's Tahoe and now an entertainment consultant.

"We draw from Northern California, San Francisco, and Eastern Nevada," McClure said. "In Las Vegas you can open the doors and people will show up. We have to try harder."

During McClure's 19-year stint at Harrah's, Northern Nevada began marketing aggressively, reaching out with experimental billings. In the early '70s, Harrah's Tahoe booked a harbinger of its bombshell double bookings of a few years later. In the South Shore Room, Dolly Parton and Doug Kershaw were teamed. Kershaw's Cajun music had just become the first music played from space to Earth (on an Apollo flight). Parton poised on

stardom's brink.

Today the billing sounds mundane, other than the fact that Parton opened the show rather than closed it. But the combo generated much press comment at the time.

Later we got Frank Sinatra and John Denver, back-to-back and singing a bit together. Then it was Sammy Davis, Jr. and Bill Cosby, billed as "Two Friends" and running jokes on each other.

"Northern Nevada seems almost a laboratory for doing things in entertainment," McClure said. Accordingly, we take chances. When Willie Nelson was still a nasal outlaw, he headlined in Northern Nevada with huge crowds before meeting success in the south.

The Reno stage was even a kind of springboard for one of America's preeminent talk show hosts. In 1976 Fitzgeralds featured a lounge singer named Sean Morton Downey—yes, that argumentative M.C., Morton Downey, Jr., who eventually gave up crooning for TV palaver.

Unusual stars often pop up in the North. The Peppermill has featured

(Continued on page 76)



SLOPES WITH THE MOST

The longest,
lightest,
steepest,
deepest,
highest,
biggest,
and best of
Reno-Tahoe skiing.

By Michael Greenan

When you stand on top of Heavenly Valley's Gunbarrel, you are on the edge of something almost beyond reason. Gunbarrel is steep, its face roughly parallel to the Stateline hotels, and the moguls are more numerous than this winter's new ski outfits. As you look down, the moguls get big, and then bigger.

Gunbarrel is only for advanced and expert skiers, some of whom like to attach superlatives to everything they do:

- I skied the steepest run.
- I skied the longest run.
- I skied the deepest powder.

I skied the most runs in one day
You hear such braggadocio at every hot tub and bar in Tahoe. But who really knows? What is the steepest run around? What is the most expensive ticket? Who gets the most snow? And where is the best skiing?

The best skiing in the United States, according to Rand McNally, is the Reno-Tahoe area. And for good reason, or reasons. The area has the largest concentration of ski resorts in the country. It has consistently sunny weather year-round, and there are more places to stay and apres-ski things to do than anywhere else.

So much for the big picture. Now

let's consider more basic questions of bragging rights at Tahoe.

Having the largest ski resort in the nation out your back door (if you're staying at South Shore) will get even the most jaded of skiers pumped up. Heavenly Valley, with more than 20 square miles of skiable terrain, is big in every sense of the word: nine mountains straddling two states, 26 lifts, and 3,600 feet of vertical drop. Heavenly has the highest peak elevation in the area—10,100 feet—and the longest single run, at five and a half miles.

Heavenly also has some of the steepest slopes, but since one skier's cliff is another's bunny hill, there is no con-



sensus on exactly which is the most hair-raising. Heavenly does have an area strictly for "super experts," Mott Canyon on the Nevada side, and you can bet that it is very steep. They're serious about the super-expert rating.

Across the basin from Heavenly, Squaw Valley has always been known for steep runs. The legendary KT22 was named for the 22 kick turns it took a skier to get down the mountain (this skier would have named it KT57), and that was on the mountain's easy side. KT's west face and nearby areas have couloirs with names like Chute 75. Remember, anything called Chute 75 is steep. The runs on Granite Chief also look and feel like cliffs and offer what the radical (good) skiers call "opportunities for creative skiing" and what most skiers would call "opportunities to die." But the real steep skiing at Squaw is on the Palisades, the 100-foot band of cliffs at the top of Squaw Peak. Actually, the skiing isn't on the Palisades, it's off the Palisades, and it's not actually skiing, but more like flying, or perhaps falling. Not recommended for recreational skiers or, for that matter, normal human beings.

In addition to the most cliffs, Squaw has the most lifts (27), the lift with the most capacity (the cable car holds 150 skiers), and some of the fastest lifts (the new detachable quads are so fast they can be exciting to ride). You can also buy the most expensive adult ticket at Squaw (\$32), and the least expensive child's ticket (\$5).

The cheapest daily lift ticket, by the way, is \$10 at Granlibakken, but if you really want to spend some cash, you can rent the entire Soda Springs Ski Area for \$2,000 a day.

With so much skiing available—17 resorts with tens of thousands of acres of skiable terrain—it's difficult to say which place has the best skiing. But for powder, the consensus is that the best and the lightest can be found at Mount Rose-Slide Mountain (the two resorts combined operations last year). Because of the moisture in the Pacific storms that carry the snow to Tahoe, Sierra snow is seldom light, dry, and fluffy. The Mount Rose-Slide area has a couple of advantages, though. It has

The moguls are renowned at resorts like Heavenly, the country's largest (opposite page). When Squaw hosted the Winter Olympics in 1960, Slide (top) was an alternative racing site. Snowboarders get a lift at Mount Rose and Slide (bottom) with Tahoe's best bet for powder

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the highest base elevation, 8,260 feet, and—because it is on the eastern edge of the Sierra—the storms by then tend to have less moisture and therefore more powder.

The area also can claim its share of superlative skiers. Many and at times all of the world's fastest skiers have lived and skied in the area. Dick Dorworth of Reno was the first skier to break 100 mph, which he did in Chile in 1963. Steve McKinney of Tahoe and Franz Weber of Reno have both held the speed record, which is now more than 130 mph. Melissa Dimino was the first woman to go over 120 mph.

Since Jimmy Huega of Tahoe City won a bronze medal at Innsbruck in 1964, the area has been home to some of the world's most successful racers. Current world-class racers include Eva Twardokens and Tamara McKinney, who was the first American to win the World Cup. That success is not limited to the younger Olympians. Norma Lausman and Fritz Siegenthaler are both master world champions, and Cindy McKee and Lane Spina are two of the best freestyle skiers in the world.

And then there are the locals who have set other kinds of records.

One day in 1984, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Don "Snoshue" Thompson of Reno and his friend "Kit" Carson White (combined age: 123 years) rode on 47 lifts at six different areas—Tahoe Ski Bowl, Homewood, Alpine Meadows, Squaw Valley, Northstar, and Incline. However, that mark was surpassed by Chuck Bluth of Crystal Bay's Cal-Neva Lodge and five friends who—with a little help from a helicopter—skied 55 different lifts at nine resorts from Slide Mountain to Sugar Bowl in one day.

Here are a few more facts that may interest both the radical skier and the more plebeian of us who are concerned with such things as the weather.

Oldest Ski Area: Sugar Bowl, which also had the first chair lift, in 1939.

Most Snow-making: Heavenly Valley has the most, but snow-making has always been big at Ski Incline and Boreal, and Alpine has expanded its operation considerably. After this year, Heavenly will have the most extensive

Reno-Tahoe Ski Resorts



Skiing Nevada

For prices, rentals, vertical feet, and other information on ski areas—both alpine and cross-country—at Tahoe and around the state, see page E-26 in this issue's *Nevada Events*. For more details on resorts, lodging, and winter attractions, good sources include the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority (702-827-RENO, 800-FOR-RENO), Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority (800-822-5922), the Tahoe North Visitors and Convention Bureau (800-824-6348), and the Nevada Commission on Tourism (800-NEVADA-8).

snow-making capability in the world.

Newest Ski Area: Ski Incline has been around for more than 20 years, but Diamond Peak at Ski Incline was just opened last year. The Diamond Peak expansion was the largest advanced ski terrain expansion undertaken in the Tahoe area in the last 10 years and transformed little, beginner-oriented Incline into a major resort with plenty of advanced skiing.

First Ski Lift: According to Don "Snoshue" Thompson, the mining community of La Porte north of Tahoe held ski races in the '70s—that's the 1870s—and the skiers would hitch rides on the ore buckets that went to the top of the hill.

Best Equipment: The hottest new boot this year is the Solomon SX92, according to Reno's Jackson Hogen,

equipment editor of *Snow Country Magazine*. The boot has more features than most new cars: cantable soles (the ability to tilt the sole from left to right), liner boards, and cuffs; Achilles fit adjustment; and a vertical plate with memory for the fore-foot adjustment. The hottest No. 2 boot is the Lange TSH, a self-heating boot that reached 160 degrees in 10 minutes in a test conducted by *Skiing Magazine*.

Biggest Craze: The most popular new ski trend is snowboarding. Steve Sheehan, owner of Bobo's Ski Shop in Reno, says he sold two snowboards two years ago. Last year he sold 60 and he'll exceed that this year. As many as 100,000 may be sold nationally.

Deepest Snow: The greatest snow depth officially recorded in the Lake Tahoe area was 412 inches at Daggett Pass, the summit of Kingsbury Grade near South Shore, in 1969.

Biggest Snow: The greatest 24-hour snowfall officially recorded at Tahoe was 48 inches, also at Daggett Pass, on January 5, 1982.

Biggest Winter: The most seasonal snowfall on record was at Donner Pass—795 inches during the winter of 1982-83.

And that's the kind of snowfall we want this year.

Michael Greenan is a Reno writer and longtime Tahoe skier

Last of the Desert Frontiersmen

When Jack Longstreet saw the Moapa Paiutes being double-dealed by a government agent, he spoke his peace.

By Sally Zanjani

Jack Longstreet was one of Nevada's great characters. He was a gunfighter, miner, rancher, horse trader, and outlaw during his long life (1838-1928). He spoke the Paiute language and married an Indian woman. He was tough but not without feeling. While he was feared by some men and bore the scars of numerous brawls, children in Tonopah knew him as a gruff, affectionate man who brought them candy on holidays.

This fascinating Nevadan is the subject of a new biography, *Jack Longstreet: Last of the Desert Frontiersmen*, by Sally Zanjani of Reno. Jack Longstreet, which is Zanjani's third book, was published this year by Swallow Press/Ohio University Press.

In the 1880s Longstreet was living in the Moapa Valley, northeast of Las Vegas. There, as the author tells in the following excerpt, his confrontation with authority "was the first hint that he was becoming a mediator willing to champion Indian interests in the white world."



Longstreet as depicted in the *Tonopah Daily Sun* in 1905.

By rights Longstreet's new drugstore in St. Thomas should have done a thriving business because, during the period when he opened his shop, fully two-thirds of the valley's settlers were reported laid up with the fever,

soon to be followed by measles and the epizootic. The malady had struck just when it was time for the fall plowing for barley and wheat. No doubt he dispensed such popular, all-purpose remedies of the period as Dr. Rush's Blood Root Oil, which promised to cure rheumatism, lumbago, backache, gout, quinsy, sore throat, swellings, sprains, burns, general bodily pains, toothache, earache, headache, frosted feet and ears, "and all other pains and aches."

It appears, however, that the saloon side of Longstreet's enterprise did an even brisker business. "U understand now Sant Tomas is not a town uv the past any longer," declared the *Pioche Record's* Moapa correspondent. "No sur, she kumin to the frunt, she iz. Mr. Jack Longstreet flung his dores open to the publik on the 17th of Sept., and we've had more fites since than enybody's town-its the salun and drug store I speak uv." Some of these fights may have been disputes related

to losses at cards. Another dispatch revealed that Longstreet had "succeeded in 'bagging' all the grain in the valley while instructing the honest ranchers in the various combinations of draw poker."

The riotous pleasures of saloon-keeping in St. Thomas, as well as the more subdued one of ministering to the sickly in place of a doctor, evidently failed to provide Longstreet with sufficient occupation. Presently he gave up the saloon to homestead 120 acres of land about six miles south of the Moapa Reservation. After a ranch purchased from an Indian was added to the homestead in late January 1883, rumors of unrest among the Indians drifted back to Pioche. Colonel W. R. Bradfute, the official in charge of the Moapa Reservation, wrote that the sale of the ranch had aroused dissatisfaction among the Indians, but subsequent events would show that his explanations of the sources of Indian discontent were not invariably to be believed.

While there were some happy and honest exceptions to the rule, venality among Indian agents and the farmer-agents placed in charge of the smaller reservations continued to plague the Bureau of Indian Affairs throughout the 1880s. Sarah Winnemucca observed that the Indian agents "get rich very soon, so that they can have their gold-headed canes, with their names engraved on them." Colonel Bradfute did not, so far as is known, go in for gold-headed canes, but Longstreet soon discovered how he treated the Indians. No doubt it was this that lay at the root of the escalating quarrel between the two men.

To most settlers in the Moapa, Bradfute's treatment of the Indians was a matter of indifference. They disliked him for other reasons. The *Pioche Record* might favorably describe him as "kindly" Colonel Bradfute, the "boss granger" of the Moapa, but his neighbors found him a foul-tempered, drunken, Simon Legree of the desert, living like a recluse in niggardly squalor while he amassed more wealth through sharp dealings with the Indians. The agricultural acumen of the boss granger was also open to question, as on the occasion when Bradfute planted and carefully tended an apple orchard, only to discover at harvest time that his rows of young trees were really quaking aspens. It may be noted

that, as reservation farmer, instructing the Indians in agricultural matters was among his primary duties.

It was in the course of passing the jug during a "convivial entertainment" at Phil Wright's hostelry on the Moapa that the long-simmering hostility between Colonel Bradfute and Longstreet at last broke into the open. Bradfute had emerged from his customary seclusion one day in mid-May 1887, at the time of year when people joked that the mosquitoes floating over the sagebrush attain the size of sandhill cranes, and encountered Longstreet. After both repaired to Wright's for refreshments, in company with several other men, an altercation ensued, later recounted in the *Pioche Record*:

"The generous wine of mine host

Bradfute planted
and carefully tended
an apple orchard, only to
discover at harvest time
that his rows of
young trees were really
quaking aspens.

warmed up the stomachs of the guests and the fumes of the spirit eventually percolated their brains and incited the awakening of trivial animosities, which had slept for many months in the breasts of Bradfute and Longstreet, each of whom had kept locked up within his heart, with all the stoicism of the Indian, a \$5 poker debt and a \$2 beef bill to offset it. In the midst of the hilarity which ensued, a gentleman whose appellation is Black Jack, became a topic of conversation and it would seem that Jack's reputation was quite freely discussed by the Colonel, as was also the reputation of Longstreet, both of which the Colonel pronounced as being decidedly bad. Then Bradfute dropped his right hand to his side, upon which Mr. Longstreet...snaked out his own battery with one hand and with the other hit the Colonel a diff alongside the jaw, knocking the old man off the box on which he was sitting to the ground. Afterward, on the outside of the house, Longstreet hit the Colonel another clip, which wound up

hostilities for the time being."

Determined to vent his rancor against Longstreet even if it took a hundred-mile ride, the angry colonel set off to Pioche, where he swore out a warrant for assault and battery against Longstreet. Sheriff Turner and his deputy journeyed south to arrest Longstreet, and it appears that a certain friendliness developed between the law officers and their tall, long-haired prisoner during the lengthy trek back to Pioche. On May 31, 1887, Longstreet stood trial and was promptly acquitted.

Longstreet was, so far as we know, the only man in the Moapa to speak out against the injustices suffered by the Indians under Bradfute, and four years later in Sylvania would again be seen trying to bring crude redress against another oppressive figure. So perhaps it was something more than spite toward Bradfute or the need to defend himself against his adversary's charges that pricked him three weeks later in the Moapa Valley. He could easily have melted away into the countryside as he knew so well how to do. But instead he remained obstinately at home on his ranch, risking much—if he was indeed a wanted man. As he laid out the ruled paper and awkwardly gripped the unfamiliar pen in his big hand, he may have been moved by grievances a good deal larger than his own.

The resulting documents, one written on June 20 to Nevada Indian agent W. D. Gibson at his headquarters at the Pyramid Lake reservation, and the other on June 26 to the Secretary of the Interior, are the only writings by Longstreet that have as yet been uncovered. Their grammar and spelling suggest an early encounter with some frontier school but not too prolonged an acquaintance. The second of these letters (the two were nearly identical) informed the secretary:

"Sir I Charge Mr. W.R. Bradfute of the Moapa Reservation or the Muddy River agency of being corrupt dishonest and incompetent to preform the duties of farmer at this agency.

Specifications:

1. I charge him with killing and selling Government catell for his own use and benifit

2. I charge him with hiring out those Goverment mules for pay and converting the same to his own use and benifit

(Continued on page 80)

THE GREAT NEVADA PICTURE HUNT 1988

PHOTO FINISH!

*Through the glass sharply:
Presenting the winners of this year's contest.*

Inside the Genoa Bar, Nevada's oldest continually-operating tavern, many relics line the walls, windows, and the adjoining antique store. Wayne Nash of Carson City stopped by the historic drinking establishment after dining across the street. Luckily, he had his Nikon FG loaded with film, because after he photographed some old bottles decorating a window ledge, he entered "Bottles, Genoa Bar" in the 1988 Great Nevada Picture Hunt and won first place.

Nash's winning photo brought praise from judge Kurt Molnar, a widely published photographer from South Lake Tahoe. "I would be proud to have taken that myself," Molnar said.

Another side of Nevada was depicted in "Elevator," the number-two shot. "All of the elements of a great photo were in this picture, namely light, content, and superior technical quality," Molnar said. Las Vegas Christopher Taylor, a frequent *Nevada* contributor and professional photographer, took this photo on the Park Hotel's parking-lot roof while the Lady Luck proudly showed its facade in the distance. "Actually, we just came back from a road trip and I wanted some skyline shots, so I drove to the top of the parking lot, and the light was just right," Taylor explained.

The third-place winner, "Vanishing Cowboys," was the top black-and-white pick, too. It was taken by Carson Valley photographer Jay Aldrich, also a *Nevada* contributor, who visited Genoa's annual Candy Dance and captured the dramatic shadows of the

performers. Judge Brian Buckley, *Nevada's* art director, said he liked the image because "it has the feel of a photo in *Life* in the 1930s or '40s." Aldrich, a professional photographer, works in both black-and-white and color. "I think black-and-white photos are more artistic, although both color and black-and-white have their place," he says. "This particular image wouldn't have worked as dramatically in color."

An image that did work well in color was Charles Davis' view of the abandoned mining mill at American Flats near Virginia City. The mill has been the canvas for graffiti artists over the years, and Davis, of Reno, liked a particular graffiti of a woman's face and named it "Infatuation." "This picture was different, and there was something about the eye and mouth and the softly-lit atmosphere that gave it a personality," Molnar said.



Guest judge Kurt Molnar

A moment in cowboy life was captured by Jeane Howerton while taking part in an annual cattle drive on her family's ranch near the Grant Range south of Ely. Howerton says the ranch was homesteaded in 1867 and boasts one of the state's oldest continually-used brands, having been recorded by her great-grandfather in 1881. After driving the cattle 12 miles into the mountains, Howerton saw that someone had thrown some gear and clothes in a pile. The lighting was perfect, and "End of the Ride" cinched fifth place.

This year's Great Nevada Picture Hunt attracted more than 1,000 photos from nearly 300 photographers. The judges were Molnar, who stepped in for Joanna Lucas, Buckley, and *Nevada's* production editor, Julie Quinn.

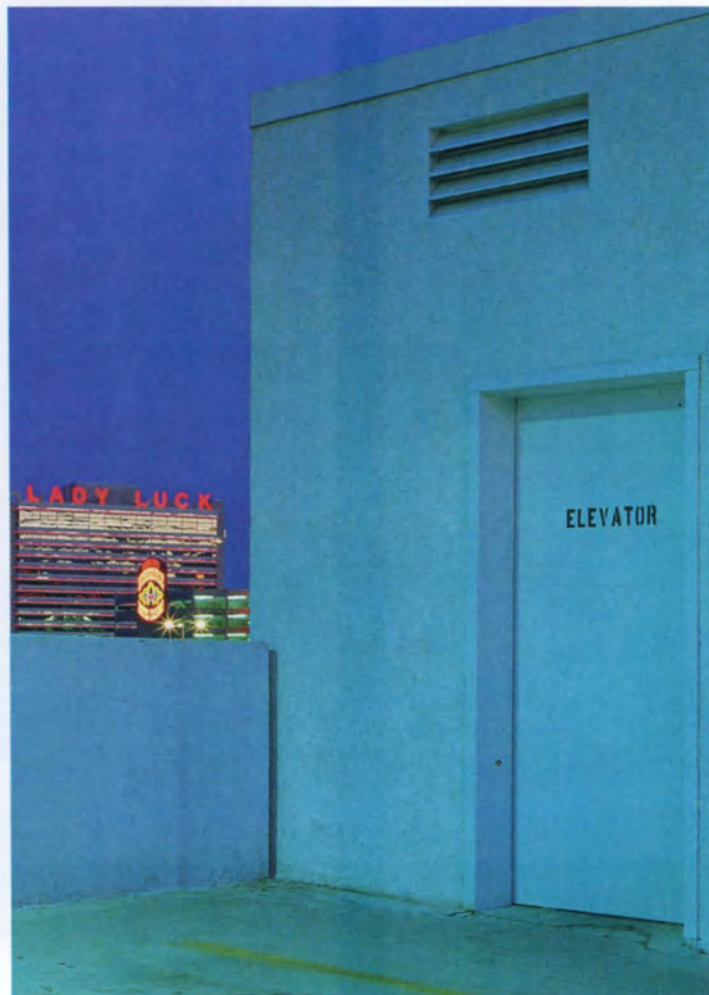
Many of the photographers presented Nevada in a rural light, catching glimpses of rusty machinery, weathered wood, and long, endless stretches of the Silver State's roads. The judges said they noticed a lack of black-and-white, scenic, and urban photos in this year's entries. Molnar was surprised that there were few photos of Tahoe or any other lakes. Also, a lot of good color prints were spoiled by poor printing, prompting Buckley to suggest that if photographers aren't familiar with the quality of printing they'll receive, they should stick to slides.

A number of the winners had an art feel to them, which appealed to Molnar. "I look for interesting lines, a photo where somebody was thinking a little differently," he said.

As we can see, many top finishers fit that description. —Julie Quinn



1st Place: "Bottles, Genoa Bar"
Wayne Nash, Carson City



2nd Place: "Elevator"
Christopher Taylor, Las Vegas



5th Place: "End of the Ride"
Jeane Howerton, Las Vegas



6th Place: "Twice as Nice"
Pamela Sue Sobol, Las Vegas



4th Place:
"Infatuation: American Flats"
Charles S. Davis
Reno



Ghost Town: "Wall Detail"
Sid McCammand, Yuba City, CA.



8th Place: "Doug and Ring"
Robin Paine, Yerington



9th Place: "Beaupre de Montaigne"
Patrick Paine, Virginia City



Urban: "Rodeo Parade"
Marcia Gille, Reno



Wildlife: "Battle Born—Carson Valley"
Don Tomick, Fremont, CA.



Water: "Of Angels and Ice"
Clyde Souter Reno



Urban People: "Work Light"
J.S. Hollingsworth, Carson City



Rural: "Another Winter"
April Oakden, Fallon



Recreation: "Climbing on Shakespeare Rock"
Bill Serniuk, South Lake Tahoe, CA.



Events: "Cold Air Inflation"
Susan Sorensen, Sparks

(continued)



WINTER SUNRISE, THE SIERRA NEVADA, FROM LONE PINE, CALIFORNIA, 1944
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Rural People: "Eugene Buzzetti, Lamoille Rancher"
John Tylczak, Carson City



10th Place: "Preparing For a Bath—Sutro"
James Gordon Gill, Seal Beach, CA.



3rd Place: "Vanishing Cowboys"
Jay Aldrich, Minden



7th Place: "Paradise Valley, Nevada"
John Tylczak, Carson City



A Comstock Christmas

In 1936 my family moved to Virginia City. I was four years old and my brother, Jimmy, was 16 months younger. My mother, who was called Olie, short for Lola, was newly married to our stepfather, Pat Hart, who had come to Virginia City to work in the mines. We lived in a dingy little apartment on the second floor of a hotel building, built at least 50 years earlier. The apartment's three rooms were a kitchen and two bedrooms, one with a window and one without. My brother and I shared the windowless bedroom. We also shared the bathroom at the end of the hall with all the other tenants in the building.

As that first holiday season in Virginia City approached, we had no Christmas tree or decorations, but each blizzardy afternoon, as the snow drifted up to the windows, my mother would draw three rickety wooden chairs close to the wood stove. Covering us with a blanket to protect us from the icy winds that blew through the

*Santa brought
lots of holiday joy
that morning
back in 1936.*

By Joyce A. Harper

cracks in the walls, Mom told us stories and sang to us with a clear, high voice that rang like Christmas bells. The song I most remember her singing was that joyful Christmas fantasy, "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town."

*"Oh, you better watch out
You better not cry
You better not pout
I'm telling you why
Santa Claus is coming to town!"*

*"He sees you when you're sleeping
He knows when you're awake
He knows when you've been
bad or good
So be good, for goodness' sake!"*

My brother and I were overcome with curiosity about this Santa Claus. How could he see everything we were doing and know when we were bad or good? One thing for sure—we knew he was coming to town.

At long last Christmas morning came for Jimmy and me. We rose very early, full of excitement, and scurried from our beds to our parents' bedroom. There we found a bright red wagon for Jimmy and the most beautiful doll I had ever seen for me. She was wearing a frilly pink dress with a matching bonnet and tiny white shoes and stockings, and her bright blue eyes, with their long, silky eyelashes, opened and closed. I sat on the floor and stared at my new doll, examining her from head to toe. "I have to think of a name that's as pretty as you are," I told her, rocking

her slowly back and forth and watching her wide, glassy eyes open and close. "I know! I'll name you Angel, because you came on Christmas."

Jimmy and I spoke to one another in whispers. Dad had not come home from the mines until the early hours of the morning, so he and Mom were still asleep. The floor was cold and I retreated to my own bed, where I covered Angel and me with the thin flannel sheet and grey army blanket. It was still dark as I cuddled her closely, feeling the scratchy bonnet on my face. I held the small, smooth hands and fingers and smelled the newness of my precious possession. Then I closed my eyes and fell asleep, holding my new baby very close.

Upon awakening I heard Mommy and Daddy talking to Jimmy about his new wagon. I leaped out of bed to show them what Santa had brought me. "Look, look! Isn't she beautiful?" Mommy gave me a hug and took the doll from my arms. With tears in her eyes she said softly, "Yes, Joycie, she is beautiful." She inspected the doll's blonde curls and lifted her pink skirt and lacy slip as if checking to see whether she was properly dressed. "Go get some warm clothes on,"

Mommy ordered, placing the doll in my arms, "and I'll prepare a nice Christmas breakfast for us."

As I dressed I could smell bacon frying on the huge wood stove that took up most of the kitchen. Mom was preparing a sumptuous breakfast of pancakes, bacon, and eggs. I gathered Angel lovingly and padded out to the tiny wooden table next to the front

Towels stuffed in the
wide crack along
the bottom of the door
kept out
the cold wind and
drifting snow.

door. Towels stuffed in the wide crack along the bottom of the door kept out the cold wind and drifting snow. The table had only three chairs; Jimmy and I took turns sitting on an orange crate. I took a chair. This time it was Jimmy's turn to sit on the crate.

We laughed and talked over the

holiday meal, and after breakfast Daddy said, "Olie, it's time to move to a bigger apartment!"

Mom looked surprised. "What are you talking about?"

"Godfrey Warner offered me a job tending bar at the Washoe Club Saloon. He wants us to take an apartment up the street. He owns that building, too. He'll pay the first month's rent! He'll also pay me 20 dollars a week, which sure as hell beats what I've been making at the Chollar Mine!"

"When do we move?" Mom asked delightedly as she perched herself on Daddy's lap.

"How about next week?" Pat asked with a grin that broadened his Irish face.

Jimmy squealed with joy and jumped off the orange crate, tipping it over with a loud bang, and I slid out of my chair, still chewing on a slice of bacon. We grabbed hands and danced on the uneven floor, stubbing our toes on broken pieces of linoleum, while Mom and Dad kissed and hugged that long ago Christmas morning in Virginia City.

Joyce A. Harper of Reno is currently working on a book about life on the Comstock.

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Mary Jane Falls

The trail on Mount Charleston winds upward through more than a mile of scattered pines and aspen groves. After a 45-minute hike, Kyle Canyon emerges, deep, with cliffs to the north and south. It's a strenuous climb for the last half mile but well worth the effort, as Las Vegas photographer Kate Butler discovered. In this unusual winter view, Mary Jane Falls is frozen in reverse. During the last few months crystalline fingers have grown upward from a pond. Drop by drop, drip by drip, the fingers struggle to touch the steep bank that is, at once, its life and purpose. ▢



Himalayan Snowcock

High along the alpine ridges of the Ruby and East Humboldt mountains lives an exotic game bird transplanted to North-eastern Nevada from its native Pakistan by the Nevada Department of Wildlife in 1963. The Himalayan snowcock, which resembles a giant chukar, weighs up to seven pounds and is renowned for its elusiveness. Moving in coveys of 20 to 30 birds, the snowcock clucks and chatters as it climbs quickly up narrow crevices to evade hopeful hunters and birdwatchers. It is a wary bird, living at 9,000 feet, and can be approached to within only 100 yards or so. The bird above was found and photographed by James D. Bland of Merced, California, near Thomas Peak in the Rubies.

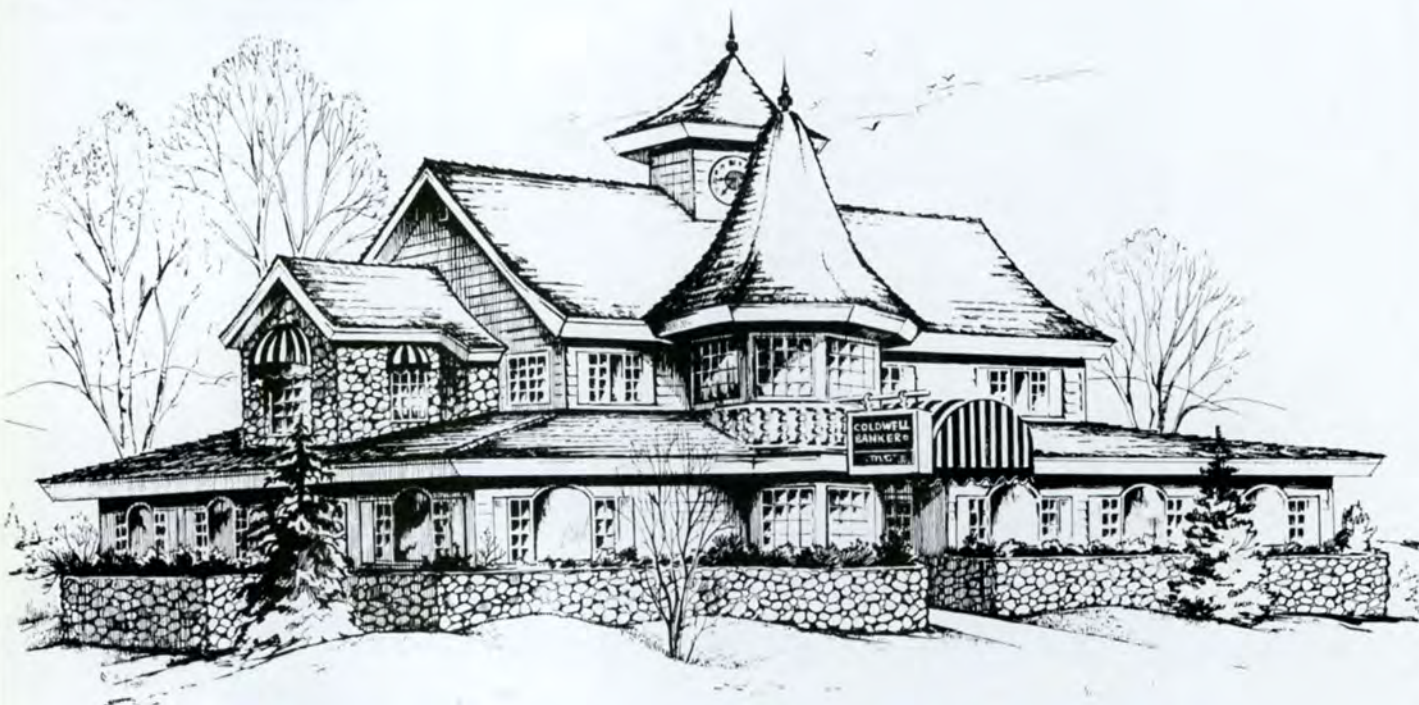
In America the bird roosted only in Nevada until 1979, when the department gave some snowcocks to Oregon, and from there it was introduced into other states and Canada. However, those transplants are now domesticated, so Nevada is still the only state with a wild snowcock population. —*Julia Brown* □

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MAIN STREET

TAHOE BY THE BAY

Crystal Bay has its own unique legacy on the lake.

