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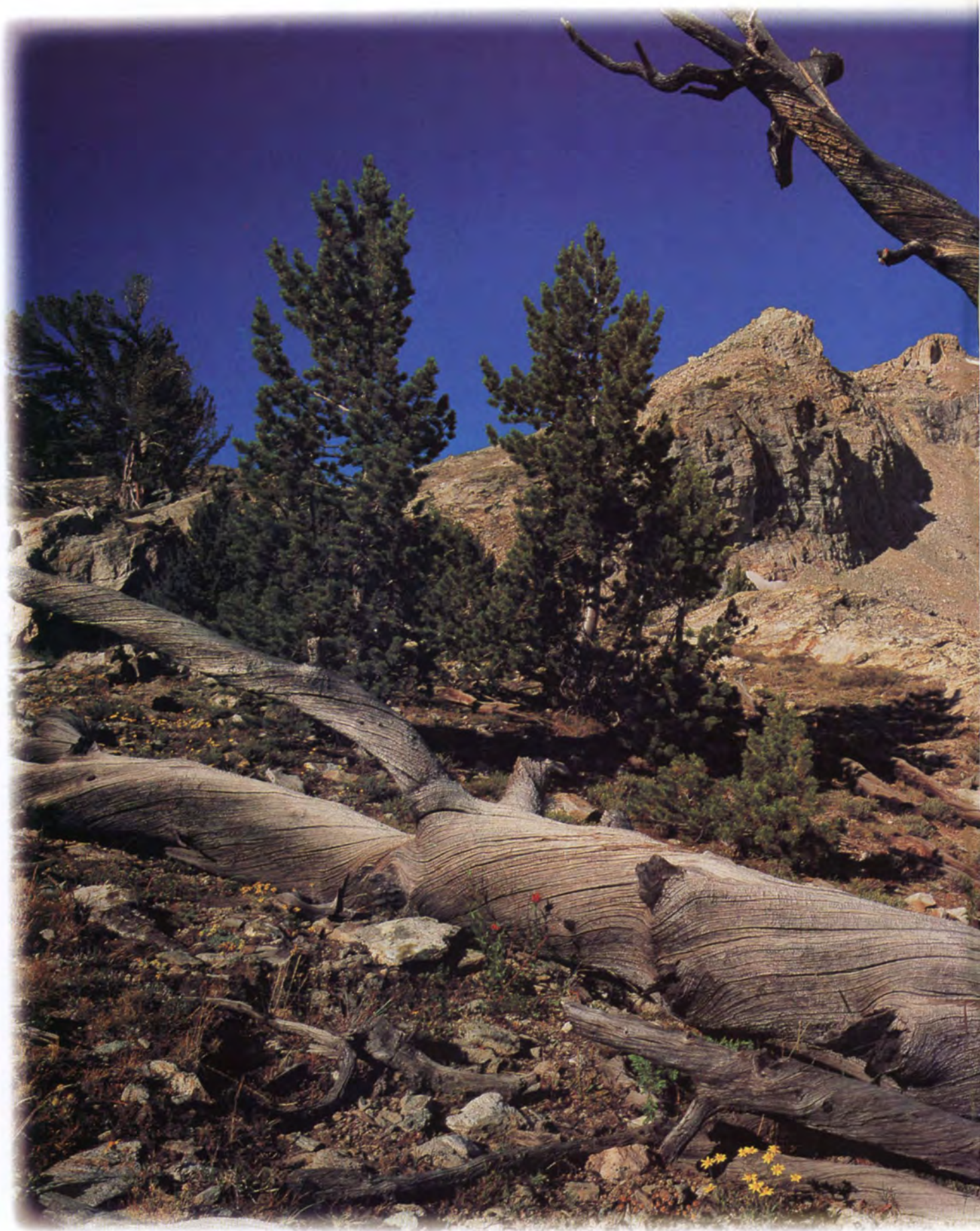
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EDITOR'S NOTE

The King

Once, Mike Weatherford thought Elvis Presley was more faded star than King. "I hated him when I was in high school," confesses Mike, whose story "Elvis: The Vegas Years" is this issue's cover story

Mike changed his tune after a trip to Memphis. "I went to Graceland about 12 years ago and got hooked on the whole saga. Especially living in Vegas now, I'm more intrigued by the mythology than going home and playing Elvis records."

An entertainment writer for the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* for the past seven years, Mike arrived in Nevada by way of Tulsa and a stint with the *Kansas City Star*. "Some people want to be, say, a sports writer, but I always wanted to be an entertainment writer," he says. "In Kansas City I started covering concerts, sitting through five hours of heavy metal. Then the veteran reporters would send me to review bad movies they didn't want to see."

That training helped Mike watch *Viva Las Vegas*, Elvis' 1964 movie. The plot was weak, but the '60s Vegas setting was "amazing," he says. "There was all that empty desert around the hotels." He found more stimulation talking to Las Vegas who knew the Elvis of the '50s and '70s, like bandleader Joe Guercio and show-biz writers Joe Delaney and Bill Willard. Having compiled so much material, Mike is looking to the next step—a book on Elvis in Vegas.

Another celebrity whose career was shaped in Nevada was Sam Clemens, as portrayed in "Mark Twain at the Legislature" by George J. Williams III. The Carson City-based author, who like Twain enjoys a good story and a good cigar, has written four books on the former Virginia City reporter.

Those who enjoy a good hike can follow "Lake Trails" by Julian Rhinehart. The Boulder City writer explored Lake Mead and Hoover Dam as a longtime regional public-affairs chief for the Bureau of Reclamation.

Deke Castleman of Las Vegas describes another trail of wonders—the 665-mile asphalt ribbon of U.S. 95 in Nevada. Author of the *Nevada Handbook* and *Las Vegas*, Deke reveals 95 unusual things to do on 95 in '95 to guarantee a happy new year.—David Moore

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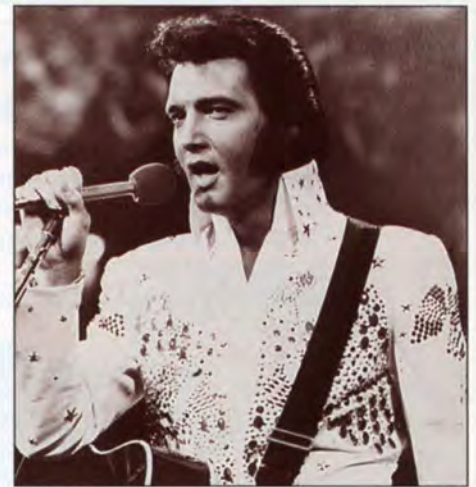
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On the Cover:
Elvis Presley and Ann-Margret dance on a UNLV stage in Viva Las Vegas. Photo: Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

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LETTERS

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Nevada Perspective

As long-time subscribers, we appreciate all your magazine has to offer, from casino doings, to rural life, and historical events that have shaped Nevada.

Many people are unaware that Nevada is anything other than a very large gambling hall interspersed by long stretches of desert. Your magazine puts our great state into perspective, and lets non-Nevadans know we have a history of our own.

James and Nancy Whitmore
Silver Springs

The Limo Scene

My husband and I will be vacationing in Las Vegas soon. I was given the Sept/Oct issue of *Nevada Magazine* by my travel agent. Not only was it the most informative source on Nevada (I wrote to 12 establishments and called four), but I also got a chuckle from Mike Sion's "Secret Lives of Limo Drivers" and enjoyed all the Old West stories.

Mrs. Julie Merrill
Ocean Shores, WA

She's a Gas

Sure enjoyed seeing Clara Hillygus' picture by Tom Jones IV in last issue's Great Nevada Picture Hunt.

We have known Clara all her life, and she is a jewel. At her service station in Yerington, she doesn't use paper towels, either. She uses cloths and washes them every day—and your windshield is so clean that it looks like it is broken out when she gets through.

Mildred Traylor
Porterville, CA

Aku Aku Alert

The Great Nevada Picture Hunt in Nov/Dec includes Christopher Taylor's great picture titled "MGM Grand." The photo features the Tropicana's two Aku Aku gods in the foreground, which were not identified in the caption.

I thought your readers would like to know that the two Aku Aku gods are 35 feet tall and weigh 300,000 pounds each. These fellows are just too big to be ignored.

Ira David Sternberg
Director of Public Relations
Tropicana Resort, Las Vegas

Searching, Searching

Regarding "Letters" in the Sept/Oct issue about "too much sex." After carefully searching through two years of back issues, where?

B. Williams
Henderson



Lagging Question

I hate it when the editors mess up an article. (I assume that the author, Phillip I. Earl, knows better.) In "Christmas 1,000 Feet Down" in the Nov/Dec issue, we are told that "lagging" means loose dirt. Folks who live in a mining state should know the word. In the context of the quote, it referred to the lining of the mine, most likely made of wooden planks.

Andrew Pickens
San Antonio, TX

Andrew, you're right about the planks—that was one of those dreaded editor's mistakes. Thanks for setting us right.—Ed.

Sacred Cows

I'd like to correct your answer to "No Bull" ("Letters," Nov/Dec) that a steer is a male cow castrated before sexual maturity while a bull remains fully equipped. The following are the facts, according to Webster's:

1. There is *no* male cow. A cow is a mature female of domestic cattle.
2. A steer is a castrated male of the cattle family
3. A bull is the adult male of any bovine animal, not having been cut.

Having been raised on a farm, I have answered all of the above correctly.

Joe Cenoz
Templeton, CA

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A Run of Good Luck

For a long-distance runner in Las Vegas,
there can be such a thing as too much good luck.

By Dale E. Basye

Las Vegas is a great place to enjoy yourself, especially if you have a run of good luck. But in the sport of cross-country running, too much good luck can be a weighty matter.

It was February 5, 1994, and I was in town to run a half-marathon road race. Along with several thousand other hardy souls I rolled out of bed before sunup and bucked heavy traffic along the Strip to Vacation Village, the meeting site and finish line for the race. There, in the frigid pre-dawn, buses would take us to the starting line, 13.1 miles south on Las Vegas Boulevard.

The half-marathon is held each February in conjunction with the full Las Vegas International Marathon (26.2 miles). Last year both events drew the largest

field of runners ever assembled in Nevada—4,182, which was about 800 more than 1993. This year's event, scheduled for February 4, is expected to draw more than 6,000 runners.

When I ran the race two years ago, I didn't allow enough time for traffic and almost missed the last bus to the starting line.

So last year I got up at 3 a.m. and arrived an hour early. It was too cold to stand around outside, even dressed in a warm-up suit, runner's tights, shorts, sweatshirt, cap, and gloves. So I went inside the casino to get warm.

Only a few people were inside—early-bird runners like myself, bleary-eyed all-night gamblers, and steely-eyed security guards. I started playing the quar-

ter video-poker machines, dropping one coin at a time to stretch my meager grubstake. I lost three quarters, then won three or four, lost four or five, then won seven or eight.

The next thing I knew, someone shouted, "We've got to run! The last buses are leaving for the start!"

I had one quarter left, so I dropped it in. Suddenly, the lights started flashing, and quarters showered into the bin.

Son-of-a-gun. There had to be at least \$100 in quarters in the bin. In a panic I shoveled the coins into my pockets and ran to the bus.

As the bus tooted toward the start, my mind raced through my options. Should I deposit the quarters in one of the plastic bags they gave us for our

warm-ups and trust it to be handled by a dozen people? Not on your life.

Should I give the quarters to the bus driver to hold for me? I studied him. He was tall and lean with long, dark hair and a stringy mustache—undoubtedly a compulsive gambler. My quarters wouldn't last 10 minutes with this guy.

I had no choice but to try to run 13.1 miles with what seemed like five pounds of quarters jangling in my pockets.

Today's winner probably would run the course in just over an hour. Being a middle-of-the-pack runner, I was hoping for a time under 1:40. But with all those quarters, I had a better chance of hitting the big one at Quartermania.

While other runners watched curiously, I shifted handfuls of quarters to equalize the weight in my pockets.

"You going deep-sea diving?" a guy sitting behind me asked.

"No," I said. "It's a downhill course, and I figure the added weight will pull me along."

"Novel theory," another runner chimed in. "Say, could I borrow some weight? I'm shooting for a 1:30 today."

It was cold as the dickens at the start—ideal for a long run—but I didn't bother to warm up. With my load of coins, I knew I was going to need every

The gun sounded at 7 a.m.,
and I ran with
the pack of several thousand
toward Las Vegas,
clanking like the Tin Man.

last bit of energy I could muster.

The gun sounded at 7 a.m., and I ran with the pack of several thousand toward Las Vegas, clanking like the Tin Man.

The Las Vegas half-marathon is downhill for the first nine miles. You're feeling pretty good, steaming along into Henderson, then striding past Belz Factory Outlet World. Just as you start to get tired, the course flattens and heads uphill a little—a double whammy.

Lugging my load of quarters I was really laboring after 12 miles. In the distance I could see the Luxor's black pyramidal hulk and the MGM Grand's golden lion, but they seemed to recede like a desert mirage. On and on and on. Jangle. Jangle.

I was so tired, I feared I might black out. I thought about jettisoning some quarters, like ballast from a stricken blimp. The options were simple: My money or my life? Somehow, here in Las Vegas, the choice seemed easy—my money.

I slowed to a crawl as other runners shot past me. I finally crossed the finish line, weaving and gasping, as the digital clock sneered at my performance—1:45:16.

It took the rest of the day to recover, but that night I hit the slots again with my sweat-stained quarters.

Well, you guessed it. Lady Luck turned, and I lost most of them.

I'm planning to run the race again this year, but I think I'll avoid the slots until I've crossed the finish line. □

Freelance writer Dale E. Basye divides his time "running" between homes in Las Vegas and Foster City, California. The 29th annual Las Vegas International Marathon and Half-Marathon is February 4, with the Vacation Village parking lot as the finish line. For an entry form send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Las Vegas International Marathon, Box 81262, Las Vegas, NV 89180; phone 702-876-3870. Also see this issue's Nevada Events.

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Elvis

The Vegas Years

Elvis Presley, who would have turned 60 this year, once reigned in Las Vegas. Some say he still does.

By MIKE WEATHERFORD

When Elvis Presley made his Las Vegas debut in 1956, the 21-year-old marvel from Memphis was driving a wedge between the generations with "Heartbreak Hotel." The booking

at the New Frontier was an attempt by his manager, Colonel Tom Parker, to break Elvis out of the Southern honky-tonk and state-fair circuit and give him national credibility. Elvis was billed in newspaper ads as "The Atomic Powered Singer" and an "extra added attraction" to Freddy Martin and His Orchestra and comedian Shecky Greene at the Strip hotel.

But on opening night Elvis went down "like a jug of corn liquor at a champagne party," according to *Newsweek*.

"He was kind of weird looking for those people," recalls Freddie Bell, a lounge singer performing at the Sands at the time. "He had the sideburns, and that hair." And he was singing rock 'n' roll, loudly, in Sinatra's town.

In time Elvis, who would have turned 60 this January 8, became an indelible presence in Glitter City. He last appeared live in Vegas in 1976, but evidence of Elvis is everywhere. If he could wander around Las Vegas to-

day, he would see his visage in nearly every gift shop. He would bump into karaoke-singing clones of himself on sidewalks along the Strip. Elvis could see "tributes" to him any night of the week. He might see entire conventions of impersonators or watch Flying Elvi parachuting from airplanes into casino parking lots.

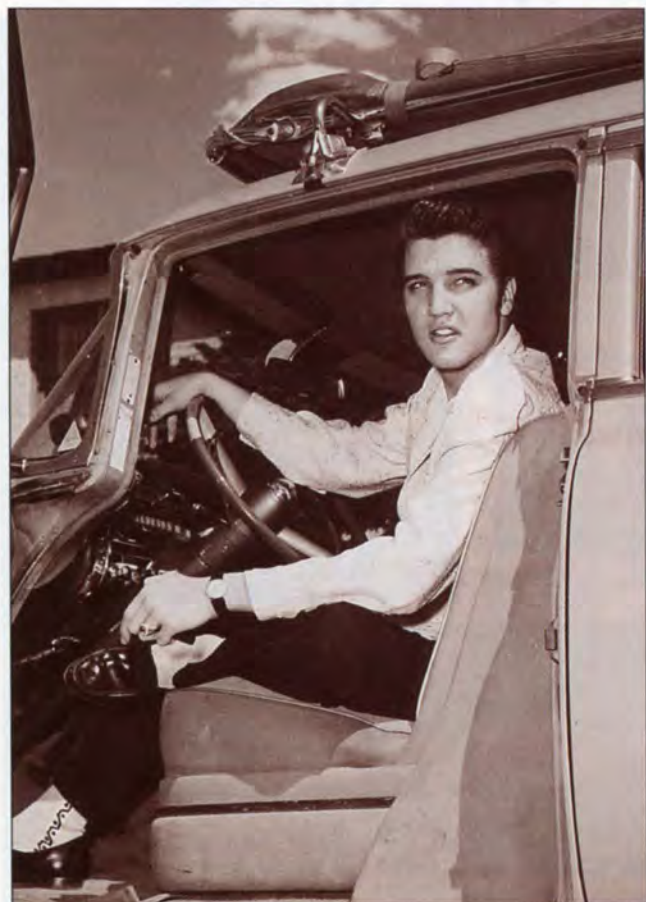
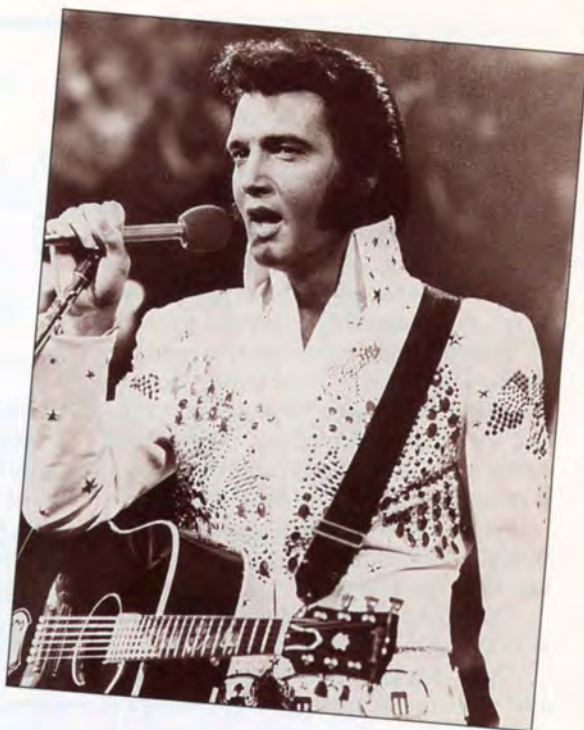
Las Vegas plays a role in all three acts of his short, larger-than-life story. There was his 1956 debut, where he tested the mainstream waters. Later it was Las Vegas where he came to play and make movies, and where he got married. Las Vegas is most associated with the final act—Elvis making a triumphant return to live performing, only to become an isolated, drug-ravaged self-parody.