By David Fenimore



Some days it's hard getting a spot in line at the phone booth next to Crystal Bay's post office. Late-model pickups and old sedans with California license plates crowd the parking lot as drivers line up to place their calls.

Those people are just typical out-of-staters taking advantage of Crystal Bay—in this case, by avoiding long-distance tolls to Reno and Carson City.

Crystal Bay is one of several tiny towns on Tahoe's northern shore, but with a difference. It offers the convenience of crossing the state line in a business district where new laws are suddenly and visibly in force. The



Crystal Bay's main street (top) and lakeside setting.

19th-century lumbermen who stripped the surrounding slopes paid scant attention to the state line, but the real-estate speculators of the 1920s did, augmenting Tahoe's charms by touting Nevada's tax-free status. In 1931 the state finally legalized gaming, and

indoor sports that had flourished in saloons and logging camps suddenly became respectable.

It's easy to think that tourists crossing the line are the whole picture, but much of Crystal Bay is hidden above and below the Highway 28 guard rails. When the clubs and restaurants are clogged with vacationers, the boaters on the lake can gaze up at a different part of town: the hillside

homes, some dating from the 1920s and '30s, that hang from the rocky slopes of one of Tahoe's oldest and most distinguished neighborhoods.

An equally satisfying perspective can be obtained by finding the steep, mostly unpaved road that climbs a

couple miles from the fire station to the Stateline Fire Lookout, elevation 7,071 feet. Built in 1937, it's a one-room wooden shack with four big windows, perched atop a long-necked ridge that protrudes into the lake like a sleeping brontosaurus. Around it snakes a 15-minute nature walk, somewhat the worse for vandalism and encroaching vegetation.

From the lookout a broad sheet of blue water spreads across the horizon, walled in by rows of snowy peaks. Below, the land draws to a point, and a brief cluster of casinos, parking lots, hotels, and highways is laid out as if on an architect's plan. The state line runs through here and straight south to the middle of the lake, where it angles southeasterly to Stateline's casino center on the south shore. To the east, Crystal Bay, Nevada; to the west, Brockway, California. One region, unified by nature, settled by the same stalwart pioneers, now divided by an imaginary line into Silver and Golden states.

The initial position of the border was established in 1862, but a subsequent dispute arose between Nevada and California, with both states claiming a quarter-mile strip of land including the historic Brockway Hot Springs resort, founded in 1869. In 1872 the Von Schmidt survey, financed by California, gave the line its current location. Despite rumors of mysteriously shifting survey markers, Von Schmidt's calculations stood, and California won the argument. Every 25 years or so the dispute flickers back into life, causing casinos and title companies to shiver, then quickly dies.

From this spot you can see the vast watery semicircle of Crystal Bay spreading to the east, surrounded by a half-mile-high wall of mountains. Named after logger George Crystal, its steep shoreline offers a breathtaking Tahoe panorama of greenish shoals plunging abruptly into the dark blue depths.

Tahoe's deepest point, 1,645 feet, is one-and-a-half miles off the Crystal Bay shoreline, where it was accurately sounded in 1875 by Truckee pioneer C.F. McGlashan with a lead-filled champagne bottle. Over it all broods Mount Rose, 10,800 feet of extinct volcano, streaked with snow and carpeted with wildflowers in all but the driest summers.

Far below the lookout Chuck Blan-



Postal employee Janel Scoufos (top), CBGID chairperson Meri McEneny (middle), archaeologist Chuck Blanchard (bottom left), and resident Ed Black (above).



The Cal-Neva Lodge was buried in the winter of 1952. In the 30's the club burned down and was rebuilt in 31 days.

chard maneuvers his canoe close to a beach below the Cal-Neva Lodge. A few feet down in the clear greenish water there is a maze of potholes in the immense granite slabs that litter the bottom. "It's a regular soup kitchen of grinding mortars down there," he explains. "Used to be a big fish processing center." On the beach, looking a little out of place, sits a white quartz boulder. "Fire-cracking," speculates Blanchard, wielding his paddle to get a better look. "They built fires around the rock and cracked off pieces with cold water." The rippled sand beneath the canoe sparkles with crystalline flakes.

The stocky, bearded archaeologist is living out of his pickup while he performs a low-water survey of most of Tahoe's shoreline for the U.S. Forest Service. Today he drifts along in the sunshine taking notes and photographs. Above his slouch hat looms the Cal-Neva's rectangular tower next to the peaked roof of the old lodge. There, in the Indian Room, is exhibited a genuine grinding stone, relic of these first seasonal visitors who migrated to Da-ow-a-ga ("edge of the lake") to fish and pursue other summer activities for thousands of years until the loggers arrived.

Blanchard points his paddle toward a dilapidated cabin on the edge of the lake where, according to legend, then-President Jack Kennedy participated in summer activities with Marilyn Monroe while they were guests at Frank Sinatra's Cal-Neva Lodge.

The Cal-Neva began in 1927 as a not-

*At the Cal-Neva
a couple of
parking spaces
are still marked
"Mr Sinatra"—
just in case.*

so-humble log cabin, built astride the state line by original Crystal Bay developer Norman Biltz. Those were the days of \$500 lakefront lots, and Biltz and his partners needed a place to wine, dine, and lodge their clients. In 1937 the place burned down and then was rebuilt by a crew of 500 workers in 31 days. Over the years the Cal-Neva earned the nickname "Lady of the

Lake," weathering heavy snowfalls and the remodelings of a succession of owners.

During the 1940s and '50s the shots were called by serious gamblers with names like Pretty Boy, Bones, and Baby Face, culminating in the Sinatra years of 1960-63. Along with his associates Wingy and Skinny, the singer from Hoboken built a helicopter pad on the roof and livened the summers by inviting his colleagues to entertain. Dean Martin, Trini Lopez, Vic Damone, Juliet Prowse, and the McGuire Sisters, among others, sang for their suppers in the Indian and Celebrity rooms, while politicians and Hollywood stars played at the tables and the private cottages along the beach. The presence of one particular guest, a Mr. Sam Giancana of Chicago, finally cost Sinatra his license in a losing battle with the State Gaming Control Board.

The Lady was dormant for nearly 20 years before a new round of owners revived her in the '80s. Current operator Chuck Bluth has been building the wedding trade—sometimes 30 ceremonies in a peak summer weekend, in three separate chapels. "He's a rebel," says a fellow gaming executive of Bluth, "but a good one." Civic-minded Bluth has also donated the use of his



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showroom, the only such facility on the North Shore, to a variety of local performing arts groups. And, just in case, a couple of the parking spaces in back are still marked "Mr. Sinatra."

Up on the main street, the Crystal Bay Club has kept the original roofline and some of the stonework from the old Ta-Neva-Ho, the closest Crystal Bay ever got to a shopping mall. From the 1930s until well into the '60s it contained at various times a laundry, drugstore, post office, bank, dress shop, bowling alley, and dance studio. As a Kings Beach teenager, Roberta Peden Dale worked at Crystal Bay Drug in the early '60s, when it occupied the east wing of the current club. "We had a little bit of everything," recalls Roberta, "but most of the people came in to buy six-packs."

With a low-slung, contemporary look from its most recent remodeling, the Crystal Bay Club still offers a few friendly neighborhood services: check cashing, an inexpensive coffee shop, and nightly dancing to mainstream rock 'n' roll bands. Club spokesperson Trish Colby says proudly, "We have never closed our doors."

"It used to look like a bombed-out bus depot." Tahoe Biltmore marketing director Jerry Sun is referring to the north stateline casino core in general, but his remarks have special meaning for the old Nevada Lodge, which opened in 1946 as the Biltmore. Now the original name has been restored, and what Sun terms the neglect of the past 20 years has been swept away. "There was duct tape on the floors," he reports in shocked tones. "Now we're dressing her up again."

The Biltmore's new owners have gotten rid of all the duct tape and all the vintage slot machines as well. During the 1960s when the club's Nevada-shaped cowboy mascot grinned over the highway, the risqué show "Viva Les Girls" was the talk of the North Shore. Taking a cue from the past, Sun booked ageless stripper Tempest Storm into the Savoy Lounge for the summer and plastered banners touting her charms on every available wall in Crystal Bay.

Many of the club's patrons come in on tour buses and fan out to graze the entire landscape. Some of the others, observes Sun, are wearing coats, ties, and dresses. If true, this trend could signal a return to the North Shore's former aristocratic ambiance. In those days working men in open-throated shirts and women in slacks stayed on

the South Shore while at Crystal Bay rows of shiny black limousines filled the casino lots, bringing men in tuxedos and women in diamonds and furs to the Cal-Neva or the Biltmore after a day of boating or tennis. North Tahoe resident Scott Schroepfer says he remembers his parents encountering Ronald Reagan and Jane Wyman at the gaming tables, whiling away a starry summer night under the pines.

The old Sierra Lodge, once owned by a man known only as Whitey, is now Jim Kelley's Nugget, rebuilt and modernized after a fire in 1980. It's a small operation, relying on walk-in trade, banks of slot machines, and one lone card table. Some Nugget employees hold seasonal jobs in Palm Springs, so Kelley obligingly closes his doors each winter, opening one or two days to satisfy an obscure state gaming regulation.

Kelley's practice is the only relic of those early winters when a frozen lid screwed down tight on the North Shore, the clubs all closing from Labor Day till spring. Most of the population followed the Washoes' example of migrating to warmer climes. Often the storms settled in for days, closing the roads with 20-foot drifts. Since the end of World War II, however, the roads are regularly plowed, skiers are bused to the lifts, and Crystal Bay offers around-the-clock gaming 365 days a year. For a little town with few other amenities, this is significant. "It's fun having the clubs around," admits one resident. "You don't think about them, but they're there."

Other north-stateline casinos—the Bal Tabarin, the La-Vada, the Tahoe Mariner—have been boarded up and abandoned for years, their wooden walls echoing with the music of laughter and big bands. The most promising future may belong to the Mariner, formerly the Northshore Club and recently operated by long-time Crystal Bay gaming personality Ray Plunkett, who now works at the Cal-Neva. There has been talk of turning the site into a community park.

The post office is a place where one can feel the town's barometric changes. Janel Scoufos, a nine-year veteran of the Crystal Bay post office, says she first noticed that the Cal-Neva was reopening when her boxholder count suddenly increased. She likes to point out that her compact facility is the main post office while the much

Where spectacular
lake views
are the coin of
the realm, every
resident has
at least a pocketful
of change.

larger unit at Incline Village, two miles down the road, is only a branch. "I really like it here," she says. "No one ever shows up to bother us."

Coming from a small town in Oklahoma, she feels right at home in Crystal Bay. "I grew up knowing everybody's business, and I know when my customers come and go, get married or divorced." Many of them are Incline Village residents who have trouble finding a parking place at their own post office. "I'm the most constant thing they see at Tahoe. I box their mail when it's misaddressed, hold their mail

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when they're out of town, witness their signatures—I even had a customer who called and had me take a check out of his box and deposit it for him. They send us baby pictures and postcards. It's like a big family."

Periodically a California Highway Patrol officer shows up at the post office to investigate members of the postal family from the Golden State who rent boxes to evade state income taxes or register their cars and boats in Nevada. "He catches people," she testifies. "One of my customers had to pay

Jarvis built
a tramway, using an
ore car with tracks
reclaimed from
the defunct
Virginia & Truckee line.

\$1,000 in back taxes."

Wes Howell, who has been picking up his mail at Crystal Bay for 15 years, also lives in town. "The trouble is that it lacks a center," surmises realtor Howell, a 26-year Tahoe local and former proprietor of Slide Mountain Ski Area. "It's a bedroom town for Incline Village."

Unless they have jobs at the clubs, most of the town's working residents commute to Incline Village. Whether they gather at the casino bars or the post office, however, their bedrooms (including Howell's) are worth it. Contemporary showpieces of all shapes and sizes cling to the slopes above and below the highway, catching the morning sun alongside rustic "old Tahoe" cabins sided with shaggy bark and topped by cedar shakes. Rows of long stairways angle down to the shoreline rocks. Where spectacular lake views are the coin of the realm, every resident has at least a pocketful of change.

The views and potential solitude attracted old-time residents like Eugene Jarvis, who had owned a restaurant in Reno until he retired in 1944. But he didn't like sitting around, so he bought part of the Crystal Bay lakefront and built himself a lodge with 16 guest rooms, each with a stunning view. The plush dining room was open all year, but Eugene's Chalet was best known for its patio, where diners ate their steaks hundreds of feet over the water.

To ease the ordeal of negotiating 257 steps to and from his dock, Jarvis scavenged parts from Virginia City mines and built a tramway, using an ore car running on tracks reclaimed from the defunct Virginia & Truckee line. The tram, along with the yellow two-story bunkhouse, remains a landmark for boaters in the bay.

At first, Eugene Jarvis was unable to get himself a liquor license, but he couldn't bear to serve fine food without the appropriate libations. So he poured the drinks for free, installed two large porcelain cats by the bar, and asked imbibing patrons to "feed the kitties." Recalls Crystal Bay resident Mary Kravchonok of her uncle Eugene: "He was a great host."

By 1950 business at Eugene's was brisk enough to spark a lawsuit by 13 Crystal Bay residents on the grounds that his operation violated zoning regulations. In fact, many of Jarvis' additions and remodelings had attracted the red tags of early regulators.

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The case was settled when Jarvis proved that, before the road was built in 1926, tourists came by water to eat at a restaurant on the same spot.

Summer resident Ed Black comes from another old Reno family, whose ranch once occupied the present corner of Vassar and South Virginia streets. He sees a definite difference between Crystal Bay and the "Dream Town," as Incline was called during its development in the early 1960s.

"We were here a long time before they were," says Black. With his wife Jackie he moved to Incline Beach in 1958, before there was anything called Incline Village. The Blacks lived along the beach when the company began promoting it as "Millionaire's Row." Soon the second-growth trees were cut, homes began sprouting, and, according to Black, "we were surrounded. We weren't allowed to use their beach or their swimming pool, but we had to use their sewer. We were forced into Incline Village because of this sewer thing, even though all of us on the beach wanted to stay out." So the Blacks moved to Crystal Bay, where they had been getting their mail for years.

"We had the first fire station," says Black. "Incline Village wouldn't support the district, even though it cut their Village Shopping Center in half. So we went out and painted a three-foot line on all the streets that crossed the boundary. When our fire trucks went out, they knew without a map that if they crossed the line they'd be out of their district. Incline Village joined up fast."

Meri McEneny, who has chaired the Crystal Bay General Improvement District ("Cee-bee-gid") for the past two years, lives year-round in the former summer cabin of a Reno minister who built it a good ways up from the highway in 1949. A footpath used to provide access. "He wanted to be away from the hustle and bustle," speculates Meri, a serious yet pleasant young woman given to occasional outbursts of mirth. You can drive right up to the old house now, but she prefers to walk or bicycle with her spaniel Beau.

When she bought the house in 1979, neighbor John Ferrante encouraged her to attend a CBGID meeting at the Crystal Bay Club. "They had just decided that board members had to have their main residence here, so there were suddenly a few vacancies. I went through the process and there I was."

McEneny and other district officials

'The old-timers are
pretty independent—
they don't want
stronger ties with Incline.
It's a question
of lifestyle,
not property values.'

oversee essential functions such as sewer and water service, both of which are contracted to out-of-towners. A private company pumps and purifies lake water for residents, and the Incline Village GID ("Iv-gid") operates and maintains Crystal Bay's sewer system and treats the resulting effluent. In fact, as a result of the EPA-mandated switch from septic tanks to sewers in 1974, Crystal Bay's casino district and the residences south of it on Stateline Point were absorbed into IVGID, leaving 124 homes (and 99 registered voters) to make up the

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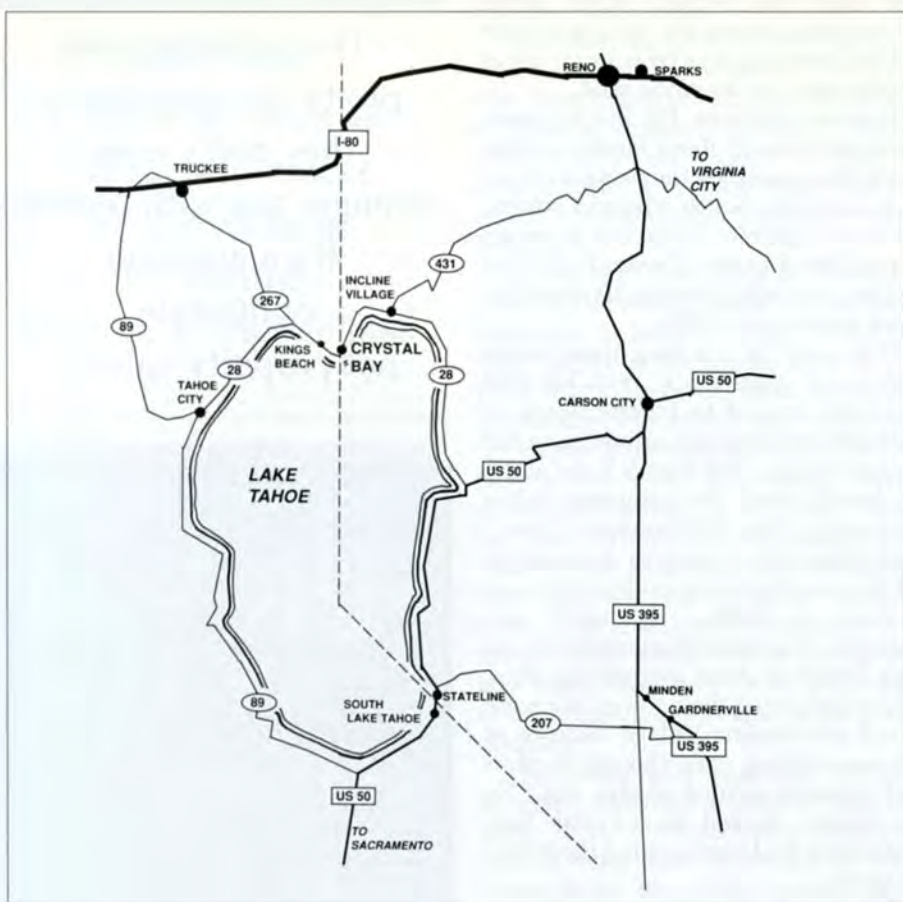
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Crystal Bay: Around Town

Sitting flush against the California border, Crystal Bay is Nevada's westernmost town. About 600 residents and four casinos call Crystal Bay home, and the town plays host to hordes of motorists bound for winter ski slopes or summer beaches along Lake Tahoe's Highway 28. Incline Village is two miles away, Reno is 36, and Carson City is 28.

With no public beach or boat ramp, the town's only field trip is to the fire lookout. To get there turn west on Reservoir Road, go up a block to the fire station, and turn right. Fork left at every opportunity as you climb the hill until you top out at a parking pullout. Walk a mile or so up the trail to the end of the ridge. No matter what the weather, the view is worth it.

The next best view is from a first-class room at the Cal-Neva Lodge. There are a few shops to browse in down below, and you can get married in a flower-bedecked chapel or catch a free shuttle bus to your favor-

ite North Shore ski area.

Entertainment usually centers around the Tahoe Biltmore, where Jerry Sun books big bands, rock bands, even an occasional burlesque show. The Crystal Bay Club also offers dancing to popular music, and the Cal-Neva's marquee announces special events like opera, boxing, and Broadway shows.

Dedicated diners queue up for the Crystal Bay Club's Steak and Lobster House, and the adjoining coffee shop provides inexpensive fare. Housed in a vintage log cabin, the Soule Domaine is a few feet inside California, but who's surveying? Chef Charlie Soule crafts elegantly modern presentations of fish, fowl, and four-footed beast.

If all you're really after is a six-pack, the Crystal Bay Market fits the bill, and whenever Jim Kelley's Nugget opens for a day or for the season you can look forward to king-sized cocktails and double-jackpot time announced over the PA every 15 minutes. —David Fenimore

diminutive Crystal Bay district.

"Couples—that's what the whole place is, and a few renters. Hardly any children. It's real different from the rest of the lake." Meri McEneny ticks off reasons why Crystal Bay would be better off as a part of Incline Village: reduced utility fees, an improved water system, and access (for a compulsory fee) to Incline's ski hill, swimming pool, golf courses, and—if the terms of an old deed could be changed—to Incline's beaches. "The old-timers are pretty independent—they don't want stronger ties with Incline, although we don't really have any good reasons to be autonomous. It probably costs us money, but it's a question of lifestyle, not property values."

A hot item on CBGID's agenda is public access to the lake, which is indicated on maps but is jealously guarded by homeowners below the highway who fear an influx of beachgoers littering the few scraps of sand among the boulders. A major invasion is unlikely, however. "There's never going to be parking there," McEneny points out.

Other projects include deciding how to allocate the town's 48,000 square feet of additional commercial space allowed by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's new master plan. There are peak-season traffic problems to be dealt with, when visitors' cars are gridlocked on Highway 28 from the condominiums in Incline Village across the state line to Kings Beach. The days of casino expansion are over, but a conference center has been mentioned.

There's more pavement now than in the days when the Cal-Neva Lodge was surrounded by pines, and the remaining pines are overshadowed by the casinos' towering electric signs. Condominiums now cluster around the old homesteads. If Crystal Bay is to grow economically, more of this modernization is probably inevitable. If it is to maintain its identity as an elegant old Tahoe settlement, careful planning must ensure that any new building is balanced with the surrounding scenery.

Meri McEneny would like to see limited camping on the ridgetop behind the lookout and maybe a downlink from the soon-to-be-completed Tahoe Rim Trail. Would CBGID be interested in fixing up the nature walk at the fire lookout? "Actually," she says, "that's in California."

Tahoe resident David Fenimore raised goats in Crystal Bay during the 1970s.

Nevadans

Rollan Melton

Foreword by Robert Laxalt



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Mary Mine, 1912

In 1912 Thomas Jacques left San Jose, California, for the rough-and-tumble world of mining. Previously he had sung for San Francisco's Western Metropolitan Opera, but now he worked inside the Mary Mine, one of many successful gold mines in the area 30 miles southwest of Tonopah known as Silver Peak.

Jacques, then in his early 30s, enjoyed the company of other adventurers, experiencing a place that the *Tonopah Daily Times* called a "mecca for tin horn gamblers." When he finally returned to

California three years later, he took with him a few good pictures of what life was like in south-central Nevada.

Whether these pictures came from Jacques' camera or someone else's, no one knows for sure. What we do know is that Jacques died in 1946 and left them to nephew Jac Audiffred of Woodside, California, who tucked them away for 40 years before reading that Nevada was looking for unusual old photos of the Silver State. Jac was kind enough to share them with all of us. ▢



At the mine-site saloon, employees of the Pittsburg Silver Peak Gold Mining Company pause during a game of cribbage. Thomas Jacques sits on the far right. On the back of the picture he noted how both the sheriff ("Ain't he grand?") and bartender were acting out their roles.



Top: The January 9, 1909, issue of *The Blair Press* noted some recent improvements at the Mary Mine: The erection of a new boarding house (14), a steam plant (12) that produced heat for all the buildings, and a bunkhouse (15) that provided the miners with hot and cold baths. In the upper left is the Silver Peak crater (19) and on the other side of the range (22) is Goldfield. The mine was originally located in 1883.

Right: The Mary Mine's entire 13,000-foot tunnel was lit by electricity and had a telephone system linked to all the main workings, according to Hugh A. Shamberger's book, *Silver Peak*. Thomas Jacques' hand is on the wheel in this photo.



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BOOKSHELF

Exploring Nevada

Nevadans

Rollan Melton has had a long and varied newspaper career, starting as a teen-aged printer's assistant in Fallon to publisher of the Reno newspapers to Gannett V.P. As a *Reno Gazette-Journal* columnist for the past decade he's been writing about his special interest—people. Now the University of Nevada Press presents this collection of 88 of Melton's best columns. They create what Robert Laxalt calls in his foreword "a mosaic of the personality, character and attitudes of the true Nevadan—whether by birth or by choice."

The vignettes deal with the famous, like Pat McCarran and Jack Dempsey. You meet Reese and Eliza Gandolfo of Austin, who drove nearly 2 million miles in 39 years on their rural mail route, and Harolds Club founder Harold Smith. Many of the pieces reflect on war and heroism in faroff lands, but they all come back to a central theme: Nevadans caring about each other.

Nevadans, by Rollan Melton, with a foreword by Robert Laxalt, University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV. 89557; 1988; 256 pages, 10 charcoal portraits, \$8.95 paper-back.

Tark

Subtitled "College Basketball's Winningest Coach," this book by University of Nevada-Las Vegas coach Jerry Tarkanian and Akron sports writer Terry Pluto will be out just in time for the basketball season. It covers Tarkanian's early years at Long Beach State, his problems with the NCAA, his move to UNLV, the recruiting wars, and stars like Reggie Theus, Sidney Green, and Jerry's son Danny.

Anyone with a fondness for round-ball will enjoy the master's views on coaching and motivation. Nevada readers also will enjoy the insights into the UNLV sports scene, including Tarkanian's decision not to take a job with the Los Angeles Lakers.

Tark: College Basketball's Winningest Coach, by Jerry Tarkanian and Terry

Pluto, McGraw Hill, Manchester, MO. 63011; 1988; 350 pages, 16 pages of photos, \$17.95 hardcover; available in December.

Exploring the Great Basin

In this work Gloria Griffen Cline reviewed early explorations of the Great Basin from the Spanish fathers to the Mormon pioneers. Cline focused extensively on Fremont's second great exploration of the West and traced the difficulties he endured in present-day Nevada due to harsh weather and forbidding terrain.

Raised on her family's ranch near Lovelock, Cline devoted her career to Western history. The book was first published in 1963 by the University of Oklahoma Press and is reprinted here as part of the University of Nevada Press' Vintage West series.

Exploring the Great Basin, by Gloria Griffen Cline, University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV 89557; 1988; 254 pages, 16 photos, 5 maps, \$8.95 paperback.



Trail Boss's Cowboy Cookbook

This guide will help you whip up Western dishes as if they were fresh off the campfire. The 458 recipes come from 24 states and eight countries, and 15 of the recipes are from Nevadans. Steak lovers can try Jeanne Edwards' cookhouse steak from North Fork, or perhaps baked steak and lima beans as fixed by Dave Secrist of Elko County. If you fancy a south-of-the-border touch, try Linda Zimmerman's chili con carne from Round Mountain. There's catfish stew as recommended by Maurice and Barbra Bidart of Leonard Creek Ranch and Tom and Shirley Cook's fry bread from Fernley.

Each dish can be prepared at your own home on the range.

Trail Boss's Cowboy Cookbook, edited by the Society for Range Management, Falcon Press Publishing Co., 27 Neill Ave., Helena, MT 59624; 1988; 310 pages, \$13.95, paperback. □



Reviews were contributed by Jim Rush and David Moore.



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BUCKEYE BLAKE

Shaping a life as an artist.

I don't think I even thought about it," Buckeye Blake says about his decision to pursue art as a career. "My mother was an artist. My father was good at art. My uncle was a professional artist. We didn't have a lot of toys, so you made your own and created your own fantasy world."

Blake's artistic pursuits began in Carson City, where his family settled in 1956 after many years on the rodeo circuit. The toys he made as a youth eventually gave way to drawings of frogmen and hot rods, then to commercial work. When he was 17 he spent a

year in Hollywood learning the nuts and bolts of the trade, doing lettering, poodle portraits, and car signs—whatever it took to survive. Then it was back to Carson City and later Silver City to make a name for himself. It wasn't until 10 years ago that he became a full-time artist.

Although Blake, 42, now lives with his wife Tona and son Teal in Augusta, Montana—a place that reminds him of Nevada in the '50s—much of his art is still Nevada. He draws his inspiration primarily from the land and sets down his Western themes using watercolor, oil, acrylic, pencil, pastel, charcoal,

pen-and-ink, clay, and bronze.

"It doesn't matter what you grab," Blake says about the assortment of materials he uses. "It's coming out of the artist. Subject matter determines the material and the size. Material sometimes determines the style that you use."

"An artist is like a battery—you look about with your senses and it recharges you. I get a lot from the earth. You go to a certain area and get a certain feeling. When that feeling goes into your system, you see a picture in your mind."

These days Blake is finishing a heroic-size sculpture of Kit Carson,

"Writing Home" (left)

OIL

"I used myself as a model. I stole that idea out of a 1927 Hamley saddle catalogue. There was a little pen-and-ink drawing of a cowboy writing a letter using his stirrup leather as a writing board. I thought it was a good idea."

"Kit Carson"

BRONZE

"I rented the back of a hardware store because my studio wasn't large enough.

You really have to get back on these larger pieces to study it. It seems like I spent half my time on my back looking up at the piece to get the proper perspective."



Kit's spurs:

"Carson wasn't big on army issue stuff. He wore moccasins with big Mexican spurs. I knew Carson was probably wearing those spurs because of an incident in Fremont's journals that associated that jingle sound to Carson's return from a scouting expedition."



The artist at work:

"You work on it for five minutes, go back and study it, work on it for another five minutes. It's back and forth all day."

commissioned by Truett Loftin, owner of Carson City's Ormsby House. Before casting, Blake will have spent months putting in 16-hour days, molding a flexible mixture of clay and wax around a wood-and-foam armature. And that doesn't count the endless days of research and sketching.

The statue will be unveiled in Carson during the Kit Carson Rendezvous in June. Understandably, Blake looks forward to the job's completion. "Naturally when you do one of these big projects, you get burnt out," he says. "I don't want to see another hunk of clay for four months." —Cliff Glover

DINING OUT

BAVARIAN HOLIDAYS

At Waldemar's in Las Vegas, Christmas brings memories of the old country and an old friend.

by Elliot S. Krane



Toasting the holidays (left to right): Tom, Janina, Waldemar, Jr., and chef Waldemar

Stepping inside Waldemar's is like taking an instant trip from suburbia to Bavaria. Decorated with brick-lined arches, wood panelling, and Bavarian beer plaques, the restaurant is distinctly German and belies the fact that you're dining inside the Galleria Shopping Center on West Charleston in Las Vegas.

At Christmas time Waldemar Ili, chef extraordinaire and winner of eight Australian Golden Plate awards—he once lived Down Under—will be handling all the details with his wife Janina.

"Along with special breads—rye, pumpernickel, and banana—the traditional Christmas dinner will start with a thick homemade soup," says Waldemar in his strong German accent. "Then a glazed goose with stuffing from an old recipe, served with a raisin sauce and light, low-calorie baked and fresh-steamed vegetables. For dessert, the tradition calls for a Christmas plum pudding, plus brandied fresh fruits in crepes," he adds with mouth-watering detail.

As usual waiters and waitresses will be dressed in German country attire, and for the holidays Waldemar, who grew up near Frankfurt, appears in

lederhosen and colorful shirts.

There's much to celebrate, besides the fact that Waldemar likes to dance. His culinary fortunes have come a long way since 1971, when he first moved to Las Vegas and worked at the Dunes; since 1982, when he opened a tiny place next to a car wash on Fremont Street; and since 1984, when he moved to his current, larger quarters.

This year Waldemar's Christmas tree will be displayed in memory of the restaurant's late maitre d', Dr. Douglas Miller, whom Waldemar first met at the earlier Fremont Street cafe.

Miller, one-time chief of staff at Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital, liked the cooking but said the decor wasn't quite up to his standards. "When you move into your new restaurant, I'll come and eat," Miller said, and true to his word, he was one of the first people to sit down when the doors opened.

After Miller's second visit he invited his host to join him for a beer and to talk about places to visit in Europe. During the conversation Miller observed, "You seem to be very busy. Why don't you get a maitre d'?"

Waldemar replied in jest, "If you don't like the way I feed my customers, why don't you do it?"

"Fine," Miller said. "When do I show up for work?"

"Tomorrow at 10 a.m. will be fine."

Miller showed up for work two days later, after getting his health card.

Why the good doctor volunteered his services soon became clear: He loved gourmet food, he enjoyed meeting new people, and, as Waldemar learned about six months later, he was fighting cancer.

"He always had a smile on his face," Waldemar says. "You never knew that anything was wrong, that he already had numerous operations."

"Dr. Miller was a fantastic gourmet hobbyist. He always told me whatever you cook, be sure to use everything fresh—nothing frozen. He was a perfectionist and helped me with the business end, what a good business should be. He was both a father and an adviser." Miller worked there for three years before his death, and Waldemar says he and his crew miss him greatly.

Waldemar is known as an inventive chef, and his standard fare includes such entrees as veal Rouladen, stuffed with onion, pickle, and mustard and served with red cabbage (\$14.95), and pork Calvados, smothered with steamed apples and cooked in cream and Calvados, a liqueur (\$12.75). For reservations call 702-386-1995.

If there's something else you'd like, be sure to ask, because Waldemar can get pretty creative. He says, "My dream is to cater to everyone in this town." Dr. Miller would approve.

Elliot S. Krane is restaurant editor for the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

GREAT GERMAN

A Bavarian bakery rises in Reno.

By Connie Emerson

When Klaus Ginschel came to the United States from Munich in 1961, he planned to stay for only a year. But he's still in Reno, much to the delight of people who like German food exceptionally well prepared.

Fifteen years ago, while working as a

pit boss at Harrah's, Klaus opened a small bakery near the airport. Then he moved the bakery to the corner of Sixth Street and Valley Road, five blocks east of Circus Circus. Five years ago Klaus and business partner Lura Eissmann realized his dream of opening a restaurant where the food really tasted like home cooking.

The result is the Bavarian Restaurant and Bakery (formerly called the International Plaza). The decor is Old World. "The restaurant out-Munichs Munich," Klaus says, and he's right. Blue-and-white checked tablecloths, ruffled print curtains, wrought-iron railings, and flowers throughout give the place a cozy ambiance of *gemutlichkeit*. Waitresses wear dirndls and the busboys lederhosen. German music plays in the background, and there's live music for dancing about once a month.

If you're exceptionally hungry, you might start with an appetizer such as the cubes of head cheese served on lettuce leaves with onion and pickle slices (\$2.95) or marinated herring with onion, apples, and sour cream (\$3.95).

However, the dinners are so ample that most of us will leave the table as overstuffed as the chairs in the



Klaus Ginschel in his kitchen.

restaurant's foyer.

Of the entrees (\$6.95 to \$13.95), my favorite is the least expensive—veal bratwurst. The smooth-textured sausage tastes exactly like those made in Europe and goes especially well with the feather-light potato pancakes and red cabbage.

If you like the little German dump-

lings called Spaetzle, order them instead of potatoes. And the sauerkraut—trust me—is as delicious as the red cabbage.

The three draft beers, Munich Spaten, Kronen, and Hacker Pschorr, cost \$1.50 a half liter; and you can visit the rathskeller-style bar for an after-dinner plum brandy.

But before you finish eating, how about dessert? Although the apple strudel (\$2) is very good, the carrot cake is world-class (\$2.50).

And even if you're too full to think about tomorrow, stop at the bakery-delicatessen on your way out. Klaus' bakery shelves brim with kaiser rolls, pastries, and crusty loaves of bread, while the deli counter's meats and cheeses are as good as they look. Among the non-caloric items are German magazines, tapes, gift items, clothing, and movie rentals.

The Bavarian Restaurant (702-323-7646) is open for lunch, too, with daily specials priced from \$5.95 to \$7.95. Recently breakfast service was inaugurated, and the specialties are—you guessed it—German pancakes. ▽

Connie Emerson is a Reno writer and dining critic.

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TRIP OF THE MONTH

BIG TROUT LAKE

Walker's serpent is just part of the fishing fever that hits this desert lake each winter

By Lynn Ryness

Stark. Barren. Resembles a singed cat. All these descriptions apply to Nevada. Walker Lake, uncommonly hot in the summer and excruciatingly cold in the winter, deserves those epithets and more. The casual motorist sees only sagebrush, naked cliffs, and snowcapped peaks surrounding the lake—a distinctly different scene from alpine waters such as Lake Tahoe.

So what draws people here? Fish, primarily. In prehistoric times, Native Americans survived by eating the lake's trout. Today anglers come to fish Walker year-round, especially in the winter when one can see their boats pattering back and forth along the cliffs, lines trailing, even in heavy snowfall. Casting until their fingers freeze, they search for the trophy Lahontan cutthroat trout that every angler knows must swim somewhere in this desert lake.

Walker devotees also appreciate the lake's history, which mirrors the experience of the rest of the state. The surrounding area, including the present site of Hawthorne, was populated by early Indians, explored by mountain men, and finally settled by immigrant pioneers who eked out a living any way they could.

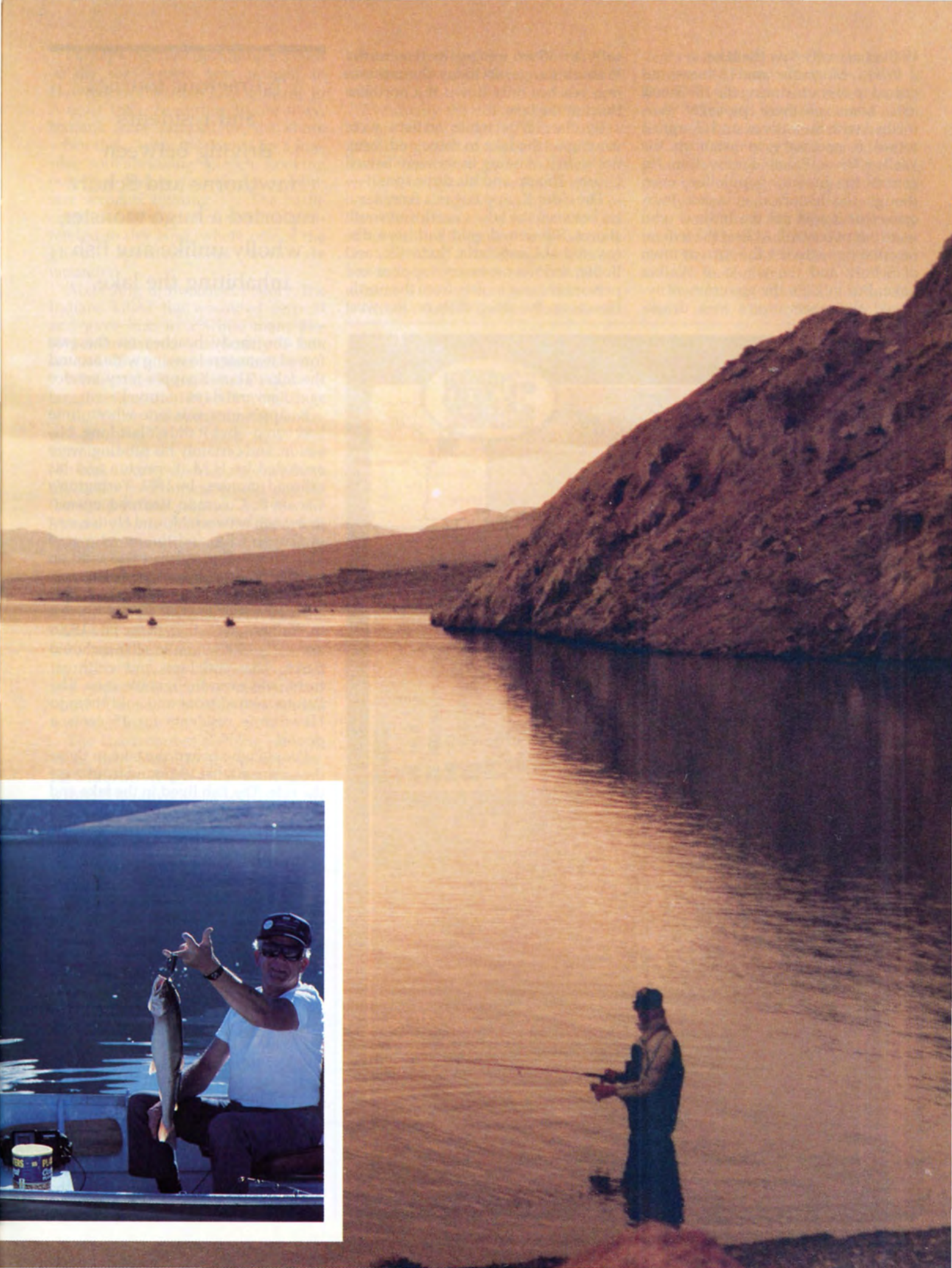
Walker Lake and its relative to the north, Pyramid Lake, once were part of a great inland sea, Lake Lahontan,

which 10,000 years ago covered about one third of Nevada's present area. Native Americans—Agai Ticutta (trout eaters) and Pagui Ticutta (fish eaters), as they called themselves—occupied the banks of Walker Lake, then called Agai Pah, or Trout Lake.

That name held until the 1840s, when explorer John C. Fremont renamed the lake after his scout, Joseph Walker. Walker may have seen the lake on an earlier expedition, but instead of reporting back to his boss he followed the lake's tributary west into California. For his part, Fremont must have forgiven the scout's indiscretion: When he discovered the lake himself, he christened it Walker, although some historians doubt whether Joseph

During the winter both fishing and sunsets are at their best at Walker Lake (opposite page), but as this couple discovered, it doesn't necessarily have to be snowing to pull in a big Lahontan cutthroat trout (right).





Walker actually saw the lake.

When Mormons and miners migrated to Nevada during the 1850s and '60s, some of these pioneers skirmished with the natives, and Congress found it necessary to establish the Walker River Paiute Reservation "to control the Indian" population, even though the historical evidence indicates that it was not the Indians who were out of control. At first the federal reservation included the current town of Schurz and the whole of Walker Lake. But in 1906 the government reduced the reservation's area drasti-

cally to allow mining in the nearby Wassuk Range, so today the reservation reaches only down the northern third of the lake.

By the 1870s white settlers were coming to the lake to mine and farm, not to fish. Among them were Sewell Crosby Knapp and his three sons.

The elder Knapp began a ferry service between the lake's north and south shores. Silver and gold had been discovered at Candelaria, Sodaville, and Bodie, and the necessary supplies and personnel came mostly from the north. However, the steep cliffs on the west

Numerous tourists
and residents
driving between
Hawthorne and Schurz
reported a huge monster,
wholly unlike any fish
inhabiting the lake.'

and the sandy beaches on the east forced teamsters to swing wide around the lake. Thus Knapp's ferry service saved several days of travel.

Knapp's idea was one whose time had come—but it didn't last long. His vision, and certainly his funding, were exceeded by H.M. Yerington and his railroad cronies. In 1881 Yerington's Carson & Colorado Railroad opened its branch between Mound House, east of Carson City, and the new town of Hawthorne. The railroad was built on the lake's east side and made Knapp's ferry obsolete.

As Hawthorne grew, so did interest in Walker Lake's fish. In the late 1800s and early 1900s the lake's fish included perch, bass, rainbow and cutthroat trout, and even the ignoble carp. The Paiutes netted trout and sold them to Hawthorne residents for 15 cents a pound.

People who fished the lake in those days claimed that 10-pound trout were the rule. The fish lived in the lake and swam up Walker River to spawn, a situation that caused them to grow to prodigious sizes. While admitting they had never caught one, some anglers professed to have seen trout weighing 25 to 30 pounds and measuring up to four feet.

The lake's biggest reported fish, however, is its sea serpent—a monstrous and seldom-seen creature that is said to be as long as 80 feet. *According to Walker River Paiutes: A Tribal History*, written by tribal member Ed Johnson, the story of the Walker Lake sea monster had its origins as a Paiute legend. The Paiutes claimed that the lake had not one but two sea serpents—a male and a female—living in its waters.

White settlers also reported seeing a large snake in the lake. The newspapers in Hawthorne, Fallon, Yerington, and Reno all carried reports of the sightings.

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Perhaps the most intriguing account of the sea serpent was printed in Hawthorne's *Walker Lake Bulletin* in August 1883. According to the story, Indians were camped on the shore when they "were awakened by a horrible soul-shrinking screech. Looking out, they plainly discerned two monster serpents fighting. The battle continued for some time and finally extended to dry land, where one of the ghoulish reptiles was seriously wounded."

According to the tribal history, the Indians killed the wounded serpent and gave him to a white man. The serpent measured "just exactly 79 feet, seven-and-a-quarter inches in length."

While other versions aren't quite as tantalizing as the 1883 story, sightings of the Walker Lake sea monster continued for another 70 years. In 1915 a hermit living on the lake asked the Mineral County district attorney how much the government would pay for the scalp of the serpent. In 1934 the *Mineral County Independent* reported, "Numerous tourists and many local residents driving between Hawthorne and the Indian reservation at Schurz reported seeing a huge monster, wholly unlike any fish inhabiting the waters of the lake, swimming about with more than a foot of body protruding from the water surface. Respected and responsible citizens stated on their word of honor that such observation had been made."

The last recorded sighting came in 1956. In a letter to the *Independent*, Hawthorne resident A.H. Haight wrote, "Has anyone else seen it? my wife saw something moving in Walker Lake at terrific speed it was between 20 and 30 feet long." He said they watched it for more than 15 minutes.

But it was not sea monsters or Walker Lake that made nearby Hawthorne the business center of the area. In 1928 the government bought the land for what would become the world's largest ammunition depot at Babbitt and moved out all residents—with one notable exception.

Mamie Frances Mingle, a native of Michigan, had arrived in Goldfield in 1904. After years moving from town to town as a boardinghouse operator, she finally settled down at Walker Lake. Standing 4-foot-10 and weighing 90 pounds, Mamie was a tough frontierswoman who could play boardinghouse bouncer when rowdy miners got out of line. When the government

began buying land for the Naval Ammunition Depot, Mamie refused to sell.

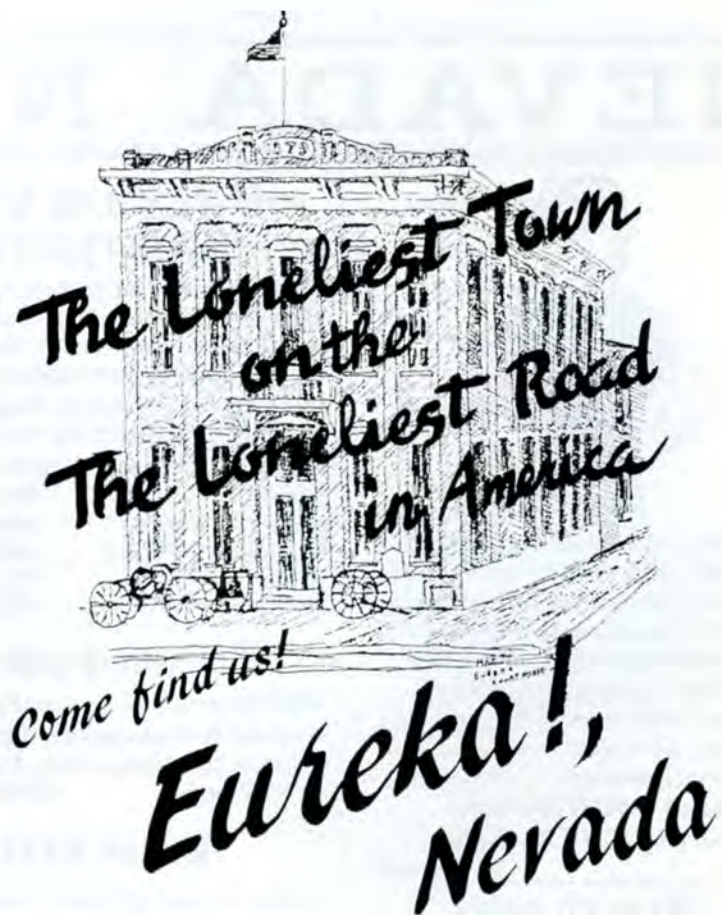
Eventually the officials gave in, and Mamie not only kept her home but also gained a guardian angel. Marines patrolled her house daily to check her welfare. In 1946, when a fire destroyed her house, the Navy, with the help of Hawthorne residents, remodeled one of her outbuildings to give her a home. On March 11, 1948, the patrol found her dead in her home; she had died of natural causes at the age of 88.

In those days two other unusual resi-

dents were lured to Walker Lake. The brothers M.J. and Cass Sapp built a shack on the northern beach in the early 1920s and ran a successful carp-fishing business for several years.

Carp have never been considered a prize by sport anglers. However, as the principal ingredient in gefilte fish, a pickled fish that is often canned, the carp was valued as a dietary staple by the Jewish population in the San Francisco Bay Area, where the Sapp brothers sold their catch.

The business operated for several years until Cass, the older Sapp



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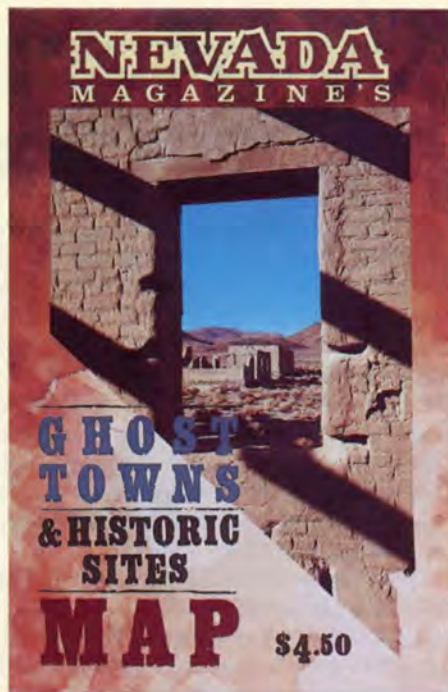
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1989 HISTORICAL CALENDAR



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#BLACK	blackjack
#CRAPS	craps
#KENO	keno
#POKER	poker
#ROULE	roulette
#SLOTS	slot machines
	\$57.50 Each
#SUITE	Set of seven \$300.00



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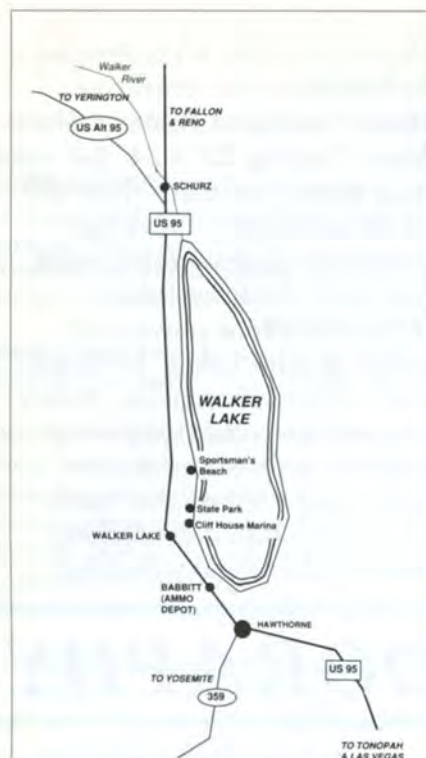


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Walker Lake is 120 miles southeast of Reno and 320 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

WALKER LAKE: DERBY DAYS

With the towns of Hawthorne close by to the south and Schurz to the north, Walker Lake is located next to U.S. 95 about midway between Reno and Tonopah. The best places to camp, launch, and fish are near the little community of Walker Lake at the south end.

Driving from Reno, 120 miles away, the first area you reach is Sportsman's Beach, a BLM campground about 15 miles north of Hawthorne. Besides restrooms it has 17 main sites with tables, some with shade. There is no drinking water or overnight fee. Boaters launch from the beach.

About two miles south is Walker Lake State Park, a day area that has the only concrete boat ramp (a two-laner) on the lake. The park has a courtesy dock, lots of parking, 12 picnic sites, and restrooms; there is no drinking water. Call 702-867-3001 for details.

Nearby is Cliff House Marina, with bar, restaurant, and supplies. Also, the

Buffalo Stop convenience store is on the highway, part of the town of Walker Lake.

Twelve miles further south is Hawthorne, which has casinos, motels, and many other services. A good place for supplies and advice is the Hawthorne Gun and Tackle Shop (702-945-3266) on the main street.

And remember the Walker Lake fishing derbies. The El Capitan casino sponsors one that runs through spring.

The Chamber of Commerce has a special Thanksgiving Weekend derby on November 25-27.

The derby, which has an entry fee of \$10, includes an awards banquet, prizes for the day's largest fish (\$100), blind-bogey contests (\$500), and awards for the 10 fish that the Department of Wildlife has marked with fluorescent tags (\$500 to \$5,000). Send entries to the Mineral County Chamber of Commerce, Box 1635, Hawthorne, NV 89415, or phone 702-945-5896 for more information.



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brother, died in the line of duty. While out in one of the rowboats the brothers used to release and retrieve their nets, Cass was hit by one of Walker's sudden storms. As Estelle Moore tells in *Nevada's Official Bicentennial Book*, water swamped his boat and filled his waders, and Cass' body was never recovered. Afterwards his brother M.J. quit the carp business, but stayed on the north shore operating a rowboat-rental service for sport fishermen.

Today the carp no longer live in Walker Lake. Nor do the other fish—with the exception of the Lahontan cutthroat trout. The Nevada Department of Wildlife stocks all the lake's trout, 200,000 to 400,000 annually. Plans are to plant 325,000 in 1989.

Over the years Walker's fish population has suffered a fate similar to that of Pyramid Lake. While Pyramid has been affected by the diversion of the Truckee River, Walker has been affected by the diversion of Walker River water for farming.

In the early 1930s Weber Reservoir was constructed on the river, which blocked the cutthroat's annual spawning runs. Furthermore, as more water was diverted upstream, the level of the lake dropped. The lower the water dropped, the more salty it became, and the fish couldn't survive. Jim Curran, regional fishery supervisor for NDOW in Fallon, says the lake's level dropped 84 feet between 1920 and 1984.

"In the '40s both Walker and Pyramid were considered dead of fish," he says. But some burly survivors were found in Walker, and by carefully breeding cutthroats at the Verdi hatchery and Summit and Marlette lakes, the department was able to start reintroducing the fish to Walker in the 1950s. The wet years of 1983-84 brought the lake up somewhat, but the current drought dropped it back down. To deal with the salinity problem the department is trying a unique approach—using Walker trout as breed stock, figuring that they have survived several years in the lake and thus may be more saline-tolerant.

Most Walker anglers say the hottest fishing runs from November through April. Added incentive comes in the form of the big Thanksgiving Weekend fishing derby sponsored by the Mineral County Chamber of Commerce (see page 68) and the winter-long derby run by the El Capitan casino in Hawthorne.

The state record for a Walker Lake cutthroat is 11 pounds, four ounces (30

inches long), caught in 1969. During the El Cap's fishing derby last year an angler brought in a lunker weighing 12 pounds, 13 ounces. But the winner never told NDOW. Apparently he was more interested in collecting the \$1,000 prize than gracing the annals of Nevada's fishing history.

Fishing Walker is a friendly experience. About the only taboos are being a bad neighbor and parking in someone's favorite launch spot. While most people know better than to leave their cars parked on the launch ramp, it's not as obvious that you should

move your car after launching from the beach. Sometimes more than a few notes are plastered to windshields.

Most boating anglers tend to congregate at the cliffs on the lake's west side, where the big ones are supposed to be. On a winter's weekend, when the trout are back near the surface—they prefer winter's mid-60s water temperature to the summer's mid-70s—you may find 50 or more boats trolling along the rocks, occasionally dodging one another to avoid tangling lines or running over the duck decoy that one Walker Lake regular tows behind his boat.

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Thanksgiving is a popular holiday at Walker. Aside from being opening day of the fishing derby, the weather has generally cooled enough to send the fishing season into full swing. Recreational vehicles, trailers, and tents snuggle together at the base of the campground at Sportsman's Beach, the roasting turkeys and baking pies smelling for all the world like Grandma's kitchen.

Jeff and Kelly Osborne are two Car-

You can spend a long,
calm day on the lake—
that's not unusual.

But beware
when the wind blows.

son City residents who regularly drive the 200-mile round trip to fish Walker. What motivates them to spend so much time traveling when they could be on the shore of Tahoe in 20 minutes?

"I like Tahoe, too," Jeff says, "but Walker is worth the drive because it's a different fishing experience. You can camp right on the edge of the water. Most of the campers are there to fish. A lot come from Reno or farther because they enjoy fishing Walker."

"There's usually a friendly group to talk to," Kelly agreed. "And the catch is reliable. We hardly ever go an entire day without catching something worth keeping."

The lake has its drawbacks, of course, just like the rest of the state. In response to a Midwesterner who inquired about the character of Nevada's climate, Mark Twain said, "Alas, it has no character." So it is with the weather at Walker. You can spend a long, calm day on the lake—that's not unusual. But beware when the wind blows. Boats are battered or swept away from the beaches. What is not tied down disappears.

Walker gets the average quota of rain and snow for the Western Nevada desert. Naturally, most of the precipitation comes in the winter—the height of the fishing season. But that doesn't daunt ardent Walker Lake fans. Some are even bold enough to suggest that the fishing is best when snow is falling on the water.

Lynn Ryness is a Carson City free-lance writer who frequently goes fishing at Walker Lake

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ENTERTAINMENT CAPITAL

(Continued from page 20)

having a chat and Howard wanted to join us. I sent him on his way."

And so goes a wonderful yarn into the wastebasket.

In time, Sinatra was superceded by Elvis Presley as The Big Star of Las Vegas. Presley's first appearance in April 1956 at the New Frontier failed to interest the usual adult audiences, who looked aghast at Elvis' pelvis and the hyperactivity in the anatomical region. They also clucked at lyrics to the new music called rock 'n' roll.

Presley became a hero to Las Vegas youths, however, during his harrowing three weeks in town. This youthful cadre, all shook up by Elvis, went on a new high in August 1964, when the Beatles stormed Las Vegas, produced by the Sahara's entertainment poobah, Stan Irwin, and lifted the rotunda roof of the Convention Center several inches with some pulverizing, pounding decibel power. There were more cries for rock 'n' roll.

Five years A.B. (After Beatles), Presley's film career had gone sour because of miserable product and acting, prompting boss-manager Colonel Tom Parker to move fast. He decided his charge should vamoose from Tinseltown and return to personal appearances. The canny manipulator struck a deal with the International, the new resort built by the semi-reclusive multimillionaire, film and aviation magnate, and eminent Las Vegas landowner, Kirk Kerkorian.

The mammoth International opened in late July 1969 with Barbra Streisand in the main showroom and Peggy Lee in the huge lounge. With that prestigious beginning, the followup had to be another sensation. It was. Those Elvis fans were now over 21 and had the necessary finances for gambling, and they crowded in to see the King.

Every Presley appearance at the International was a circusy event, with most billboards in the territory booked far in advance of appearance dates and radio stations prepped with his latest records. He continued to be an overwhelming entertainer with Colonel Parker's hype and push, even to the sorrowful, bloated, drug-sotted nights in the huge showroom that finished with his final Las Vegas date in December 1974. By then the International had

become the Las Vegas Hilton, and Elvis Presley's requiem is celebrated on his demise day every August at that resort.

The '70s established stars on a single-name basis in a blaze of marquee incandescence, lending an intimate flair. Consider ELVIS * LIZA * SINATRA * SAMMY * DINO * WAYNE * ENGELBERT * BARBRA * STEVE and EYDIE * and not to forget the originals in that single-monicker category, ANN-MARGRET * and LIBERACE * along with SIEGFRIED and ROY *

The '70s merging into the '80s found popstars, rockstars, and country stars

aiming for big money in Las Vegas. Tops was the \$350,000 handed to Dolly Parton by Riviera Hotel owner Meshulam Riklis for a week in the main showroom. After opening night, she claimed "Vegas throat," or laryngitis, or something, and didn't finish out the week.

But the big salary damage had been done. Large money demands with plenty of fringe benefits were being sought throughout the entertainment spectrum. These perks gradually became the norm, climbing as high as Bill Cosby's \$500,000 per week, paid cheerfully at both Caesars Palace and

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Siegfried and Roy became the Strip's most alluring names when Irving and Kenneth Feld, impresarios of early rock shows and Ringling Brothers circus, took them under wing and



Willie Nelson, part of the new generation.

brought on "Beyond Belief" to the Frontier for a lengthy contract. The showroom had to be expanded and, showing faith in their stars, Summa Corporation, owner of the Frontier, built a million-dollar apartment above the stage for S and R and their pets, lions, tigers, jaguars, but not their elephant.

When Stephen Wynn, chairman of the Golden Nugget, decided to build a mammoth resort on the Strip (due to open next year), he signed Siegfried and Roy for a whopping \$57.5 million to make magic in his half-billion-dollar establishment for five years. That's the money-tops for Strip stars to date.

The early list of top draw names was reduced as the '80s advanced. Liberace died in February 1987, Cher left her bizarre attire and flamboyant Caesars Palace act for motion pictures, Diana Ross is a rarity at Caesars, the same for Kenny Rogers at the Golden Nugget, Doug Henning has taken his illusions to India, and Tony Orlando is an opening act. Barry Manilow returned to the fold at the Hilton in 1988, and Shirley MacLaine finds herself far out on a limb with her seancing congregations.

Filling their missing roles are Rodney Dangerfield, Willie Nelson, Rich Little, David Copperfield, Donna Summer, George Carlin, Jerry Lewis, Jay Leno, the Judds, Reba McEntire, the Pointer Sisters, Ray Stevens, Dionne Warwick, each doing quite well, thank you, in different bailiwicks.

As this decade draws to a close, there recently were found five showrooms with headliners and supporting acts, 18 production-type shows scattered on

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the Strip, on Glitter Gulch and off-Strip places, two venues featuring legit or dinner theater revivals, two comedy rooms, with lounges taking up the slack and using some 90 acts.