Freddie Bell

Joe Guercio, the Las Vegas Hilton musical director and orchestra leader for Elvis' Vegas shows and tours in the 1970s. "It was another world. You can't get that going again."

"They loved what he did. They loved what he stood for. He was America," says Sammy Shore, the comedian who



Elvis cruised into Vegas for a disappointing debut in 1956.



Elvis and Ann-Margret take a spin during the making of *Viva Las Vegas* in 1963. The two were an item on and off the screen.

opened Elvis' shows at the International Hotel. "He was a Southern boy who became the world's idol."

Of course, Elvis' success in the desert was hardly presaged by his New Frontier debut in April 1956. On opening night, Las Vegas News Bureau photographer Jerry Abbott recalls, "I shot one roll of film on him and thought, 'This is going nowhere.'" Abbott decided to use the rest of his film on Shecky Greene.

Las Vegas Sun columnist Bill Willard wrote, "For the teen-agers, the long, tall Memphis lad is a whiz; for the average Vegas spender or show-goer, a bore." Today Willard recalls with a laugh, "I predicted a nowhere ending for Elvis as far as Vegas is concerned."

During his Vegas stay, Elvis caught Freddie Bell's lounge show at the Sands. Later Bell gave Elvis a valuable parting gift. Bell says Elvis was so impressed by "Hound Dog," Bell's toned-down version of a song first recorded by Willie Mae "Big Mama" Thornton, that he gave

the Colonel a copy of the single that had been a regional hit for him in the East. Bell hoped that if Elvis recorded it, he might benefit when his own version was released on an album. Alas, few people today have heard Bell's recording, while Elvis' "Hound Dog" remains one of rock's most memorable songs.

When the two-week engagement ended, Elvis left to star in his first movie, *Love Me Tender*, and the Strip went back to nightclub fare. *Las Vegas Sun* columnist Forrest Duke summed up the prob-

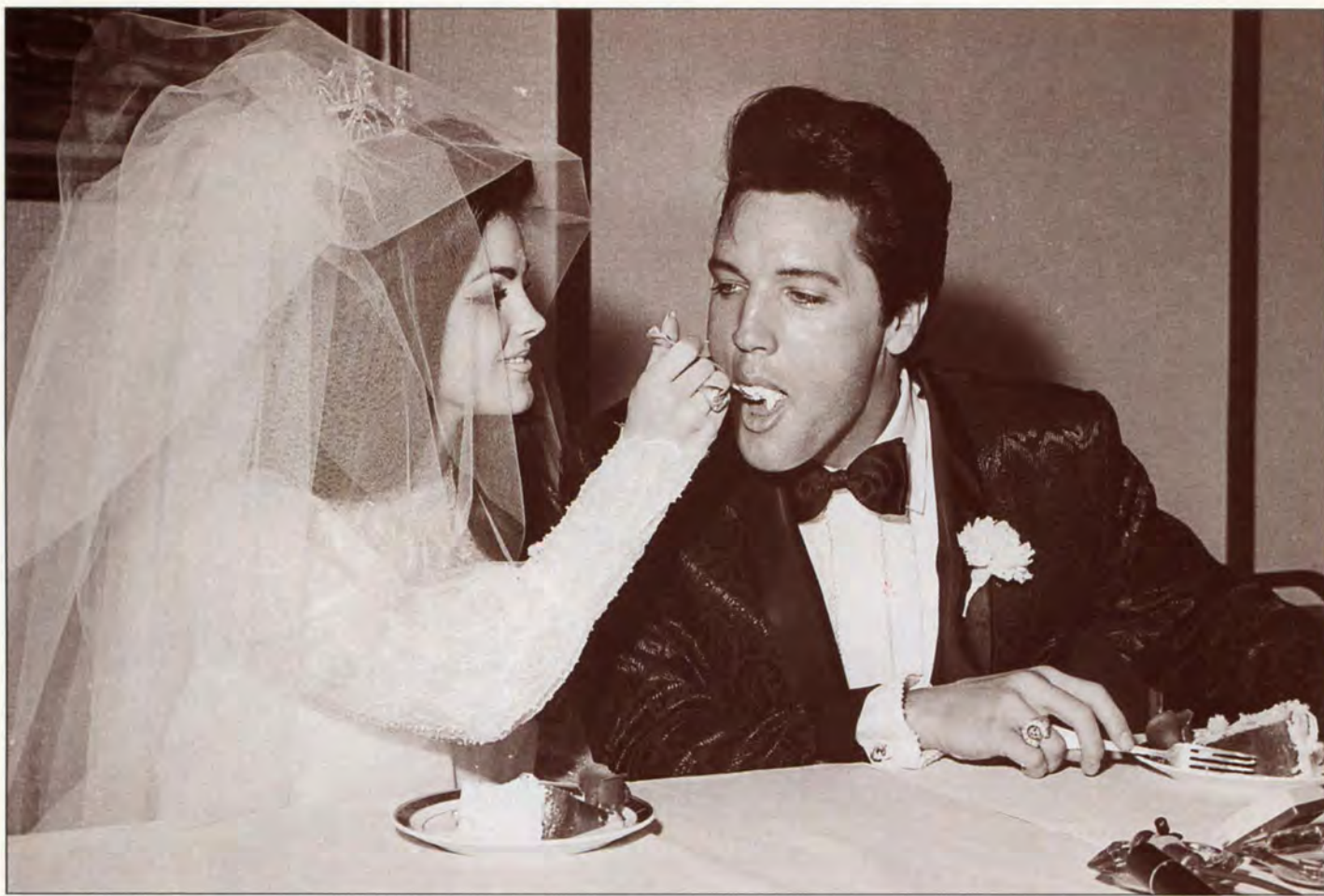
lem: "With an audience of jaded adults he's not quite in his element." Then again, Duke noted with foresight, "Who needs jaded adults? Elvis Presley?"

Outside the Nevada club scene, Elvis became a major star. He recorded new hits like "Jailhouse Rock" and "Teddy Bear," purchased Graceland, spent two years in the Army, and reported for duty in a string of cheesy movies.

Perhaps the best of the lot was *Viva Las Vegas*, which was filmed in and around the Flamingo in the summer of 1963. In *Elvis*, the controversial Presley biography, author Albert Goldman claimed that the pairing with the vivacious Ann-Margret led to "the only authentic romance in Elvis' long career of dating Hollywood actresses."

That would explain the chemistry that elevates *Viva Las Vegas* above its typically insipid plot, which—surprisingly—has little to do with gambling or show business. Instead, Elvis is the

'Sinatra was a show.
Elvis was a happening,'
says Joe Guercio, Elvis'
orchestra leader.
'It was another world.'



Priscilla and Elvis smiled after their 1967 wedding at the Aladdin Hotel, but the hectic, highly publicized event was no piece of cake.

singing race-car driver Lucky Jackson, who woos Ann-Margret as Rusty Martin, the Flamingo's pool manager, while preparing for the (fictitious) Las Vegas Grand Prix. Although many of the indoor sequences were shot on MGM sound stages, the movie shows amazing scenes of a younger, roomier Las Vegas with low-slung hotels, classic marquees, and acres of barren land around the old convention-center rotunda. The climactic race stretches improbably from Fremont Street to Hoover Dam and Mount Charleston.

Ann-Margret confirmed their long-rumored off-screen romance in *My Story*, her 1994 autobiography. She wrote, "We were indeed soul mates, shy on the outside, but unbridled within. We both lived on the edge and we were both self-destructive in our own ways."

Complicating matters was the fact that Elvis was already attached—to Priscilla Anne Beaulieu, whom he had met while stationed in Germany. Priscilla had moved into Graceland only a few months before.

Freddie Bell remembers that "a lot of movie stars" were in Elvis' company when he and his entourage made their

rest-and-recreation visits to the Sahara between films. The Sahara was owned by Milton Prell, the Colonel's friend and Palm Springs neighbor, and was "a



Elvis made his comeback in 1969.

swinging hotel at those times," Bell says. Elvis often checked out Bell's lounge show but would sneak out when Bell did his Elvis impressions. "He was afraid I was going to introduce him."

Whatever happened between Elvis and the Hollywood starlets, it was Priscilla whom he married in Las Vegas on May 1, 1967. She was 21, and he was 32. The Colonel made the arrangements, and Prell hosted the wedding at his new hotel, the Aladdin. (The exact location is a matter of dispute today among hotel officials talking about making it a tourist attraction.) The ceremony was performed before a few friends and relatives in Prell's private suite before the party opened up to a celebration breakfast of 100 friends and guests.

Marriage and the imminent birth of daughter Lisa Marie aside, 1967 was not a good year for Elvis Presley. The Beatles and Rolling Stones had given rock 'n' roll a new direction and made soundtrack fluff such as "Do the Clam" seem silly and anachronistic. Elvis' yearning to restore his credibility as a live performer led him to do a highly popular TV special,

The Colonel told Elvis, 'We can take that show you just did and put it in Vegas and make a lot of money.'

called the Singer special, in 1968.

Lamar Fike, now a Nashville country-music agent and publisher, was one of Elvis' circle of friends known as "The Memphis Mafia." He remembers the first talk of playing Las Vegas again.

"We had just finished the Singer special," Fike says, "and had flown into Vegas for a rest, because we'd worked real hard on that. The Colonel was in the front seat of the limo with his driver, and I was in the back with Elvis. The Colonel turned around with his cigar and said, 'You know, we can take that show you just did and put it in Vegas and make a lot of money.' Elvis looked at me, shrugged his shoulders, and said, 'Sounds like we're playing Vegas.'"

By the summer of 1969, Kirk Kerkorian was ready to open the International Hotel. With 1,519 rooms, it was the largest resort hotel in the world. To give it a proper opening, Kerkorian hired two of the day's biggest stars: Barbra Streisand and Elvis Presley.

But who would go first? Fike doesn't remember it being an issue of importance, but Bruce Banke, the hotel's publicist at the time, recalls that because construction wasn't finished by opening day, "the Colonel said, 'Open with the girl and we'll follow her. Get the kinks out of the showroom.'"

It was one of many smart moves the Presley camp made in preparation for Vegas.

"Elvis Presley's preview opening was as warm for us as Barbra's was cold," proclaimed Joe Delaney, the *Las Vegas Sun* entertainment critic. Delaney recently explained, "Instead of Barbra mixing it up, she came out very seriously and began singing [songs from the musical] 'Jacques Brel' and things that hadn't really caught on at the time."

Elvis, however, had been studying Vegas. The Elvis who strode onstage at the International on July 31, 1969, was an all-round entertainer fronting a rock band polished and magnified by horns and strings.

Still, there were some pre-show jit-

The King in Twilight

Elvis was in full form one night at Tahoe.

By GUY RICHARDSON

When I saw Elvis for the first and last time, he was in the twilight of his career. This was the Vegas Elvis, the Elvis of aviator glasses, scarves, and wretched excess. The joke Elvis.

Amazingly, the show was stunningly good. Elvis—by then he didn't have a last name—had lost weight and gained voice. Within two years he would be dead, but on this night he was vibrantly alive.

The karate kicks, the long stares, the white bell-bottomed jumpsuit with rhinestones—none of that seemed excessive

when you watched Elvis live. He wasn't a caricature. He was Elvis.

He was appearing at the then-Sahara Tahoe (which became the High Sierra and is now the Horizon, which has enshrined his old hotel room as the Elvis Suite). The show was sold out. No pit boss had any seats left. No casino executive, including the manager, had enough pull to get anyone in. The PR department already had imploded from press inquiries.

They got me in, possibly because I whined. I saw and photographed Elvis from the light booth. The light booth is a great place to watch a show from, if you ignore people scurrying about and shouting, "Stage lights down! Pinks up!" Watching Elvis



The rhinestoned Elvis soared sartorially during the '70s.

female ringsiders, who swooned over the moist scarves as if they contained the flesh and blood of the one true god. I'm not being deliberately irreverent—most people in that room were having something akin to a religious experience. When he hit the big high notes on "American Trilogy," holiness and hormones filled the air.

Even I, the would-be cynic, came back and wrote a babbling review. Then I put an inch-high extra-bold headline over it that read, "The King Lives!"

Seeing Elvis would do that to you.

Guy Richardson is an editor and writer for the Reno Gazette-Journal.

ters. "Elvis was nervous because the last time he was in Vegas he lost his ass and didn't do a damn thing," says Fike. "It rattled him. He was bothered by it."

Sammy Shore had been tapped as an opening act after Elvis saw him open for young Welsh heartthrob Tom Jones. (Goldman's book claims Presley stole

his entire Vegas-era stage persona from Jones.) After walking onstage, Shore discovered his microphone was dead. When he was handed a second mike, he pretended that one was off, too. The gag won the crowd over for his 25-minute set. "It was so easy to bomb in that room," Shore says of the 2,000-

seat showroom, the largest ever built in Vegas.

As Shore walked off, Elvis was standing in the wings waiting to go on, and he extended a hand. "His hand was clammy," Shore recalls. "He was as nervous as I was."

A drum beat ushered Elvis onstage. Clad in black with a guitar slung around his neck, he struck a familiar pose and intoned: "Well, it's one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, and go, cat, go!"

Elvis churned and burned his way through "Blue Suede Shoes" and other hits like "All Shook Up," "In the Ghet-

'It's the first time I've
worked in front
of people for nine years,
and it may be the last,'
Elvis told the audience.

to," and "Can't Help Falling in Love." He closed the 15-song performance with a six-minute version of his most recent

single, "Suspicious Minds." During the show he told the audience of invited guests, "It's the first time I've worked in front of people for nine years, and it may be the last. I don't know."

The audience had no such doubts. The show was galvanizing. Elvis' step-brother Billy Stanley recalls in his autobiography that "we were seeing a whole new side of Elvis. More than a decade had been erased in one night's performance; the 'rebel king' was back on top of his profession and on top of the world."

Legend has it that the very next day the Colonel and hotel president Alex

Elvis: He's Everywhere

Testaments to Elvis Presley's remarkable career—and staying power—are prevalent in the Silver State. Here is a sampling of places in Nevada where you can pay homage to the King of Rock 'n' Roll.

Southern Nevada

Elvis' glittering white jumpsuit and a bronze statue of him are displayed in the foyer of the **Las Vegas Hilton**, where he played 837 sold-out shows. The hotel's Elvis Suite, where the King stayed during his Vegas heyday, was torn down recently to make way for a group of super suites. Colonel Tom Parker still lives in Las Vegas, and last summer he celebrated his 85th birthday with a lavish private party at the Hilton. Parker remains an entertainment consultant for the hotel.

Elvis was crazy for Cadillacs, and one of his 1976 baby-blue Eldorados is parked at the **Imperial Palace Auto Collection** (702-731-3311).

The King's stage persona is captured at the **Imperial Palace's** "Legends in Concert" show (702-794-3261). E.P. King grinds and swivels in "Memories of Elvis" at **Vegas World** (702-383-5264), although the show will end when the hotel-casino closes February 1 for about a year for expansion.

At the **Sands** Golden Joe Baker delivers a more irreverent impersonation of Elvis in "Viva Las Vegas" (702-733-5453).

You'll find Elvis impersonator Johnny Wentzel dealing blackjack and spinning



Trent Carlini evokes Elvis in "Legends" at the Imperial Palace.

the Big 6 Wheel at the **San Remo**. Wentzel's Elvis hairdo led him to shed his dealer duds for the costume of the late rock 'n' roll star. As a hobby, Wentzel makes Elvis clothes for other impersonators.

You never know when you're going to experience an Elvis sighting. Last summer a gaggle of look-alikes converged on Las Vegas for the **Elvis Performers Showcase Festival** (no word yet on whether the convention will be in Las Vegas this year).

Couples tying the knot can have the King at their wedding at the **Graceland Wedding Chapel** on the Strip. Elvis impersonator Norm Jones will give away the bride and entertain afterward.

Four years ago, members of a Las Vegas sky-diving club donned black-shellacked wigs and parachuted into Bally's parking lot for the filming of *Honeymoon in Vegas*. Two groups of sideburned skydivers—the **Flying Elvi** and the **Flying Elvises**—began offering the stunt for hire.

Northern Nevada

In the early 1970s, Elvis performed sever-

al times at the Sahara Tahoe (now the **Horizon**) at Stateline, Lake Tahoe. During his first two appearances Elvis threw teddy bears into the audience during the song "Teddy Bear." The hotel's 1,000-square-foot Elvis Suite goes for \$400 a night and has a steam bath, pool table, and kitchen. Elvis had a sauna added, which is still there, and a round bed, which isn't.

Another car in Elvis' cavalcade of Cadillacs is on display at the **William F. Harrah Foundation National Automobile Museum** (702-333-9300) in Reno. The 1973 Eldorado Coupe was a birthday gift to Elvis from his father, Vernon Presley. Elvis drove the car for several months and then gave it to his karate instructor in Memphis.

Elvis sightings in Northern Nevada are rare, but you'll find a striking representation of him in the celebrity-impersonation show "American Superstars" at the **Flamingo Hilton Reno** (702-785-7080).

In Sparks, three handguns that were owned by Elvis are on display at **Sierra Sid's 76 Auto Truck Plaza** (702-359-0550). The "Guns of Elvis" collection has two quick-draw pistols and an elaborately engraved Ruger Blackhawk .44-caliber Magnum. The collection also includes jewelry, such as a gold bracelet engraved with the words "Slot Machine," his father's nickname. The items were gifts from Elvis to Vernon, says casino owner Sid Doan, who purchased the collection in 1979 after Vernon died. "I showed up with \$10,000 in each boot, which still wasn't enough to make the sale," Doan says, but adds that the collection is now worth much more than he paid for it.