The Adult Disneyland jest has been around for years, winking at Las Vegas' propensity for luring older fun-seekers. Today, casinos are no longer mourning the loss of the old highroller gang. The new marketing strategy aims for the middle-income players who can have their kids tagging along. Consider Circus Circus with two floors of games and overhead circus acts for the kids, or the Wet 'n Wild amusement park summertimes, plenty of fast food eateries on the Strip and even inside three of the hotels. There are bowling alleys galore in hotels and all items priced downward except for the very upscale spots. For example, Sinatra is always a \$50 minimum.

With the Las Vegas image inexorably locked with tourism, gambling has become in the corporate context a bigger draw than live entertainment in showrooms and lounges. Such a lure is boxing with championship bouts, or interesting matches, that the jousting has begun between Las Vegas and Atlantic City for the title of "Boxing Capital of the World."

For the rest of the '80s and into the '90s, entertainment will wing along in similar swoops and dips as shown in current times. Where fewer hotels presented more entertainment in earlier years, more hotels produce less entertainment now and in the foreseeable future. But the accumulative amount of all the varied types of entertainment—in showrooms, lounges, theaters, and stadiums, from star headliners to rodeos to symphonies to truck-mashing derbies—is astounding.

Las Vegas is still a party town, a resort center, and even an entertainment capital, as one was reminded last year when Sinatra opened at Bally's. On opening night Dean Martin and Sammy Davis, Jr. flew to town to interrupt Sinatra's jampacked show. They presented him with bouquets of roses and had some palaver with their Chairman.

The Golden Age is gone but not forgotten. □

Bill Willard of Las Vegas is a writer for Variety, an artist, and former entertainer. Many of the vintage photos used with this article appear in Donn Knepp's Las Vegas: The Entertainment Capital (Sunset Books, Lane Publishing, 1987).

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Skiing the Rubies by helicopter.
Photos by Larry Prosor

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Top left: "The helicopter ride is just about as good as the skiing," Prosor says. "There's lots of anticipation on the way up."

Top: "On this day some of the people were enjoying the skiing so much that instead of running out their allotted amount of vertical run, they would pull out their credits cards and keep skiing all day long. They didn't seem to care how big a bill they would run up."

Right: "The snowcat offers people an option so they don't have to pay the full price of a helicopter. It's also used when weather conditions are overcast. If you have only three days to ski, and one of those days is cloudy, you won't have to sit around the lodge waiting for the weather to clear."



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NORTHERN LIGHTS

(Continued from page 24)



Dolly once opened for Doug Kershaw.

viola-voiced Leon Redbone for a cult concert of New Orleans-cum-funk music. This September, Nicolette Larson made her casino debut in Harvey's big new lounge. "When they told me I'd be workin' a casino, I thought we'd be out with the slot machines," Larson said with a giggle. "This is nice."

Nice, indeed. If Northern Nevada is more experimental than Vegas in main rooms, in lounges we run from brave to weird. When the late Andy Kaufman performed as Tony Clifton, we got both. Kaufman already was a giant and eccentric star, in part because of his role on TV's "Taxi." Clifton was his constructed character, a washed-up New Jersey lounge singer with an ego bigger than his paunch. Kaufman-Clifton played Harrah's Tahoe lounge. Kaufman never broke character, and he allowed no advertising other than "Tony Clifton." It was a financial disaster but an artistic conquest—Nevada's first and only lounge *verite*.

The Riders in the Sky are a gentler spoof. Ranger Doug and the boys now sell many albums, but a few years ago they filled the Sparks Nugget lounge with synthetic '30s cowboy musicals.

"Vegas cabarets gear more into the Los Angeles scene," said Peppermill entertainment director Willis Allen. "Cabarets don't have a style—you can find any kind of group in any cabaret. There's also much disillusionment, and groups change players often. You see a lot of guys on stage reading charts."

Allen books groups into his modest-sized lounge that fit his audiences. "I look for someone people can identify with," he said.

Smaller lounges in Reno fight to get customers. "In Vegas on a Wednesday night, lounges are packed," Allen said. "Maybe that's why their smaller lounges rarely have sound and light people—and I think that's a big drawback." Most lounges in Northern Nevada do have stage techs. "We try harder up here," Allen said simply.

McClure booked endangered-species rock acts into Harrah's lounge. "We were first in making tremendous changes by going after Jan and Dean, Three Dog Night, Bill Medley. We had Kenny Rogers in our lounge when his career was stalled."

The key is that some acts are talented but may be stumbling over hard times. Casinos can buy the act cheaply, and crowds still get a great show. "We used personalities in the lounge, where before you had patent lounge acts like Gaylord and Holiday, or the Treniers," McClure said. "We wound up doing mini-main room shows."

And so now Nevada lounges have Lacy J. Dalton, Elvin Bishop, Maria Muldaur, the Byrds, Atlanta Rhythm Section—most of them appearing first in the North.

Smaller lounges have groups that aren't household words, but they, too, have their strategies. "When the Lelands play here," said the Peppermill's Allen, "we have 2,800 people from their fan club in my computer. Four times a year we send mailers, and they are our best act because of that. They pack the place."

Las Vegas will continue to do all right with the Bobby Vintons, Tom Joneses, and Rich Littles, McClure believes. New Jersey casinos are another world. "If they didn't have any entertainment at all it wouldn't make a difference—not with 70 million people to draw from."

As for Nevada's future, McClure sees more efforts to reach the Woodstock generation and beyond. "When gambling gets static, you have to innovate," he said. He suspects main rooms will do worse but that we'll see big multi-lounge setups like today's four- and eight-plex movie theaters. If so, he has another prediction: "You'll see it first in Northern Nevada." □

Guy Richardson is a writer for the Reno Gazette-Journal and a regular Nevada contributor



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JACK LONGSTREET
(Continued from page 31)

3. I charge him with hiring men to brand the anuel increas of the Government catell and paying for the same with Government property

4. I charge him with willfull neglect to look after the Government property comited to his charge Resulting in a totell loos to the Government of more than 500 head of catell since he took charge here there have been branded something over 300 calves whitch together with there increas can not be accounted for

5. he has Rented out the Government land to private parties that raised their on severall hundered bushells of Grain

using the Governments farming impliments and the Governments team and taking in payment there for a part of the crop whitch he sold and coverted to his own use and benifit finally

I charge him with conducting the agency soley for his own pecuniary benifit and with a totell disregard to the wellfair of the indians

I their fore demand an investigation when I shall be prepard to prove all of the above charges"

Bradfute, evidently aware that these charges were forthcoming, had already endeavored to deflect them by a letter to his superior, Agent Gibson, on June 11. Following some remarks on the continued destruction of the Indian

crops by roving cattle from the government herd, in which he displayed a new and tender concern for the Indians, Bradfute went on to suggest that Longstreet had been engaged in the thievery of horses and reservation cattle. However, he candidly noted that prosecuting Longstreet on this charge would not be an easy matter, largely because of the necessity to bribe witnesses who would otherwise be unwilling to testify on his behalf.

Toward the end of September, the acting secretary wrote a note to J.D.C. Atkins, Commissioner of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C., and

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the commissioner decided to dispatch an independent investigator for the dual purpose of closing down the Moapa as a subagency and investigating the charges.

The ensuing reports by Special Indian Agent Henry S. Welton of Kingman, Arizona, are the only disinterested evidence we have on the Longstreet-Bradfute dispute. In addition, they bear graphic witness to the remoteness and privation of the Moapa region. After receiving a September 24 letter from the commissioner with instructions to investigate and report on affairs at the reservation, Welton set off on a nine-day march over 230 miles of desert to reach the Moapa. He noted that he started the trek "very poorly prepared, taking but one blanket, a shawl, and but little food. but soon found everyone must take their own supplies as nothing can be bought on the way." Welton was not again to sleep in a bed until his return to civilization.

Welton reported:

"On arriving at the reservation I found Mr. Bradfute living like a miserly Hermit. He was without meat, coffee, or in fact any thing and living on squashes. He has not been out from there in over 8 years (since he went in) I gave him Bacon Sugar Coffee etc He told me had had no meat in over three monthes and others told me he at one time lived three weeks on watermelons alone."

However, Bradfute's eccentric diet concerned Special Agent Welton less than did the situation he found at the reservation. It contained 400 acres of good, arable land, but only 35 were under cultivation. A mere six Indian families lived "camping" on the reservation while Bradfute rented out the cultivated land to white ranchers "for his own benefit." Welton was unable to estimate the current population of the tribe "as they are scaterd over the surrounding country for 200 miles in all directions." Welton hoped to persuade 20 to 25 families to reside on the reservation. This would necessitate the promise of a cow to each family and the far greater incentive of Bradfute's departure, for the Indians "refuse to come while he remains."

All the same, government authorities decided not to prefer charges against Bradfute following his dismissal, for Welton had already urged that he "should be shown some lenity for having had to live so long in such a place." The Indians were left to shift for

themselves upon their reservation without further supervision by a resident farmer. Welton expressed the hopeful, if somewhat naive, opinion that they would be able to sustain

With instructions to investigate, Welton set off on a nine-day march over 230 miles of desert to reach the Moapa.

themselves without encroachment from the cattlemen.

By now Longstreet owed the county more than \$600 in taxes on the ranch. On September 28 he sold the 240-acre spread of the best land in the valley for \$1,200 to Hiram Wiser, whose name it afterward bore on the maps. Within 25 years, Longstreet would see its price climb to \$50,000. No matter. It had

given good graze to the Indian pony for a time, and that was enough. He had not ridden west to increase his herds and irrigate his crops and dicker beside his wagon in the mining towns for the top price. No big white ranch house with a shady veranda amidst a colony of stables and granaries for Jack Longstreet. Instead he turned his broad back on the fields of fertile black land that had once been his, pointing his team past the next wide valley and the dust-colored mesa braceleted with terraces, and headed farther west into wilder country. ♡

Sally Zanjani of Reno is an adjunct assistant professor of political science at UNR. She is the author of two other books, The Unspiked Rail: Memoir of a Nevada Rebel and The Ignoble Conspiracy: Radicalism on Trial in Nevada, coauthored with Guy Louis Rocha. She currently is working on a history of Goldfield.

Jack Longstreet: Last of the Desert Frontiersmen is available in bookstores or through the publisher, Swallow Press/Ohio University Press, Athens, OH. 45701-2979 (171 pages, 14 photos and illus., \$19.95 hardcover, \$9.95 paperback).

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Long-Running Shows

Stage shows with staying power

By Jackie Brett

When a show opens in Las Vegas, Reno, or Tahoe, its producers can't help but hope that it will be another "My Fair Lady." While that seldom happens, a few productions become legends in their own right. The following 10 big shows and revues, plus a close 11th, have proven to be long-lasting favorites in a state where winners come and go.

1. The current longest-running show is "Lido de Paris" at the Stardust. The "Lido" opened the same day as the hotel, July 2, 1958. The show has three specialty acts alternating with elaborate production numbers. The star act since January 6, 1983, has been Bobby Berosini and his orangutans.

2. The next oldest show also is French in flavor. The "Folies Bergere" was brought directly to the Tropicana Hotel from Paris in 1959. The show remained in the Fountain Theater until 1975, when it moved to the Tiffany Theater. Conceived and produced solely by the Tropicana, the American production of "Folies" is valued at more than \$5 million and features award-winning magician Lance Burton, a cast of 105, and a vigorous "Can Can."

3. Next in longevity is "Boy-Lesque," a female-impersonator show starring "the most beautiful men in the world." It opened at the Sahara's Casbar Lounge in February 1977. The Silver Slipper took a chance on the show, which was considered rather off-the-wall at the time, and it opened there on May 13, 1977. A good reason for the show's success is producer and star Kenny Kerr, who is flawless in his portrayals of notables such as Barbra Streisand and Cher. Since the Silver Slipper is going to be demolished this winter, "Boy-Lesque" moved back to the Sahara on July 22.

4. "Hello Hollywood, Hello" opened in the Ziegfeld Theatre at Bally's (then the MGM Grand) in Reno on June 2, 1978. The show's special effects include a mock-up of a DC-9 on stage in the



"Folies Bergere," on stage for 29 years.

opening number and a seat-rattling 1906 San Francisco earthquake. The show is performed on Nevada's largest stage.

5. The most expensive production show in Las Vegas, valued at more than \$10 million, is Bally's "Jubilee." It was originally scheduled to open in November 1980, but after the MGM fire it was postponed until July 1981. "Jubilee" is known for its special effects, such as the sinking of the *Titanic*, on the country's third-largest stage. The show's predecessor, "Hallelujah, Hollywood," opened in the MGM Celebrity Room when the hotel opened.

A footnote: Illusionists Siegfried and Roy were the stars of that show from April 26, 1974, to June 23, 1978. Siegfried and Roy went to the Stardust to star in "Lido" and then staged their own show, "Beyond Belief," at the Frontier from October 1982 to last June. The famous duo will appear next year at the new Golden Nugget on the Strip

with a new show and a five-year contract worth \$57.5 million.

6. "City Lites" opened at the Flamingo Hilton on September 5, 1981. The show has an ice-skating theme, and the main star is magician Joseph Gabriel.

7. "Legends In Concert" opened at the Imperial Palace on May 3, 1983. This John Stuart production honors late stars like Judy Garland, Elvis Presley, Nat King Cole, Buddy Holly, Bobby Darin, Liberace, and Marilyn Monroe. A second "Legends" company has been performing the show for Northern Nevada audiences several times a year since August 19, 1986, at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks.

8. On June 21, 1985, "Splash" opened at the Riviera—the first of four new shows to open in Las Vegas that year. "Splash" is famous for its gigantic water tank.

9. Rocky Sennes' "Roaring '20s Revue" opened in August 1985 at the Holiday Casino with flappers and gangsters. On Christmas Day, 1986, it moved upstairs to a new third-floor showroom—which was an exact duplicate of the room downstairs. Sennes has been busy with a new show scheduled to debut this winter.

10. Also in August 1985 "Playboy's Girls of Rock 'n Roll" opened at the Maxim. Besides attractive female singers the show has dancers and a comedian. "Playboy's" sister show, with the same name, has been playing Caesars Tahoe since June 21, 1988.

11. On September 15, 1985, the Riviera opened Las Vegas' second female-impersonator show, "An Evening At La Cage." It's hosted by Frank Marino, who mimics Joan Rivers to perfection.

Other long runners of note include two comedy forums. Mitzi Shore's "Comedy Store" opened in April 1984 at the Dunes, where "Casino de Paris" had run for more than a decade. Budd Friedman's "Improv" opened at the Riviera on May 4, 1986.

Breck Wall's "Bottoms Up" is truly a long if not continuously running show. The show opened on April 16, 1964, at the now defunct Castaways in Las Vegas for 18 weeks. It then went to Harvey's at Lake Tahoe on August 25 and first played Reno on January 2, 1965, at Harrah's. The revue's home base is in Las Vegas, and over the years it has played almost every major hotel in the state. □

Jackie Brett is Nevada's Las Vegas representative.

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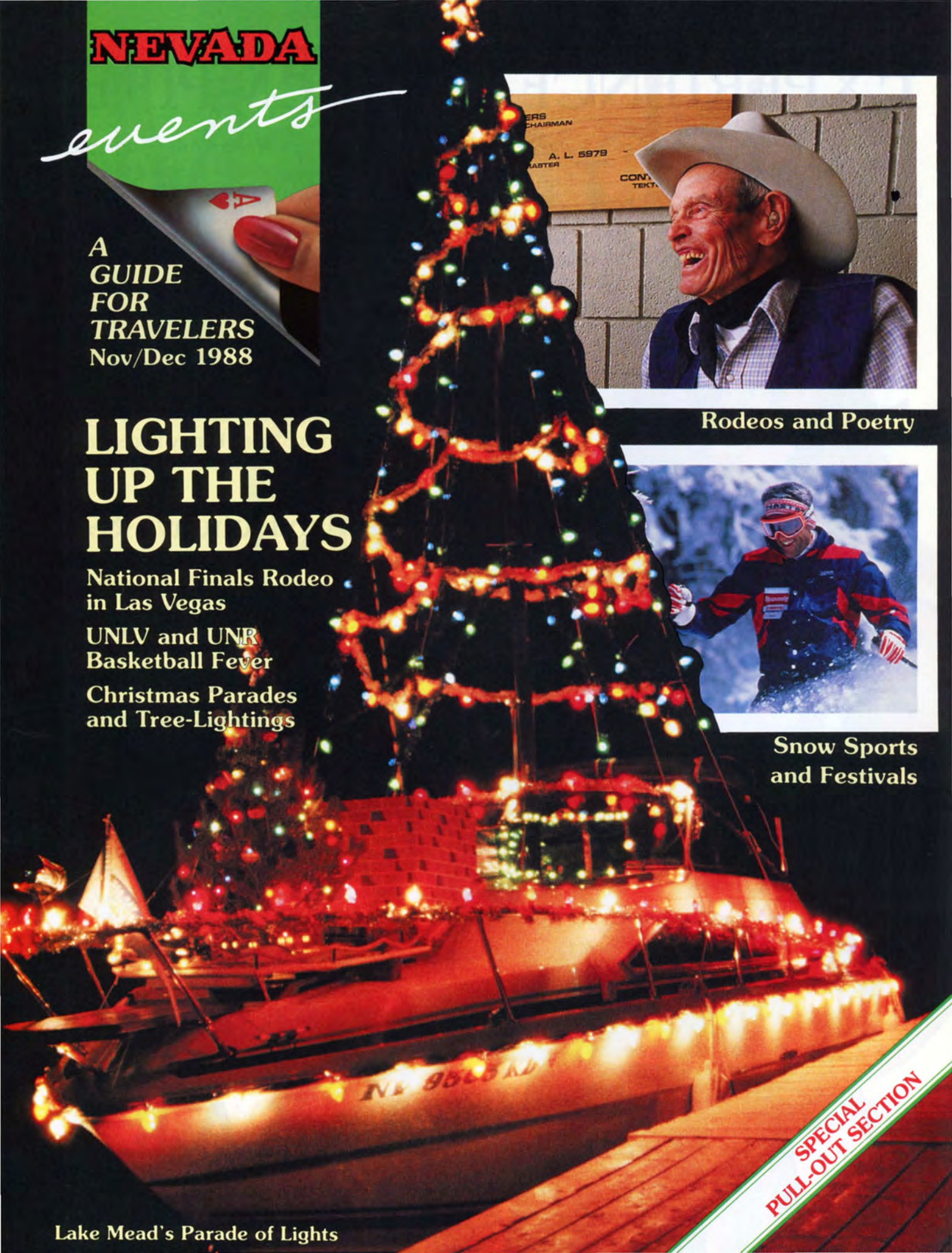
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The annual
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Churchill County C of C: 100 Campus Way,

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

STATE AND NATIONAL PARKS

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

MORE CAMPING AND HIKING

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

FISHING AND HUNTING

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

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December 10

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 1497 Nevada Hwy. - Boulder City, NV 89005
 (702) 293-2034



UNLV's Stacey Augmon goes for the gold during one of last season's basketball games. Augmon played on the U.S. men's team at the Seoul Olympics. For more on UNLV and UNR basketball, see page E-17

LAS VEGAS HOT LINES

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

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

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

UNLV Basketball: for schedule call 739-FANS

UNLV Concerts: music and dance, 739-3101

UNLV Football: 11/12 v. Fresno State; 11/19 v. San Jose State, 739-FANS

For chamber of commerce and convention center phones, see page E-6

LAS VEGAS EVENTS

November

Photo Exhibit, 11/1-28, portraits by Maryanna Latham, Spring Valley Library, 733-3621

National Finals Western Art Show, 11/1-29, fine art show held in conjunction with the National Finals Rodeo, Las Vegas Art Museum, 647-4300

Thanksgiving Memorial Exhibit, 11/1-30, diorama showing past and present military uniforms donated by Nevada veterans, Clark County Museum, Henderson, 455-7955

Art Exhibit, 11/1-30, paintings by Maria Wurtz of Overton, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

University Forum Lecture, 11/2, on the 1988 elections, Beam Hall, UNLV 739-3401

Las Vegas Finger and Toe Carnival, 11/2-7 Sahara, 737-2737

Native American Festival, 11/4-6, Native American arts and crafts, fancy and traditional dancing, flutists, storytellers, Indian foods, demonstrations, convention center, Henderson, 565-2171 or 642-6674

"Guilty Conscience," 11/4-6, 11/10-13, 11/17-19, mystery, Las Vegas Little Theatre, at the Spring Valley Library Theatre, 383-0021

22nd Annual "Nite of Stars," 11/5, benefit for St. Jude's Ranch, 6:30pm, Las Vegas Hilton, 294-0445

Scout O Rama/Explorer Expo, 11/5, Boy Scouts of America, Cashman Field, 736-4366

AAUW Home Tour, 11/5, Boulder City, 293-0137

"Jukebox Saturday Night," 11/5, '40s-type musical with 2 shows, dinner show and cocktail show, Las Vegas Chapter of Sweet Adelines, Faith Lutheran High School, 641-6765

Christmas Crafts Show, 11/5, Las Vegas Senior Citizens Center, 799-6601

National Whole Health Symposium and Expo, 11/5-6, workshops, free health screenings, and job fair, Tropicana Hotel, 964-6826

National Geographic Exhibit, 11/5-12/10, celebrates the first century of the National Geographic Society, first stop of Smithsonian and National Geographic three-year tour, Museum of Natural History, UNLV, 739-3381

Las Vegas Civic Symphony Opening Concert, 11/6, 2pm, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

Sugar Ray Leonard v. Donny Lalonde Championship Boxing, 11/7 Caesars Palace, 731-7865

Nevada School of the Arts Recital, 11/7 Black Box Theatre, UNLV 739-3502

Photo Exhibit, 11/8-12/4, photo essay by Frank Porter, Clark County Library, 733-3621

National Finals Rodeo

Las Vegas seems a natural to spotlight rodeo's most prestigious event.

By Paul Bosarge

In order to live, a rodeo cowboy has to win. That's the name of the rodeo game. In order to win, a cowboy needs to enter enough rodeos, get there, get on, and ride well enough to score points to beat everybody else.

The problem is, that's the same idea everybody has. There is a sanctioned rodeo taking place in an American or Canadian city nearly every day. Weekly results from those rodeos are compiled, and in the end only the best cowboys and top stock get the honor of competing in the best and top rodeo—the National Finals Rodeo—in December in Las Vegas.

To compete and win at the Finals is the goal of every seriously contesting member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association. This year's top cowboys will have competed in as many as 100 rodeos to qualify for the world's richest rodeo—a nine-day 10-performance event. They will have earned their chance based solely on the money previously won, which eliminates all but 15 contestants in the NFR's six standard events and 15 women barrel racers.

Las Vegas seems a natural to spotlight rodeo's most prestigious event. After luring the event away from Oklahoma City, officials first welcomed the rodeo in December 1985 by offering what one observer called "the best multi-state and international media facilities in the world."

Las Vegas can expect, as early as mid-November, to see lean, rugged men wearing faded jeans, soiled boots, and western hats ambling into a casino or two. Only instead of plodding into town on horseback and shooing their livestock ahead of them, they fly in by jet or barrel in behind the wheel of a pickup.

For the city rodeo week means dusting off and hanging up all the "Welcome, Rodeo Fans" banners, and a time when the large showrooms book top names in country music like George Strait and cab drivers trot out their more guttural, "Where ya from?"

The most notable change is the proverbial sea of cowboy hats. Not those hokey hats, crushed to match bib overalls, but the sharp-creased rancher and roper models that paint the glitter in shades of black or silverbelly-grey felt or amber Panama straw.

However, the image of the tall, warped, old cowpoke taking an easy moment to lean against a corral post and roll his own smoke is about as far as you can get from the professional rodeo cowboy. Most are young and exceptionally athletic, almost 80 percent have families, and almost all are "all business." It's not only prestige and a championship belt

buckle that makes them compete, but also gold at the end of the trail. Most will tell you they dream of winning big bucks in the City That Never Sleeps. They grin and confess that over the year they haven't slept much, either. With all the pressures of the rodeo circuit, what they call "going down the road," the actual travel is the worst. It's hard, constant, and relentless.

Most rodeo cowboys drive an average 150,000 miles a year, peaking out around the Fourth of July when they work 10 or so rodeos during a five-day stretch and never sleep in a bed. Most spend 12 out of every 24 hours in a car or truck, driving as hard as they can.

If he's a gambler, a rodeo cowboy may enter two rodeos the same day, knowing he must forfeit one entry fee. And often he is uncertain from day to day where he is or where he should be. A good example of the length of the road to the Finals is the year former bull-riding champion Don Gay mounted bulls at 160 rodeos. One night after climbing off a bull he traveled 2,000 miles to get on another one the next afternoon.

So much traveling means traveling light. Cowboys keep riggings and ropes, chaps and spurs, and other odds and ends in a rodeo bag. As they meander in, about an hour before each day's event, the duffels are stowed in a corner or against a fence.

Spectators, too, should think about getting to the arena early. Experienced Vegas NFR fans ease in about an hour ahead of time, and they usually follow a few basic rules such as these:

- Plan ahead: Check early on tickets (see Events listing) and rooms, many of which are booked months in advance. Some hotels provide a room-finding service if they're booked up.

- Be on time: They're not kidding when they say the rodeo starts promptly. Because of TV coverage the events are staged quickly and without much fluff in between. Allow extra time if you park your own car; there's ample parking, but you may have to walk a fair distance.

- Come prepared: There's not a bad seat in the house, but some are far from the action, so bring binoculars and a long lens with your camera.

- Bring extra dough: When the performance is over, everybody heads back to the casinos for socializing. And if you want one of those souvenir satin jackets with "NFR" on the back, you can get them for about \$30 at the rodeo.

Beyond that, the most important thing is to not look away when the cowboys are at work. The action is fast, and a good ride lasts only eight seconds—or less.

Paul Bosarge is a Reno writer and rodeo fan.



Roy Cooper came in 11th in the 1987 year-end standings in calf roping.

UNLV v. USSR Exhibition Basketball Game, 11/9, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV 739-3900

Horseshoe Holidays III, 11/10-12, third annual horseshoe pitching tournament, Peppermill, Mesquite, 346-5232

Ninth Invitational International Tournament of Champions, 11/10-13, 20 top-ranking radio control aerobatic aircraft pilots from the U.S. and eight other nations will vie for \$118,000 in prize money, richest and most prestigious contest in aeromodeling field, duplicates international contests for full-size aerobatic aircraft, flying takes place at R/C Model Airfield in North Las Vegas Regional Park, headquarters is at Circus Circus, 734-0410

"The Little Match Girl," 11/10, 11/12-13, 11/18-20, Las Vegas Civic Ballet, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

Annual Indian Art Festival, 11/11-13, craft and food booths, live entertainment, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

Gala Karneval (Mardi Gras), 11/12, opening of Mardi Gras with the crowning of the prince and princess, food and drinks, dancing, performance by Las Vegas Piepen, open to public, Ryan's Hall, 1703 S. Maryland Pkwy., 451-2220

Team Ropings, 11/12, 11/25-26, 12/3, 12/17 7/14, 1/28, at the Peppermill Arena at the Arvada Ranch, 3 miles east of Mesquite, Peppermill, 346-5232 ext. 3580

Las Vegas Symphony Concert, 11/14 and 11/16, on 14th at Ham Hall, on 16th at Black Box Theatre, UNLV, 739-3420

Art Exhibit, 11/16-12/13, featuring Henderson artists, Green Valley Library, 733-3621

University Forum Lecture, 11/17 Robert Beisner gives a talk on history and Henry Kissinger, Wright Hall, UNLV, 739-3401

"The Great God Brown," 11/17-20, 11/30, 12/1-4, avant garde play, University Theatre, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 739-3801

Wine Tasting, 11/18, benefit for Channel 10 Public Television, 6-9pm, Palace Station, 737-1010

Gains Classic Jackpot Dog Obedience Show, 11/18-20, AKC registered competitions open to public, Hacienda, 363-0499

Concert, 11/20, 3pm, Las Vegas-Clark County Library District's Chamber Orchestra-in-Residence, Clark County Library Auditorium, 733-3620

Woodworkers Exhibit, 11/20-12/15, Clark County Library, 733-3621

Disney on Ice, 11/21-27 Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV 739-3900

Nevada 88, 11/22-12/14, traveling photo show from Elko's Northeastern Nevada Museum, Las Vegas District Library, 1401 E. Flamingo Rd., 733-3613

Laughlin/Bullhead City Rodeo, 11/25-26, International Professional Rodeo Assn., rodeo grounds, Bullhead City, 298-2214 or 602-754-3891

The Craft Festival, 11/25-27 Cashman Field Center, 733-2323

Barstow to Vegas Motorcycle Race, 11/25-27 American Motorcycle Assn., headquarters at Hacienda Hotel, 737-2713

"Creation," 11/27 Southern Nevada Musical Arts Society Concert, 80-voice choir, soloist, and 45-piece orchestra, reception following, 3pm, Ham Hall, UNLV free, 451-6672

Horseshoe Pitcher Tournament, 11/27-30, Hacienda Hotel, 739-8753

Art Exhibit, 11/30-1/12, paintings by Farrell Walback, Spring Valley Library, 733-3621

NIGHTLIFE

Country With a Passion

By Jackie Brett

Probably the most unusual thing about this column is that the subject will need to have it read to him. Not because he's illiterate but because he was born blind.

To music man Ronnie Milsap, blindness is more of an inconvenience than a handicap. Nothing slows him down. His hectic schedule includes eight months of touring. The other four months are for his family, recording, and leisure around Nashville, where Milsap makes his home with his wife of 23 years, Joyce, and their son, Todd, who recently finished high school.

One of the ways in which Milsap has been able to absorb printed material is by having his wife read to him. "She's read an unbelievable amount of print to me," he says.

Although Milsap often has to depend upon other people, that hasn't infringed upon his down-to-earth, sincere, good nature. It's hard to explain, but a certain facade or pretense is eliminated when you meet Milsap or see him in concert. He's in touch with a total reality. It's his inner soul that comes out in his music.

"It's a driving part of my life. It's a passion," he admits.

His attraction to music began at age six when he was sent away to the Governor Morehead School for the Blind in Raleigh, North Carolina. Removed from a small rural town and a sighted person's environment, he was immediately immersed in a rigorous classical-music training program that included piano and violin.

"They gave me Braille music, and you'd memorize what you read," he recalls. "But I had no real voice training." Milsap says he wanted voice lessons but was told he didn't need them.

Obviously his record company, RCA, has no complaints about his voice. Out of 18 RCA albums, seven have gold status, and he has more than 30 hit singles.

Milsap spent September and October in his studio producing a new album. It's a laborious task but one he enjoys. "I love working in the studio. I've owned my own for 10 years," he says of his 48-



Country star Ronnie Milsap.

track-capacity facility.

Because of Milsap's interest in different types of music, he's been hard to classify.

He started out in the 1970s with a string of country hits like "Pure Love." Later he had crossover hits like "What A Difference You've Made in My Life" and "It Was Almost Like a Song." Then "Stranger In My House" (1983) and "Any Day Now" (1982) ventured him into the rhythm and blues/pop-flavored territory.

He's enjoyed rock, too, starting with his high school group, The Apparitions. In 1984, he did a video to his recording of "She Loves My Car." He was the first Nashville artist to break into regular rotation on all-rock MTV.

So what is Milsap?

"A country based artist—I prefer to be known as that," he answers.

On stage, he says, "I like to show other looks, like dance routines. As a kid I wasn't that good of a dancer, but with professional help you can gain more confidence about yourself. And it's something else to do," he says.

Off stage, this star devotes much of his time to the blind. He's a self-proclaimed computer nut and for good reason: It gains him access to print. He can read this story by putting it in an optical character scanner, which will reproduce it through synthesized speech.

"The biggest disadvantage to being blind is there's tons of material in print that I don't have access to," Milsap says. The new technology has offered him a whole new world. And in the world of music, he offers us an added dimension, too.

Ronnie Milsap appears at the Desert Inn November 3-26.

December

Art Exhibit, 12/1-31, paintings by Carol Yada of Logandale, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

City of Las Vegas Open House, 12/2, the Stewart-Mojave Sports Center will host a variety of activities for families at no charge, 275 N. Mojave Rd., 386-6563

"Steel Magnolias," 12/2-4 and 12/8-10, comedy, Clark County Community College Theatre, North Las Vegas, 644-PLAY

Cowboy Christmas Gift Show, 12/2-11, Cashman Field Center, 731-2115

Wild Game Feed, 12/3, with venison, buffalo, alligator, Peppermill, Mesquite, 346-5232

Boulder City Christmas Parade, 12/3, annual parade with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, floats, horses, marching bands, downtown Boulder City, 293-2034

Christmas Parade, 12/3, North Las Vegas, 642-9595

Doodlebug Bazaar, 12/3, annual arts and crafts bazaar, Christmas gift items, baked goods and candies, Boulder City, 293-2034

National Finals Rodeo Art Auction, 12/3, 6pm, Golden Nugget Hotel, 647-3675

National Finals Rodeo, 12/3-11, bareback riding, steer wrestling, team roping, saddle bronc riding, calf roping, barrel racing, and bull riding; 12/3 art auction; 12/5 Exceptional Rodeo; 12/5-8 Wrangler Jeans Pro-Rodeo Bullfight Championships; 12/2-7 Miss Rodeo America Pageant; 12/8-9 PRCA stock sale; 12/2-11 Cowboy Christmas Show. Most events at Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV for info. call 731-2115, for tickets call 739-3900

Western Dance, 12/4-9, live music and video highlights of the National Finals Rodeo and



This 1947 Tucker automobile is among the featured cars in the Imperial Palace Auto Collection.

NFR contestants' daily poker tournament, 10:30pm-2am, Caesars Palace, 731-7777

Art Exhibit, 12/4-1/11, works by Gary James of Laguna Beach, Las Vegas Art Museum, 647-4300

Wrangler Tight Fitting Jeans, 12/6, jeans contest for men and women, held in conjunction with NFR, Holiday Casino, 369-5112

Nevada School of the Arts Third Annual Holiday Renaissance Feast, 12/6, entertainers include the Utah Shakespearean Festival Revelers, the UNLV Collegium Musicum, Nevada School of the Arts Trumpeters and Musicians, and the Clark County High School Madrigal Singers. Coronation and feasting begin at 7pm, Terrace Room, Desert Inn, 7pm, 739-3502

Photo Exhibit, 12/6-1/10, works by Richard Battey and Sandi Conn, Clark County Library, 733-3621

"Cinderella," 12/9-11 and 12/16-18, The Rainbow Company, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6553

Children's Christmas Parade, 12/10, 11am, Water St., downtown Henderson, 565-8951

Santa's Annual Christmas Parade, 12/10, assemblies at corners of Roosevelt and Hoover at 4pm, starts at 5pm, North Las Vegas, 646-4409

Harbor Parade of Lights, 12/10, Lake Mead Marina, 293-2034

"The Nutcracker," 12/10-23, Nevada Dance Theatre, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 739-3838

Las Vegas Symphony Orchestra Concert, 12/11 and 12/18, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3420

18th Annual Sport of Kings, 12/12-13, thoroughbred horse-racing celebration, seminars, ESPN awards banquet, Caesars Palace, 731-7777

Poker Hall of Fame Tournament, 12/12-21, Binion's Horseshoe, 382-1600

U.S. National Table Tennis Championships, 12/14-18, Caesars Palace, 619-280-5242 or 731-7324

Annual Christmas Show, 12/15, Dept. of Parks

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NOV. 17-20

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and Recreation recital, performed by the children at Brinley Community School, 6200 Smoke Ranch Rd., 646-9046

Art Exhibit, 12/15-1/24, paintings by Denise Shapiro, Green Valley Library, 733-3621

Christmas Dance Recital, 12/16, music and dance students performance, Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Del Robison Community School, 459-0201

Lake Mohave Parade of Lights, 12/17 boats with Christmas lights parade from Lake Mohave Resort to Davis Dam, Katherine's Landing, 298-2214 or 602-754-3245

13th Annual Nevada State Championship Chili Cook-Off, 12/17-18, estimated 200 competitors, \$7,500 purse, country music contest, Circus Circus, 734-0410

Art Exhibit, 12/17-1/28, paintings by Michael Almaguer, Museum of Natural History, UNLV, 739-3381

Holiday Concert, 12/18, featuring dancer Luisa Triana and guitarist Stuart Fox, 2pm, Las Vegas Symphony, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3420

"Messiah," 12/18, Southern Nevada Musical Arts Society, funded in part by a grant by the Music Performance Trust Fund, Local 369, Clark County Community College, North Las Vegas, 451-6672

Concert, 12/18, 3pm, Las Vegas-Clark County Library District's Chamber Orchestra-in-Residence, Clark County Library Auditorium, 733-3620

Christmas Show, 12/18-1/8, ornaments and seasonal artifacts, Fran Haney collection, Clark County Library, 733-3621

Nevada 88, 12/20-1/3, traveling photo show from Elko's Northeastern Nevada Museum, Valley of Fire State Park Visitors Center,



Reba McEntire appears with the Bellamy Brothers November 26-December 1 at Caesars Palace.

south of Overton, 397-2088

New Year's Eve Celebration, 12/31, Las Vegas, 382-6397

Annual New Year's Eve Bash, 12/31, Callville Bay Resort, Lake Mead, 565-8958

January

Art Exhibit, 1/1-31, watercolors, Lost City Museum, 397-2193

"Therapy," 1/8, 3pm, jazz octet concert, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

Senior Art Show, 1/10-2/5, Clark County Library, 733-3621

Photo Exhibit, 1/12-2/7 black-and-white photographs by Christopher Tsouras, Clark

County Library, 733-3621

Car Show, 1/13-15, Cashman Field, 733-2323

Extravaganza Mardi Gras, 1/14, U.S. and Canadian clubs, marching band, dancing, food and drink, 7pm, German-American Mardi Gras Assn., Union Plaza, 451-2220

"An Afternoon of Gilbert and Sullivan," 1/15, Southern Nevada Musical Arts, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 451-6672

Concert, 1/15, 3pm, Las Vegas-Clark County Library District's Chamber Orchestra-in-Residence, Clark County Library, 733-3620

Noir et Blanc Bal, 1/20, formal black-and-white gala honoring Commissioner Thalia Dondero as Nevada Dance Theatre's 1989 Woman of the Year, fashion show by Saks Fifth Avenue, benefit for NDT, call 739-3838 for location

"Party of One," 1/20-22, musical revue, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 739-3801

"Of Mice and Men," 1/20-22, 1/26-29, 2/2-4, drama, Las Vegas Little Theatre, at the Spring Valley Library Theatre, 383-0021

Amarillo Slim's Super Bowl of Poker, 1/26-2/9, prizes and purses exceed \$2 million, Caesars Palace, 731-7777

COMING EVENTS

Hoover Dam Square Dance Festival, Boulder City, 3/3-4, 293-4918

Clark County Fair, Logandale, 4/13-16, 397-8561

Henderson Industrial Days, 4/15-23, 565-8951

Boulder City Spring Jamboree, 4/19, 293-2034

Las Vegas Invitational (golf tournament), 4/26-30, 733-4653

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

SHOWGUIDE

Aladdin, 736-0240: *Bagdad Showroom*: "Abracadabra," magic, comedy, and dance, indf. (dark Tues.)

Bally's, 739-4567: *Celebrity Room*: Sammy Davis, Jr. and Jerry Lewis, thru 11/3; Dean Martin and the Goldiggers, 11/3-9 and 12/1-7; Tom Jones, 11/10-23; Barbara Mandrell, 11/24-30; Sammy Davis, Jr., 12/8-14; Frank Sinatra, 12/26-1/1; *Ziegfeld Theatre*: "Jubilee!" indf. (dark Wed.)

Barbary Coast, 737-7200: Irish Showband, thru 12/1

Bourbon Street, 794-3490: Entertainment TBA

Caesars Palace, 731-7110: Pointer Sisters, 11/2-7; Ann-Margret/Scott Record, 11/9-14 and 11/16-21; Reba McEntire/Bellamy Brothers, 11/26-12/1; Willie Nelson and Family, 12/2-10; Dionne Warwick/Natalie Cole, 12/27-1/1; Beach Boys, 1/5-9 and 1/11-16; The Judds, 1/18-23; Pointer Sisters, 1/25-30

California Hotel, 385-1222: Entertainment TBA

Circus Circus, 734-0410: Free circus acts, 11am-midnight

Desert Inn, 733-4566: Rich Little, 11/2; Ronnie Milsap/Dan Riley, 11/3-26

Dunes, 737-4741: Comedy Store, indf.

El Rancho, 796-2222: Entertainment TBA

Fitzgeralds, 382-6111: Nightly entertainment

Flamingo Hilton, 733-3333: "City Lites," stage

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spectacular, indf. (dark Sun.); Dae Hans/Metro, 11/1-3; Sonny Turner/Jay Ramsey, 11/4-12/1; Jonathan and Music Magic, 12/2-26; Jonathan and Music Magic/Second Wind, 12/27-1/5

Four Queens, 385-4011: Doug Kershaw, thru 11/6; Frank Sinatra, Jr., 11/8-25; Johnny Tiltson, 11/26-12/11; Monday Night Jazz featuring: Morgana King, 11/7; Charles Earland, 11/14; Shirley Scott, 11/28

Frontier, 734-0385: Entertainment TBA

Gold Coast, 367-7111: Sorta Dixie Jazz Band, indf. (dark Tues.); Comedy with Cork Proctor and Friends, indf.

Golden Nugget, 386-8100: Yakov Smirnoff, thru 11/1; Paul Anka, 11/3-15; Don Rickles, 11/17-22; Lou Rawls, 11/24-29; Kenny Rogers, 12/29-1/1

Hacienda, 739-5911: "Minsky's Burlesque," indf. (dark Mon.); Redd Foxx, indf. (dark Mon.)

Holiday, 369-5222: Rocky Sennes' "Roaring '20s Revue," thru 12/11

Horseshoe, 387-6468: Entertainment TBA

Imperial Palace, 794-3261: "Legends in Concert," indf. (dark Sun.)

Landmark, 733-1110: "'88 Follies Revue" starring Melinda, the First Lady of Magic, indf. (dark Wed.)

Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5755: Engelbert Humperdinck, 11/1-13 and 11/15-20; Wayne Newton, 11/22-12/4 and 12/27-1/1; George Strait, 12/6-10 and 12/12-26

Marina, 739-1500: "Dan-Sin Dirdy," indf.

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

Paddlewheel, 734-0711: TBA

Palace Station, 367-2411: Kristine and the Sting, 11/1-13; Krush, 11/15-27; Santa Fe, 11/29-12/18

Peppermill Resort, Mesquite: 346-5232: Van Gees, thru 11/6; Switch, thru 11/13; Stew Stewart, 11/7-20; Kenny and the Cruisers, 11/14-27

Riviera, 734-5301: "Splash" production show, indf.; "An Evening at La Cage," revue, indf.; "An Evening at the Improv," indf.; "Crazy Girls: Fastasie de Paris," revue, indf.

Royal Casino, 733-4000: Dos Guys, indf.

Sahara, 737-2424: "Boy-lesque," starring Kenny Kerr, indf. (dark Wed.)

Sam Boyd's Fremont, 385-3232: Nightly entertainment

Sam's Town, 456-7777: Nightly entertainment

Sands, 733-5453: "Beach Blanket Babylon," musical revue, indf.

Stardust, 732-6325: "Lido de Paris," starring Bobby Berosini and his orangutans, indf. (dark Tues.)

Tropicana, 739-2411: "Folies Bergere," indf. (dark Thurs.)

Union Plaza, 386-2446: "Bedazzled by Nudes on Ice," international ice skating champions, indf.

Whiskey Pete's, on I-15 near the California-Nevada border, 382-4388: Live entertainment

Laughlin

Colorado Belle, 298-4000: Big Band Bash, with jitterbug contest every Sun.

Del Webb's Nevada Club, 298-2512: Hoyt Henry and the Dixie Jazz Kings, indf. Mon.-Fri.

Edgewater, 298-2453

Regency, 298-2439: Piano bar

Riverside Resort, 298-2535: Entertainment TBA

Sam's Town Gold River, 298-2242: Live entertainment nightly

Win



Place



Show



The American Way To Play

Las Vegas

PREVIEW

Parade of Lights

A sparkling clear evening, cool and with perhaps just a touch of a breeze—that's what members of the Lake Mead Boat Owners Association are hoping for on Saturday, December 10, for their annual Parade of Lights. Last year's event had to be cancelled because of strong northeast winds that made Lake Mead look like an ocean.

Over the past decade the Parade of Lights has become a traditional holiday celebration for Lake Mead boaters. Up to 50 vessels vie for honors in several contest categories. All are decorated in fanciful ways with Santas, sleighs and reindeer, trees, angels, stars, and Nativity scenes.

The first parade started as a fun event for a few hardy boaters. Today, although on a larger scale and involving much preparation, it is still fun and has become a popular spectator event as well, with some parades attracting as many as 20,000 viewers along Boulder Beach, the



As evening falls over Lake Mead, boaters show off their vessels in their best light.

avored place for observation.

This year's Parade of Lights is scheduled to leave Lake Mead Marina at 6 p.m. After clearing Pyramid Point, the flotilla will travel southeast along the Boulder Beach area to Hemenway Harbor before returning to port about 8 p.m. Many of

the boats can be seen before and after the parade at Lake Mead Marina, which is three miles northwest of U.S. 93 on Lakeshore Road (State Route 166). The site is easily reached from Las Vegas via Henderson or Boulder City. December evenings can be cool, so dress warmly.

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MUSEUMS

Henderson

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

Las Vegas

American Museum of Historical Documents: 10-6 Mon.-Wed., 10-9 Thurs.-Fri., 10-6 Sat., 12-5 Sun., 3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., privately owned, 731-0785

Discovery, The Children's Museum: For information call 382-3445

Imperial Palace Auto Collection: 9:30am-11:30pm daily, 794-3174

Las Vegas Art Museum: 10-3 Tues.-Sat., noon-3 Sun., Lorenzi Park, 3333 W. Washington Ave., 647-4300

Las Vegas Museum of Natural History: (includes the Wildlife World Art Museum) 9-6 Sun.-Thurs., 9-9 Fri.-Sat., 3700 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 739-7280

Liberace Museum: 10-5 Mon.-Sat., 1-5 Sun., 1775 E. Tropicana, 798-5595

Nevada State Museum and Historical Society: 11:30-4:30 Mon.-Tues., 8:30-4:30 Wed.-Sun., Lorenzi Park, 486-5205

Old Las Vegas Fort: 8-2 Sat. and Mon. and noon-3 Sun., Las Vegas Blvd. N. at Washington (entrance from Cashman Field parking lot B only), 382-7198

Ripley's Believe It or Not!: 9am-midnight Sun.-Thurs., 9am-1am Fri.-Sat., Four Queens Hotel, 385-4011

UNLV Museum of Natural History: 9-5 Mon.-Fri., 10-5 Sat., UNLV 739-3381

North Las Vegas

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

Overton

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

ART GALLERIES

The following Las Vegas area galleries offer original works. If you're calling from out of state, Nevada's area code is 702.

Boulder City

Art Exchange: 707 Canyon Road, Suite 101, 10-5 Tues.-Fri., 11-3 Sat., specializing in framing, bronzes, original lithographs, 293-7263

Boulder City Art Guild and Gallery: 1495 Nevada Hwy., noon-4 daily, oils and watercolors by local artists, 294-9982

Brent Thomson Art and Framing: 1672 Nevada Hwy., 9-5 Tues.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., contemporary Southwest, 293-4652

Burk Gal'ry: 1229 Arizona, 10-5 Mon.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., western themes and polage, 293-3958

Henderson

Studio West: 2708 N. Green Valley Pkwy., 10-6 Mon.-Sat., paintings, etchings, and limited-edition prints, 458-2535

Las Vegas

AA Gallery: 1812 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 10-6 Mon.-



"The Hanging Man" hangs out at Ripley's Believe It or Not! museum in the Four Queens.

Fri., Sat.-Sun. by appointment, commissioned portraits, 386-2787

Allied Arts Gallery: 3207-1/2 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 9-5 Mon.-Fri., contemporary work by Nevada artists, 731-5419

Alta Ham Fine Arts Gallery: UNLV 4505 S. Maryland Pkwy., 8-5 Mon.-Fri., nationally known artists, 739-3893

American Museum of Historical Documents: 3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 10-6 Mon.-Wed., 10-9 Thurs.-Fri., 10-6 Sat., 12-5 Sun., historical documents framed as art, 731-0785

Art Lover's Gallery: 953 E. Sahara Ave., 10-6 Tues.-Fri., 10-5 Sat., posters, prints, and limited-edition lithographs, 734-2822

Canterbury Arts: 1566 Western, 8:30-5 Mon.-Fri., weekends and evenings by appointment, original graphics and limited-edition prints, 384-9640

Charleston Heights Arts Center: 800 S. Brush St., 1-8 Mon.-Thurs., 1-5 Fri.-Sun., students' work, 386-6383

Circle Gallery Ltd.: Bally's Shopping Arcade, 10-10 Sun.-Sat., lithographs and serigraphs, 734-0000

Clark County Library District: 1401 E. Flamingo Rd., 9-9 Mon.-Thurs., 9-5 Fri.-Sat., 1-5 Sun., local photography, 733-7810

Downtown Art and Gift Gallery: 321 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 11-2 Mon.-Fri., weekends and evenings by appointment, oils, acrylics, and sculpture, 384-3884

Emperor Galleries: 3000 Paradise Rd., 9-10 Sun.-Thurs., 9-12 Fri.-Sat., portraits and Violet Parkhurst seascapes, 731-0456

Habitat: 4300 Meadows Ln., 10-9 Mon.-Fri., 10-6 Sat., 11-6 Sun., Southwestern prints, watercolors, 878-2434

Herigstad's Gallery: 2290 E. Flamingo Rd., 10-6 Mon.-Sat., Peggy Hopper Hawaiian landscapes, Neiman and Dali signed lithographs, 733-7366

Las Vegas Art Museum: 3333 W. Washington Ave., 10-3 Tues.-Sat., 12-3 Sun., youth, Nevada, and guest artist displays, 647-4300

Las Vegas Artists Cooperative: 4300 Meadows Ln., 10-9 Mon.-Fri., 10-6 Sat.-Sun., 200 local

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artists, 877-0761

Markus Galleries: 3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., Suite 309, 10-6 Mon.-Wed. and Sat., 10-9 Thurs.-Fri., 12-5 Sun., contemporary art by area artists, Austine Wood polages, 737-7307

Mary Lou's: 5079 Arville, 9-6 Mon.-Fri., 9-1 Sat., Southwest Indian art, baskets, and pottery, 367-6465

Minotaur Fine Arts Ltd.: 3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 9:30-6 Mon.-Wed., 9:30-9 Thurs.-Fri., 9:30-6 Sat., 12-5 Sun., oils, etchings, and lithographic drawings, 737-1400

Nevada Frames and Gallery: 3061 Sheridan, 10-5 Mon.-Sat., floral and animal paintings, 876-6734

Newsom's Art Gallery: 1141 S. Maryland Pkwy., 10-5 Tues.-Sat. and by appointment, western paintings, bronzes, and woodcarving, 384-9865

Portfolio Ink: 2350 S. Jones Blvd., 2-7 Tues.-Fri., 11-6 Sat., limited-edition serigraphs and lithographs, 876-3587

Raphael Galleries, Ltd.: 3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 10-6 Mon.-Wed. and Sat., 10-9 Thurs.-Fri., 12-5 Sun., oils, lithographs, porcelain figurines, and plates, 732-9523

Reed Whipple Center Gallery: 821 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 2:30-8 Mon. and Thurs., 10-8 Tues., Wed., and Fri., 9-5 Sat., 12-5 Sun., local artists, 386-6383

Ryan Galleries: 3661 S. Maryland Pkwy., 10-5 Mon.-Fri., serigraphs and oils, 734-0650

Sandor Art Studio/Gallery: 3390 Oneida Way, 9-6 daily, western and Indian subjects, 732-4808

Studio Workshop and Gallery: 608 E. Sahara Ave., 10-5 Mon.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., local artists, 734-8962

Sturman Fine Arts: 101 Convention Center Dr., private collection open for viewing to major collectors, private dealers, and universities by appointment only, 734-2787

Torres Gallery and Frame Shop: 2470 E. Tropicana Ave., 9-6 Mon.-Sat., original and limited-edition prints, 454-6622

Touch of the West Gallery: Dunes Hotel, 10-8 Sun.-Thurs., 10-10 Fri.-Sat., Charles Smith paintings, western art, serigraphs, 731-1315

Winged Horse Gallery: 6380 Eastern Ave., 10-5 Mon.-Sat., contemporary ceramic, wood and bronze sculpture, paintings, 798-0778

CASINO NOTES

• The 1934 Ford V-8 used as a getaway car by the outlaw couple Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow is on display in **Whiskey Pete's Hotel-Casino**. Bonnie and Clyde were ambushed by a special sheriff's unit in Gibsland, Louisiana, on May 23, 1934. When the gun battle ended Bonnie and Clyde were dead and the car was riddled with 167 bullet holes. "The car looks today just as it did in 1934—bullet holes, broken windows, and all," says Gary Primm, owner of the casino, located at Stateline on Interstate 15 at the California border.

• **Caesars Palace** has been awarded *Successful Meetings* magazine's Pinnacle Award for the fourth consecutive year. The award is considered a mark of excellence for hotels, resorts, and conference centers that book meetings by readers of the magazine. Explains *Successful Meetings* publisher Charles Wrye, "They select the winning hotels based on overall service, meeting rooms and equipment, recreational facilities, quality of food and beverage, accessibility, and exhibit space."

• A 72-lane bowling center, casino, buffet, specialty restaurant, shops and services are the focal points of the **Gold Coast's** \$25-million-dollar expansion. The grand opening for the 125,000 square-foot addition was this summer. The bowling center on the second floor has 23 lanes, free child care center, video arcade, pro shop with a full-time instructor, cocktail lounge, and a snack bar. Downstairs facilities include casino, buffet, restaurant, bar, gift shop, discount liquor store, travel agency, and American Express office.

• This summer the **Landmark** unveiled Top of the Place, a new lounge encompassing the 31st floor of the Landmark's tower. The upscale nightclub has gigantic windows that overlook the Las Vegas Valley, providing a 360-degree view of nighttime Las Vegas. A professional disc jockey spins jazz and sophisticated rock music with a high-tech video system.

• The **Imperial Palace Auto Collection**, considered by *Car and Driver* magazine as one of the world's top 10 collections of antique, classic, and special-interest automobiles, is currently displaying one of the five Liberace cars the Imperial Palace owns. The 1981 Zimmer Golden Spirit, which was especially designed for Liberace, features several candelabras that glow in the night. The collection has a 1947 Tucker and more than 200 classic, antique, and special-interest automobiles on display daily.

• On November 23 the **Silver Slipper** will be torn down. Margaret Elardi, new owner of the Frontier Hotel, has acquired the Silver Slipper property from the Summa Corporation with intentions to build a 1,000-room tower on the site. The Silver Slipper began as the Golden Slipper with its grand opening on September 1, 1950, at the portal of the Last Frontier Hotel's Western Village.

• **Harrah's Del Rio** opened this summer in Laughlin. Built on a 50-acre site, with its own natural cove on the Colorado River, Harrah's Del Rio has 466 hotel rooms, 25,000 square feet of casino space, 36 table games, and more than 1,000 slot machines. The color and architecture is old Mexico.

TOURNAMENTS

November

Slots/Poker, 10/30-11/1, Tropicana, 739-2222
Slots, 10/30-11/2 and 11/20-23, Flamingo Hilton, 733-3117
Slots, 11/6-7 and 11/20-22, Tropicana, 739-2222
Slots, 11/6-9, Caesars Palace, 731-7777
World Cup of Thoroughbred Handicapping, 11/16-20, Caesars Palace, 796-7529
Roulette, 11/19-20, Hacienda, 739-8654
Slots, 11/19-22, Frontier, 734-0110
Slots, 11/29-12/2, Sands, 733-5285

December

Slots, 12/4-5, Tropicana, 739-2222
Video Poker, 12/5-7 Caesars Palace, 731-7777
Slots, 12/5-9, Union Plaza, 386-2253
Slots, 12/7-21, Sam's Town Gold River, Laughlin, 298-2242
Pan, 12/12-16, Union Plaza, 386-2253
Poker Hall of Fame Tournament, 12/12-21, Binion's Horseshoe, 382-1600
Blackjack, 12/14-18, Frontier, 734-0110
Slots, 12/15-16 and 12/17-18, Riviera, 734-5110

January

Amarillo Slim's Super Bowl of Poker, 1/26-2/9, Caesars Palace, 731-7777

Basketball Fever

The UNLV Rebels and UNR Wolf Pack are making another run at the NAAs this season.

By John Schumacher

Walk into Thomas and Mack Center and experience the flash and dash of college basketball's most dazzling show. Spotlights dance about the crowd. The band breaks into the theme from *Jaws*. Fireworks explode. The fans roar as the music stops and a single spotlight follows each University of Nevada-Las Vegas starter to center court.

But UNLV basketball offers more than glitter. Every year the Rebels deliver a healthy dose of substance to blend with all that style.

A fixture in the nation's Top 20 polls, UNLV has advanced to the NCAA Tournament six straight times, including a trip to the Final Four in 1987. Such success is a big reason why the Rebels averaged 17,634 fans per game last season.

After a rebuilding year that featured a remarkable 28-6 record, the Rebels appear good enough to start another run at the Final Four when the 1988-89 season opens in late November.

"We'll be better," UNLV coach Jerry Tarkanian says.

Maybe a lot better.

"Jerry's probably got his best team," University of Nevada-Reno coach Len Stevens says. "They're loaded. They've got so many players."

Stevens has a few good ones at UNR, too. Maybe enough to join UNLV in next spring's NCAA Tournament.

However, UNLV is Nevada's best bet to make big waves on the national scene. Two returning sophomore starters—6-foot-7 forward Stacey Augmon and 6-4 guard Karl James—along with redshirt point guard Greg Anthony and a strong recruiting class could push the Rebels into the Top 10. Anthony, a 6-3 sophomore, sat out last season after transferring from the University of Portland, where he averaged 15.8 points and 4.0 assists and was named West Coast Athletic Conference Freshman of the Year. He is expected to change the point guard

position from a weakness to a strength.

"Greg Anthony will be a great leader," Tarkanian says. "He's very intelligent and he's tough."

Four junior college transfers—6-10 David Butler, 6-10 George Ackles, 6-9 James Jones, and 6-7 Moses Scurry—should offset the loss of frontcourt starters Jarvis Basnight, Gerald Paddio, and Anthony Todd.

The Rebels' schedule includes televised games at Louisville, Louisiana State, and North Carolina State and home games with three teams that crashed the NCAA party last season: Temple, Rhode Island, and Utah State.

UNR doesn't have any spotlights or fireworks. The Wolf Pack's style on the court, though, is similar to UNLV's. Look for UNR to run and press full-court as often as possible.

Leading the way is 6-foot senior point guard Darryl Owens, an electrifying player considered one of the West's top guards. Matt Williams, a 6-4 forward, is the Pack's other returning starter. Kevin Franklin, a 6-4 guard who sat out last season with eligibility problems, and 6-8 forward Jon Baer are the best of the newcomers.

"I think you'll see our running game geared up a notch just because of the experience Darryl Owens has and the fact we have a Kevin Franklin, who is a high-powered scorer," Coach Stevens says. "I think the other thing we've done is improved



UNR point guard Darryl Owens stays ahead of the pack (top) while UNLV coach Jerry Tarkanian gives a Rebel yell.

ourselves with size."

UNR provided plenty of excitement last season at Lawlor Events Center, losing 98-96 in double overtime to UNLV in front of 10,330 fans and dropping a 115-91 decision to North Carolina as 11,200 watched.

The Wolf Pack's home schedule, which begins November 26 against the College of Idaho, features three teams that reached last season's NCAA Tournament: Loyola Marymount, Southern Methodist, and Boise State. UNR also meets longtime rivals University of San Francisco, Santa Clara, and Pepperdine.

"It gives fans a chance to see high-octane teams like Loyola and then brute power teams like Santa Clara and Pepperdine," Stevens says. "They get a diversified look."

John Schumacher, a sports writer for the Reno Gazette-Journal, has covered Nevada college basketball the last five seasons.

THE NEVADA CALENDAR



This winter there are many skiing events and races at local ski resorts.