An Elvis costume is enshrined at the Hilton.

—Ann Henderson, Mike Weatherford, and Carolyn Graham

Shoofey struck a five-year deal, offering Elvis twice-annual engagements at \$125,000 per week. Bruce Banke says there was never a signed contract, only a handshake deal. No matter. Elvis' annual "Summer Festivals" in August and return engagements in February soon became a bonanza for both parties.

If Elvis' timing in 1956 was poor, in 1969 it was perfect. The International, which became the Las Vegas Hilton in 1971, was huge but lacked a theme like most major resorts have today. It was more of a convention hotel, sharing a parking lot with the Las Vegas Convention Center. Elvis simultaneously gave the Hilton a theme and, twice a year, a convention.

"His audiences were now ready," Bill Willard says of the '70s. "The kids had grown up and now had the nostalgia thing going." They still screamed and clawed their way to the stage in hopes of being anointed with a kiss and a scarf while Elvis crooned "Love Me Tender."

The night before Elvis' first show, the Colonel—who is 85 and lives in Las Vegas today—would wait until people entered the showroom for the preceding



Bill Willard

headliner's last show. Then he would have every square inch of the hotel plastered with Elvis posters. "By the time people came out, they'd be walking into a different casino than when they came in," Banke says. "He

prided himself on never leaving an empty spot."

Sinatra and the Rat Pack still drew the heavy players, but Joe Guercio recalls that Elvis "put bodies in chairs"—100,000 of them for each engagement, counting returnees (like Deadheads, Elvis' fans tried to catch as many shows as possible). "It will never be again. I don't care how big the star is," says Guercio, now entertainment chief at Arizona Charlie's, of the commotion surrounding Elvis' shows.

Las Vegas was good for Elvis—at first. For two years he seemed happy to be back in direct contact with his fans, and the Hilton gave him a home base when he wasn't touring. The hotel's 30th floor Imperial Suite was intended as a retreat for all its headliners, but eventually it became known as "The Elvis Suite."



Elvis always attracted a crowd. Here he posed with Merv Griffin, Tom Jones, and Norm Crosby in Las Vegas. Jones was a good friend and, some say, an onstage role model.

Whenever Elvis flew into town, road manager Joe Esposito would phone ahead so hotel officials could dispatch limousines to the Howard Hughes Charter Terminal. By the time the limos got to the private airfield, "there'd be 500 fans there," Banke recalls with a laugh. "I thought, 'How do they know this?' People always seemed to know what was happening." The limos then would whisk their passengers to the hotel's north laundry entrance.

Elvis was constantly surrounded by his entourage, and life in the Hilton pent-

house was a strange mixture of hedonism and homeyness. "He used to want everybody in his suite every night," Guercio says, but often "they would sit around and play gospel music."

Elvis remained the polite Southern boy. "He always called me 'sir' even though he was a year older," Banke recalls.

The show reached new levels of spectacle. His black karate outfit was replaced by a white jumpsuit adorned with sequins and upturned collar. Guercio came up with a theme fit for a king one night when he and his wife went to see a reissue of 2001. *A Space Odyssey*. During the opening sequence set to Strauss' "Also Sprach Zarathustra," his wife leaned over and said, "Don't you get the feeling Elvis is about to walk out?" From that point on, Elvis never walked out to anything else.

Elvis and the boys had a penchant for pranks. Guercio once jokingly complained the billboards always said "ELVIS" and didn't mention the band. Soon he discovered a billboard near the Strip that said, "The Joe Guercio Orchestra," with the word "Elvis" in smaller letters in one corner.

However, no one was laughing in January 1971



Joe Guercio's favorite Elvis billboard is on the left.

when a Memphis newspaper revealed that Elvis had received death threats. Security was unusually tight, and "the whole room was in chaos," Shore said. "I made it funny. I kept saying, 'Remember, I'm just a comic. Don't shoot.'"

Two years later, Elvis got to display his karate expertise when four men rushed the stage from their ringside seats. Elvis sent the first one flying into the audience. The four later filed suit, claiming they were just trying to shake hands.

"Everyone was riding a crest," Shore says. "No one thought it was ever going to end. I remember feeling like I never wanted this to stop."

Elvis continued to ride the wave, but there were signs of trouble. Shore, who in a misunderstanding left the show to play the Hilton's lounge in 1972, noticed a change in Elvis onstage. "A few years later when I went to see [the show] I felt really sad," Shore recalls. "He just didn't care any-

more. It was like showing up and doing a job now. I thought, 'Why are you letting this all slip away?'"

Bill Willard found the shows becoming more ritual in the summer of 1973. He wrote in *Variety*, "It's déjà vu time—everyone's been there before, even to the 'new' tunes inserted."

Elvis' admitted loss of enthusiasm for Vegas was compounded by his divorce from Priscilla in October 1973. Later some of his friends said that, despite his obvious role in the split, the divorce was exceedingly painful for Elvis and marked the beginning of his great decline.

In August 1974, citing pneumonia, Elvis canceled Hilton shows for the first time—he had missed only five show dates in his entire career, he told reporters. The next summer he canceled most of a Hilton engagement to fly back to Memphis to be hospitalized for "fatigue." He gained weight, and his attitude changed.

"By 1975 he was bored," says Joe Delaney, who wrote his first less-than-glowing column after Elvis wisecracked and insulted band members for most of a show before cutting it short. "The attitude was just terrible," Delaney says.

Several authors share biographer Goldman's view that Elvis needed a



The King continued to pack the Hilton theater in the '70s.

long break from Vegas and concert tours but felt it necessary to continue because of debts mounting from excessive spending and other business pressures.

Two shows a night—almost unheard of in modern-day Las Vegas—were still the norm for Elvis, even in the later years. "If somebody did it now, they'd die onstage," Lamar Fike says. "It was the most cruel thing I've ever seen in my life. It's a wonder we even lived through it. That probably killed him more than anything did."

Public interest again waned. "The last two years he still filled the house, but it was the die-hards at that point," Delaney says. On opening night, December 3, 1976, comedian Jackie Kahane, Shore's successor, was finishing his routine when someone whispered through

Two shows a
night—almost unheard
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Las Vegas—were still
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the curtains, asking him to stretch his act. Elvis came onstage late. "He is still a little heavier than he should be but not as heavy as on his previous visit. The capacity crowd could care less," Delaney wrote.

The 11-day, 15-show engagement ended on December 12. It was the last Las Vegas would see of the real Elvis Presley.

Joe Guercio was shopping at the Boulevard Mall before joining the band in Portland, Maine, when he heard the news.

Bruce Banke took a call from an Associated Press reporter who said there were unconfirmed reports that Elvis Presley had died. "I told him that with certain stars, rumors start all the time. 'If you hear anything else, call me back.'" When the reporter called back, Banke could hear bells in the background, sounding the "urgent" code on the AP's old teletype machines.

Banke barged in on a meeting between Barron Hilton and the hotel's executive staff. "I must have been white," he says. "I hadn't been in the room a minute when the phone rang. It was Colonel Parker calling Barron to confirm it."

The cause of Elvis' death on August 16, 1977, remains an issue of speculation and controversy. Apparently he died of heart failure at Graceland, a victim of prescription drugs, fatigue, and the burdens of celebrity.

Today, it may be hard to imagine the King as a 60-year-old rock star with a senior-citizen discount card, or as a portly sexagenarian singing "Heartbreak Hotel" to a full house of gray-haired fans.

But even now he remains a ubiquitous presence in Las Vegas. Inside the Hilton, a statue of Elvis is an object of homage and curiosity. You see him everywhere, in tribute shows and even wedding chapels.

He is still the young Elvis struggling in his debut, and the older Elvis triumphant in his comeback. In Las Vegas, Elvis lives forever. □

Mike Weatherford is an entertainment and feature writer for the Las Vegas Review-Journal. He is working on a book on Elvis in Las Vegas.



BUNNY SLOPE

A snowshoe hare left these tracks in fresh January snow on a ridge above Lee Canyon northwest of Las Vegas. Photographer Scott Smith of Logan, Utah, stumbled on the day-old prints while lugging a 55-pound pack of camera gear through the Spring Mountains in search of wildlife and winter scenes. Smith got lucky and found the rabbit's feet around sunset. Then he had to ski back down in the dark. ▢

95 IN '95

To celebrate the arrival of 1995,
here are 95 things to do on U.S. 95 during the new year

By Deke Castleman

U.S. 95 is Nevada's longest road, snaking 665 miles from McDermitt on the Oregon border to the California line near Laughlin. Along the route are 16 villages, 10 towns, and one major city, but often it's just you, the ribbon of road, and the horizon, and you feel as if you're hurtling into infinity. There's also lots to see on U.S. 95, so, to honor the new year and the spirit of the road, here are 95 things to do on 95 in 1995.

1 Starting in McDermitt, you can buy an Oregon lottery ticket at Hutt's Mini-Mart and then cross the border to play 21 at the Say When Casino.

2 Also in McDermitt, have a beer in the 115-year-old Ore-vada Club, one of those few commercial establishments in Nevada that is pink but isn't a brothel or a wedding chapel.

3 At the Fort McDermitt Reservation, pay your respects at the historical sign commemorating the life of Sarah Winnemucca, author of *Life Among the Piutes* (1883).

4 Ten miles south of the reservation, a fine but washboardy 25-mile side trip takes you eastward to Buckskin Canyon, the Santa Rosa Wilderness Area, and Lye Creek.

5 A gravel road leads another 15 miles to Paradise Valley, an idyllic farm village with a row of abandoned wooden storefronts that for decades have enriched Mr. Kodak and Mr. Fuji.

6 Speaking of which, if you stay on U.S. 95, there's a good (sunset) photo op in Orovada. Pull into the Rocky

View Motel and point and click at craggy Sawtooth Mountain.

7 Orovada is a little service center for big Quinn River Valley farms and ranches. Imagine: 15,000 years ago this desert valley was underneath prehistoric Lake Lahontan.



8 It's another 40 miles to Winnemucca, self-proclaimed Buckaroo Capital of the West. Good time to pop some Michael Martin Murphey or Tish Hinojosa in the tape deck.

9 In Winnemucca, you can visit the Buckaroo Hall of Fame at the Convention Center and tour the eclectic Humboldt Historical Museum on Jungo Road (great name).

10 Have a picon punch at the Winnemucca Hotel, second-oldest hotel in the state (circa 1863).

11 You might stay the night at Scott's Shady Court, which was the Scott

family's dairy farm until 1928. It has an indoor pool, rare in Nevada motels.

12 Before turning in, catch a flick at Park Cinemas, the only movie theater between Reno and Elko on Interstate 80 and one of only two (the other's in Fallon) for 600 miles of U.S. 95.

13 Riverview Park is a pleasant place to reflect on the Humboldt River, which Mark Twain once joked was so mighty you could drink it dry.

14 U.S. 95 joins Interstate 80 West for 100 miles, and the thing to do on this stretch is *pay attention*. Combat the daze factor by thinking of the highway as U.S. 95 and stop every chance you get.

15 For example, at Mill City you can take a side trip to the hamlet of Unionville, where Mark Twain tried his hand at silver mining in 1861.

16 Or exit at Imlay for a quick peek at Thunder Mountain, a bizarre mound of concrete and scrap-metal folk art (think Watts Tower) constructed in the 1970s by a local mystic named Chief Rolling Thunder.

17 Or stop at Rye Patch Reservoir and peer over the dam at all the Humboldt River water. It may be low—the reservoir has suffered from eight years of drought.

18 In Lovelock, be sure to see the Pershing County Courthouse, one of only two round courthouses in the country. The 1921 neo-classical building might remind you of Athens' Parthenon. Or might not.

27 Be sure to visit the Churchill County Museum, located in a big old Safeway supermarket building and chock-full of Paiute, pioneer, and reclamation exhibits.

28 U.S. 95 has a 109-mile alternate route that leaves I-80 at Fernley and heads south to Silver Springs and Yerington.

29 South of Silver Springs is Fort Churchill State Historical Monument, which preserves the skeleton of a frontier army base built in 1860.

30 Mason Valley, one of Nevada's prime agricultural locales, shepherds the road through Walker River country. When the sun is setting behind the mountains and the big cottonwoods are casting long gray shadows over the wide green fields, it's an inspiring sight.

31 In Yerington, the Lyon County Museum on Main Street overflows with exhibits, including an impressive relief map of this corner of Nevada, built by high-school earth-science students.



32 Alternate 95 and U.S. 95 rejoin at Schurz, headquarters village of the Walker River Paiute Reservation. The Tribal Administration Building is worth a visit to see crafts and photos.

33 Have a bite at the Peesha Kah-Ma restaurant, which means "tastes good" in Paiute.

34 The Walker River doesn't quite flow this far anymore, but look to the left to see the trees lining the banks ushering the river toward Walker Lake.

35 Sportsman's Beach on Walker Lake is a BLM facility where you

can dine alfresco. The picnic tables are shaded by weird winged canopies; after a windstorm, they reportedly have been found as far away as Gabbs.

36 At Walker Lake State Park you can launch a boat and fish for cutthroat trout, but watch out for Cecil, the lake's resident monster.

37 Stop at the Cliffhouse Restaurant for some food, drink, and great views of the lake.

38 Just north of Hawthorne turn into the Army Ammunition Plant, where you'll find yourself in a different world, with tree-lined boulevards, military residences, and a golf course.

39 You'll notice that Hawthorne is surrounded by thousands of concrete bunkers reminiscent of sand creatures out of Frank Herbert's *Dune*. Although they're actually full of bullets and bombs, it's fun to make up stories about these giant alien slugs.

40 The Mineral County Museum has an eyebrow-raising list of social rules for early-day schoolteachers.

41 The El Capitan Casino, operating since the 1940s, has a display case with historic postcards, matchbooks, and other memorabilia.

42 Across the street is Joe's Tavern, a Hawthorne institution owned by the Viani family for generations—well, two generations anyway. Look at the photos of famous politicians and loads of unusual Nevada stuff.

43 Continue driving. Slow down for Luning.

44 Continue driving. Slow down for Mina.

45 Approaching Coaldale Junction, look west (right) and you'll easily identify Boundary Peak, tallest point in Nevada at 13,143 feet elevation.

46 The centerpiece of downtown Tonopah is the Mizpah Hotel, which, built in 1907, recalls this mining boom town's heyday.

47 You can visit the old Mizpah Mine's headframe by driving up
(Continued on page 74)

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River Mountain Trail hikers Jeff Bishop (left) and Chris Leedham behold Lake Mead from the Black Mountain overlook.

Lake Trails

These two hikes will lead you to history and scenery at Lake Mead.

By Julian Rhinehart

One route reveals Hoover Dam history in old railroad tunnels. The other leads to the summits of the River Mountains and panoramic views of the present.

If you like hiking, you will enjoy walking two recently completed trails near Lake Mead: the Government Railroad Trail and the River Mountain Trail. The two half-day hikes—one easy, one more challenging—are both highly scenic and within a 35-mile drive of Las Vegas.

Hikers in the Southern Nevada portion of the Mojave Desert will discover a combination of vistas, colors, shapes,

and textures found nowhere else. Even the casual observer will learn that the seemingly silent desert world around Lake Mead is, in fact, quite lively

Government Railroad Trail: Tunnel Vision

The U.S. Government Construction Railroad Trail has a long name but a relatively short route. The trail follows an abandoned railroad grade through four tunnels on a level 2.6-mile, one-way route. It is the less strenuous of the two hikes and requires two to three

hours for the 5.2-mile round trip.

The hike begins at a trailhead parking area on Lakeshore Drive opposite the National Park Service's Alan Bible Visitor Center. The visitor center, located where Lakeshore Drive meets U.S. 93 four miles north of Boulder City, is the information headquarters for Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

The trail follows the bed of the old Six Companies Railroad, completed by the federal government in 1931 and operated by the Six Companies construction consortium to transport materials and heavy equipment for the building of

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Beyond the fourth tunnel the Government Railroad Trail seemingly dead-ends into the face of a mountain.

Hoover Dam. The trail's appeal lies in both its scenery and history, says Kay Rohde, chief interpreter at the park.

"Even though civilization is nearby, within a few steps you feel you are in a very remote location," she says. "The long afternoon light intensifies colors and shadows on the rocks and the lake. First-time visitors are really surprised by what they find. When you walk through the quiet tunnels, it's easy to see and hear the ghosts of the steam locomotives that puffed through them 24 hours a day."

About 300 yards west of the trailhead is a massive gate that blocks further vehicular traffic. The gate was one of two erected on the roadway across Hoover Dam during World War II, when a battalion of soldiers guarded the dam. The gate was installed at its present location in 1975.

Along the trail's first section are vistas of Boulder Basin, Boulder Beach, and Williamsville, or "Ragtown," which

Trail Notes

The U.S. Government Construction Railroad Trail meanders 2.6 miles through four tunnels (5.2 miles round trip). The trailhead is across from the Alan Bible Visitor Center, midway between Boulder City and Hoover Dam. Write Lake Mead National Recreation Area, 601 Nevada Highway, Boulder City, NV 89005; phone 702-293-8907

The River Mountain Trail winds up to three miles in the mountains northwest of Boulder City (six miles round trip). The altitude gain is up to 1,225 feet. The trailhead is about .7 of a mile north of Boulder City's stoplight. Write Boulder City Parks and Recreation Dept., 900 Arizona, Boulder City, NV 89005; phone 702-293-9256 for information.

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Susan, Chris, and young Alison Leedham chug through the old railroad tunnels.

Lake Mead now covers. Before the federal government built Boulder City to house dam workers, Ragtown was a shantytown filled with Depression-worn transients looking for jobs at the dam.

Looking down the south bank of the first graded fill, you can see remnants of giant concrete generator-opening plugs. When Hoover Dam's power plant came on line in 1936, only three gener-

ators were being used. As the subsequent 14 units were installed, their plugs were removed from the generator-housing area, and a number were dumped on the bank of the railroad fill to add stability.

Across the lake, the Muddy and Virgin mountains tower in the background. To the southeast is the black, flattened top of Fortification Hill. Jutting from the lake below is Sentinel Island with its



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matching dark lava cap. Both formations were created volcanically about 10 million years ago.

Hikers frequently see desert bighorn sheep on the higher, rocky slopes. You will also see signs of sheep and coyotes along the roadbed. More than 250 kinds of birds, including golden eagles, are found in the area. A colony of bats spends the daytime hours on the ceiling of the third tunnel.

Although the rock is of volcanic origin, you will see that little additional support was needed for the tunnels, which are 18 feet wide and 26 feet high. In the first tunnel, traces of smoke from coal-burning locomotives are visible on the ceiling. You will see a slight curve in the third tunnel, but all four bores are short enough that flashlights are not necessary during the day.

Beyond the fourth tunnel the trail seemingly dead-ends into the face of a mountain. This is the site of the fifth and last tunnel, which was sealed off and cosmetically colored to blend in with the surrounding rock after fires destroyed the shoring timbers in 1978. The Bureau of Reclamation, builder of Hoover Dam, hopes to reopen the tunnel in the next few years—and then a six-mile trail linking Boulder City and Hoover Dam will be possible.

River Mountain Trail: Vista Viewpoints

The attraction of the River Mountain Trail is twofold, says Roger Hall, director of parks and recreation in Boulder City. "In addition to a strikingly different climb, you are rewarded with really memorable views. With just a turn of your head you have vistas of Las Vegas, Lake Mead, Boulder City, and the Mojave Desert. Also, the easy access for large numbers of people is another plus."

Driving toward Hoover Dam, you will find the trailhead parking lot on the left (north) side of U.S. 93, about .7 of a mile north of Boulder City's lone stoplight. The three-mile hike (six miles round trip) begins behind the information kiosk at the rear of the parking lot. Take a minute to pick up a trail guide and look at the kiosk's excellent route map, which shows trails to Black Mountain, Red Mountain, and Bootleg Wash. The elevation at the trailhead is 2,415

Switchbacks built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s ease the ascent in the steeper sections.

feet. With a climb of nearly 1,200 feet, this hike is moderately strenuous. Depending on your enthusiasm, the round trip will take three to five hours.

At first you traverse a desert wash where metallic oxides have painted the soil red, yellow, and purple. Then the trail begins to climb gradually into the River Mountains. Switchbacks built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the early 1930s ease the ascent in the steeper sections. The CCC boys did such a good job that their rock work required little attention when the trail was improved recently by crews from Boulder City, the National Park Service, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and local Boy Scout and youth groups.

If you picked up one of the trail guides at the kiosk, the climb can turn into a workshop in geology. Stark volcanic formations tell the story of a tumultuous past. You will see signs of desert bighorn sheep along the trail and may even spot one of these majestic creatures, as well as ravens and coyotes.

Two miles from the start the trail forks. To the left and west a .3-mile trail leads to the Red Mountain overlook. The highest point on the hike, at 3,640 feet, the overlook offers great views of mountains and desert.

To the right and east of the fork is an easy half-mile jaunt to the Black Mountain viewpoint. From the 3,480-foot overlook you can see Lake Mead, the Muddy Mountains, Boulder City, the Eldorado Valley Dry Lake, the Las Vegas Val-

ley, and Mount Charleston. It's a spectacular 360-degree view of the new, the old, and the timeless. □

Julian Rhinehart of Boulder City is a freelance writer and former public-information chief for the region's Bureau of Reclamation office in Boulder City.



The River Mountain Trail
has rugged panoramas.

ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS

Radio waves and roller coaster raves.

MUSEUMS

Radio Memories

VIRGINIA CITY—The crackling tunes of Guy Lombardo's orchestra and other nostalgic sounds fill the room as you step inside the newest museum on the Comstock, the Virginia City Radio Museum.

Located in the old rectory behind St. Mary's in the Mountains Catholic Church, the museum is a treasury of cathedral radios, consoles, crystal sets, tubes, antennas, and other collectible radio equipment. Museum owner Henry Rogers has more than 80 radios on display. The oldest radio in his collection is a one-of-a-kind Spherical Audion receiver, which dates back to 1915.

Most of the radios in the museum were formerly owned by Nevadans, including a 1938 Zenith 9S262 console that entertained guests for years in the lobby of the St. Francis Hotel in Reno. The 1924 RCA Radiola Superheterodyne receiver with a Kolster Radio Loop antenna was found in pristine condition in a Virginia City resident's attic.

Rogers says he is happy to share his knowledge of radio history with visitors. He's also glad to give casual appraisals. Admission is \$1.50, and children under 12 are free. For hours call 702-847-9047. The Virginia City Radio Museum is located behind St. Mary's at F and Taylor streets. —Cynthia Kennedy



Henry Rogers makes waves at his museum.

BOOKSTORES

Bookish Borders

LAS VEGAS—Borders Book Shop may be one of Southern Nevada's largest bookstores, but it has an intimate, homey atmosphere. Bookworms are allowed to browse, enjoy a cup of coffee, and settle down in a soft chair with their volumes of choice.

The 15,000-square-foot store, which changed its name from Basset to Borders last year, has more than 80,000 titles, an extensive business section, racks with major newspapers, a collection of books on Nevada, and a children's corner.

A small cafe serves sandwiches, cheesecake, bagels, muffins, and gourmet teas and coffees.

Borders Book Shop, which is owned by Waldenbooks, is open every day from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. at 2323 South Decatur Boulevard. For more information call 702-258-0999.

—Kate Butler

AMUSEMENT

Roller Coaster Mania

STATE LINE—At Buffalo Bill's, thrill seekers can get their highs on the Desperado, the world's tallest and fastest roller coaster.

Not for the weak at heart, the ride subjects its passengers to two towering drops, one from 225 feet and the other a 155-foot spiral, with speeds of up to 80 mph. If you can stop screaming long enough, you can monitor readings on the roller coaster's front-car speedometer.

The two-minute, 43-second ride costs \$3, and passengers must meet a height requirement of 48 inches. Buffalo Bill's Resort is 43 miles south of Las Vegas on Interstate 15, and the entrance to the Desperado is located inside the casino. Buffalo Bill's also has a tamer splash flume ride. Call 702-382-1111. —Ann Henderson



Roller coaster fans take the high way at Buffalo Bill's.

ICE SKATING

On Frozen Pond

WASHOE VALLEY When the pond at Davis Creek Park freezes over in the wintertime, ice skaters converge on the outdoor arena to carve turns and figure eights.

The small, scenic rink is surrounded by pines and picnic tables and is open daily, depending on the ice and weather.

Park rangers light the ice on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings as skaters and spectators wear mufflers and sip hot chocolate in a classic winter scene.

Davis Creek Park is 20 miles south of Reno near Bowers Mansion. Skating is free (bring your own skates and hot cocoa), and winter camping is \$8 per night. Call the county park, 702-849-0684, for more information. —Carolyn Graham



Skaters can carve the ice at Davis Creek Park.

DINING OUT

Downtown and down-home.

Adele's at the Plaza: Downtown Gourmet

Near the center of Reno's legal and financial district, four blocks south of the casino hubbub, sits Adele's at the Plaza. It's not surprising that Paul and Adele Abowd decided to open a restaurant in this spot three years ago, or that it has fit the neighborhood so well. Paul grew up in a restaurant family in San Francisco, knowing how to cater to city tastes, and their Adele's in Carson City has been a popular gourmet house since it opened in 1978.

The Reno Adele's offers a top-quality alternative to casino dining. No place

in town can beat it for a gracious meal, one that can meander for hours.



Adele Abowd and her daughter Cyrina, manager of Adele's at the Plaza, visit with Reno newswoman Lynsey Paulo (right).

The only problem with Adele's is ordering. Newcomers should be prepared to be overwhelmed. The printed menu has more choices than most restaurants dream of. Add to that the long list of daily specials, which the server delivers in a mouth-watering litany, a dozen dishes one after another. A special request? Just ask. If it's in the kitchen, Paul will cook it.

Your dinner starts with a choice of a large spinach or mixed-greens salad. Entrees are big, too—take-out boxes are the norm—so there's no reason to order appetizers except pure and simple indulgence. It's hard to pass up the crab cakes or the smoked

salmon and sturgeon plate.

Entrees include a New York steak

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As long as you say, "Yes,"
at the Vegas eatery, they keep
bringing baskets of
hush puppies, tasty morsels
made from corn meal.

stuffed with seafood and topped with a variety of mushrooms, lamb served in a rich zinfandel sauce, and exceptional fish preparations. At Adele's you choose fish not because it's healthy but because it tastes fabulous. Cholesterol doesn't enter into your mind when you taste halibut with jalapeño-apricot sauce or seared ahi ahi jazzed with an Asian ginger peppercorn sauce.

Adele's also has a late-night menu from 10 p.m. to 3:30 a.m. daily except Sunday. Then, pasta dishes are under \$10, salads and sandwiches \$4 to \$8, and fresh fish \$12 to \$14. On Friday and Saturday nights, Reno drummer Tony Savage and his jazz quartet play from 10 to 2 for a special after-hours bonus.

—Sharon Honig-Bear

Adele's at the Plaza: 425 S. Virginia St., three blocks south of the Truckee River, in Reno, 702-333-6503. Open for both lunch and dinner on weekdays, and for dinner on Saturday and Sunday. Late-night menu daily except Sunday. Entrees: Lunch \$6 to \$16, dinner \$15 to \$35. AE, MC, Visa. Reservations accepted.

Hush Puppy: Catfish Are Jumpin'

Twenty years ago, Virginia and Charles Ghormley of Las Vegas were craving Texarkana-style home cooking. Tired of flying all the way to Arkansas for a real meal, the couple took a cue from Mohammed and brought the catfish and all the fixin's to Vegas.

Today desert dwellers feast on catfish, cole slaw, and hot, tasty hush puppies at the Ghormleys' Hush Puppy Restaurant. Diners can sample appetizer oddities, such as alligator and crawfish tails, as well as beef, chicken, and seafood items.

The operative phrase here is "All you can eat." As long as you say, "Yes," they keep bringing baskets of hush puppies—morsels made from corn meal, hand-rolled, deep-fried, and crisp on the outside. The salad bar is a two-tripper.

Meanwhile, an endless supply of catfish is brought to your table, either as steaks, fillets, or whole, and you can choose from fresh-water or farm varieties. Other nightly specials feature ribs and crab.

Hush Puppy's decor is so Deep South that it's more Polynesian than Arkansas, with its bamboo walls and South Seas lanterns. Instead of one large dining area, a series of smaller rooms are arranged outward from a central garden.

When the Ghormleys opened their doors in 1975, neither Virginia nor Charles, a former construction worker

at the Nevada Test Site, had experience in the restaurant business. But the couple gambled their life savings, and they were able to open a second restaurant in Bakersfield in 1977 and another in Las Vegas, at 1820 North Nellis, in 1983. The Nellis restaurant has a drive-up window to handle the take-out business the Ghormleys knew would follow—even for alligator tail. —Ann Henderson

Hush Puppy Restaurant: 7185 W Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, 702-363-5988. Entrees: \$9 to \$37, most \$10 to \$14. Hours 5 to 10 p.m. (to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday). MC, Visa. Reservations accepted. □

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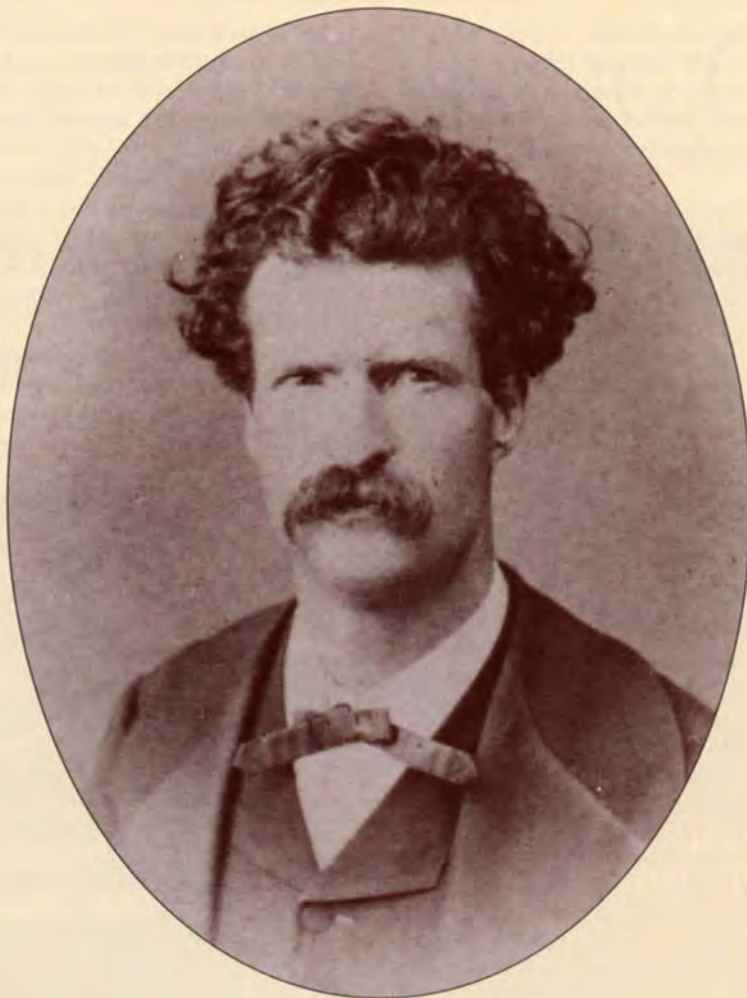
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MARK TWAIN AT THE LEGISLATURE

Reporter Sam Clemens
discovered humorist Mark Twain
while covering the
political parties in Carson City.

By GEORGE J. WILLIAMS III

Mark Twain spent nearly three years in Nevada. He arrived by stage in August 1861 as Sam Clemens, an unemployed steamboat pilot from Missouri. He left in May 1864 as Mark Twain, a popular writer and territorial celebrity.

When Clemens joined the staff of Virginia City's *Territorial Enterprise* in 1862, he learned more than the journalistic trade. He met fellow Nevadans who would influence his career. He also found new inspiration—and his *nom de plume*—while covering such matters as the 1863 Constitutional Convention and two Territorial Legislatures in Carson City. His dispatches from Carson would mark an important chapter in his growth as a writer and humorist.

In November 1862, *Enterprise* editor Joe Goodman sent Clemens to the capital to report on Nevada's second Territorial Legislature. Sam stayed at his brother Orion's house, which still stands on Division Street, with Orion, Orion's wife Mollie, and their daughter Jennie.

As secretary of Nevada Territory, Orion Clemens was second in command to Governor James Nye. As the brother of a territorial official and as a legislative reporter for the region's most powerful paper, Sam Clemens was someone to be reckoned with.

For six weeks Clemens attended meetings of the second Territorial Legislature. After the daily deliberations and debates, reporters and representatives often adjourned to Carson City's saloons.

A product of those late-night councils was the Third House, a group of reporters, legislators, and citizens who gathered in saloons to ridicule legislative proceedings. Clemens served a term as president of this ribald group, whose flair for satire survived until recent sessions in a Third House night of skits and song staged by reporters.

In his news stories, Clemens enjoyed making fun of politicians who took themselves too seriously. Sometimes he poked fun at his fellow reporters, too. Clement Rice was an experienced reporter for the *Virginia Union* who also attended the legislature. After reading one of Clemens' reports in the *Enterprise*, Rice published a column ridiculing his friend's political naiveté. Clemens wrote a rebuttal. Thus began a series of lively editorial battles between the two friends.

Clemens referred to Rice as "the Unreliable," and the name stuck. One day Clemens wrote a mock obituary for the Unreliable, noting in his story:



The Third House was an irreverent mock legislature that regularly conducted its business in Carson saloons. Twain is second from left.

"I am pained to learn that the Unreliable, true to his unnatural instincts, came to life again in the midst of his funeral sermon. The frightened congregation rushed from the house, and the Unreliable followed them, with his coffin on his shoulder. He sold it for two dollars and a half, and got drunk at a 'bit house' [low-class saloon] on the proceeds. He is still drunk."



Clement Rice, "the Unreliable."

Clemens sent reports to the *Enterprise* while staying in the capital during January 1863. In his dispatch of January 31, 1863, Clemens for the first time used the byline "Mark Twain." There was no fanfare, no beating drums, just "Mark Twain" signed to his report from Carson City (see page 71). For the next 17 months in Nevada, Clemens was known as the writer and the person Mark Twain.

Twain made an important transition during a subsequent tour of duty in Carson. From November 1863 through February 1864 he covered the Constitutional Convention and then the third Territorial Legislature. During

those months, he transformed himself from a prankster journalist to a committed writer. His writing improved and began to make a genuine impact on the Nevada community. Most importantly, Twain seemed to realize that his writing could affect his world.

There were a number of strong influences on Twain's thinking and writing during this period. One was the sheer volume of work. He wrote a 4,000-word political story five days a week, followed by a long weekly summary. At the Constitutional Convention he collaborated with shorthand expert Andrew J. Marsh to report on the proceedings for *Enterprise* readers.

Another factor was Twain's change in attitude about his work. Whereas in the past he had collected or invented news simply to fill his columns, now he took his writing more seriously. He still used humor and satire, but he seemed to have a new confidence in his ideas.

His colleagues on the *Enterprise* influenced Twain. Editor Joe Goodman encouraged him to stick to the facts. Coeditor Rollin Daggett taught Twain to speak his mind and attack in-

Clemens used the byline 'Mark Twain' for the first time in his dispatch of January 31, 1863.

justice. Jim Townsend, a marvelous storyteller whose humor and style were akin to Twain's, shared many stories with Mark. Dan De Quille, the veteran reporter, was Twain's boardinghouse roommate. The *Enterprise* staff was a constant source of friendship and support.

Twain also was stimulated by the crowd of intelligent, educated, and aggressive people with whom he dealt daily (and nightly) in Carson City. Most were attorneys, men skilled with words.

One was Alexander "Sandy" Baldwin. At 22, Baldwin was one of the leading attorneys in Nevada Territory and later a federal judge. Baldwin was brilliant; at 14 he entered the University of Virginia; at 19 he was a district attorney in California. As a Virginia City lawyer, Baldwin earned more than a half-mil-



Simmons, Twain, and Claggett (from left) were cohorts in Carson City.

lion dollars representing mining companies in litigation.