RENO-TAHOE HOT LINES

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

Nevada Division of State Parks: hikes, tours, stargazing, campfire programs at 21 parks around the state, District II, Carson City, 885-4379

UNR Basketball: 11/26 v. College of Idaho; 12/3 v. Pepperdine; 12/6 v. San Francisco; 12/20 v. Southern Methodist; 12/23 v. San Diego; 12/30 v. Loyola Marymount; 1/5 v. Idaho State; 1/7 v. Weber State; 1/19 v. Montana State; 1/21 v. Montana; 1/28 v. Boise State, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 348-PACK

UNR Football: 11/5 v. Idaho (homecoming), 11/12 v. Eastern Washington, Mackay Stadium, UNR, 348-PACK

UNR Music Department: concerts, recitals, 784-6145

For chamber of commerce and convention center phones, see page E-6

RENO-TAHOE EVENTS

November

Carson Indian Colony Lakale'l be ("Gathering") Powwow, 10/28-30, Carson Indian Colony, 2900 S. Curry St., Carson City, 885-9759 or 883-8940

Nevada Day Celebration, 10/28-31, carnival, exhibits, food, at Mills Park, parade on Mon. the 31st, Carson City, 882-2600 or 882-1565

Brewery Exhibit, 10/31, opening of permanent display on the history of the Carson Brewing Company, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Nevada Day Art Show, thru 11/5, Nevada Artist's Assn., Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-4482

Anything Goes, thru 11/6, drawings and tournaments to celebrate B Street Victorian Plaza, Karl's, Sparks, 358-4771 ext. 3342

Ansel Adams Photo Exhibit, thru 11/27, featuring the museum set owned by Pacific Telesis Group, \$2 adults, \$1.50 seniors and students, 50 cents ages 6-12, children under six free, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Exhibit, thru 11/28, photographic installation by Mark Durant, XS Gallery, Western Nevada Community College, Carson City, 887-3000

George Wingfield's Nevada, thru 12/30, exhibit on the life of George Wingfield, Nevada Historical Society, 789-0190

Minerals Exhibit, thru 5/1/89, ore minerals, gem stones, fluorescent minerals, ore suites from five Nevada mining districts, Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 885-4810

UNR Homecoming, 10/29-11/5, dances, picnics, intercollegiate competitions, culminating on 11/5 with parade and football game against Idaho, UNR, 784-6589

Veteran's Display, 11/1-30, honoring all veterans, Lake Tahoe Historical Society, South Lake Tahoe, 916-577-3380

This Is Nevada Exhibit, 11/1-30, photographs, paintings, and drawings of Nevada past and present, exhibit under auspices of Artemisia Gallery, shown at Reno Gazette-Journal Gallery, 786-6656

Winter Wonderland Exhibit, 11/1-12/31, hand-painted and hand-crafted items, hospi-

talities table for the holidays, Artists Cooperative Gallery of Reno, 673-2024

"Countess Dracula," 11/3-5, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Photo Exhibit, 11/3-29, works by Linda Bourassa, artist's reception on 11/3, DICE, Truckee Meadows Community College, 673-7000

Great American Craft Fair, 11/4-6, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 322-4544

American Bicycle Assn. Motocross, 11/4-6, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 323-3073

Basque Club Dance, 11/5, open to public, CVIC Hall, Gardnerville, 782-5145

John Philip Sousa Birthday Jubilee, 11/5, bands from the Virginia City area play Sousa's songs in the saloons, on the street, and finish with a contest of bands, Virginia City, 847-0311

North American Indian Championship Rodeo, 11/10-13, features top Indian rodeo contestants from the U.S. and Canada who compete in the Indian rodeo circuits and the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Assn., arts and crafts and western trade show, ceremonial Indian dances, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 323-3073 or 605-733-2555

Friday Night at the Fights, 11/11, 10-round main event with additional bouts including local boxers, Eldorado Hotel, 786-5700

Carson Valley Open Dart Tournament, 11/11-13, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

Western States Craft Jamboree, 11/11-13, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 882-7608

National Seniors Pro Rodeo Finals, 11/16-20, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 323-3073

"Tom Sawyer," 11/17-19, Brewery Arts Center, 883-1976

All Star Bocce Classic, 11/17-20, Peppermill, 826-2121

Bob Barnes Big Band Sound Dance, 11/18, dance to music of the 1940s and 1950s, The Chateau, Incline Village, 831-4622

17th Annual Tahoe Nordic Opening Party, 11/18, slide show, ski movies, food and drink, free, Tahoe Nordic, Tahoe City, 916-583-0484

The Reno Craft Festival, 11/18-20, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 827-7659

The Magic of an Old-Fashioned Christmas Open House, 11/20, Junior League of Reno's Arlington Gardens will have shopkeepers in period costumes, tea room open, and unique shops, 826-0337

Northern Nevada Fiber Guild, 11/21-1/12, traveling fiber art show with exhibit panels, handwoven items, City Hall Galleries, 673-0823

Reno Philharmonic Concert, 11/22, Pioneer Theater, 825-5905

Diamond Peak at Ski Incline Opening Day, 11/24, Incline Village, 832-1177

Christmas on the Comstock, 11/24-12/25, carolers, festival of lights, on 12/9 judging of lights and decorations and holiday dinner at the Delta, on 12/10 parade and caroling, Virginia City, 847-0311

Thanksgiving Turkey Trot, 11/25, guided cross-country tour at noon, Northstar, 916-587-0273

Christmas Faire, 11/25-27 arts and crafts, supervised children's faire, Santa Claus, Punch and Judy show, Tahoe City Community Center, 916-583-1762

Sutcliffe Save the Children Fishing Derby, 11/25-27 prizes will be given for the heaviest and longest Lahontan cutthroat trout with additional awards, Pyramid Lake, 673-3667

Nevada Country Christmas Exhibit, 11/25-

PREVIEW

Holiday Fantasy

By Julie Quinn

Visions of sugar plum fairies come alive every Christmas season in Reno and Las Vegas in the form of "The Nutcracker," the classic story about a childhood nightmare that turns into a dream come true.

Set to the music of Tchaikovsky, "The Nutcracker" is based on the fairy tale by E.T.A. Hoffmann, a celebrated 19th-century German fantasy writer. The ballet—in a nutshell—opens at a Christmas party where guests and hosts are exchanging presents. Clara, the hosts' daughter, and her brother, Fritz, are excited when their godfather, Drosselmeyer, comes bearing gifts. He has a special present for Clara—a nutcracker in the shape of a handsome soldier. Fritz is miffed and grabs the nutcracker, breaking it.

Upset, Clara comes back at midnight to look for the damaged gift. Suddenly all the toys come alive and begin fighting an army of huge mice. Clara steps in, saving the nutcracker from certain doom. The nutcracker, who is now a real prince, repays Clara by taking her on a magical ride through a land of snowlike candy. There she meets the Snow King and Queen and their court of Snowflakes. Then the Sugar Plum Fairy from the Kingdom of Sweets appears and performs one of ballet's most beautiful dances, the famous *pas de deux*, with her Cavalier, a princely character from the same sweet land. The ballet ends with a waltz in which all the dancers join.

1/1/89, model trains, antique toys, miniatures, quilts, and nostalgia, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Annual Santa's Arrival Party, 11/26, children's party and family gift selection, old Douglas High School, Gardnerville, 782-8144

Tahoe Donner Cross-Country Ski Area Open House, 11/26, beer and loathing, free, 5:30-8:30pm, 916-587-9454

1988 Cowboy Poets Rhymers Rodeer, 11/26-27 warm-up to Elko's Cowboy Poetry Gathering 1/26-28, on Sat. open poetry sessions, no-host cocktail party, dinner, and rodeer feature show, on Sun. open poetry sessions, rodeer feature show, Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890

Ninth Annual "Messiah" Sing-a-long, 11/27 3pm, Sierra Community Orchestra, Pioneer Theater, 673-2276

Side Street Strutters Concert, 11/28, Dixieland, blues, and other jazz standards in a more contemporary style, Carson City Community Center, 883-1976

Reno Industrial Expo, 11/29-30, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 827-7659



The Nevada Dance Theatre (above) and Nevada Opera will perform "The Nutcracker."

In Reno "The Nutcracker" is celebrated by Nevada Opera on December 17-19 at the Pioneer Theater. The opera company directed by Ted Puffer with Maggie Banks as choreographer, has presented the fairy tale ballet for the last several years. For ticket information call 702-786-4046.

In Las Vegas the Nevada Dance Theatre, under the direction of Vassili Sulich, presents the ballet at the Judy Bayley Theatre at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. The NDT has been enchanting audiences with its version for the last eight years. This year it will be presented nightly on December 10-23. For information call 702-739-3838.

December

Reno Philharmonic Community Christmas Concert, 12/1, pops concert with holiday music, Pioneer Theater, 825-5905

Festival of Lights, 12/1-1/6, homes and businesses decorate with lights along Country Club Dr. and Lakeshore Blvd. during the holiday season, Incline Village, 831-1111

Art Exhibit, 12/1-1/27, works by Kelsie Harder, artist's reception 12/1, DICE, Truckee Meadows Community College, 673-7000

"Blithe Spirit," 12/2-3, 12/9-11, and 12/15-17 comedy, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

"A Christmas Carol," 12/2-3, 12/9-10, 12/16-27, Proscenium Players, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Photography Exhibit, 12/2-1/20, featuring three Nevada photographers: Erik Lauritzen, Dan Adams, and Alan Platzer; artist's reception in conjunction with Western Nevada Community College open house on 12/2, XS Gallery, WNCC, 887-3000

Genoa Christmas Fair, 12/3, crafts and food, old fire house, Genoa, 782-8144

Christmas Bazaar, 12/3, Reno Emblem Club,

Reno Elks Lodge, 358-0160

Sparks Hometown Victorian Christmas Celebration, 12/3, parade, streets and Christmas tree decorated with lights, craft exhibits, hot roasted chestnuts and hot chocolate, caroling, ice skating show, band, B Street, Sparks, 356-2284

Railroad Show, 12/3-4, 10am-5pm, operating layouts, scale models, artifacts, railroad antiques, Carson City Railroad Assn., J.C. Penney Mall, Carson City, 882-8896

Kirkwood Klassic, 12/4, 10-km. citizen cross-country ski race, Kirkwood, 209-258-6000

Crystal Light National Aerobic Championship, 12/5-12, includes nation's top aerobic competitors, at various casinos, South Lake Tahoe, 916-544-5050

Western Nugget Expo, 12/8-10, national point show and sale of Hereford bulls and heifers, on 12/9 sale at John Ascuaga's Nugget, on 12/10 show at Reno Livestock/Events Center, 356-3438

Holiday Crafts Fair, 12/9-10, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Weaving Studio Open House, 12/9-11, featuring works by Kate Hanlon with weaving and loom demonstration, holiday gifts sale, hand-woven clothing, noon-6pm, Hardscrabble Farms, 45 Lockwood Rd., Sparks, 342-0196

Christmas Ball, 12/10, formal dinner and dancing, hosted by Incline Village/Crystal Bay Chamber of Commerce, Hyatt Lake Tahoe, Incline Village, 831-4440

Holiday Treat Concert, 12/11, Carson City area singers and musicians, 5:30pm, Carson City Community Center, 883-4154

Swix/Royal Gorge Cup 10-Km. Ski Race, 12/11, cross-country race, Royal Gorge, 916-426-3871



The Sierra Nevada Museum of Art will be opening an additional building in early 1989. The new facility will allow for more shows such as the Ansel Adams exhibit currently showing through November 27. Above is Adams' "Mount Williamson from Manzanar, California, 1944."

Christmas and New Year's Festivities at Local Ski Areas, 12/12-1/1, 916-583-2371

Ski Free Day, 12/15, all day lift pass is free to first 1,500 skiers, Donner Ski Ranch, Norden, 916-426-3635

Flip's International Meet, 12/16-17 features top U.S. competitors including future Olympians, Bally's Reno, 827-2232

"Ebenezer Scrooge," 12/16-21, musical, Harrah's Tahoe, 588-6611

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Alpenglow/Fischer Tahoe Nordic Ten, 12/17 ski race, Tahoe Nordic, 916-583-0484

Nutcracker Ballet, 12/17-19, Nevada Opera, Pioneer Theater, 786-4046

Festival of Trees, 12/17-23, honoring the Christmas tree, tree decorating contest with an expected 50 live trees that will be planted in Reno later in the year, Santa's Village, sleigh rides, carolers, snow sculptures, ice carvings, Virginia Street, downtown Reno, 827-7668

Christmas Music Program, 12/18, The Chateau, Incline Village, 831-4622

"A Christmas Carol," 12/21-24, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Torchlight Parade, 12/24, Squaw Valley, 916-583-6985

New Year's Eve Torchlight Parade, 12/31, Kirkwood, 209-258-6000

Torchlight Parade, 12/31, Tahoe Donner, 916-587-9400

Puttin' on the Ritz, 12/31, New Year's Eve formal dinner, dance, and auction, fundraiser for the Incline Village/Crystal Bay Chamber of Commerce, 831-4440

USSA Far West Freestyle Meet, 12/31-1/1, Boreal Ski Area, 916-426-3666

January

Jeep Challenge New Year's 10-Km. Race, 1/2, cross-country ski race, open to all skiers, Royal Gorge, 916-426-3871

South Shore Winter Festival of Lights, 1/6-15,



The Nevada Historical Society has an exhibit on the life of George Wingfield through December 30.

Lake Tahoe's South Shore becomes a fairyl-land of lights and color with holiday decorations, torchlight parades, ski races, and sleigh rides, South Lake Tahoe and Stateline, 916-544-5050

Super Stars of Poker, 1/6-19, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515

Men's Pro Cup, 1/7-8, top professional ski racers compete, Heavenly Valley, 916-541-1330

Kid's Cross-Country Ski Race, 1/8, noon, Tahoe Donner, 916-587-9454

Donner Ski Ranch Anniversary, 1/9-13, special prices for 31st anniversary, 916-426-3635

Nevada State Backgammon Championship, 1/11-15, largest backgammon tournament in U.S., Peppermill, 826-1984

"Agatha Christie Made Me Do It!" 1/13-14, 1/20-21, 1/27-28, comedy-thriller, 8pm, Carson Valley Theatre, CVIC Hall, Minden, 267-2799

Far West Masters Slalom Championships,

1/14-15, Diamond Peak at Ski Incline, Incline Village, 832-1177

National Brotherhood of Skiers Winter Carnival, 1/14-16, Alpine Meadows, 916-583-4232

Gail Dubinbaum Concert, 1/17, mezzo-soprano opera singer, Pioneer Theater, 322-7670

Learn-To-Ski-Free Day, 1/20, first-time skiers can get a lesson, equipment rental, and beginner lift ticket for free, available at various ski resorts, 916-562-1010

Coca-Cola Cup Ski Race, 1/21, Northstar, 916-562-1010

Pacific Crest Telemark Series, 1/22, Sierra Ski Ranch, 916-659-7453

Kirkwood/Fischer 30-Km. Race, 1/22, cross-country ski race, Kirkwood, 209-258-6000

Jeep/Eagle GS Ski Race, 1/22, Boreal Ski Area,

916-426-3666

Reno Philharmonic Concert, 1/24, Pioneer Theater, 825-5905

Exceptional Children's Big Ski Adventure, 1/24, Sierra Ski Ranch, 916-659-7453

Tahoe Nordic Championships, 1/24, 15-km. citizen's race, Tahoe Nordic, 916-583-9858

Winterfest Auction/Party, 1/25, fundraising event and party for Tahoe Rim Trail, in conjunction with South Lake Tahoe Winter Carnival, location TBA, South Lake Tahoe, 916-577-0676

January Jazz, 1/25, Nevada and California high school jazz bands, invitational music and race competition, Sierra Ski Ranch, 916-659-7453

Art Exhibit, 1/26-2/27 works by Karen Atkinson, XS Gallery, Western Nevada Community College, 887-3000

Snow Sculpture Contest, 1/27 Tahoe Donner,

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Legislator's Cup Ski Race, 1/27 between Ne-
vada and California legislators, Sierra Ski
Ranch, 916-659-7453

COMING EVENTS

Reno Film Festival, 2/4-5, 831-1547
Snowfest Winter Carnival, 3/3-12, North Lake
Tahoe, 916-583-7625
**International Winter Special Olympics
Games**, 4/1-8, Lake Tahoe and Reno, 322-
8888
Tastes of Tahoe, 5/14, Incline Village, 831-1547

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

SHOWGUIDE

Bally's Reno, 789-2285: Ziegfeld Theatre: "Hello
Hollywood, Hello!" indf.
Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515: Cascade Showroom:
Jerry Garcia, 11/4-5; Pointer Sisters, 11/25-
27; David Copperfield, 12/26-30; Barry Ma-
nilow, 12/31-1/1; Suzanne Somers, 1/20-22;
Harry Anderson, 1/27-28; Crystal Cabaret:
Playboy's Girls of Rock 'n Roll, indf.; Laff
Trax, indf.
Carson City Nugget, 883-3854: Entertainment
TBA
Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711: Passion,
11/1-12; Network, 11/15-26; Motifs, 11/29-



Dionne Warwick appears at Harrah's Tahoe
November 8-13.

12/11; Whiskey Ridge, 12/13-25
Circus Circus, Reno, 329-0711: Free circus acts,
11am-midnight
Crystal Bay Club, North Tahoe, 831-0512
Del Webb's High Sierra, Stateline, 588-6211:
Joe Savage, 11/1-6
Eldorado, Reno, 786-5700: Diamonds/Krush,
10/25-11/13; Joe Savage/Entertain-
ment Committee, 11/15-12/4; Krush, 12/27-
1/1

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1NEB

Fitzgerald's, Reno, 785-3300: Entertainment TBA

Harolds Club, Reno, 329-0881: Entertainment TBA

Harrah's Reno, 329-4422: *Headliner Room*: Jim Nabors/Rosemary Clooney, thru 11/2; Roy Clark Show, 11/3-9; Smothers Brothers, 11/10-16; Neil Sedaka, 11/17-23; Mickey Gilley, 11/24-30; Yakov Smirnoff, 12/1-4; Polynesian Revue, 12/8-18; Bobby Vinton, 12/24-29; *Casino Cabaret*: Frenz, indf.; Plat- ters, thru 11/2; Bottoms Up '88, thru 11/13; The Guess Who, 11/3-9; Zasu Pitts Memorial Orchestra, 11/10-16

Harrah's Tahoe, 588-6606: *South Shore Room*: Don Rickles/Toni Tennille, 11/1-6; Dionne Warwick, 11/8-13; Bill Cosby/Sammy Davis, Jr., 11/15-20; Rich Little/Debbie Reynolds, 11/22-27; Charo, 12/23-1/1; *Stateline Cabaret*: Frederic Apcar's "Fast Company," indf.; The Guess Who, thru 11/1; Williams and Ree, 11/3-8; Zasu Pitts Memorial Orchestra, 11/24-29; Roomful of Blues, 12/8-13; Bus- boys, 12/15-27

Harvey's, Stateline, 588-2411: Pazzaz Revue, indf.; Fire and Desire, thru 11/13; Steppen Stones, 11/14-12/4; Zella Lehr, 12/5-18; Jene- ane Marie, 12/19-25; Sonny Turner, 12/26- 1/22

Hyatt Lake Tahoe, Incline, 831-1111: Entertain- ment TBA

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3304: *Ce- lebrity Showroom*: Legends Live, 9/29-12/2; *Casino Lounge*: Garfin Gathering/Martha's Children, 10/18-11/6; Louie Fontaine and the Rockets/Motifs 11/8-27

Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890: Mickey Laverine, indf.; Garfin Gathering, 11/15-27; Big Tiny Little, 11/29-12/11; Ricky and Bobby, 12/20-1/8

Peppermill, Reno, 826-2121: Leno and Com- pany, 10/31-11/6; The Lelands, 10/31-11/13; St. Romain, 11/7-20; Leonie-Hecht, 11/21- 12/4; Cameron, 11/21-12/11; Heart Beats, 11/28-12/4

Reno Hilton, 322-1111: Silk, thru 11/27; Leonie- Hecht Group, thru 11/20 and 12/26-1/1; Ricky and Bobby, thru 12/18

Reno Ramada, 788-2000: Mike Reali, indf.

Sharkey's Nugget, Gardnerville, 782-3133

Tahoe Biltmore, North Tahoe, 831-0660: Enter- tainment TBA

Topaz Lodge, Topaz Lake, 266-3339

Western Village, Sparks, 331-1069: Gary Wade and the Bump, thru 11/6 and 12/12-1/1; Tommy Bell, 11/7-20; France, 11/21-27; Wrays, 11/21-12/4; Lelands, 11/28-12/11; David Proud, 12/19-1/1

MUSEUMS

Carson City

Nevada State Archives: 8-5 Mon.-Fri., 101 S. Fall St., 885-5210

Nevada State Museum: 8:30-4:30 daily, 600 N. Carson St., 885-4810

Nevada State Railroad Museum: 8:30-4:30 Fri.- Sun. and holidays from Memorial Day thru Nov. 1, S. Carson St. at Fairview Dr., 885-5168

Stewart Indian Museum: 9-4 every day, 5366 Snyder Ave., 882-1808

Warren Engine Co. No. 1 Museum: 1-5 Mon.- Fri., 111 N. Curry St., 887-2200

Genoa

Genoa Courthouse Museum: 10-4:30 daily May 15-October 1, 782-2518

Reno

Fleischmann Planetarium: 8-5 and 7-10 Mon.- Fri., 10:30-5 and 7-10 Sat.-Sun., UNR, call 784- 4811 for schedule of shows

Harolds Club Gun Collection and Museum: 10-10 daily, 329-0881

Mackay School of Mines Minerals Museum: 8- 5 Mon.-Fri., UNR, 784-6988

Nevada Air Museum: 10-5 weekends, Reno- Stead Airport, 10 mi. north of Reno, 853-3488

Nevada Historical Society: 10-5 Tues.-Sat., and noon-5 Sun., 1650 N. Virginia St., 789-0190

Sierra Nevada Museum of Art: 10-4 Tues. and Thurs.-Fri., 10-8 Wed., 12-4 Sat.-Sun., 549 Court St., 329-3333

UNR Anthropology Dept. Research Museum: 9-1 Mon.-Fri. Sept.-May, open all year by

appointment, UNR, 784-4686

Wilbur D. May Museum: 10-5 Wed.-Sun., 1502 Washington (Rancho San Rafael Park), 785- 5961

Sparks

William F. Harrah Automobile Museum: 9:30- 5:30 daily, 970 Glendale Ave., 355-3500

Sparks Heritage Foundation and Museum: 1-4 Mon.-Fri., 820 B St., 355-1144

Virginia City

Comstock Firemen's Museum: 10-4 daily, May- Oct., closed during winter, 847-0717

Fourth Ward School Museum: 10-5 daily, open thru early Nov., closed during winter, 847- 0975

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Julia C. Bulette Red Light Museum: 7:30-9 daily, 847-9991
Mark Twain Museum: 10-6 daily, 847-0525
Museum of Memories: 9:30-5 daily, 847-0454
Nevada Gambling Museum: 10-6 daily, 847-0789
The Way It Was Museum: 9:30-5 daily, 847-0766
Wild West Museum: 9-5 daily, 847-0400

ART GALLERIES Carson City

Abell House: 1114 Curry St., 10-5:30 Mon.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., shows by local artists, 883-5300
Austin Arts: 1505 N. Carson St., 9-5:30 Mon.-Fri., 9-1 Sat., visiting and local artists, 883-5531
Donna's Gallery: 1307 S. Carson St., 11-5:30 Tues.-Sat., handcrafted gifts, 883-9132
Great Basin Gallery and Frame: 110 S. Curry St., 10-6 Mon.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., works by Jeff Nicholson, Mary Chadwell, Judith Stroh Miller, Barbara Moore, Jim Christison, Buckeye Blake, Steven Saylor, 882-8505
Nevada Artists Association Gallery: 449 W. King St., 10-4 Mon.-Sat., primarily Nevada themes, 882-6411
XS Gallery: Western Nevada Community College, 2201 W. Nye Ln., 8-10 Mon.-Thurs., 8-5 Fri., contemporary fine art, 887-3000

Gardnerville

East Fork Gallery: 1427 Main St. (U.S. 395), 10-5 daily, paintings, photographs, and ceramics by local artists, 782-2769

Lake Tahoe

DeCurtis Art Gallery: Round Hill Mall, Zephyr Cove, 10-5 Mon.-Sat., Sun. by appointment, oils, watercolors, 588-7310
High Sierra Gallery: Del Webb's High Sierra, Stateline, 9-5 Mon.-Fri., 9-9 Sat.-Sun., oils and photos, Tahoe themes, 588-6707
Lake Gallery: Boatworks Mall, Tahoe City, 10-10 Sun.-Sat., contemporary sculpture, prints, and limited editions, 916-583-1002
Potlatch: 324 Ski Way, Incline Village, 10-5:30 Sun.-Sat., Anthony Sinclair oils, 831-2485
Royal Art Gallery: Round Hill Mall, Zephyr Cove, 10-8 daily, limited-edition prints, oils, and sculptures, 588-2461
Sierra Galleries: Caesars Tahoe, Stateline, 8:30-9:30 Sun.-Thurs., 8:30-11 Fri.-Sat., western and Tahoe paintings, 588-8500
Timberline Crafts Gallery: 590 Lakeshore Dr., Incline Village, 10-5:30 daily, more than 100 regional artists' works, 831-2460

Minden

Lone Tree Frame Co. and Gallery: 1592 Esmeralda, 10-5:30 Tues.-Fri., 10-2 Sat., originals by Mimi Jobe and Lady Jill Mueller, 782-2522

Reno

Addi Galleries: Bally's Reno, 9-11 Sun.-Sat, Red Skelton clown paintings, 323-1920
Artist's Co-op Gallery: 627 Mill St., 10-5 Tues.-Sat., 1-4:30 Sun., local artists' work, 322-8896
Barnwood Is Beautiful: 135 N. Sierra, 12-5 Mon.-Sat., antique Nevada photos lacquered on barnwood, 329-6106
Casazza Art Gallery and Studio: 2200 Thornwood, by appointment, watercolors, winterscapes, abstracts, and florals, 322-0233
Custom Framing by Clark: 135 W. Liberty, 10-

4:30 Mon.-Thurs., 10-4 Fri., oils and watercolors, 329-1177

Earth Window: American Indian Art: 2001 E. Second St., 10-5:30 Sun.-Sat., American Indian art in oil, acrylic, sandpainting, and beadwork, 786-5999

Fallen Leaf Gallery and Framery: 907 W. Moana Ln., 10-6 Tues.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., Frank McCarthy western prints, 826-7477

Feats of Clay: 20 C Hillcrest Dr., 10-5 Mon.-Sat., 60 western potters' works, 826-1131

Frame Shop: 3366 Lakeside Dr., 9:30-5 Mon., 10-6 Tues.-Fri., 9:30-5 Sat., duck stamps and limited-edition prints, 825-7117

Frame-Up: 145 W. Plumb Ln., 10-6 Mon.-Fri., 10-3 Sat., Lyle Ball western paintings, Mary Chadwell miniatures, 329-7557

Hagar's Gallery: 4056 Kietzke Ln., 9:30-5:30 Tues.-Sat., Phillipe Noyer, Luongo, Jerry Schurr, 826-0323

Hermitage Gallery: 245 California Ave., 10-6 Mon.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., George Foster oils, graphics, limited-editions, 786-6880

Kate Hanlon Weaving Studio and Craft Gallery: 45 Lockwood Rd., Sparks, call ahead, hand-woven clothing, 342-0196

Manville Gallery: School of Medicine, UNR, 8-5 Mon.-Fri., contemporary paintings and sculpture, 784-6063

New Ideas Art Gallery: Truckee Meadows Community College, 8-7 Mon.-Thurs., 8-5 Fri., contemporary fine arts in a variety of media, 673-7000

Norris-Allovio Gallery: 3430 Lakeside Dr., 10-5:30 Mon.-Sat., fine art, 825-5000

Powers Frameworks: 2317 Kietzke Ln., 10-6 Mon.-Fri., 10-5 Sat., Roy Powers prints, Steve Davis photography, 825-8060



Paintings and photos of Nevada, past and present, will be exhibited under the auspices of Artemisia Gallery at the Reno Gazette-Journal Gallery through November 30. Above is "Dry Arroyo" by Marcelia Crossen.

Sheppard Art Gallery: UNR, 9-4 Mon.-Fri., contemporary western art, 784-6658

Sierra Nevada Museum of Art: 549 Court St., 10-4 Tues. and Thurs.-Fri., 10-8 Wed., 12-4 Sat.-Sun., visiting and Great Basin artist's works, 329-3333

Stremmel Galleries: 1460 S. Virginia St., 8-5:30 Mon.-Fri., Sat. by appointment, leading American artists, 786-0558

Valle Art Gallery and Studio: 213 E. Plumb Ln., 12-6 Mon.-Sat., watercolors by Esteban Valle, pottery by Kelsie Harder, 323-1887

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Skiing Around the State

1988-89 Downhill 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	\$32/\$12	\$17/\$13
Boreal	916-426-3666	7,800	600	9	30-60-10	\$22/\$12	\$15/\$11
Diamond Peak/Incline	702-832-1177	8,540	1,840	7	18-49-33	\$26/\$12	\$14/\$10
Donner Ski Ranch	916-426-3635	7,751	720	4	25-50-25	\$21/\$10	\$13/\$8
Echo Summit	916-659-7154	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	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	24	25-50-25	\$32/\$14*	\$15/\$9
Homewood	916-525-7256	7,880	1,650	10	15-35-50	\$25/\$8	\$15/\$11*
Kirkwood	209-258-6000	9,800	2,000	11	15-50-35	\$30/\$12	\$15/\$10
Mount Rose/Slide	702-849-0704	9,700	1,440	6	30-30-35	\$25/\$15	\$14/\$10
Northstar	916-562-1010	8,600	2,200	11	25-50-25	\$29/\$14	\$17/\$11
Sierra Ski Ranch	916-659-7475	8,852	2,212	10	20-60-20	\$24/\$12	\$14/\$10
Soda Springs	916-426-3666	7,350	650	3	30-50-20	\$17/\$9	\$15/\$11
Squaw Valley	916-583-6985	9,050	2,850	27	25-45-30	\$32/\$5	\$15/\$10
Sugar Bowl	916-426-3651	8,383	1,500	9	20-30-50	\$27/\$13	\$15/\$11
Tahoe Donner	916-587-9400	7,350	600	3	50-50-0	\$16/\$10	\$14/\$11
MOUNT CHARLESTON (LAS VEGAS)							
Lee Canyon	702-872-5462	9,320	1,030	3	15-80-5	\$20/\$14	\$14/\$14

1988-89 Cross-Country Skier's Guide

Area	Phone	Groomed Trail (km)	Trail Fee Adult/Child	Rentals Adult/Child	Lessons Adult/Child	Day Lodge
TAHOE BASIN						
Incline Nordic	702-832-1150	15	\$4/\$2	\$9/\$6	\$10	✓
Kirkwood	209-258-7248	75	\$10/\$6	\$11/\$7	\$20/\$14**	✓
Northstar	916-562-0273	40	\$9/\$4	\$12/\$8	\$17/\$10	✓
Royal Gorge	916-426-3871	305	\$13.50/\$7.50	\$11.50/\$7.50	\$22/\$19**	✓
Sorensen's	916-694-2203	40	none	\$12/\$7	\$12/\$8	✓
Spooner Lake	702-749-5349	55	\$7/\$3	\$16.50/\$13.50	\$17	✓
Squaw Valley	916-583-8951	30	\$7/\$4	\$11/\$7	\$14/\$12	✓
Sugar Pine Point	916-526-7232	2	\$3 car	no	no	
Tahoe Donner	916-587-9484	75	\$10/\$6	\$11/\$7	\$19/\$15**	✓
Tahoe Nordic	916-583-0484	60	\$9/\$4	\$11/\$5.50	\$17**	✓
AROUND THE STATE						
Lee Canyon	702-732-7222 702-872-5200	Randy McGhie at the Ski Chalet offers x-country suggestions Bill Ikner has info on camping and avalanche conditions				
Ruby Mountains (Elko)	702-753-6867	Ruby Mt. Heli-Skiing in Lamoille offers helicopter skiing				
Spring Valley (Eureka)	702-237-5280	Ron Carrion at the Owl Club provides ride and map free				
White Pine (Ely)	702-289-8877	Chamber has maps for skiing at three local areas				

*all prices are weekend rates and subject to change **includes trail pass

Wildlife Galleries: 565 California Ave., 9-5 Mon.-Fri., Nevada issue duck and trout stamps, 322-0323

Virginia City

Riata Gallery: 88 South C St., 10-5 Tues.-Sun., Olag Wieghorst lithographs and western prints, 847-0502



The whole town gets involved, including St. Mary's (above), in the festival of lights during Virginia City's celebration of Christmas on the Comstock.

CASINO NOTES

•The **Ormsby House** has added 10 new Bally "Second Chance Poker" machines. The machines give the customer an opportunity (with a draw of an additional card) to improve a winning or losing hand to a straight or better.

•Not even two years old, **Peppermill's Le Moulin** gourmet restaurant has received *The Wine Spectator's* "Best of the Award of Excellence" for its extensive wine list. The restaurant also was recently chosen "Best High-Priced Damn-the-Landlord Place to Blow Half Your Paycheck on One Extravagant Meal" in the *Reno Gazette-Journal's* poll of locals' favorite places to go.

•The **Eldorado** has begun the second phase of a \$45-million expansion that upon completion next May will cover a full city block. The project includes a 25-story tower with an additional 400 rooms, added casino space, a new sports book, additional convention space, parking, and restaurants. Phase III will put an eight-level parking garage on the west side of Sierra Street. The building will be linked to the hotel by a skywalk and will have a health spa on the top floor. Construction is due to begin in early 1990.

•The **Carson Valley Inn** celebrated its fourth anniversary on August 10, and the Minden hotel-casino celebrated by giving away a free trip to Hawaii. General Manager Shawn Smyth recounted the past year's projects, including opening Fiona's restaurant, an RV resort, and the addition of \$25,000 keno.