Baldwin could be cocky in court. During one courtroom battle, Baldwin kept interrupting his adversary, William Stewart. Finally Stewart yelled at Baldwin, "You little shrimp, if you interrupt me again, I'll eat you."

Baldwin replied, "If you do, you'll have more brains in your belly than you've ever had in your head."

Twain also was friends with Stewart, Nevada's most prominent lawyer and later a U.S. senator. Stewart made a fortune representing Virginia City mining companies.

William "Billy" Claggett was an old friend of Twain's from Iowa. Claggett, elected to the Territorial Legislature in 1862 and 1864, was known for his oratorical skill and mop of unruly hair.

Jack Simmons, speaker of the House during the 1862 Territorial Legislature, was a close friend of Twain's and a leading member of the Third House.

Abraham Curry, principal founder of Carson City, provided his Warm Springs Hotel as a meeting place for legislators. Twain praised Curry's civic contributions in *Roughing It* (1872).

James Nye was the first territorial governor of Nevada. Twain's first speech

At the sessions, nothing disturbed Twain more than pretentious windbags.

was in part a satire of Nye, but the rascally politician accepted the humor in stride. Twain gave much space to Nye in *Roughing It*.

Twain frequently mentioned these and other characters, often humorously, in his reports from Carson City. Their willingness to accept public embarrassment in good humor was evidence of their regard for their friend Twain.

There was a good deal of joking during legislative meetings. On January 15, 1864, "the Chair announced Mr. Sam. L. Clemens as entitled to a seat as Reporter for the House, while the courtesy of that body should continue to hold out." Several days later Twain reported, "I am here on my good behavior, as it were." Legislators often

treated Twain as if he were a member rather than a reporter.

Twain's daily reports were dry news items published without a byline or signed "Sam Clemens." However, the Sunday reports were casual and humorous. In his autobiography Twain recalled, "Every Sunday I wrote a letter to the paper [from Carson City] in which I made a resume of the week's legislative work, and in order that it might be readable I put no end of seasoning into it. I signed these letters 'Mark Twain.'"

At the sessions, nothing disturbed Twain more than pretentious windbags. L.O. Sterns was a long-winded delegate from Aurora. Toward the end of the Constitutional Convention, Twain made fun of Sterns' wandering speeches:

"Mr. Sterns said—Mr. President, I am opposed, I am hostile, I am uncompromisingly against this proposition to tax the mines. I will go further, sir. I will openly assert sir, that I am not in favor of this proposition. It is wrong—entirely wrong." Sterns, readers learned, theorized that if "this pernicious measure" were to pass, "the gaunt forms of want, poverty, and starvation, and despair will shortly walk in the high places of this once happy and beautiful land."

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How MARK TWAIN GOT HIS NAME

"Mark Twain" was not born in Missouri, as most of us have been taught. Mark Twain was born amidst the bitter odors of whiskey, gin, and beer in John Piper's bar in Virginia City.

Piper's Old Corner Bar was a hang-out for Sam Clemens and other Virginia City reporters and printers who produced the Comstock Lode's several newspapers in the 1860s. The Bohemian crowd gathered at Piper's at break time or after they put their papers to bed.

Clemens had the habit of going into the bar with at least one friend. He would order drinks for himself and his pal and ask Piper to "mark twain," meaning, mark two drinks on

the wall behind the bar. That was where Piper kept track of his customers' tabs. Clemens' newspaper friends picked up on this habit and began calling him "Mark Twain."

Clemens first used the pseudonym on January 31, 1863, in a dispatch from Carson City.

Later, Twain wanted to bury his reckless, hard-drinking years in the West, so he concocted several stories about the origin of his famous



Mark Twain in the 1860s.

pseudonym. However, they don't wash when examined today.

His favorite was that he had stolen the name from a *New Orleans Picayune* writer, but, in fact, the writer apparently didn't use the name Mark Twain. Another was that "mark twain" had to do with measuring the depth of the Mississippi River.

Both stories were plausible and generally accepted by the public in Twain's day, but I am convinced it is the Piper's saloon story, revealed in a *Eureka* newspaper story in the 1870s, that is the truth. I believe Twain, who drank hard as a young man, succeeded in using the tamer stories to cover the tracks of his reckless years in Nevada. —George J. Williams III

Following the Constitutional Convention, the State Nominating Convention met, and candidates for political offices were chosen. Twain couldn't resist noting that the candidates "all owe

me something for traducing and vilifying them in the public prints, and thus exciting sympathy for them."

Like other citizens and reporters, Twain followed certain bills closely. He

opposed a telegraph bill that virtually gave one company a monopoly. When another bill was laid to rest by legislators, Twain took them aside one night in February 1864. His report from Car-



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**'I convened
the members in extra
session last night,
and deluged them with
blasphemy'**

son recalls a style and sly wit that we now recognize in *Innocents Abroad*, *Roughing It*, and other Twain works:

"While I was absent a moment, yesterday, on important business, taking a drink, the House, with its accustomed engaging unanimity, knocked one of my pet bills higher than a kite, without a dissenting voice. I convened the members in extra session last night, and deluged them with blasphemy, after which I entered into a solemn compact with them, whereby, in consideration of their re-instating my bill, I was to make an ample apology for all the mean things I had said about them for passing that infamous, unchristian, infernal telegraph bill the other day."

Twain had detected the cause of the legislators' "rascally conduct". "Under ordinary circumstances, they never would have done such a thing—but

upon that occasion I think they had been fraternizing with Claggett and Simmons at the White House [a hostelry], and were under the vicious influence of Humboldt whiskey. Consequently, they were not responsible to anybody on earth or in heaven.—Mark Twain." □

George J. Williams III is a Carson City-based writer and publisher. He has written three other books in his Mark Twain in the West Series, including *Mark Twain: His Life in Virginia City, Nevada* and *Mark Twain: His Adventures at Aurora and Mono Lake*. He has written numerous oth-

er books on Nevada and California historical subjects, and is working currently on a guide to Nevada hot springs.

The preceding story is an excerpt from Williams' book *On the Road With Mark Twain in California and Nevada*, which visits such Twain-related places as Virginia City, Carson City, Unionville, Aurora, Mono Lake, Lake Tahoe, and San Francisco. *On the Road With Mark Twain* is available at \$14.95 from bookstores and (for an autographed copy) from Tree By The River Publishing, Box 935-O, Dayton, NV 89403; or phone toll-free 800-487-6610 for orders (add \$2.50 for postage).

SESSION NOTES

As they did in Mark Twain's day, Nevada's legislators will meet in Carson City this winter to deliberate matters of state. The legislature, which meets every two years, begins its 1995 session on January 16. Sessions usually run through early summer.

Visitors are welcome in the Legislative Building, the modern, pie-shaped building located just south of the State Capitol in the center of town. You can watch the Senate and Assembly from the galleries and visit committee hearings. Look for a handout guide in the main foyer.

Like Twain and his contemporaries, reporters used to poke fun at the legislature's two houses in the Third House. However, the satirical evening hasn't been held for the past two sessions.

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95 in '95

(Continued from page 20)

Florence Avenue to Mizpah Street. Butler Park here is named for town founder Jim Butler.

48 The Central Nevada Museum delivers an extensive history lesson on Tonopah and Goldfield, complete with a Stealth bomber exhibit.

49 The best hotel snack bar on U.S. 95 north of Las Vegas is at the Station House Hotel-Casino. Burgers, tacos, hot dogs, and shakes are all under \$3.

50 Between Tonopah and Goldfield, you often can spot wild horses early in the morning or evening.

51 This area is also a conspicuous demarcation between Great Basin sagebrush and Mojave Desert creosote—marked by the presence of the Mojave's distinctive Joshua trees.

52 Creep through Goldfield to view big stone edifices like the Goldfield Hotel and the old school, built as if the gold boom would last forever, not 20 years as it did.

53 The Esmeralda County Courthouse, too, was built of stone in 1907 but it still serves the 1,340 county residents. Walk upstairs to see the best preserved courtroom in the state, with a bighorn-sheep head overseeing it all.

54 The Santa Fe Saloon in Goldfield has its original porch and bar along with the oldest pinball machine in Nevada.

55 From Scotty's Junction it's a 21-mile side trip to Scotty's Castle. This 25-room mansion, with its 270-foot pool (never completed), is at the northern tip of Death Valley National Park in that other state next door.

56 North of Beatty is Bailey's Hot Springs, the only commercial bathing place on U.S. 95. Soak in soothing 105-degree water that will make you forget you've ever been in a car.

57 The video poker machines with the best payout schedules on U.S. 95 north of Las Vegas are at the Stagecoach Casino in Beatty.

58 In downtown Beatty, visit the Death Valley info center in the old post office and stop at the Exchange Club to have a Bass ale in a frozen mug at the 1905 Brunswick bar.

59 A four-mile side trip from Beatty leads to the ghost town of Rhyolite. The old depot is intact, although the bank and school are in tatters.

60 Rhyolite's main attraction is its bottle house, said to have been built in 1906 with 50,000 beer bottles. Experts, however, believe it's probably more like 10,000 or 15K max—which will probably generate a ration of grief from the Friends of Rhyolite and Anheuser Busch.

61 Another Rhyolite curiosity is the Ghost Museum. Six sculptures



were created by artists who are rarely around, making the Ghost Museum itself a ghost.

62 The Rhyolite road (State Route 374) takes you into Death Valley National Park.

63 Fifty-five miles south of Beatty on U.S. 95, you pass by Mercury, headquarters for America's nuclear bomb testing program since 1951.

64 Indian Springs is a roadside settlement with an Air Force installation, high-security prison, and casino with no name.

65 As the Big Glow intensifies, you can drive up Mount Charleston, home of trails, campgrounds, Lee Canyon Ski Area, Mt. Charleston Hotel, and Mt. Charleston Lodge.

66 Floyd Lamb State Park, known as Tule Springs, has a small lake stocked with catfish and rainbows.

67 Finally you arrive: Las Vegas. If you'd like to pretend that it's a mere mirage in the Mojave, you can barrel straight through on the freeway. But don't turn your head.

68 If, on the other hand, you're sticking around, you can stay at one of two new 10,000-square-foot suites at Caesars Palace, complete with butler and baby grand piano. All you have to do is bet \$25,000 a hand for a few days.

69 Head downtown to Binion's venerable Horseshoe and treat yourself to a late-night New York steak dinner for all of \$2.

70 Then have your picture taken (free) in front of 100 rare \$10,000 bills, the coolest mil you've ever seen.

71 Walk over to the Golden Nugget to drool over the golden nuggets on display including a 61-pound monster that was located with a metal detector behind a trailer park in Australia.

72 At the Four Queens you can play the world's largest slot machine. The "Queens Machine" stands 18 feet long and nine feet high.

73 The pirate show in Buccaneer Bay at Treasure Island is seven swash-buckling minutes of pirate-technics.

74 At Caesars, you can sneak a peek at a topless Cleopatra (Julius Caesar's inamorata) welcoming celebrants to her barge and a bottomless statue of David (Michelangelo's King of Israel), which, uncircumsized, is the greatest artistic misrepresentation in history.

75 Next stop? The New Four Corners at Tropicana and the Strip. Here you'll be in the midst of 15,000 hotel rooms at the MGM Grand, Tropicana, San Remo, Excalibur, and Luxor.

76 The MGM Grand, the largest hotel in the world, also has the world's largest casino, the size of 100 four-bedroom houses.

77 Consider taking a side trip south on I-15 to Boomtown, where you can pan for gold.

78 Continue out I-15 to Jean, where the Nevada Landing and Gold Strike offer one of the last 99-cent, 24-hour, bacon-and-eggs specials.

79 From here, you might as well go the rest of the way to State Line and the new Buffalo Bill's, to ride the tallest roller coaster in the world.

80 Back in town, take the U.S. 95/93/I-515 high-speed elevated freeway if you're in a hurry.

81 Or, better yet, cruise the Boulder Highway—the original U.S. 95—and see the new Boulder Station Hotel.

82 A mile south is the expanded Sam's Town. Although the new tower resembles a gymnasium from the outside, it's a magnificent 18-story Victorian cityscape inside.

83 In Henderson, the Clark County Heritage Museum's Heritage Street has a number of historic homes and commercial buildings.

84 After crossing Railroad Pass, U.S. 95 cuts due south. But first, head another three miles east on U.S. 93 to Boulder City, the only town in the state where gambling is prohibited.

85 A quick tour of Boulder City shows the federal design of the town: government buildings on the hill, main streets named for Southwestern states, and a hierarchy of housing.

86 Seven miles east at Hoover Dam, an elevator drops you more than 50 stories to the dam's base.

87 Back on U.S. 95, activate your auto-accelerator and auto-steering for the ruler-straight shot 36 miles due south through Eldorado Valley to the old mining town of Searchlight.

88 In the Searchlight Nugget casino you'll see turquoise cow heads with polished horns.

89 The Searchlight Historic Museum has displays on mining, local personalities, and composer Scott Joplin's connection to the town.

90 Ten miles south of Searchlight is Cal-Nev-Ari. Have a cuppa in the cafe-casino and learn how the town was founded in 1965 near a WW II airstrip.

91 For a 15-mile off-pavement side trip, turn left onto a dirt road a few miles south of Cal-Nev-Ari and rattle and roll up into the Newberry Mountains. Pull into the parking lot at

Grapevine Canyon and follow a trail up the wash. Keep an eye out for petroglyphs, tarantulas, and flash floods.

92 Detour down State Route 163, a fine four-lane road, to Laughlin.

93 If it's not too hot, stroll the riverwalk behind Laughlin's casinos or ride the water taxis on the Colorado.

94 Eight miles south of Laughlin, you can visit a Nevada boom town in the making. The Fort Mojave Tribe is opening a 4,000-acre master-

planned community with four riverfront hotel-casinos, 650 residential units, and a 1,600-space RV park. That's just the Nevada side. The name? Aha Macav.

95 Finally, U.S. 95 leaves Nevada and there's nothing to do for the next 250 miles till the road ends near Yuma. ▢

Deke Castleman of Las Vegas is author of the Nevada Handbook and managing editor of The Las Vegas Advisor. He is already making plans for 2,000 things he wants to do in Nevada in the year 2000.

REDISCOVER HISTORIC NEVADA BEATTY GATEWAY TO DEATH VALLEY



NEVADA NOTES

A waitress and an opera house win honors.

Queen of the Waitresses

If you want to meet America's "Most Refreshing Waitress," follow the truckers pulling into the Blue Diamond Auto-Truck Service off Interstate 15 just south of Las Vegas.

Shirley Scheller, who is affectionately known as "Chicken Legs" by her customers, recently won top honors in a nationwide "Search for the Most Refreshing Waitress Contest" sponsored by Clorets.

Scheller was nominated by her truck-driving customers, and a formal competition was televised on *The Maury Povich Show* last fall.

"It's crazy," says the tray-toting

grandmother. "I was in shock." Because of her national title, customers are bringing her flowers and asking for her autograph. "Who in the world would want a waitress' autograph?" she asks.

Scheller, 61, beat out about 11,000 other waitresses with her can-do disposition and skills gained through 48 years of experience. On *The Maury Povich Show*, Scheller competed against two other regional finalists as 12 experts—all truckers—judged her efficiency and ability to deal with difficult customers.

Thanks to the contest, Scheller also is nationally known for her "Chicken Legs" nickname, a handle given to her by truckers for her ultra-trim gams. The name



Refreshing Shirley Scheller

caught on during the taping of the TV show when the audience cheered her on by yelling, "Go, Chicken Legs, go!"

"Now my six-year-old grandson even calls me Chicken Legs," she laughs.

The title earned Scheller not only fame but also a grand prize—a four-day, all-expense-paid vacation to the MGM Grand, three miles north of the truck stop where she works.—Ann Henderson

Grand Ol' Opera House

The Eureka Opera House, built in 1879, recently received a prestigious National Preservation Honor Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington, D.C.

The two-story, red brick opera house, which sat vacant for three decades, was carefully restored to its 1880s splendor. In 1990 Eureka County residents voted to use \$2.3 million in tax money generated by gold mining to restore the town landmark, which reopened as a convention center in October 1993. The work included restoration of a 1924 painted drop curtain and recreation of an 1880 painting. The Eureka Opera House was one of only 17 buildings in the U.S., and the only ever in Nevada, to receive the award.—Richard Moreno

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Great Performances

(Continued from page 78)

7 Wayne Newton: No entertainer has performed in Nevada as many times as Wayne Newton. In 1959, when he was 16 and still in high school, he signed a five-year contract with the Fremont Hotel. Newton, sometimes known as "The Midnight Idol," has performed more than 26,250 times in Las Vegas alone, a record not likely to soon be broken. He still plays in Las Vegas.



Wayne Newton: 26,250-plus shows.

Harrah's Reno. In 1969 she headlined at the grand opening of the International Hotel (today the Las Vegas Hilton).

9 Sinatra and Denver: In August 1975, entertainment history was made in Northern Nevada when Frank Sinatra and John Denver, both at the peaks of their careers, appeared together at Harrah's Lake Tahoe. The *National Enquirer* called it "the biggest blockbuster in nightclub history" because it paired two stars who appealed to such different generations. Harrah's received a phenomenal 672,412 telephone calls for show reservations.



John Denver sang duets with Sinatra.

10 Grateful Dead: This band trucked into Las Vegas' Silver Bowl for the first time on April 27, 1991. Performing two sold-out concerts, the band attracted more than 79,000 Deadheads. Other successful rock band debuts include the Beatles, who performed for two shows in August 1964 at the Las



The Fab Four landed in Las Vegas in 1964.

Vegas Convention Center (Pat Boone sat in the front row of their first show), and the Rolling Stones, who made their first Nevada appearance last October at the MGM Grand. □

Richard Moreno, Nevada Magazine's publisher wonders if Wayne Newton's "Danke Schoen" should be a state anthem.

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Nevada Performances

Stars have made show-biz history in the Silver State.

By Richard Moreno

Twain. Wayne. Barbra. John, Paul, George, and Ringo. Over the years, the biggest names in show business have made notable performances in Nevada. Following are a few of their appearances that have become part of Nevada lore.