•The world's largest S-Slot machine was installed last summer by International Game Technology (IGT) in **Harolds Club**. The machine—an IGT Giant Bertha Colossus—stands

SNOW SHOW

A woman is the central figure, smiling and posing in a highly decorative, silver, sequined ski suit. She wears a matching headpiece with a fringe of sequins and has multiple strands of sequined necklaces and bracelets. She is holding a pair of skis vertically in her left hand. The background is a vast, snow-covered mountain range under a clear blue sky, with evergreen trees scattered across the slopes.

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RENO/TAHOE

NIGHTLIFE

St. Romain: The Voice

By Guy Richardson

She was just out of college and singing with a group called Kansas Rain in some downtown casino lounge. I've long since forgotten the casino, but I've never forgotten Laura St. Romain.

She lit up the stage. She was 21, and I thought she was the most darling thing I'd ever seen.

Fifteen years later, she still lights up stages, and those stages are still in lounges.

St. Romain is one of about a hundred acts working full-time in Nevada lounges. For the last 15 years her life has been two-week stints living in motel rooms in places like Wendover.

She's talented, but she's not a star. Probably she's not going to be a big star, either. She's got the talent, sure, but making a living on the lounge circuit doesn't leave much time to track down that big break.

The life can be tough. St. Romain's



Laura St. Romain and her band, entertaining on the lounge circuit.

voice sounds like it comes through stainless-steel sandpaper. She jokes, "A girl said she'd like to have a deep voice like mine, and I said, 'I'll tell you how to do it—drink a lot of whiskey smoke a lot of cigarettes, stay up all night, ride hard all the time and you've got it.'"

The layman's cliché of a lounge performer is someone working relentlessly toward stardom. It ain't so. Most of these acts will play out their careers in lounges.

I asked her if she thought she'd ever be a big star. "Well, it would be really nice, but—ummmm—no. I've spent most of my

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time trying to be a better person rather than trying to be a star."

She laughed, a glorious guffaw let loose upon the world. "Hell, I'd hate for stardom to come, and I'm oblivious, or I'm 350 pounds overweight, y' know?"

So she works at improving herself. To me, this is a mystery because, as I said, this is a darling person, a perky light in a dim world. "I just internalize being a basket case" is the way she puts it.

"I mean, boy am I a good actress. I stand on stage and feel fat, know I have an ugly profile. Katharine Hepburn is my idol. She has so much poise and she seems so sure of herself. People tell me I seem sure of myself, but like I say, I'm an actress."

And yet, when you hear St. Romain get into the guts of a song, there is no mistaking her sureness and unfeigned emotion.

"If I forget about being in competition with anyone—not get caught up in the business part that's high-pressure and sometimes overshadows the fun part—I just belt out the songs about things that hurt, or feel good. People who've known those same feelings can feel it, too. It's great."

"I like singing. The traveling is part of what I have to do to enable me to sing. Sure, I'd rather stay home, but I go on the road so I can sing."

Awhile back she was told her vocal cords needed surgery for nodes. Instead, she started taking vocal lessons from Reno's Leonore Morvaya, who has a reputation of fixing broken throats. "Now I'm hitting notes I never thought I'd hit," says St. Romain. And the nodes are gone.

She also took up jogging. That lasted a week. "It is not a fun experience," St. Romain says. Now she does aerobics to tapes. "It's easier on the feet and knees."

She's also learning to be easier on herself. She even likes to be called perky. "Hey I appreciate that people see me that way—it's better than them saying, 'Oh my Gawwwwd, here comes a depressed individual. People also say I'm energetic and happy. That makes me feel good even if I've had one of those days that makes me feel anything but perky.'"

And so she packs, and moves, and sings, and to me seems perky. She doesn't see an end to the road. "I cannot give it up. I can't say in five years I'll quit and get a real job. I can't."

Suppose the real job paid BIG money? "For \$30 million, yeah—no. Singing makes me feel so good. You may not like the level you're on, but it allows you to do what you want to do. The important thing is that I enjoy it."

Laura St. Romain appears at the Peppermill in Reno November 7-20.

10 feet tall and is eight-and-a-half feet wide. It has the largest reels of any slot machine in the world. Customized to depict the sternwheel of a Mississippi riverboat, the big slot is surrounded by a carousel display of 23 progressive slots.

•**Harvey's**, Lake Tahoe's largest casino, has expanded from 64,000 to 88,000 square feet, allowing for the addition of a new poker room, a race and sports book area, an entertainment stage bar, a swimming pool, spa, and health club. Serious swimmers can clock off mileage in the new 20-by-40-foot outdoor lap pool. The location of the pool provides an unobstructed view of the lake and surrounding mountainsides. The \$6 million project is the most notable expansion since Harvey's opening of the Lake Tower in 1986.

•The **Reno Hilton's** new sports book has launched Nevada's first network betting line. The system, developed by Computer Betting Systems (CBS), links the Reno Hilton via computer telecommunication to the sports books in both the **Las Vegas Hilton** and the **Las Vegas Flamingo Hilton**. With the computer link, Reno Hilton customers are offered the option of betting on the line created by pooling Southern Nevada and Northern Nevada odds.

TOURNAMENTS

November

Slots, 10/30-11/1, Reno Hilton, 322-1111

Keno, 11/3, Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890

Slots, 11/4-6 and 11/24-28, Reno Ramada, 788-2000

Keno, 11/6-9, Eldorado, 786-5700

Slots, 11/9, Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890

Blackjack, 11/11-12, Western Village, Sparks, 331-1069

Slots/Video Poker, 11/11-13, Peppermill, 689-7282

Video Poker, 11/11-13, Reno Hilton, 322-1111

Pai Gow, 11/11-13, Reno Hilton, 322-1111

Slots, 11/11-13, Fitzgeralds, 785-3381

Slots, 11/15, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

Blackjack, 11/17, Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890

Slots, 11/18, Club Cal-Neva, 323-1046

Blackjack, 11/22, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

Slots, 11/27-30, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3610

December

Keno, 12/1, Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890

Slots, 12/4-6, Eldorado, 786-5700

Slots, 12/14, Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890

Blackjack, 12/15, Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890

January

Keno, 1/5, Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890

Slots, 1/11, Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890

World Championship of Horse Race Handicapping Tournament, 1/11-14, Club Cal-Neva, 323-1046

Blackjack, 1/19, Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890



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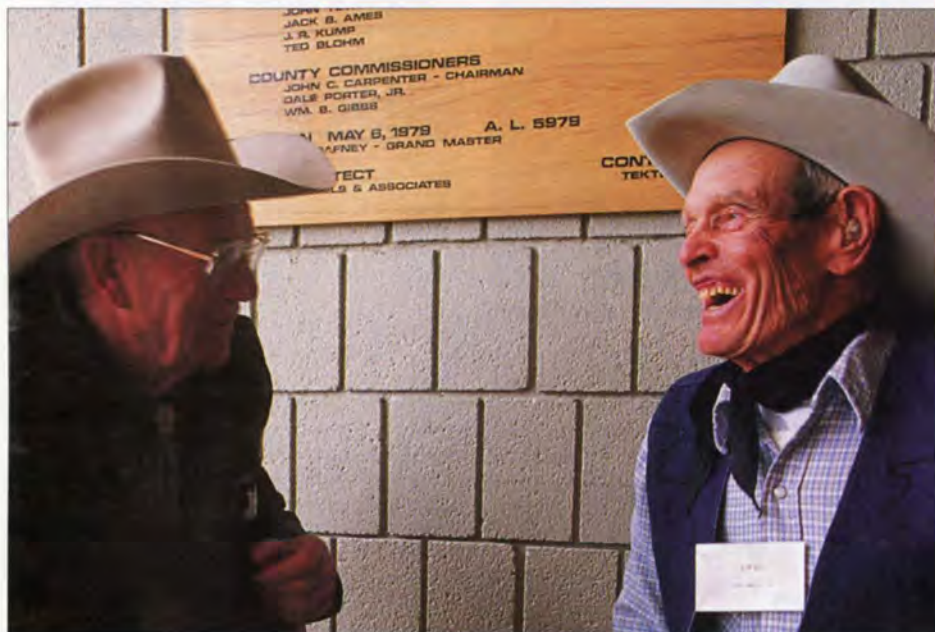
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Artwork by Carolyn Kershaw

THE NEVADA CALENDAR



Buckaroo balladeers and spectators will be lining up soon for Elko's Cowboy Poetry Gathering (top). The Central Nevada Museum in Tonopah shows historic photos and exhibits year-round (bottom).

EVENTS HOT LINES

Nevada Division of State Parks: District III office in Fallon: 867-3001; District IV office in Elko County: Northfork 6493; District V office in Panaca: 728-4467

For chamber of commerce and convention center phones, see page E-6

RURALEVENTS

COVERED WAGON TERRITORY

November

Northern Nevada Fiber Guild Art Show, thru 11/7 traveling juried exhibition of fiber art

with exhibit panels, handwoven items, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Exhibit, thru 11/15, stained glass works by Charlotte Seyferth, Galleria of Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Art Show, thru 11/28, watercolors by Shirley and Ellis Parker, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Intermountain Process and Mine Operators Symposium, 11/2-4, open to all mining interests, free admission, convention center, Elko, 738-4091

Wells Firemen's Ball, 11/5, Ranch House, Wells, 752-3470

Slot Tournament, 11/5-6, Silver Smith, Wendover, 664-2231

Waylon Jennings Concert, 11/10-11, Cactus Pete's, Jackpot, 755-2259

Photo Exhibit, 11/10-12/12, polar bear photos by Bob MacMillan, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Elko All-Breed Bull Sale, 11/11-12, fairgrounds, 738-3616

Elks Charity Ball, 11/12, Elks Hall, Elko, 738-7135

Celebrity Auction, 11/12, auction of celebrities, services and possessions, convention center, Winnemucca, 623-5071

Christmas Show, 11/15-12/31, exhibit and sale of items by the Northeastern Nevada Museum Guild, Galleria of Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Slot Tournament, 11/19, Cactus Pete's, Jackpot, 755-2259

Winter Carnival, 11/19, games for kids, crafts sale, food and drink, fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-2225

Maxi Blackjack Tournament, 11/19-20, Silver Smith, Wendover, 664-2231

Blackjack Tournament, 11/25, Cactus Pete's, Jackpot, 755-2259

Pre-Holiday Gift Show, 11/26-27 local merchants participate, Santa, festival of trees, and candy cane lane, free admission, convention center, Elko, 738-7135

December

Art Show, 12/1-1/9, oil, pen and ink, watercolor, and photos by Toni Venturacci of Battle Mountain, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Christmas Craft Show and Sale, 12/3-4, convention center, Winnemucca, 623-5071

Miss Senior Elko Pageant, 12/7, open to public, free admission, convention center, Elko, 738-4416 or 738-7991

Nurses Bazaar, 12/10, food and holiday items sale, free admission, convention center, Elko, 738-7179 or 738-5671

Art Show, 12/15-1/23, pencil portraits by Debby McDaniel, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Firemen's Ball, 12/31, dancing, food and drinks, convention center, Winnemucca, 623-5071 or 623-2225

January

Art Show, 1/5-2/28, weaving by Charlene Virts and wood carvings by Dave Sime, Galleria of Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Quilt Show, 1/19-21, convention center, Winnemucca, 623-5071

Cowboy Poetry Gathering, 1/26-28, cowboy poets, storytellers, and balladeers from the U.S. and Australia recite original works in event's fifth year, convention center, Elko, 738-7508

PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY

November

Photo Show, thru 6/30/89, includes old and new views of Churchill County, show is titled "One Day at a Time: The Desert Farm," Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677

Holiday Art Exhibits, 11/1-12/31, Office Gallery at Jeff's Office Supply, Fallon, 423-6078

Ichthyosaur Fossil Shelter Tours, 11/1-12/31 (Fri.-Mon.), ranger leads guided tour and discussion of the fossils of ichthyosaurs of 225 million years ago, Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, 867-3001

Holiday Fashion Show and Luncheon, 11/12, convention center, Ely, 289-8877

Big Scout Show, 11/12, county fair of Boy Scouts, Fallon, 329-4075

Hidden Cave Tours, 11/12 and 11/26, meet at 9:30am, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

December

Side Street Strutters Concert, 12/2, Dixieland jazz, Yerington Theatre for the Arts, Yerington, 463-3066

Sounds of Christmas, 12/3, Santa Claus parade, children's matinee, Christmas tree lighting ceremony, downtown Ely, 289-8877

Christmas Concert, 12/8, 7:30pm, free, Lahontan Valley Concert Choir of Fallon, Community Center, Fallon, 423-3871

Formal Dinner and Dance, 12/10, convention center, Ely, 289-8877

"Messiah" Sing-a-long, 12/11, free, Lahontan Valley Concert Choir of Fallon, Epworth United Methodist Church, Fallon, 423-3871

Hidden Cave Tours, 12/10 and 12/24 meet at 9:30am, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

January

Nevada 88, 1/11-30, traveling photo show from Elko's Northeastern Nevada Museum, White Pine County Library, Ely, 289-3737

PIONEER TERRITORY

November

Nevada 88, 10/28-11/14, traveling photo show from Elko's Northeastern Nevada Museum, Central Nevada Museum, Tonopah, 482-9676

Photo Exhibit, 11/1-30, works by Nick Ali, Desert Images, Hawthorne, 945-2138

Christmas Bazaar, 11/19, handcrafted gifts, convention center, Tonopah, 482-6769

Walker Lake Fishing Derby, 11/25-27, cash prizes in this tagged cutthroat trout derby, host town is Hawthorne, 945-5896

Side Street Strutters, 11/28, Disneyland jazz, Lincoln County High School, Panaca, 728-4539 or 726-3742

December

Silverado Motor Club Get-Together, 12/2-3, Pahump Community Center, 727-5107

Caliente Christmas Celebration, 12/9, Caliente, 726-3129

Christmas Tree Lighting, 12/12, caroling, gift raffle, announcement of gingerbread house contest winner, hot chocolate, Main St., Pioche, 962-5544

Photo: Sherrill Clark

PREVIEW



Golconda Reunion

By Vern A. Miller

The call is out to all former residents of Golconda, Nevada, with a special call to those who attended the Golconda school. A celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Golconda school building is planned for Saturday, November 19.

All historical buffs, whether former Golcondans or not, are invited to come and get a feel for the times when Golconda was a busy city of mining, milling, and ranching and known for its much touted hot springs.

Located 16 miles east of Winnemucca off Interstate 80, Golconda first became a landmark in the mid-1800s for overland travelers who paused for a restful time at the hot springs. In 1868, following the arrival of the Central Pacific Railroad, the village of Golconda was formed and became an important freight and telegraph station and a supply point for the Gold Run Mining District to the south.

It is well known that in the early days of Nevada, first came the saloons and gamblers, then the brothels, and then

general merchandise stores and schools. Golconda was no exception to this rule. However, it wasn't until November 1888 that the first permanent structure for a school was erected, and those old-timers did a good job—the school still stands today.

Most of the events will be held in the school, which is in good repair despite its age. There will be food and other refreshments in a party atmosphere along with music provided by a band of musicians from Winnemucca. In addition, there will be interesting historical displays. Festivities start at 2 p.m.

Contact the Centennial Committee by calling Sherrill Clark at 702-623-5784, or by writing Centennial Committee, Box 97, Golconda, NV. 89414. They'll be glad to hear from you.

Vern A. Miller attended the Golconda school in the late '20s. A retired Naval officer and newspaper man, he resides in Fallon with his wife Monnie.

January

Queen Ida and the Bon Temp Zydeco Band Concert, 1/24, buffet featuring Cajun food at 6:30pm, concert at 8pm, Lincoln County High School, Panaca, 728-4539 or 726-4233

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

RURAL COMING EVENTS

Mardi Gras, 2/4, Elko, 738-8493

Bristlecone Birkebeiner (cross-country ski race), 2/4, Ely, 289-3065

Bristlecone Chariot Races, 2/11-12, Ely, 289-8877

Corporate Winter Games, 2/11-12, Elko, 738-7135

SHOWGUIDE Covered Wagon Territory

Elko: Commercial Hotel, 738-3181; Red Lion, 738-2111; Motifs, 10/25-11/6; Network, 11/8-13; Whiskey Ridge, 11/15-20; Marty Davis, 11/22-12/4; Sunspots, 12/6-18; Stockmen's Hotel, 738-5141

Jackpot: Cactus Pete's, 755-2321; Danny Marona, 11/1-6; Tammy Graham, 11/8-20; Sun Spots, 11/21-12/4; Marci Brothers, 12/5-18; Elements of Time, 1/4-15; Eddie Rabbitt, 11/18-19; Horseshu Casino, 755-2331

PREVIEW

Christmas Cheer

By Rene Thompson

Swapping secrets with Santa and singing songs of yuletide cheer will be in order as hundreds of Fallon residents gather around a gaily-lit Christmas tree for the town's tree-lighting ceremony.

The yearly ritual reconfirms the community's commitment to tradition, with carolers from the Lahontan Valley Concert Choir encouraging the public to rally 'round for a chorus or two of "Jingle Bells." It's also a time when friends, neighbors, and loved ones sip hot chocolate and relish the crisp scent of a freshly cut fir or pine. Kids propped on their fathers' shoulders anxiously await a visit from ol' Saint Nick while mothers prod the youngsters to button jackets against the harsh night air, which in years past has dipped so low that band members



Fallon's first Christmas tree was provided by the local Knights of Pythias in 1929.

have struggled with frozen horn valves and sticking trombone slides.

Jim Parrish, a 22-year veteran of the City of Fallon Electric Department, said

the city has provided the tree for at least half a century, although the first fir was initially sponsored by the Knights of Pythias Lodge in 1929. Back then a 40-foot tree cost \$20. Today the cost runs closer to \$700.

Although townsfolk were saddened by the absence of a tree on several occasions throughout the years, they resolved in 1947 to keep the tradition alive and have had a tree every year since.

Despite the fact that the tree stands right in the middle of Maine Street, there have only been a few brushes with catastrophe, such as when a drunk driver hit the tree in 1931 (he was fined \$100 and wasn't allowed to drive in town for 30 days) and when a resident was fined for climbing the tree and breaking off several limbs in 1964.

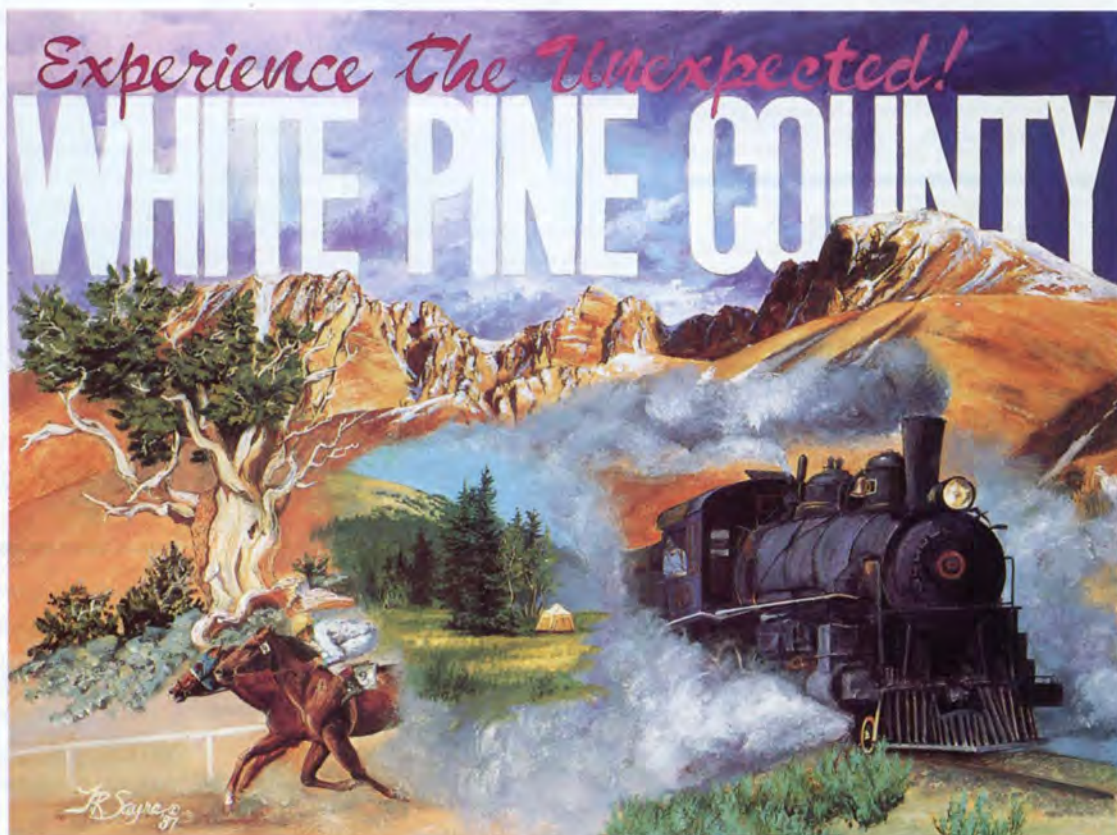
Other communities around the state are planning similar events. In Sparks a Victorian Hometown Christmas is the theme of this year's tree-lighting ceremony to be held in conjunction with a Christmas parade December 3.

And the town of Pioche will again gather its residents for the lighting of its live Colorado blue spruce, situated on the end of Main Street.

Caliente, Ely, Dayton, Reno, and Sparks have Christmas tree celebrations, too. (See this issue's Events listings.)

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Wendover: Nevada Crossing, 664-4000: Cadillac, 11/1-13; Livgrin and Doyle, 12/6-1/1; Peppermill, 664-2255; Red Garter, 664-2111; Silver Smith, 664-2231: Entertainment nightly; State Line, 664-2221: Entertainment nightly

Winnemucca: Winners Hotel, 623-2511

Pony Express Territory

Battle Mountain: Owl Club, 635-5155

Fallon: Fallon Nugget, 423-3111

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

Pioneer Territory

Pahrump: Saddle West Casino, 727-5953

Tonopah: Station House, 482-9777

MUSEUMS

Covered Wagon Territory

Northeastern Nevada Museum, 9-5 Mon.-Sat., 1-5 Sun., 1515 Idaho St., Elko, 738-3418

Marzen House Museum, 9-2 Mon.-Fri., 1:30-4 Sat.-Sun., Lovelock, 273-7213

Humboldt Museum, 10-4 Mon.-Fri., 1-4 Sat., Winnemucca, 623-2912

Pony Express Territory

Nevada Northern Railway Museum, 8:30-4:30 daily, thru Oct. 1, closed during winter, East Ely, 289-2085

White Pine Public Museum, 9-4 Mon.-Fri., 10-3 Sat., 2000 Aultman St., Ely, 289-4710

Eureka Sentinel Museum, closed Nov.-Dec., after that hours and days vary, call 237-5484, Eureka

Churchill County Museum and Hidden Cave, 10-4 Mon.-Wed. and Fri.-Sat., noon-4 Sun., 1050 S. Maine St., Fallon, 423-3677. For Hidden Cave tours call Carson City BLM, 882-1631

Lyon County Museum, 10-4 Sat., 1-4 Sun., Yerington

Pioneer Territory

Mineral County Museum, 2-4:30 Mon.-Fri., Hawthorne, 945-3185

Lincoln County Museum, 9-5 Mon.-Sat., 10-5 Sun. (closes from 12:30-1:30 for lunch), Pioche, 962-5207

Central Nevada Museum, 12-5 Tues.-Sat., Tonopah, 482-9676

ART GALLERIES

Desert Images: 459 Fifth St., Hawthorne, noon-5 Mon.-Sat. or by appointment, features monthly guest artist, artwork representative of Mineral County and rural Nevada, 945-2138

Gallery: 2051 North St., Ely, 10-5 Mon.-Fri., Sat. and Sun. by appointment, pastels, watercolors, and oils by local artists, 289-4750

Northeastern Nevada Museum: 1515 Idaho St., Elko, 9-5 Mon.-Sat., 1-5 Sun., photos, pen and ink, sculpture, and oils on Nevada themes, 738-3418

The Office Gallery: 178 S. Maine St., Fallon, 8-5:30 Mon.-Fri., 8:30-5 Sat., original artwork of all kinds, 423-6078

Planet X Pottery: Box 4, State Highway 81-447 outside Gerlach, hours vary, call ahead; original pottery, 557-2500

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- Laundromat
- Market
- Level, paved sites
- Tent camping
- Pay phone
- Ice and propane
- Dog walk

Adjacent to town park, pool and tennis.

Walking distance to the heart of the Virginia City National Historic Landmark.

Write: Virginia City RV P.O. Box 846, Virginia City NV 89440.

Call: (702) 847-0999.

DINING GUIDE

The following Nevada dining directory includes restaurants that responded to recent surveys and also advertisers. Each listing gives sample dishes; whether breakfast, lunch, or dinner (B, L, D) are served; accepted credit cards; and if reservations are required or recommended. Price ranges refer to typical entree price per person: up to \$10 (\$), \$11 to \$20 (\$\$), \$21 to \$30 (\$\$\$), and more than \$30 (\$\$\$\$). To phone from out of state, the area code is 702 throughout Nevada.

LAS VEGAS

AMERICAN

- 42nd Street Deli**—3737 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 798-0986. Sandwiches, pizzas, pastries, and gourmet room. L, D. \$-\$\$, AE, MC, V.
- Circus Circus/Skyrise**—734-0410. Prime rib, steak and shrimp. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Desert Inn/La Promenade**—733-4444. Pasta sala tricolore, steak sandwich. Open 24 hrs. \$-\$\$, major.
- Flamingo Hilton/Flamingo Room**—733-3111. Seafood salad bar, fresh fish of the day, veal cutlet Viennoise. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major, res.
- Flamingo Hilton/Lindy's Deli**—733-3111. Grilled Rueben, New York steak, marble cheesecake. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Imperial Palace/4th Floor Rib Room**—731-3311. Prime rib and barbecue entrees. D. \$\$, major, res.
- Horseshoe (formerly Mint)/Food Court**—382-1600. Burger King, Godfather's Pizza, and Haagen Daz. B, L, D. \$-\$\$.
- Mount Charleston Lodge**—Kyle Canyon, 30 miles NW of Las Vegas at the end of Highway 157, 386-6899. Beef Wellington. B, L, D. \$-\$\$\$; major, res.
- Rainbow Club**—122 Water St., Henderson, 565-9777. Prime rib, New York steak, California chicken fingers, tostada salad. B, L, D. \$, no CC.
- Sam's Town/Mary's Diner**—5111 Boulder Hwy. 454-8073. Fifties-style restaurant, blue plate specials, sundaes, and malts. B, L, D. \$, AE, MC, V, DC.
- Sands/Garden Room**—733-5000. Variety of entrees and chinese cuisine after 5 p.m. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Stardust/Tony Roma's**—732-6111. Ribs and chicken. D. \$, major, res.

CAJUN

- Holiday Casino/Joe's Bayou**—369-5000. Shrimp Creole, blackened catfish, Memphis-style barbecue. D. \$-\$\$, major.

FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

- Aladdin/The Florentine**—736-0428. French, Italian, and Continental cuisine, tableside preparation. D. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$, major, res.
- Alexis Park/Pegasus**—375 E. Harmon Ave., 796-3300. Roast duckling, escargot. D. \$\$\$\$; Jackets preferred on weekends. AE, MC, V, res.
- Bally's/Gigi**—739-4651. Cote de Veau Nouveau Chasseur mormard Grille, Beurre Fondu. D (closed Mon-Tues.). \$\$\$\$; major, res.
- Barbary Coast/Michael's**—737-7111. Spring lamb chops with mint jelly, fresh imported Dover sole, chateaubriand for two. D. \$\$\$\$; major, res.
- Botany's**—1700 E. Flamingo Rd., 737-6662. Artichoke chicken, Cajun orange roughly, Kentucky chip pie. D. \$-\$\$, major, res.
- Caesars Palace/Bacchanal**—731-7110. Seven-course Roman banquet. D (closed Tues.-Wed.). \$\$\$\$; major, res.
- Caesars Palace/Palace Court**—731-7110. Langoustines, steak Diane. D. \$\$\$\$; major, res.
- California/Redwood Bar and Grill**—385-1222. Steak Diane, cherries jubilee. D. \$-\$\$, major, res.
- Dunes/Sultan's Table**—737-4681. Breast of capon ala kiev, brochette of beef tenderloin, medaillon of veal ala sultan. D. \$-\$\$\$; major, res.
- Four Queens/Hugo's Cellar**—385-4011. Veal Dijonnaise, roast duckling flambe anise, filet DeBoeuf-Atlantis. D. \$-\$\$\$; major, res.
- Frontier/Justin's**—734-0110. Roast prime rib with Yorkshire pudding, veal Francaise. D (closed Mon-Tues.). \$-\$\$\$; major, res.
- Golden Nugget/Elaine's**—385-7111. Veal chop, brace of quail. D. \$\$\$; major, res.
- Lady Luck/Burgundy Room**—477-3000. Coquille St. Jacques provencale, tournedos Rossini, beef Wellington. D. \$, major, res.

Las Vegas Hilton/Le Montrachet—732-5111. Dover sole, medallions of veal, extensive wine list. D. \$\$\$\$, major, res.

Riviera/Delmonico's—734-5110. Moules Dijonnaise, bouillabaisse. D. \$\$\$; major, res.

Riviera/Ristorante Italiano—734-5110. Chateaubriand, beef Wellington, baked Alaska, souffles a la mode du chef. D (closed Mon.). \$\$\$\$; major, res.

Sahara/House of Lords—737-2111. Scampi al'Aglio, escargo bourguignonne, filet of turbot, medallion of beef. D. \$\$\$\$; major, res.

Sands/Regency Room—733-5000. Scampi provencale, beef Wellington. D. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$; major, res.

Savoia—next to St. Tropez at Harmon and Paradise, 369-5400. French and Italian Riviera cuisine, indoor and outdoor seating. D. \$-\$\$\$; major, res.

Tropicana/Rhapsody—739-2222. Scampi, smoked salmon, dover sole, clams casino. D (closed Sun.-Mon.). \$\$\$\$; major, res.

GERMAN

Alpine Village Inn—3003 Paradise Rd., 734-6888. Roast chicken, St. Moritz schnitzel. D. \$, major, res.

Rathskeller—3003 Paradise Rd., 734-6888. Hot and cold sandwiches, soup, salad bar, and sing-a-longs nightly. L (Mon.-Fri.). D. \$, major.

Waldemar's German European Restaurant—2202 W. Charleston, 386-1995. Veal rouladen, chicken la mar. L (Mon.-Fri.). D. \$-\$\$, major.

INDIAN

Paul Bhalla's Cuisine of India—4433 West Flamingo Rd., 367-4900. Tandoori dishes, vegetarian. L (Mon.-Fri.). D. \$, AE, MC, V, res.

ITALIAN

Bally's/Caruso's—739-4656. Gamberoni alla griglia, pollo alla fiorentina. D (closed Wed.-Thurs.). \$\$\$\$; major, res.

The Bootlegger—5025 S. Eastern, 736-4939. Veal Lorraine, veal in cream and wine sauce, seafood diablo with linguine. L, D (closed Mon.). \$-\$\$, major.

Caesars Palace/Primavera—731-7110. Fettuccine Primavera, pasta specialties, Caesars salad. B, L, D. \$-\$\$\$; major, res.

Cafe Carlo—3246 E. Desert Inn Rd., 735-2220. Fried squid, fettuccine Alfredo, tiramisu. L, D (closed Sun.). \$-\$. MC, V, res.

California/Pasta Pirate—385-1222. Homemade pasta, mesquite broiled seafood. D. \$-\$\$, major, res.

Desert Inn/Portofino—733-4444. Veal Oscar, osso buco, and lobster Diabolo. D. \$-\$\$\$; major, res.