1 Artemus Ward: Humorist and lecturer Artemus Ward appeared at Maguire's Opera House in Virginia City in December 1863. With his homespun wit and caustic tongue, Ward made a big impression on everyone in the audience, including *Territorial Enterprise* reporter Mark Twain, who was so inspired that a month later he made his first appearance as a lecturer in Carson City. The talk was a huge success and marked the beginning of Twain's remarkable career as a humorist.

2 Emma Nevada: The Silver State's first significant home-grown entertainer was Emma Wixom, who gained international fame in the 1880s as the opera singer Emma Nevada. Emma grew up in Austin, and her talents were first noticed there when she sang with a church choir. She later had great success as an opera star in Europe. On December 7, 1885, she made a triumphant return to Austin, performing to standing-room-only crowds in the Methodist Church.

3 Ted Lewis: Nevada's first big-name headliner didn't perform in Reno or Las Vegas but at the Commercial Hotel in Elko. On April 26, 1941,



Pioneering Lena Horne played the Flamingo in 47

bandleader Ted Lewis, a major 1930s and 40s radio and recording star, began a one-week engagement at the Commercial for which he was paid \$12,000. There was no cover charge, and beers were a nickel. Lewis, who loved to gamble, lost more than he earned during his stay at the Commercial and had to sign an IOU promising to perform again to settle his debts (which he did).

4 Lena Horne: While African-American performers had appeared previously in Nevada (including the Mills Brothers at Las Vegas' Nevada Biltmore in 1946), Lena Horne was the first to headline at a major hotel when she appeared at Bugsy Siegel's Flamingo in January 1947. The first racially integrated major resort was the Moulin Rouge in Las

Vegas, which opened in May 1955 with the "Tropi-Can-Can" floor show that included young dancers Maurice and Gregory Hines.

5 Elvis Presley: Long associated with Las Vegas as an entertainer, Elvis bombed when he first performed at the New Frontier in April 1956 (see page 10). Elvis' teen followers were too young for the Vegas scene, and he was too loud for the older folks. His audience had grown up by the time he made his Las Vegas comeback in 1969.

6 The Rat Pack: Few engagements have been as magical as the three weeks in January 1960 when Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Jr., Dean Martin, Joey Bishop, and Peter Lawford—collectively called the Rat Pack or the Clan—performed nightly during the "Summit Meeting at the Sands." The five entertainers, all of whom were big stars in the early 1960s (hence the "summit" name), were in Las Vegas to film the movie *Ocean's Eleven*.

(Continued on page 77)



The Rat Pack: Peter Lawford, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis, Jr., and Joey Bishop.

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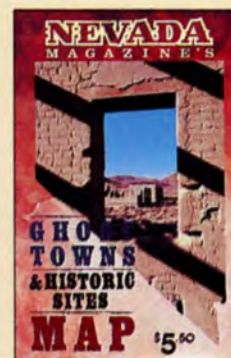
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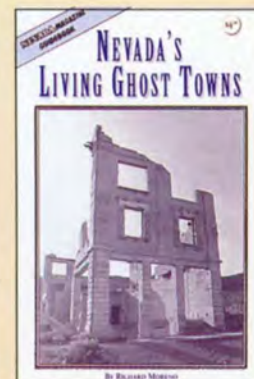
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NEVADA *Events*

Section of Nevada Magazine

January/February 1995

Cowboy Poetry Gathering

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Corral Couplets
In Elko

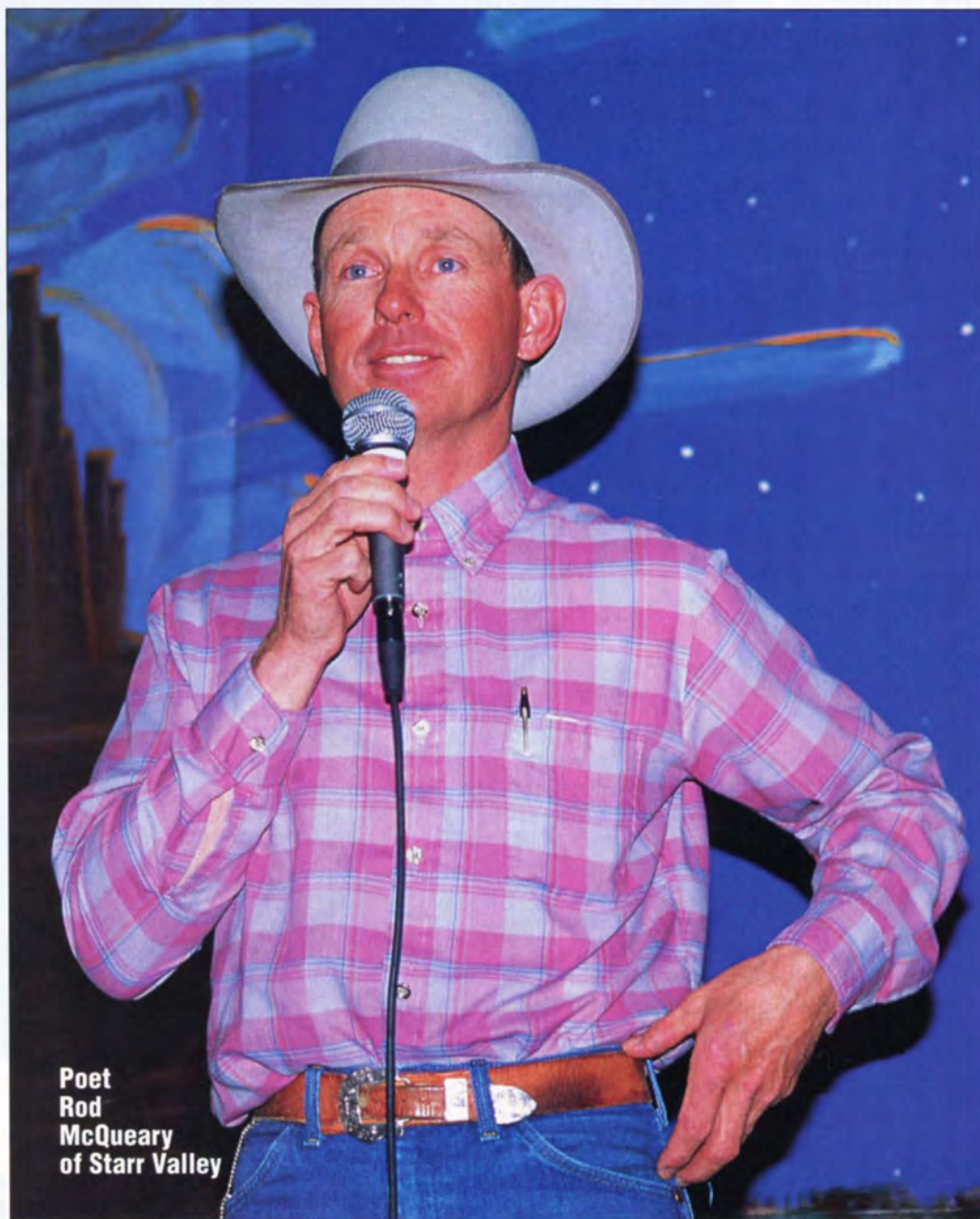


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SPOTLIGHT



Native Traditions

Crow Indian Hank Real Bird spins a tale of ropin' and ranchin' at the event.

Poems on the Range

The Elko Cowboy Poetry Gathering is an annual rhymers' roundup.

By Lin Anderson

Elko's Cowboy Poetry Gathering, with its rambunctious past and promising future, enters its second decade this January. Being an 11-year-old, it likes to ride horses, quite often doesn't comb its hair, whoops and hollers every chance it gets, and is jam-packed with surprises.

The gathering's staff spends all year sweating the details from its offices in Elko's historic downtown Pioneer Hotel—now the Western Folklife Center—wrangling together this late-January showcase of everything Cowboy

And Indian, as it happens. This

year's event, scheduled for January 21-28, puts the spotlight on the Native American ranching tradition. Exhibits and performances during the gathering will honor the cow-

At Cowboy Poetry, hats are for the most part worn by real cowboys, not computer programmers trying to impress their dates.

boyng ways of the Shoshone, Paiute, Tohono O'odham, Crow, Apache, Kiowa, and Comanche people.

The week-long event, held in what is normally the coldest, most bitterly forbidding time of year in Northeastern Nevada, is one of the last true American festivals. It's as if the Magnificent Seven took some time off from rescuing beleaguered villages and reckoned they'd host a little Woodstock.

Thousands of poetry and music aficionados pour into Elko, where every hotel and motel is jammed. (Some advice: If you're going, make your lodging reservations now.)

Songs of the West

Ian Tyson puts poetry to music as he performs an ode to ranchers and cowboys.



Poets Young and Old

Elko County's Waddie Mitchell talks to cowboy poetry fans.



Yee Hah!

Too Slim, of Riders in the Sky, sings from the heart.

Hats are everywhere. I mean *everywhere*. Elko has, over the past several years, become more cosmopolitan, which means ball caps outnumber cowboy hats about 35 to one. More's the pity. But at Cowboy Poetry time, you'll see more cowboy hats than at a Garth Brooks concert. The difference is, of course, that these hats are for the most part worn by real cowboys, not computer programmers trying to impress their dates.

After all, real cowboys are what this event is about. It's no accident that the gathering is held at the end of January. That's when ranching chores slow down and genuine, working cowboys have a chance to get together, swap stories and poems, strum a few guitars, and celebrate the things that make them unique.

That's the heart of it, most often found during the daytime sessions, where first-time reciters join their more experienced counterparts in spinning rhyming tales (sometimes set to music) of what it's like to be

out there, a single humanoid dot astride a horse, outnumbered by the bovine herd, beset by the elements, and not wanting it any other way.

While the daytime sessions are mostly informal affairs, the nighttime performances are polished and professional and rife with the stars of the genre. These shows—held in the 1,000-

seat Elko Convention Center theater—sell out fast.

The gathering's list of highlights for 1995 begins on Saturday, January 21, with the opening of an exhibit of "Images, Trappings, and Regalia of the Indian Cowboy" at the Western Folklife Center. That evening poet Waddie Mitchell of Jiggs gets the show on the trail, hosting the Cowboy Poetry Gathering Preview at the Elko Convention Center.

The event gets rolling in earnest on Wednesday, January 25, at 4 p.m. with the Cowboy Cocktail Music Hour at the Folklife Center. At 8 p.m. Ian Tyson and special guests perform traditional and ought-to-be traditional cowboy airs at the Convention Center.

From then until the event draws to its Saturday-night close, there are open poetry sessions, music jamborees, and dances (including the chicken scratch cowboy dance and the cowboy fandango). There also are special events like "In Praise of the Horse," a collection

Bard Watching

Guest passes and tickets for the 11th annual Elko Cowboy Poetry Gathering can be reserved and purchased from the Western Folklife Center, 702-738-7508.

A three-day guest pass costs \$15 and includes a program book and guest-pass pin. A one-day pass is \$8 (book and pin must be purchased separately). Call the Western Folklife Center for information on evening performance ticket prices and availability. For hotel and motel information call the Elko Chamber of Commerce, 702-738-7135.—Lin Anderson

There are special events like "In Search of the Bull," an aptly named performance of humorous tales.

of recitations devoted to Triggers, as well as "In Search of the Bull," an aptly named performance of humorous tales.

If you thought—or hoped—that Cowboy Poetry was immune from the current yen for coffee houses (like alternative rock, another Seattle-launched trend that induces the shakes), there is a Cowboy Coffeehouse on Friday, January 27, at 8 p.m. at the Convention Center. You'll likely hear the phrase "cuppa joe" one too many times.

Also featured are workshops on subjects ranging from rawhide braiding and ranch remedies to cowboy cooking and the how-tos of poetry itself. As with the nighttime shows, ordering advance tickets is actively urged—some workshops are limited to as few as 12 people.

Outside the performance arena, merchants present an array of items, which, to stray outside the cowboy vernacular, can only be described as "exceedingly cool." Bring the plastic.

And the camera, one hastens to add. The Cowboy Poetry Gathering is one of those places where photographic opportunities don't just abound—you pretty much have to beat them off with a stick. Very seldom do you find so many expressive faces and authentic regalia in one place.

Be advised that the gathering is often a 24-hour proposition. Those folks who visit Elko's saloons and hotel-casinos after hours will likely stumble across jam sessions and impromptu poetry readings that will be as memorable in their own right as those of the more organized variety. Should you be tempted to sing along, go right ahead.

This is, after all, the place for that sort of thing.

Elko writer Lin Anderson thinks the information superhighway needs more cowboy poetry and dirt roads.

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Las Vegas Territory



The Radio City Music Hall Rockettes bring their high-kickin' show to the Flamingo Hilton. Their engagement begins February 1.

EVENTS

January

Family Folklore Exhibit, thru Jan. 1, photos from the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955

"Cinderella," thru Jan. 2, Cashman Field, 222-0112

Contemporary Arts Collective Photography Show, thru Jan. 3, Spring Valley Library, 368-4411

Clark County School District Art Show, thru Jan. 8, West Charleston Library, 878-3682

Art Show thru Jan. 18, works by Laughlin High School students, Laughlin Library, Laughlin, 298-1081

Art Show, thru Jan. 18, works by Kenneth Addison, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 229-6211

Art Show, thru Jan. 25, landscapes by Michael Graves, Clark County Library, 733-7810

Art Show, thru Jan. 29, artwork by Rancho High

School students, West Las Vegas Library, 647-2118

Art Show, thru Feb. 5, artwork by Rundle Elementary School students, Sunrise Library, 453-1104

Art Show, thru Feb. 7, mixed media by artist Lorne Cramer, Green Valley Library, Henderson, 435-1840

Art Show, thru Feb. 8, mixed media works by Phoenix artist Carolyn Lavender, Charleston

Heights Arts Center, 229-6383

Art Show, thru Feb. 12, artwork by Cheyenne High School students, Summerlin Library, 256-5111

Las Vegas-Clark County Library District Staff Art Show, thru Feb. 14, Rainbow Library, 243-7323

"Unspeakable Places," Jan. 1-Feb. 21, artist Mark Andrew's vision of the Southwest, Whitney Library, 454-4575

HOT LINES

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

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

Las Vegas Thunder: International Hockey League, Jan. 3 v. Denver Grizzlies, Jan. 10 v. Cleveland Lumberjacks, Jan. 13 v. Cincinnati Cyclones, Jan. 20 v. Phoenix Roadrunners, Jan. 21 v. Minnesota Moose, Jan. 24 v. Chicago Wolves, Jan. 27 v. Houston Aeros, Feb. 7 v. Milwaukee Admirals, Feb. 10-11 v. Kansas City Blades, Feb. 14 v. Atlanta Knights, Feb. 17 v. Fort Wayne Comets, Feb. 21 v. Indianapolis Ice, Feb. 24 v. Phoenix Roadrunners, Feb. 25 v. Peoria Rivermen, Feb. 28 v. Detroit Vipers, March 3 v. Kalamazoo Wings, March 13 v. San Diego Gulls, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV 798-7825

Nevada Division of State Parks: Hikes, tours, stargazing, campfire programs at 21 parks around the state, District VI, Las Vegas, 486-5126

NHL Hockey (tentative): St. Louis Blues v. Anaheim Mighty Ducks, Feb. 9; St. Louis Blues v. Los Angeles Kings, March 2, MGM Grand Garden, 891-1111

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

UNLV Basketball: Jan. 7 v. UC Irvine, Jan. 26 v. Pacific, Jan. 28 v. San Jose State, Feb. 16 v. Utah State, Feb. 18 v. Nevada-Reno, Feb. 20 v. New Mexico State, March 2 v. Santa Barbara, March 4 v. Long Beach State, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 739-3267

UNLV Concerts: Music and dance, 739-3101
For chamber of commerce and convention center phone numbers, see page E-34

Nevada Events is a section of **Nevada Magazine**. To list an event, contact Events Editor Melissa Cronin Loomis, 1800 Highway 50 East, Suite 200, Carson City, NV 89710; phone 702-687-5416, fax 702-687-6159. **Nevada Magazine** (ISSN 0199-1248) is published bimonthly by the State of Nevada. Subscription rates for Nevada Magazine are \$14.95 for one year, U.S.; \$19.95 Foreign. To subscribe call toll-free, 1-800-669-1002.

Photo Exhibit, Jan. 2-31, by photojournalist Myra Ehrake, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

Poker Dealers World Championship, Jan. 4, kicks off the annual Four Queens Poker Classic on Jan. 5-26, Four Queens, 385-4011

Four Queens Poker Classic, Jan. 5-26, \$3-million prize pool, Four Queens, 385-4011

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Week, Jan. 7-16, King Tennis Tournament, youth night, interfaith service, jazz night, 10am parade on Jan. 14, banquet, cultural festival, various locations throughout Las Vegas, 631-1913

Senior Theatre USA, Jan. 9-13, senior adult theater groups from across the nation present productions, Judy Bayley and Black Box theaters, UNLV 895-3801

Terrence Farrell Concert, Jan. 11, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801

Romanticize Realism, Jan. 12-March 5, exhibition of Charles Rodgers' medieval-inspired paintings of the manuscripts of Sir Thomas Malory, Spring Valley Library, 368-4411

Chamber Music Southwest, Jan. 13, 7:30pm, recital by prize-winning soprano Teresa Santiago, Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801

Home Remodeling and Decorating Show, Jan. 13-15, Cashman Field, 434-4444

"Jeffrey," Jan. 13-22, Paul Rudnick's play about the victory of love and friendship in the time of AIDS, Flamingo Library, 647-7469

Sound Trek Concert, Jan. 14, 8pm, Nevada Symphony Orchestra performs contemporary chamber music, Summerlin Performing Arts Center, 792-4337

Big Band Dance, Jan. 14, Walter Boenig Big Band, 7pm, \$5, Charleston Heights Arts Center Ballroom, 229-6383

Jim Shaw: Dream Drawings, Jan. 16-Feb. 17 Donna Beam Gallery, UNLV 895-3893

A Tribute to the Art of John Lennon, Jan. 19-25, exhibition and sale of selected pieces of artwork by the late John Lennon, featuring more than 50 serigraphs, signed lithographs, and original drawings, 10am-9pm Thurs.-Sat., 10am-6pm Sun., Imperial Palace, 800-477-5630

"Damn Yankees," Jan. 20-22 and 25-29, 8pm, Sunday matinees at 2pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 657-5000

Oz Rendezvous '95, Jan. 20-22, appearance by Mickey Carroll, an original munchkin from *The Wizard of Oz*, autograph signing and photographs, Oz animatronic and live characters, Haunted Forest, collector's exchange, MGM Grand, 891-2075 or 314-271-2727

Black and White Ball, Jan. 21, fund-raiser for the Nevada Dance Theatre, Las Vegas Hilton, 732-3838

Nevada Symphony Orchestra Concert, Jan. 21, 10:30am concert especially for children, 8pm concert for adults, featuring pianist Santiago Rodriguez, Ham Hall, UNLV, 792-4337

Blind Boys of Alabama Gospel Concert, Jan. 22, 7:30pm, Clark County Library, 455-8200

Travel Fair, Jan. 22, Cashman Field, 251-5552

\$175,000 Showboat PBA Invitational, Jan. 22-28, 36th annual, Professional Bowlers Association tour stop, free admission, Showboat, 385-9190

War Toys, Jan. 22-March 19, Bella Feldman's collection of metal and wood sculptures, satirical commentary on militarism, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 229-6211

American Mothers Show, Jan. 24-Feb. 19, annual juried art competition sponsored by the Nevada Mothers Association, reception 5-7pm on Jan. 24, West Charleston Library, 878-3682



Thespians perform during the Senior Theatre USA at UNLV in January.