Fortunato's—3430 E. Tropicana Ave., 458-3333. Shrimp Italiano, chicken angelo. L, D (closed Sun.). \$, major, res.

Golden Nugget/Stefano's—385-7111. Unique pastas, cioppino. D. \$\$\$\$; major, res.

Imperial Palace/Pappa's Pizza—731-3311. Pizza, pasta, and salads. L, D. \$, major.

Las Vegas Hilton/Andiamo—732-5111. Northern Italian specialties, 25 pastas, veal, lamb, and fish entrees. L, D. \$-\$\$; major, res.

Manfredi's Limelight—2340 E. Tropicana in Renaissance Center East, 739-1410. Veal marsala, linguini tutto mare, scampi diavolo. D. \$, major, res.

Horseshoe (formerly Mint)/Spaghetti Red's—382-1600. Chicken Piccante, veal parmigiana, pastas, and salads. D (closed Wed.-Thurs.). \$-\$\$; major, res.

Palace Station/Pasta Palace—Off I-15, 367-2411. Pasta specialties and gourmet dinners. D. \$, major, res.

MEXICAN

El Sombrero—807 S. Main St., 382-9231. Albondigas soup, Mexican steak, chili Colorado. L, D. \$, MC, V.

Frontier/Margarita's Mexican Cantina—794-8200. L, D. \$, major, res.

Sam's Town/Willie and Jose's—5111 Boulder Hwy., 454-8044. Enchiladas, rellenos de Cangrejo. D. \$, AE, MC, V, DC.

Sante Fe—4930 W. Flamingo Rd., 871-7119. Fajitas, chimichangas, steak picado. L, D. \$, major.

Taqueria Mexico—1612 Civic Center Dr., North Las Vegas, 649-7000. Menudo, soft tacos, tortas. L, D. \$, major, res.

ORIENTAL

Bally's/Tracy's—739-4930. Kung pao gai, mongonow. D (closed Wed.-Thurs.). \$, major.

Caesars Palace/Ah So—731-7110. Sushi and Sashimi, Teppan Yaki-style. D. \$\$\$\$; major, res.

Desert Inn/Ho Wan—733-4444. Peking duck, Ho Wan lobster, lemon chicken. D. \$-\$\$\$; major, res.

Luigi's and Wong's—46 Convention Center Dr., 796-5440. Italian and Chinese. B, L, D. \$, MC, V, res.



Dining at the Palace Court at Caesars Palace.

Flamingo Hilton/Peking Market—733-3111. Nine-course family dinner, lemon chicken and lobster Cantonese. D. \$, major, res.

Golden Nugget/Lillie Langtry's—385-7111. Moo goo gai pan chicken, ginger beef. D. \$, major, res.

Imperial Palace/Ming Terrace—731-3311. Cantonese and mandarin cuisine. D. \$, major, res.

Las Vegas Hilton/Benihana Village—732-5111. Four restaurants: tempura, robata, sukiyaki, hibachi; animated show. D. \$\$\$; major, res.

Sahara/Don the Beachcomber—737-2111. Specializing in Polynesian dishes. Shrimp Hong Kong, bahala na combo. D (closed Mon.-Tues.). \$, AE, MC, V.

Tokyo Japanese—953 E. Sahara in Commercial Center, 735-7070. Sushi hibachi tempura. L (Mon.-Fri.). D. \$-\$\$; major.

SURF AND TURF

Aladdin/Fisherman's Port—736-0426. Fresh seafood, Cajun menu, bouillabaisse. D. \$, major, res.

Aladdin/Wellington's—736-0427. Steak house, Black Angus aged beef. D. \$-\$\$\$; major, res.

Bally's/Barrymore's—739-4661. Blackened red fish, surf and turf. L (Mon.-Fri.). D. \$-\$\$\$; major, res. (dinner only)

Bourbon Street/French Market—120 E. Flamingo, 737-7200. Cajun food, seafood. B, L, D. \$-\$\$; major.

Caesars Palace/Spanish Steps Steak and Seafood House—731-7110. Fresh seafood, prime dry-aged steaks, Mediterranean dishes. D. \$-\$\$\$; major, res.

Circus Circus/Steak House—734-0410. Steak, prime rib, lobster, seafood appetizers flown in fresh daily. D. \$, major, res.

Dunes/Dome of the Sea—737-4254. Picata of lobster dome of the sea, shrimp Christina, scallops Bruno. D. \$-\$\$\$; major, res.

Flamingo Hilton/Beef Barron—733-3111. Prime rib special, chateaubriand, crisp roast duck. D. \$-\$\$\$; major, res.

Fremont/The Hualapai—385-3232. Salmon, grilled shrimp, shells and bones. D. \$, major, res.

Golden Steer—308 W. Sahara, 384-4470. Steaks, prime rib, seafood, veal. D. \$\$\$, AE, DC, MC, V, res.

Hacienda/Charcoal Room—739-8911. Veal chop, queen and king filet mignon, mesquite-broiled seafood. D. \$\$\$; major, res.

Holiday Casino/Claudine's—369-5000. Steaks and seafood, open kitchen, piano bar nearby, excellent wine list. D. \$-\$\$\$; major, res.

Horseshoe (formerly Mint)/Skye Room—382-1600. Prime rib, shrimp scampi maison, breast of chicken balsam. Live ent. D (closed Mon.-Tues.). \$-\$\$\$; major, res.

Imperial Palace/Kobe Steak House—731-3311. Steak and lobster. D. \$, major, res.

Landmark/Sunset Room—733-1110. Choice seafood, prime rib and steak. D. \$\$\$; major, res.

Marina/Captain's Cabin—739-1500. Steak by the ounce, prime rib. D. \$-\$\$; major, res.

Marina/Port of Call—739-1500. Seafood, steak, chicken, and veal. D. \$\$, major, res.

Palace Station/Fisherman's Boiler—Off I-15, 367-2411. Fresh seafood. L, D. \$, major, res.

Sam's Town/Diamond Lil's—5111 Boulder Hwy. 454-8009. Steak house, fresh fish selections. D. \$\$, AE, MC, V, DC, res.

Starboard Tack—2601 Atlantic St., 457-8794. Seafood, prime steaks, salad bar. L (Mon.-Fri.), D. \$-\$\$, AE, MC, V, res.

Stardust/William B's—732-6111. Broiled halibut, lamb, veal, rib eye steak. D. \$\$, major, res.

The Tillerman—2245 E. Flamingo Rd., 731-4036. Sole, bay scallops in cream sauce. D. \$-\$\$\$ major.

Tropicana/El Gaucho—739-2222. Argentinian steakhouse, fish, lobster, daily specials. D (closed Tues.-Wed.). \$-\$\$\$ major, res.

Union Plaza/Center Stage—386-2110. Prime rib, lobster tail, and New York steak combo, chicken Sicilian. D. \$-\$\$, major, res.

BOULDER CITY

Gold Strike Steak House—Between Boulder City and Hoover Dam, 293-5000. Steaks, lobster, veal, and daily specials. D. \$-\$\$, major.

Harbor House—LV Boat Harbor, Vegas Wash at Lake Mead, 565-9111. Homemade desserts, weekend specials. B, L, D. \$, major.

Vale Hotel—704 Nevada Hwy., 293-1463. Lobster, lamb, chicken marsala, Sunday brunch, piano bar. B, L, D. \$\$, major, res.

LAUGHLIN

Colorado Belle/Oreans Room—298-4000. Steak, seafood, prime rib, lamb chops, linguini. D. \$\$, AE, DC, MC, V, res.

Del Webb's Nevada Club/Wheelhouse Coffee Shop—298-2512. Breakfasts, steak, lobster. B, L, D. \$, MC, V.

Edgewater/The Embers—298-2453. Steak, seafood, prime rib, Midwestern beef. D. \$\$, major, res.

Riverside/Gourmet Room—298-2535. Chateaubriand, Cajun dishes, steak and quail, rack of lamb, wine steward. D. \$\$, major, res.

Riverside/Prime Rib Room—298-2535. Salad, potato, vegetable, and dessert bar, prime rib. D. \$, major.

Sam's Town Gold River/Sutter's Mill—298-2242. Mesquite-broiled steaks. Brunch Sat.-Sun. D. \$\$, AE, MC, V, res.

RENO-CARSON AREA

AMERICAN

Bailey's Cafe—4124 Kietzke Lane, 825-6600. Gourmet brunch-luncheon, Cajun. B, L, D. \$\$, V, MC, AE.

Boomtown—I-80 at Verdi, 345-6000. Changing buffet, regular menu. B, L, D. \$, major.

Carson Valley Inn/Fiona's—Minden, 782-4347. Steaks, seafood, veal, soup and salad bar. L, D, Sun. brunch. \$-\$\$, major.

Carson Valley Inn/Katie's—Minden, 782-9711. Four-course prime rib dinner, steak and lobster, half-pound burgers. B, L, D. \$, major.

Comstock Hotel/Miner's Cafe—200 W. 2nd St., 329-1880. One-pound New York steak dinner. 24 hours. \$, major.

Delta Restaurant—Virginia City, 847-0353. Hamburgers, sandwiches, breakfasts. B, L, D. \$, V, MC, DC.

Doc and Eddy's—1537 S. Virginia St., 786-7529. Seafood burger, nachos. L, D. \$\$, V, MC.

Eggsception—Gardnerville, 782-8690. Quiche, homemade soups. B, L. \$, no CC.

Eldorado/Mardi Gras—786-5700. English sole, shrimp salad croissant sandwich, won ton soup. B, L, D. \$, major.

Harolds Club/Nickelodeon—329-0881. American, Chinese, and buffet. B, L, D. \$, major.

Harrah's/Garden Room—786-3232. Eggs Benedict, avocado clubhouse, triple dragon. B, L, D. \$, major.

Harrah's/Skyway—786-3232. Buffets, Sunday brunch. B, L, D. \$\$, major.

Holiday Inn/Greenhouse—5851 S. Virginia St., 825-2940. Sandwiches, burgers, dinners. B, L, D. \$, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/General Store—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, giant apple pancake, seafood Louis. B, L, D. \$, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Rotisserie—Sparks, 356-3300.

Buffet with menu that includes rack of lamb and scampi, Sunday brunch. L, D. \$-\$\$, all major.

Juicy's Giant Hamburgers—3820 S. Virginia St., 825-2770, and Wells at Ryland, 322-2600. Reno; Glendale at McCarran, 883-5600, Sparks; U.S. 395 at Winnie, 883-5600, Carson City; Highway 50 and Tahoe Keys Blvd., 916-544-8133, South Lake Tahoe. Cheeseburgers, baked chicken, breakfast. B, L, D. \$.

Julia C. Bulette Saloon and Cafe—Virginia City, 847-9991. Variety of omelets, sandwiches, pizza from scratch. B, L, D. \$, no CC.

Ormsby House/Comstock—Carson City, 882-1890. Burgers, prime rib, breakfasts. B, L, D. \$, major.

Peppermill/Coffee Shop—2707 S. Virginia St., 826-2121. Fruit salads, lasagna, gourmet omelets. B, L, D. \$\$, major.

Reno Ramada/Gaming Tables—Sixth and Lake, 788-2000. Porterhouse steak, locals choice prime rib, chicken piccata, ranch stew. B, L, D. \$, major.

Sharkey's Nugget—Gardnerville, 782-3133. Prime rib is house specialty. B, L, D. \$, no CC.

Sands Regent/Tony Roma's—348-2200. Onion rings, baby back ribs, grilled shrimp. L, D Mon.-Fri., D Sat.-Sun. \$, major.

Walley's Hot Springs/Zephyr—2001 Foothill Rd., 782-8155 or 883-6556. Coconut shrimp, chicken chardonnay. L, D (closed Mon.-Tues.). \$\$\$, AE, MC, V, res.

BASQUE

Carson Valley Country Club—U.S. 395 two miles south of Gardnerville, 265-3715. Tongue stew, crab sandwich, cabbage soup. L (except Sun.), D (closed Tues.). \$-\$\$, no CC.

J&T Bar—Gardnerville, 782-2074. Top sirloin steak, oxtail, tongue stew, chicken and rice. L, D (closed Sun.). \$\$, no CC.

Louis' Basque Corner—301 E. 4th St., Reno, 323-7203. Sweetbreads, tripe, paella, other seafood dishes. L, D. \$\$, major, res.

Overland Hotel—Gardnerville, 782-2138. Lamb chops, steak, chicken. L, D (closed Mon.). \$\$, MC, V.

Santa Fe Hotel—235 Lake St., Reno, 323-1891. Chops, chicken, stew, Basque card games. L, D. \$\$, no CC.

FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

Adele's—1112 N. Carson St., Carson City, 882-3353.

Continental San Francisco style, 75 dinner entrees, announced specials. L, D. \$-\$\$\$ MC, V, res.

Bally's/Cafe Gigi—789-2266. French, cracked crab, snails, lobster bisque, chateaubriand, veal Oscar. D. \$\$\$, major, res.

Eldorado/The Vintage—786-5700. Fresh Sonoma duckling, chateaubriand, prawns amaretto, extensive wine list. D. \$\$, major, res.

Gold Hill Hotel/Crown Point—1 mile south of Virginia City, 847-0111. French and Cajun cuisine. D. \$\$, major, res.

Harrah's/Steak House—786-3232. Steak Diane, fresh fish daily, roast rack of lamb. L (Mon.-Fri.), D. \$\$\$, major, res.

La Table Francaise—3065 W. 4th St., 323-3200. French, Mobil 4-star restaurant. D (closed Sun.-Mon.). \$\$\$, major, res.

OG's Classic Cuisine—442 Flint, 329-1173. Pheasant, trout, flaming dishes served tableside, set in Victorian home. L, D. \$\$\$, major, res.

Ormsby House/Woody's—Carson City, 882-1890. Rack of lamb persillade, veal Cordon Bleu. L (Tues.-Fri.), D (Tues.-Sat.). \$-\$\$\$ major, res.

Peppermill/Le Moulin—826-2121. Tournedos of beef a la Dianne, veal a la Oscar, dover sole meuniere. D. \$\$, major, res.

Reno Hilton/Top of the Hilton—322-1111. Salmon with three sauces, roast duck with raspberry sauce, roast prime rib of beef au jus. L. D. \$\$\$, major, res.

ITALIAN

Bally's/Caruso's—789-2267. Fresh oysters, cannelloni, calamari. D. \$\$\$, major, res.

Eldorado/La Strada—786-5700. Saltimbocca, gnocchi al pesto, ravioli verdi con spinaci. D nightly. \$\$, major, res.

Leonardo's—2450 S. Virginia St., 827-6200. Northern Italian, veal, steak, seafood, pasta. Nightly 4-course special. D. \$-\$\$\$ major, res.

Marrone's—2729 N. Carson St., Carson City, 883-7044. Design your own dish from selection of pastas and sauces. L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

Olive Garden—4900 S. Virginia St., 829-1500. Northern and Southern Italian cuisine. L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

Silvana's—1301 N. Carson St., Carson City, 883-5100.

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MEXICAN

Bertha's—426 E. Fourth St., 322-9706. Refried frijoles from scratch, homemade tamales, Tampiquena steak. B, L, D. \$, MC, V.
Cantina Los Tres Hombres—7111 S. Virginia St., 852-0202. Chingalingas, calamari, burritos, carnitas, fruit margaritas. L, D. \$, major.
Comstock Hotel/Amigos—329-1880. Steak fajitas, chimichangas, fruit margaritas. D. \$, major.
El Charro Avitia—4389 S. Carson St., Carson City, 883-6261. Flauta, chimichanga, combinations, fajitas, margaritas. L (Mon.-Fri.), D. \$, AE, MC, V.
Pipeline Inn—1681 Hwy. 395, Minden, 782-7408. Pipeline Special, carne azada, chicken or beef fajitas. L, D. \$, MC, V, res.
Western Village/Pancho and Willie's—Off I-80, Sparks, 331-1069. Fajitas, chili verde. L (res.), D. \$, major.

ORIENTAL

Bally's/China Seas—789-2268. Mandarin shrimp, Mongolian beef, cashew chicken. D (closed Sun.). \$, major, res.
China East—1086 S. Virginia St., 348-7020. Cantonese-style dishes, Szechwan dishes. L, D. \$, no CC.
Golden Pheasant—Meadowdale Center, Gardnerville, 782-5504. Sweet and sour shrimp, deep fried almond pudding, no MSG used. L, D. \$, MC, V.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/Trader Dick's—Sparks, 356-3300. Cashew chicken, Szechwan specialties, flaming dagger brochette. L, D. \$, major.
Mandarin—5089 S. McCarran Blvd., 827-0222. Seafood plate, strawberry chicken. L, D. \$-\$\$, major, res.
Miramar House—202 Fairview Dr., Carson City, 882-0262. Pu pu platter, Thai. L, D. \$, major.
Panda Kitchen—2416 Hwy. 50 E., Carson City, 882-8128. Peking shrimp, house special duck, Mandarin and Szechwan. L, D. \$, MC, V.

SURF AND TURF

Anchor Inn—1105 S. Carson St., Carson City, 882-0600. Scampi, baked stuffed shrimp, chicken teriyaki, New York steak. L, D. \$, V, MC.
Bally's/Bounty—789-2000. Steamed clams, cracked half crab, oysters. L, D. \$, major.
Bally's/Steak House—789-2270. Broiled T-bone steak, Columbia River salmon. L (except Sat.-Sun.), D (except Sun.-Mon.). \$, major, res.
Carson Nugget/Steak House—882-1626. Veal scallopini, scampi in dill sauce, chicken piccata, escargot. D. \$, major, res.
Cattlemen's—555 Hwy. 395 S. in Washoe Valley, 849-1500. Sirloin, filet mignon, lobster, Alaska king crab. D. \$, major.
Circus Circus/Hickory Pit—329-0711. One-pound prime rib, New York steak. D. \$, major.
Comstock Hotel/Dinner House—329-1880. Steak and lobster, veal picata, stuffed shrimp. D. \$, major, res.
Famous Murphy's—3127 S. Virginia St., 827-4111. Steaks, oyster bar. L, D. \$-\$\$, major.
Harold's Club/Orleans—329-0881. Cajun, steak, lobster, shrimp, veal Oscar. D. \$, AE, MC, V, res.
Harrah's/Seafare—786-3232. Fresh fish specials, calamari, lobster tail, veal parmigiana, eggplant Romano. L, D. \$, major, res.
Inn Cognito—Genoa, 782-8898. Swordfish, veal picata, pork chops. D (closed Tues.). \$, major, res.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/John's Oyster Bar—Sparks, 356-3300. Lazyman's cioppino, seafood stews. L, D. \$, major.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/Steak House—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, steak and lobster, snapper, shrimp Louis. L, D. \$, major.
Liberty Belle—4250 S. Virginia St., 825-1776. Prime rib, famous spinach salad. L, D. \$, V, MC.
MacKay's—336 Mill St., 348-6222. Steak and seafood, sandwiches, scotch bar. L (Mon.-Fri.), D. \$, AE, MC, V, res.
R'Onions—8195 S. Virginia St., 851-1777. Cajun chicken and steak, mesquite grill. Brunch Sat.-Sun, L, D, daily \$, AE, MC, V.
Western Village/Steakhouse—Off I-80, Sparks, 331-1069. Prime rib, Australian lobster, veal scallopini, steak Diane. D. \$, major.

LAKE TAHOE

AMERICAN

Bill's Casino/Bennigan's—Stateline, 588-5977. Cajun,

Southwestern, steaks, burgers. L, D. \$, major.

Caesars Tahoe/Cafe Roma—Stateline, 588-3515. Lamb chops, prime rib. B, L, D. \$-\$\$\$ major.
Fire Sign Cafe—Tahoe City, CA., 916-583-0871. Blueberry pancakes, huevos rancheros. B, L. \$, major.
Harrah's Tahoe/Forest—Stateline, 588-6611. Honey-dipped fried chicken, mahi mahi. B, L, D. \$\$\$, major.
Harrah's Tahoe/Sierra—Stateline, 588-6611. Daily specials, Chinese entrees. B, L, D. \$, major.
Harvey's/Cafe Metro—Stateline, 588-2411. European sweet shop, coffees, retail bakery, \$, major.
High Sierra/Sugar Pine Bistro—Stateline, 588-6211. Croissants, quiche, special coffees. B, L, D. \$, major.
High Sierra/Chicken and Rib Barn—Stateline, 588-6211. Baby back ribs, chicken. D. \$, major.
High Sierra/Four Seasons—Stateline, 588-6211. Coffee shop, steaks. B, L, D. \$, major.
Hyatt/Alpine Jack's—Incline, 831-1111. Fajitas, pizza, sandwiches, open 24 hours. B, L, D. \$, major.
Jackson's—Incline, 831-1480. Homemade pastas, smoked pork tenderloin, fresh seafood. D (closed Mon.). \$-\$\$, AE, DC, MC, V.
Steven—341 Ski Way, Incline, 832-0222. Homemade pasta, fresh seafood, mesquite-grilled lamb, outside deck. L, D. \$, major, res.
Tahoe Queen—S. Lake Tahoe, CA., 916-541-3364. Afternoon Emerald Bay cruise with luncheon menu, Evening dinner-dance cruise, \$-\$\$\$ major.



Peppermill's gourmet dining room, Le Moulin.

FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

Caesars Tahoe/Le Posh—Stateline, 588-3515. Award winning California cuisine. D. \$\$\$ major, res.
Christy Hill Lake Tahoe—Tahoe City, CA., 916-583-8551. B, L, D. \$-\$\$\$ AE, MC, V, res. for dinner
Harrah's Tahoe/The Summit—Stateline, 588-6611. Saddle of veal flamed with morel mushrooms, Grand Marnier souffle. D. \$\$\$, major, res.
Harvey's/Sage Room—Stateline, 588-2411. Rack of lamb persille, prime dry-aged cuts of beef, beef Wellington. D. \$-\$\$\$ major, res. except Sat.
Harvey's/Top of the Wheel—Stateline, 588-2411. Continental cuisine, mahi mahi with macadamia bourbon, Sun. brunch. D. \$-\$\$\$ major, res. except Sat.
High Sierra/Stetson's—Stateline, 588-6211. Rack of lamb, chateaubriand. D. \$\$\$, major.
Hyatt/Hugo's—Incline, 831-1111. Steak, seafood, and roasted duckling. D. \$, major, res. preferred.

ITALIAN

Caesars Tahoe/Primavera—Stateline, 588-3515. Linguini Carbonara, tenderloin pizzaola, pollo allo spumante, D, weekend brunch, \$, major, res.

MEXICAN

BuenoRico's Long Bar and Grill—Round Hill Mall, 588-7555. Calamari, Sante Fe fajitas. L (Mon.-Sat.), D (daily). \$, major.
Hacienda de la Sierra—931 Tahoe Blvd., Incline, 831-8300. Fajitas, chimichangas, combination plates. L, D. \$, AE, MC, V, res. for 8 or more.
Harvey's/El Vaquero—Stateline, 588-2411. Camerones Veracruz, carnitas. L, D. \$, major.

ORIENTAL

Caesars Tahoe/Empress Court—Stateline, 588-3515. Szechwan, Mandarin. D. \$\$, major, res.

SURF AND TURF

Caesars Tahoe/Broiler Room—Stateline, 588-3515. Prime rib, succulent seafood, Cajun specialties. D. \$\$, major, res. for large parties.

Fresh Ketch—Tahoe Keys Marina, South Lake Tahoe, CA. 916-541-5683. Live Maine lobster, fresh fish, rack of lamb. L, D. \$-\$\$, AE, MC, V, res.

Harrah's Tahoe/Friday's Station—Stateline, 588-6611. Fresh fish, steaks. L, D. \$\$\$, major, res.

Harvey's/Seafood Grotto—Stateline, 588-2411. Wide seafood selection plus Chinese dishes. L, D. \$\$-\$\$\$ major.

Hyatt/Pines—Incline, 831-1111. Changing menu of continental cuisine. D. \$\$, major, res.

ELKO

AMERICAN

Commercial Hotel—738-3181. Breakfasts, specials, dining room. B, L, D. \$, major.

Red Lion Inn—738-2111. Coffee shop and gourmet restaurant. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

Stockmen's Motor Hotel—738-5141. Casino coffee shop, evening dinner house. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

BASQUE

Biltoki—405 Silver St., 738-9691. Tongue, prime rib, clams, squid. D (closed Wed.). \$, MC, V.

Nevada Dinner House—351 Silver St., 738-8485. Basque food served family style. D. \$\$, AE, MC, V.

Star Hotel—246 Silver St., 738-9925. Chicken, steaks, chops. D (except Sun.). \$-\$\$, MC, V.

AROUND THE STATE

Bruno's Country Club—Gerlach, 557-2220. Home-made ravioli and sauce, rib steak. B, L, D. \$, major.

Cactus Pete's/Plateau Room—Jackpot, 800-821-3935 in Nev., 800-821-1103 outside Nev. Peppersteak Michelle, tableside service available. D. \$-\$\$, major.

Carol's Country Kitchen and Tea Room—Austin, 964-2493. Beef stew, fried chicken, steaks. B, L, D. \$, major.

Del Pueblo—Alamo, 725-3337. Large servings of tacos, enchiladas, burritos, tostados, fajitas, and American food. B, L, D. \$, AE, MC, V.

Evah's Copper Queen—Ely, 289-4271. Prime rib, prawns, Mexican dishes. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

Fabi's Roaring Camp Cafe—Goldfield, 485-3288. Pizza, lasagna, New York Steak. B, L, D. \$, no CC.

Fallon Nugget—Fallon, 423-3111. Buffets, specials. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

Jailhouse/Cell Block Dining Hall—Ely, 289-3033. Prime rib, scampi, ribs. D. \$\$, major.

Lee's Old Foggy's Saloon and Casino—Dayton, 246-3435. Hamburgers, sandwiches. B, L, D. \$, major.

Martin Hotel—Railroad and Melarkey, Winnemucca, 623-3197. Basque, choice of entree. L, D. \$\$, MC, V.

Midas Bar and Pack Station—Midas, 529-0531. Lobster tail, prime rib (with reservations, please), scampi, steak. B, L, D. \$\$\$, no CC.

Ormachea's Dinner House—U.S. 95 and Melarkey, Winnemucca, 623-3455. Basque, steak, chicken, oxtail soup. D (closed Sun.-Mon.). \$, MC, V.

Peppermill/Steak House—Mesquite, 346-5232. Gourmet continental cuisine, extensive wine list. B, L, D. \$\$, major.

Red Garter/Lucille's—Wendover, 664-2825. Daily specials. B, L, D. \$, no CC.

Searchlight Nugget—Searchlight, 297-1201. Sunday prime rib special, 10-cent coffee, 24-hour restaurant service. B, L, D. \$, MC, V.

Silver Smith—Wendover, 664-2231 ext. 729. Dinner buffet Sun.-Fri., fine dining Sat.-Sun. res., Sunday brunch, 24-hour coffee shop. \$-\$\$, major.

Station House/Whistle Stop—Tonopah, 482-9777. Hamburgers, steak, seafood. B, L, D. \$, AE, MC, V.

Stockman's/Nevada Room—Reno Hwy., Fallon, 423-2117. Steak and lobster, prime rib, hot and cold specials. B (weekends), L, D. \$-\$\$, major, res.

Whiskey Pete's/Bushwacker Steakhouse—I-15 near Nev.-Calif. border, 382-4388. Porterhouse, prime rib, trout almondine. D. \$-\$\$, major.

Winnemucca Hotel—95 Bridge St., Winnemucca, 623-2908. Basque, steak, lamb. L, D. \$, MC, V, DC.

Winners/Grandma's House—Winnemucca, 623-2511. Steak, prime rib, lobster. D. \$-\$\$, major.

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"BBB": A SIGHT TO SEA

*The Sands brings
tropical madness
to Las Vegas.*

By Jackie Brett



The show's popularity rides on its waves of jokes and outlandish costumes.

The title alone is bizarre, which is why "Beach Blanket Babylon" is a good name for the hit show at the Sands in Las Vegas. After all, the show's only aim is to make the audience fall over laughing.

This campy, tongue-in-cheek musical revue also could carry a warning label: "Caution: Prudes Beware!" It is just too wacky for overly serious people.

The pacing is similar to movies like *Airplane!* and *Blazing Saddles* with one outlandish bit following another, weaving together a thread of a plot. In this case a misfit California girl, Snow White, comes to Las Vegas to find her Prince Charming. Along the way she's helped by a number of people such as Miss Vegas, the brassiest lady you've ever seen.

But the plot doesn't matter. It's just nonsensical fun that lets you escape from reality for 95 minutes.

Like other Strip shows "Beach Blanket Babylon" has a recognizable trademark. While "Splash" at the Riviera has its giant fish tank and water theme, the Sands production has awesome hats and headgear.

"BBB" is a San Francisco import, having delighted showgoers there for 14 years. The producer, director, designer, and writer is Steve Silver, a native San Franciscan who studied painting at San Jose State. He's responsible for creating the show's hats and wigs, which can best be described as self-contained stage sets. His first head costumes were less than a foot tall and simply constructed. Now "BBB" ends with Snow White wearing a super-colossal, multi-tiered wedding cake on her head. When it opens, nine famous Strip marquees are revealed. The bride and groom, perched on the top of the cake, turn and kiss.

This year the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco recognized the artistic originality of Silver's headgear and exhibited "BBB: Fifteen Years of Hats and Costumes" at the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum in Golden Gate Park. His San Francisco Hat was 33 feet high and added new meaning to

the term "big wig."

Silver's revue has never been presented in another city besides San Francisco until this year. Steve Merritt, the show's choreographer, said about 30 percent of "BBB" has been revised to give this version a Las Vegas slant. Playing cards, dice, and slot machines are strategically placed throughout the show to work with the jokes.

And the jokes come fast and furious. In fact, you can enjoy seeing the show several times because there is no way to catch all the verbal and visual innuendos the first time

through. For example, "the tide rushes in" translates to a box of Tide running on stage. Such nonsense is constant.

The cast is talented. Holly Vonk as Snow White has to maintain the cartoon character's squeaky voice although her own singing voice is strong. Jacqui Marshall plays a fairy godmother and a Jewish mother with a far-reaching and memorable voice. Kenny Mazlow and his Spanish-dancer "Oil of Ole" routine and Diane Ellis' imitation of Liza Minnelli are other highlights.

Besides the action on stage, the entire showroom has been turned into a beach for "BBB." There are beach balls, towels, a life-guard stand, umbrellas, and "sand" on the floor that will really help you get the Sands in your shoes. The maitre d', captains, and cocktail servers are wearing beach attire. Like the show, it's a sight to sea. □

Jackie Brett, a devoted showroom watcher is Nevada's Las Vegas representative.

The Scoop

Show times for "Beach Blanket Babylon" are 8 and 10:30 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday at the Sands' Copa Club. \$15.95 per person includes two drinks but not tax. A \$3 surcharge will be added for Friday, Saturday, and holiday performances. For reservations call 702-733-5453.

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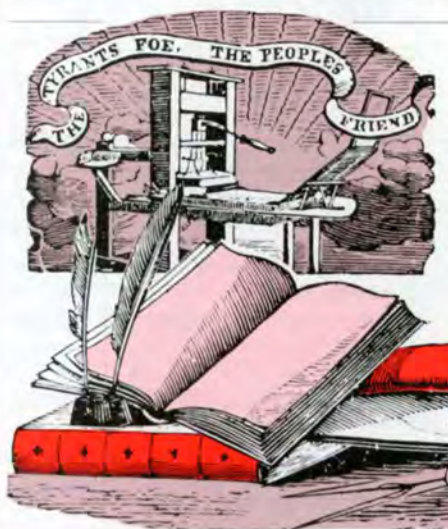
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