Chili Supper, Jan. 26, games, entertainment, and cake walk, 5pm, Mirabelli Community Center, 229-6359

Vegas Ladies, Jan. 27-March 12, exhibit of Iris Bernikow's female forms in sterling silver jewelry, Clark County Library, 733-7810

Snowbox Derby, Jan. 28, sixth annual, 9am-1pm, YMCA fundraiser, wacky race with homemade snowboxes on the slopes of Lee Canyon Ski Area, Mount Charleston, 877-9622

Gun and Knife Show, Jan. 28-29, Cashman Field, 525-3266

February

Black History Month Exhibit, Feb. 1-March 12, memorabilia of Ida B. Wells-Barnett, a founder of NAACP reception 5-7pm on Feb. 1, West Las Vegas Library, 647-2118

"The Front Page," Feb. 2-5 and 8-12, comedy, 8pm, 2pm Sun., Dept. of Theatre Arts, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 895-3801

"More Stories of the Silver State," Feb. 3-5 and 10-12, collection of Nevada history, tall tales, and music, Rainbow Company Children's Theatre, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 229-6553

Challenge of Champions Ballroom Dance Championships, Feb. 3-5, Harrah's Las Vegas, 367-8194

Las Vegas International Marathon and Half-Marathon, Feb. 4, 29th annual race, finish line in the south parking lot of Vacation Village, \$57,000 in prize money, 876-3870

"The Student Prince," Feb. 4, 8pm, Feb. 5, 2pm, Nevada Opera Theatre production, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801

Mardi Gras Galore, Feb. 4, C.J. Chenier and the Red Hot Louisiana Band, zydeco music, 8pm, tickets \$8/\$10, optional Cajun food sampler buffet at an additional cost, Charleston Heights Arts Center Ballroom, 229-6383

African-American Cultural Arts Festival, Feb. 4-5, second annual, ethnic food, Poetry in Motion recital group, 10am-5pm, held at the corners of Jackson, H, and Van Buren streets, 647-2242 or 649-2238

Bridal Spectacular, Feb. 4-5, Cashman Field, 258-0188

Las Vegas Civic Symphony Concert, Feb. 5, 2pm, free, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 229-6211

A Moment: A Point of View, Feb. 7-March 26, recent works of photographer Rick Holmes, Sunrise Library, 453-1104

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Feb. 9, conducted by Yuri Temirkanov, 8pm, \$27.50/\$37.50 tickets, Performing Arts Center, UNLV 895-3801

Distant Echoes, Feb. 9-March 28, artist Sy Collier's acrylics of historical African-American subjects, reception 5-7pm on Feb. 9, Green Valley Library, 435 1840

"Lips Together, Teeth Apart," Feb. 10-19, Summerlin Performing Arts Center, 647-7469

Antiquarian and Used Book Fair, Feb. 11-12, more than 100 antiquarian and used book dealers from the U.S. and Canada, Las Vegas Convention Center, 384-5838

Art Show, Feb. 12-March 22, black-and-white photographs of dance images by Las Vegas Mary Scodwell, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 229-6383

St. Valentine's Day Dance, Feb. 13, ballroom dancing to big band in a smoke-free, alcohol-free environment, Las Vegas Senior Citizens Center, 229-6454

Going to Pieces Jigsaw Puzzle Contest, Feb. 13-18, a timed contest for all ages, Clark County Community Center, 455-2838

Sierra Winds Valentine's Day Recital, Feb. 14, 8pm, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 895-3801

Once Upon a Time in the West, Feb. 16-March 19, Michael Plyler's black-and-white photographs of Nevada, Utah, and California, reception 5-7pm on Feb. 16, Summerlin Library, 256-5111

"Visions and Images," Feb. 16-April 23, Phyllis Sperber's paintings, reception 5-7pm on Feb. 16, Rainbow Library, 243-7323

African-American History Celebration, Feb. 17 and 19, gospel music and upbeat spiritual entertainment, Doolittle Community Center, 229-6374

Nevada Symphony Orchestra Concert for Kids, Feb. 18, Nathan Tannenbaum hosts performance of Tchaikovsky's "Romeo and Juliet Fantasy-Overture," 10:30am, Ham Hall,

TERRITORY MAP



UNLV 792-4337
Nevada Symphony Orchestra Concert, Feb. 18, 8pm, featuring pianist Ethella Chupryk, Ham Hall, UNLV 792-4337
Ririe-Woodbury Dance Group, Feb. 18, 8pm, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 895-3801
Young at Heart Club's Fifth Birthday Celebration, Feb. 21, crowning of the king and queen of the Young at Heart Club, Eldorado, Henderson, 564-1811
Educators as Artists, Feb. 21-April 9, works by Art Teachers of Southern Nevada, West Charleston Library, 878-3682
Ballet Chicago, Feb. 22, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801
Best of NCC 1994, Feb. 23-March 19, juried exhibit of work by Nevada Camera Club members, reception 5 to 7pm, Feb. 23, Whitney Library, 454-4575
"Sleeping Beauty, Act III: Aurora's Wedding" and "Petrushka," Feb. 23-26, Nevada Dance Theatre production, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 732-3838
1995 Bottle and Collectors Show, Feb. 24-26, Jackie Gaughan's Plaza, 452-1263
Klezmer Returns!, Feb. 25, Klezmer Conservatory Band, eclectic brand of Yiddish vocal-instrumental music, 7:30pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801
Tae-Kwon-Do Competition, Feb. 25, Cashman Field, 386-7110
Choreographers Showcase, Feb. 25-26, 16th annual, Las Vegas choreographers present new works, \$8/\$10 tickets, 2pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 229-6383
Train Show, Feb. 25-26, Cashman Field, 834-0652

UNLV Orchestra Concert, Feb. 26, 2pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801
"Das Pop," Feb. 27-March 31, art exhibit, Donna Beam Gallery, UNLV 895-3893

March

Master Series Presents Itzhak Perlman, March 2, 8pm, Performing Arts Center, UNLV 895-3801
Dance Arts Gala, March 3-4, University Dance Theatre performance, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 895-3827
Winifred Haun Concert, March 3-4, artist-in-residence, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 895-3827
Arvada Gun Club Shoot, March 3-5, gun club event, Si Redd's Oasis Resort, Mesquite, 346-5232
Craft Festival, March 3-5, Cashman Field, 386-7110
Sweet Honey in the Rock Concert, March 4, an a cappella ensemble of African-American women, 8pm, \$8/\$10 tickets, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 229-6383
Kite Karnival, March 4, Freedom Park, 229-6729
Las Vegas Woodwind Quintet, March 5, 2pm, free, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 229-6211

COMING EVENTS

Clark County Fair, April 6-9, Logandale, 398-3247
Henderson Industrial Days, April 22-29, 565-8951
USA Wrestling National Championship, May 2-7 Las Vegas, 781-3818

Spring Jamboree and Crafts Fair, May 5-7 Boulder City, 293-2034
Clark County Artists Show, May 13, Boulder City, 293-2034
Mesquite Days, May 22-27 346-2902
Damboree, July 4, Boulder City, 293-2034
Mesquite July Fourth Celebration, July 4, 346-2902
Billiard Congress of America National 8-Ball Tournament, July 20-22, Las Vegas, 351-2112

SHOWGUIDE

Jean

Gold Strike Hotel, 477-5000 or 800-634-1359: Tease, thru Jan. 1
Nevada Landing, 387-5000 or 800-628-6682: Sound Chaser, thru Jan. 1

Las Vegas

Aladdin, 736-0240: "Country Tonite," revue, indf. (dark Tues.); *Theatre for the Performing Arts*: Barry Manilow, Dec. 31
Arizona Charlie's, 258-5200: "Naughty Lady Revue," indf. (dark Mon.); *Palace Grand Theatre*: Jerry Blake and his Orchestra, Dec. 31
Bally's, 739-4567 or 800-237-SHOW: *Jubilee Theatre*: "Jubilee!" indf. (dark Fri.); *Celebrity Room*: George Carlin, thru Jan. 1; *Panda Lounge*: Vivid Image, thru Jan. 1
Boomtown, 800-588-7711: *Rattlesnake Ricky's Lounge*: Entertainment TBA
Boulder Station, 432-7777 or 800-683-7777: Entertainment TBA

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Bourbon Street, 737-7200: Entertainment TBA

Caesars Palace, 731-7333 or 800-445-4544: Smokey Robinson, thru Jan. 1; Tony Bennett, Jan. 11-15; George Burns, Jan. 19-22; David Copperfield, Jan. 27-Feb. 9; Johnny Mathis/Jeanne Burnier, Feb. 10-14; Natalie Cole, Feb. 16-19; Moody Blues, Feb. 23-26; Howie Mandel, March 2-5; Dionne Warwick/Burt Bacharach, March 10-12

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

Continental, 737-5555: Lounge: My Brother-N-Me, Dec. 31, Entertainment TBA

Debbie Reynolds Hollywood Hotel, 733-2243 or 800-633-1777: Debbie Reynolds featuring the Uptown Country Singers, Tues.-Sat. and Sun. matinee at 3pm

Eldorado, Henderson, 564-1811: Margaritaville Lounge: Desert Wind, thru Jan. 1; Pam Nickels, Jan. 4-15; Milan, Jan. 18-29

Excalibur, 597-7600: "King Arthur's Tournament," indf.; *Wild Bills Saloon and Steakhouse:* Country Knights, indf. (dark Tues.); Jumpin' Boots, thru Jan. 22; *Minstrel's Theatre Lounge:* Far East, thru Jan. 23; Next Movement, thru Jan. 22

Fiesta Casino, North Las Vegas, 631-7000: Old San Francisco Steakhouse and Dance Hall: Jason Lugo and Bluehorn, Jan. 10-22; Randy An-

derson, Jan. 24-Feb. 5; Wheels, Feb. 7-19; Wood Brothers, Feb. 21-26; Jason Lugo and Bluehorn, Feb. 28-March 12



Ventriloquist Ronn Lucas, Scorch, and others appear afternoons at the Flamingo Hilton Laughlin.

Fitzgeralds, 388-2400 or 800-274-LUCK (U.S. outside Nevada): Don Cloe and Laura Garlick/Anthony Micco and Peggy Micco, indf. (dark Thurs.)

Flamingo Hilton, 733-3333: *Flamingo Showroom:* Radio City Music Hall Rockettes, Feb. 1-indf.; *Bugsy's Celebrity Theatre:* "Twist 'n' Shout: The Ultimate Beatles Revue," indf., (dark Thurs.)

Four Queens, 385-4011 or 800-634-6045: Monday Night Jazz, indf.

Gold Coast, 367-7111: *East Lounge:* Sorta Dixie Jazz Band, indf. (dark Mon.)

Golden Nugget, 386-8100: "Country Fever," look-alike musical revue, indf. (dark Wed.)

Gold Strike Inn, between Boulder City and Hoover Dam, 293-5000 or 800-245-6380: Tease, thru Jan. 1

Hacienda, 739-8911: Lance Burton: World Champion Magician, indf. (dark Mon.); *Bolero Lounge:* David St. David, thru Jan. 15

Harrah's Las Vegas, 369-5222 or 800-392-9002: "Spellbound: A Concert of Illusion," indf. (dark Sun.)

Imperial Palace, 794-3261 or 800-351-7400: "Legends in Concert," indf. (dark Sun.)

Jackie Gaughan's Plaza, 386-2464 or 800-634-6575 (U.S. outside Nevada): "Hot Rock 'N' Country," adult revue, indf.; "Love Over 40," adult afternoon stage revue at 3pm, indf.

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Joker's Wild, Henderson, 564-8100: Against All Odds, Dec. 28-Jan. 1; Karaoke on Tues., indf.; Live entertainment Wed.-Sun.

King 8 Hotel, 736-8988: Phlash, thru Jan. 1

Lady Luck, 477-3000 or 800-523-9582: Melinda, the First Lady of Magic, indf. (dark Mon.)

Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5755 or 800-STARLIGHT: Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Starlight Express," indf. (dark Mon.); Kristine and the Sting, indf.

Luxor, 262-4000 or 800-288-1000: TBA

Maxim, 731-4300 or 800-634-6987: "Comedy Max," comedy nightclub; "Calendar Girls," late-night adult revue (dark Thurs.)

MGM Grand, 891-7777 or 800-929-1111: *Hollywood Theatre*: Four Tops, Jan. 5-18; Gladys Knight, Jan. 19-Feb. 1; Tom Jones, Feb. 2-15; Randy Travis, Feb. 16-20; The Righteous Brothers, Feb. 23-Mar. 15; *Grand Theatre*: "EFX!" starring Michael Crawford, indf.; *Catch a Rising Star*: Comedy / variety club, indf.; *Center Stage Cabaret*: Clouds, Jan. 2-31 (dark Jan. 8, 15, 22, and 29); *Santa Fe Lounge*: Bobby Dickerson, Jan. 1-31 (dark Jan. 9, 16, 23, and 30)

The Mirage, 792-7777: Siegfried and Roy, magic spectacular, indf. (dark Wed.)

O'Sheas Hilton, 737-1343: That's Magic, indf.

Palace Station, 367-2411 or 800-634-3101: "Roby Turner's All Star Variety Show," Mon. nights

Rio, 252-7776 or 800-888-0400 (continental U.S. outside Nevada): *Copacabana Supper Club Theatre*: "¡Conga!" musical, indf. (dark Sun., Mon.)

Riviera, 794-9301 or 794-9433: *Grande Ballroom*: Jeff Kutash's "Splash," production show, indf.; "An Evening at La Cage," revue, indf. (dark Tues.); "Crazy Girls: Sensuality, Passion, and Pudgy!" revue, indf. (dark Mon.); "An Evening at the Improv," comedians, thru Jan. 22; "Riviera Comedy Club," comedians, indf. (opens Jan. 27)

Sahara, 737-2515: "Boylesque," starring Kenny Kerr, indf. (dark Thurs.); "Zsa Zsa Gabor Comedy Roast," with Sid Caesar, Henny Youngman, Foster Brooks, Slappy White, Jackie Gayle, and Freddie Roman, thru Jan. 1

Sam's Town, 456-7777: Entertainment TBA

San Remo, 597-6028 or 800-897-SHOW: "Outrageous," adult cabaret show, indf. (dark Sun.)

Sands, 733-5453 or 800-446-4678: *Grand Ballroom*: Entertainment TBA; *Copa Room*: "Viva Las Vegas!" indf., 1 and 3:30pm (dark Sat. and Sun.); *Winners Circle Lounge*: Lip Service, thru Jan. 1; Freddie Bell, thru Jan. 15; Gary Hohman, Jan. 16-Feb. 5; Entertainment Committee, Feb. 15-26; Melissa Spangler, Feb. 27-Mar. 19

Santa Fe, 658-4900: *Ice Lounge*: Smokey River Band, thru Dec. 31

Sheraton Desert Inn, 733-4566 or 800-634-6909 (U.S. outside Nevada): *Crystal Room*: Mel Torme/Nell Carter, Jan. 1; *Starlight Theatre*: Keely Smith, Sam Butera and the Wildest, thru Feb. 19 (dark Mon.)

Showboat, 385-9123 or 800-634-3484 (U.S. outside Nevada): The JR's, thru Jan. 8

Stardust, 732-6111 or 800-824-6033 (U.S. and Mexico): "Enter the Night," stage show, indf. (dark Tues.); *Starlight Lounge*: Dave Coady/Phlash, thru Jan. 1 (dark Tues.)

Treasure Island, 894-7111: "Mystère," circus theater, indf. (dark Mon., and Jan. 1-2)

Tropicana, 739-2411: "Folies Bergere," indf. (dark Thurs.); "Comedy Stop," comedians, indf.

Vacation Village, 897-1700 or 800-658-5000: Entertainment TBA

Vegas World, 383-5264 (hotel-casino will close indf. for remodeling Feb. 1): Bob Anderson, singing impressionist, indf. (dark Thurs.); "Memories of Elvis," indf. (dark Thurs.)

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NIGHTLIFE

Strip Stunts

BY ANN HENDERSON

As a pirate in Treasure Island's daily swashbuckling sidewalk show, Keoni Kramer is lit on fire twice a week and blown off his ship's 28-foot-high rigging several times a day.

Kramer and his shipmates represent the newest type of Las Vegas entertainer—the stunt man. In a city known more for feathered showgirls than plunging pirates, several adventure-themed shows are appearing at resorts hoping to draw family audiences. Stunt men (and women) are the main ingredients of shows like the Excalibur's tournament jousts, the Hilton's "Starlight Express," and Circus Circus' all-you-can-watch big-top acts.

At Treasure Island, hundreds of people jam the hotel's wooden walkway to watch a spectacularly noisy 12-minute naval battle between the pirate ship *Hispaniola* and the British frigate *H.M.S. Britannia*. The show uses 28 stunt men, who play the roles of eight pirates and 10 British sailors.

"We don't want to just amuse the audience," says Jewels Love, the hotel's director of entertainment operations. "We want to scare them. We want them to say, 'Wow!'"

Stunt men are a unique combination of technician and athlete, according to Love. "They have to maintain their own stunts and rigging, which demands a high level of skill and discipline not only as actors and stunt men, but as special-effects experts as well," he says.

While the audience is lining up to watch the show, Kramer says, the stunt men are checking and rechecking the equipment.

"If something isn't right, we have the authority to cancel a particular stunt," he says. "We



Keoni Kramer gets fired up about his stunts during the pirate battle.

get 100 percent backing on that."

Kramer's specialty is the body burn that visitors can see during the 8:30 and 10 p.m. battles on Friday and Saturday, a stunt he alternates with a fellow high diver, Sonny Tipton. Kramer's skin is coated with a flame-retardant gel while his costume is coated with a flammable solution. He catches on fire when a charge on the

ship is triggered by remote control.

When he's not impersonating a pirate flambeau, Kramer climbs the ship's rigging under the skull and crossbones, fights another pirate over a bag of treasure, and wins the struggle by shoving the shipmate into the water. Kramer later gets thrown into the drink when an explosion rips through the stronghold behind the pirate ship.

During each performance, 16 technicians work behind the scenes to orchestrate the cannons, explosions, falling masts, and sinking-ship finale. They also fill the continual need for towels and dry costumes after each dunking.

The cast spent about two months learning the tightly scripted battle plan. Chip Krupe, the show's production manager, says they dangled, jumped, and perfected hand-to-hand combat techniques on wooden replicas at the former Dunes Hotel.

Kramer, a 25-year-old native of Hawaii who has trained in the martial arts, has done stunt work for television and movies. He says being a Las Vegas stunt man offers more than just an adrenaline rush—even when he's on fire.

"Every day is different. You never know what to expect," he says. "Society teaches us to be careful, to conform. Being a stunt man helps me challenge what I've been taught. That's when you learn to trust yourself. But," he adds, "I do like the adrenaline."

Battles between the pirate ship *Hispaniola* and the British frigate *H.M.S. Britannia* are waged at Treasure Island every 90 minutes from 5:30 to 11:30 p.m. daily. Admission is free.

Ann Henderson is the Las Vegas representative for Nevada Magazine.



Pirates and pyrotechnics highlight the Treasure Island show.

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Laughlin

Colorado Belle, 298-4000: Big Tiny Little, thru May 13; Mickey Finn, Jan. 10-May 14

Edgewater, 298-2453: Harry James Orchestra, Dec. 31

Flamingo Hilton Laughlin, 298-5028 or 800-435-8469: Ronn Lucas, Jan. 2-March 3; Mario D'Andrea, March 5-April 20

Gold River, 298-2242 or 800-835-7904: "Bottom's Up," adult comedy revue, indf. (dark Tues.); "Pazazz," dance spectacular, indf. (dark Tues.)

Golden Nugget Laughlin, 298-7175 or 800-237-1739 (U.S. outside Nevada): Live entertainment TBA

Harrah's Laughlin, 298-4600 or 800-447-8700: Mariachi Estrella, strolling musicians, daily, indf.; Club La Bamba: Entertainment nightly except Mon.

Ramada Express, 298-4200: Party Company, thru Jan. 15 (dark Mon.)

Regency, 298-2439: Live entertainment Wed.-Sun., TBA

Riverside Resort, 298-2535 or 800-227-3849 ext. 616 (U.S. outside Nevada): Mel Tillis, Jan. 1; Charlie Prose, Jan. 5-9; Boots Randolph and John and Donald Mills of the Mills Bros., Jan. 28-Feb. 1; Smothers Brothers, March 3-8

Mesquite

Si Redd's Peppermill Oasis Resort, 346-5232
Virgin River, 346-7777 or 800-346-7721

State Line

Buffalo Bill's, 382-1111

Primadonna, 382-1212 or 800-826-4471: Entertainment TBA

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GAMING TOURNAMENTS

January

Poker, Jan. 2-26, Four Queens, 385-4011

Video Poker, Jan. 10-12, Ramada Express, Laughlin, 298-6231

Slots, Jan. 12-14, Sands, 733-5000

Slots, Jan. 13-15, Tropicana, 739-2222

Slots and Keno, Jan. 15, Flamingo Hilton Las Vegas, 733-3117

Video Poker, Jan. 20-22, Tropicana, 739-2222

Slots, Jan. 24-27 Hacienda, 739-8911

February

Slots, Feb. 5 and 12, Flamingo Hilton Las Vegas, 733-3117

Slots, Feb. 9-12, Fitzgeralds, 388-2148

Slots, Feb. 28-March 2, Ramada Express, Laughlin, 298-6231

ATTRACTIONS, TOURS & MUSEUMS

Boulder City

Black Canyon Raft Tours: 1297 Nevada Hwy., 293-3776

Boulder City Historic District: Walking tour, 1497 Nevada Hwy., 293-2034

PREVIEW

A Beatle's Collection

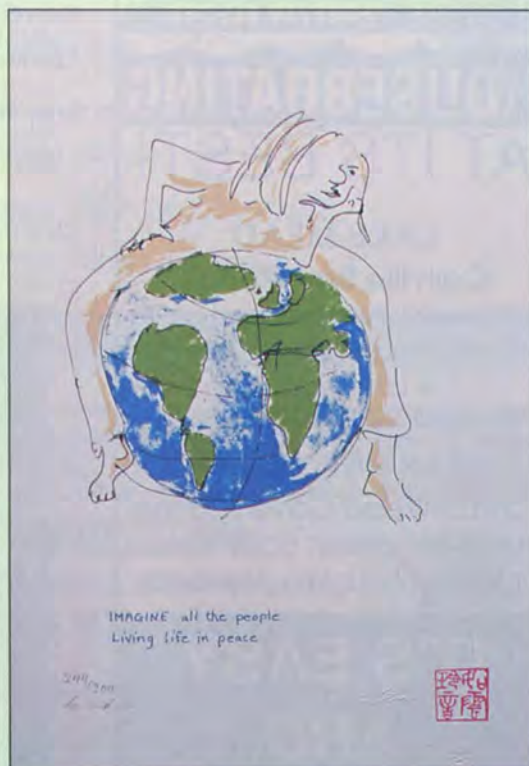
The late John Lennon's minimalist pen-and-ink sketches will be on display January 19-22 at the Imperial Palace.

The "Artwork of John Lennon" exhibit features more than 50 serigraphs, signed lithographs, and original drawings by the former Beatle, including several rare and sold-out editions.

Lennon's artwork is a reflection of his life with his wife, Yoko, and son, Sean. The collection includes signed works from the original portfolio of "Bag One," a series of lithographs that chronicles John and Yoko's wedding and honey-

moon as well as his plea for world peace. The portfolio was first shown in 1970 and is part of the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

The prints will be displayed in the Executive Room on the fifth floor of the Imperial Palace's dining plaza. A catalog that describes the artwork will be on sale, and several of the works will be available for purchase. Exhibit hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free. For information call 702-731-3311.—Katherine McDonnell



John Lennon makes a plea for peace in his art.

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Hoover Dam: Tours, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. 93, 293-8367
Lake Mead Cruises/Desert Princess: Lake Mead Marina, 293-6180
Lake Mead National Recreation Area: 601 Nevada Hwy., 15 miles east of Las Vegas 293-8907

Henderson

Clark County Heritage Museum: World War II

photojournal exhibit 1830 S.Boulder Hwy., 455-7955

Ethel M Chocolate Factory and Cactus Garden: Tours, 2 Cactus Garden Dr., 458-8864
Green Valley Outdoor Sculpture Museum Information Center: 458-8855
Kidd Marshmallow Factory: Tours, 8203 Gibson Rd., 564-3878

Las Vegas

A.J. Hackett Bungy: Bungy jumps, 810 Circus Circus, 385-4321



Actor and munchkin Mickey Carroll (far left) is Oz' special guest at the MGM Grand.

HOTELS

Casino Notes

Key to Success: Bally's Las Vegas has been awarded the 1994 Gold Key Award from *Meetings and Conventions* magazine and the Award of Excellence from *Corporate and Incentive Travel* magazine. Both awards reflect the property's service to the travel industry.

Smoke Screen: Slot players will find smoke-free gambling in the Gallery of Imperial Legends section at the Imperial Palace. The Gallery is protected from drifting smoke by a state-of-the-art exhaust system at the Strip hotel.

Follow the Yellow Brick Road to the MGM Grand for the second annual Oz Rendezvous Weekend, January 20-22. The MGM's Emerald City and Oz

characters host the event, which includes an Oz Cocktail Party and an Oz Collector's Exchange. Mickey Carroll, an original munchkin from *The Wizard of Oz*, will be on hand to sign autographs and pose for photographs with Oz fans.

Earth Mover: Deep Earth Exploration, a new ride at MGM Grand Adventures Theme Park, simulates a bumpy journey into the earth's core and subjects its riders to a series of hair-raising high-tech adventures such as rock slides and a fantasy world ruled by creatures. The theme park will be closed January 2-13 and afterward open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Slot Potatoes: Two employees of

Aladdin: Wildlife habitat, 736-0111
American Museum of Historical Documents:
 3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., private, 731-0785
Bonnie Springs Old Nevada: Red Rock Canyon,
 875-4191
Boomtoun: Pan for gold, I-15 at Blue Diamond
 Exit, 263-7777
Caesars Forum Shops: Caesars Palace, 893-4800
Desert Demonstration Gardens: Tours, 3701 W.
 Alta, 258-3205
Excalibur: Motion machines, hourly battles
 against the dragon, 597-7777

Palace Station noticed that slot players who hunch over their favorite machines didn't look comfortable, so they invented the Remote Poker and Slot Player Handset. Verne Holmes, the director of slot operations, and Linton Mathews, lead slot mechanic, say the personal remote, weighing about one pound, allows players to sit back and let their fingers do the playing. The remotes are in play on limited machines at Palace Station and its sister property, Boulder Station.

Classic Machines: A collection of antique slot machines, including one that paid jackpots in golf balls, has been added to the Classic Car Collection at the Riverside in Laughlin. Another notable antique in the free mini-museum, located beneath the new Riverside Cinema Sixplex, is the Little Duke, a slot machine that dispensed gum, your fortune, and jackpots—all for a penny.

Cooks With Class: Kitchen engineers whose cooking skills range from flop to haute are welcome at the Santa Fe's free monthly classes. During each two-hour session hotel chefs prepare dishes that can be made at home. The classes celebrate the completion of the hotel's \$18-million expansion, which added casino space, three new restaurants, and a glass atrium housing a coffee house, deli, and ice cream stand. Call the Santa Fe's food and beverage department, 702-658-4900, for information on classes.

Dining for Dollars: First you could play swim-up blackjack at the Tropicana. Now the Trop has a new Play and Eat Casino where you can munch lunch while you play the slots. You can order from a variety of foods and sit at one of the specially equipped slot and video poker machines. Counter space between the slots leaves room for cash, cole slaw, and cappuccino.

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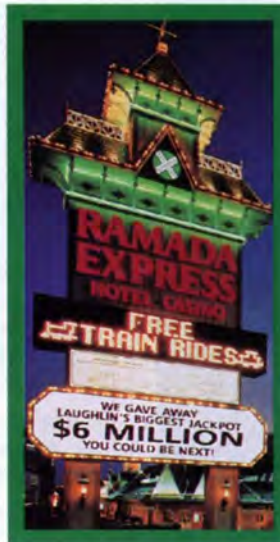
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LAS VEGAS

Floyd Lamb State Park: Ponds, 9200 Tule Springs Rd., 486-5413

FunTazmic: 4975 Polaris, 795-4FUN

Grand Slam Canyon: Adventure park, next to Circus Circus, 800-444-CIRCUS

Guinness World of Records Museum: 2780 Las Vegas Boulevard S., 792-0640 or 792-3766 (business)

Hard Rock Cafe: 4475 Paradise Rd., 733-8400

Holy Cow Casino: Brewery tours, 732-2697

Imperial Palace Auto Collection: Imperial Palace Hotel, 731-3311

Las Vegas Art Museum: Lorenzi Park, 3333 W. Washington Ave., 647-4300

Las Vegas Mini Gran Prix: 1401 N. Rainbow Blvd., 259-7000

Las Vegas Natural History Museum: Includes the Wildlife World Art Museum, 900 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 384-DINO

Liberace Museum: 1775 E. Tropicana, 798-5595

Lied Discovery Children's Museum: 833 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 382-KIDS

Luxor: King Tut's Tomb and Museum, boat ride, interactive adventures, 262-4000

MGM Grand Adventures: Theme park (closed Jan. 2-13), 891-7979

Magic and Movie Hall of Fame: Second floor of O'Sheas, exhibits, 792-0788

Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History: UNLV 739-3381

Mirage: Dolphins, white tigers, erupting volcano, 791-7111

Mount Charleston: Recreation info., 222-1597

Nevada State Museum and Historical Society: Lorenzi Park, 486-5205

Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort: Las Vegas Blvd. N. at Washington (enter from Cashman parking lot B only), state historic park, 486-3511

Omnimax Theatre: Caesars Palace, 731-7900

Planet Hollywood: Movie memorabilia, Caesars Palace, 791-7827

Red Rock Canyon Recreation Area: 363-1921

Scandia Family Fun Center: 2900 Sirius Ave., 364-0071

Southern Nevada Zoological Park: 1775 N. Rancho Dr., 648-5955

Spring Mountain Ranch State Park: Red Rock Canyon, 875-4141

Treasure Island: Pirate battles, 894-7111

Wet 'n Wild: 2601 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 737-3819

Laughlin

Lake Mohave: Marina at Katherine, 602-754-3245

Mesquite

Desert Valley Museum: 346-5705

Peppermill Gun Club: 346-5232 ext. 3729

North Las Vegas

The Planetarium: Community College of Southern Nevada, 644-5059

Overton

Lost City Museum: 397-2193

Valley of Fire State Park: 397-2088

Searchlight

Searchlight Historic Museum: 455-7955

State Line

Buffalo Bill's: Roller coaster, flume ride, off I-15 at Nev.-Calif. border, 382-1111

A Reminder: To confirm dates and times, please 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.

PREVIEW

Black History Month

BY VICTOR INGRAM

February is Black History Month, and in Nevada you'll find celebrations, exhibits, lectures, and other events honoring the contributions that blacks have made to the state.

Cultural diversity and awareness will be at the forefront of these events. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday on January 15 will provide momentum for several celebrations.

In Southern Nevada, the slain civil rights leader will be honored during **King Week**, January 7-16, a 15-year tradition in Las Vegas. Plans include a King Tennis Tournament, youth night, interfaith service, jazz night, parade at 10 a.m. on January 14, cultural festival, and banquet. The event is sponsored by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee of Las Vegas.

The **Las Vegas Sentinel Voice** will showcase events as they occur throughout Black History Month. The newspaper celebrates 15 years of providing culturally intensive news to the public.

There will be a **Black History Month** exhibit at the West Las Vegas Library featuring memorabilia of Ida B. Wells-Barnett, a founder of the NAACP. The exhibit will be on display February 1 to March 12, with a reception on February 1 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Also in Las Vegas, the second annual **African-American Cultural Arts Festival** will be February 4-5. The festival, held at the corners of Jackson, H, and Van Buren streets, will offer cultural foods, arts, entertainment, and souvenirs. The festival is a fund-raiser for the future African-American Museum and Research Center in Las Vegas, which will include museum founder Gwen Walker's life-long collection of artifacts, clothing, and paintings from various regions of Africa.

"Our museum will serve as an outreach to those thirsty for African-American history," Walker says.

At Henderson's Green Valley



Martin Luther King's dream is still alive at events statewide.

Library, "**Distant Echoes**," artist Sy Collier's acrylic paintings of historical African-American subjects, will be on display February 9-March 28.

In mid-February the Community College of Southern Nevada in North Las Vegas will hold a **Black History Celebration** with ethnic food, cultural arts, and a guest speaker.

Gospel music and upbeat spiritual entertainment will highlight the **African-American History Celebration** February 17 and 19 at Las Vegas' Doolittle Community Center.

In Reno the **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration** will be January 13-16. The celebration's tentative plans call for African-American entertainment as well as cultural exhibits throughout Reno.

See this issue's events listings for more information on related celebrations.

Victor Ingram is an African-American freelance writer for Nevada's only African-American newspaper the Las Vegas Sentinel Voice.

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Reno-Tahoe Territory

EVENTS

January

Homewood Holiday Season Celebration, thru Jan. 1, Ski Homewood, 916-525-2992

Heavenly Winter Holidays, thru Jan. 2, ski events, Heavenly, 586-4451

Erin Goodwin-Guerro Art Show, thru Jan. 20, Sheppard Gallery, U of N, 784-6682

IGT Presents: The Art of Gaming, thru Jan. 28, Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Robert McChesney: A Retrospective, thru Feb. 5, exhibit of abstract expressionism, Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Art Show, thru Feb. 28, early 20th-century paintings of Nevada by Sheldon A. Pennoyer, Nevada Historical Society, 688-1190

Beyond Gum San: The Chinese in Nevada, thru April 30, exhibit details the importance of Chinese immigrants in the development of Nevada, Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 687-4810

"Ice: A Frozen Fantasy," Dec. 29-Jan. 30, starring 1994 U.S. Open Professional Gold Medalist Caryn Kadavy, Harrah's Lake Tahoe, 588-6611

South Lake Tahoe Winter Celebration, Dec. 31-Jan. 31, throughout the South Shore, 916-544-5050

Alpenglow Lake Tahoe 10K Classic Race, Jan. 1, Tahoe Donner Ski Resort, 916-587-9484

"Snow Sale-ing," Jan. 3-31, winter art sale, Artists' Co-Op Gallery, 322-8896

Concert in the Atrium, Jan. 6, free noon concert, light jazz with the Eric Middleton Trio, Airport Gardens Office Bldg., 329-1324

Hard Corps Skier Challenge, Jan. 6-7 televised event, Heavenly Ski Resort, 916-544-5050

Reno Classic Dart Tournament, Jan. 6-8, novice and professional competitors, 800-233-4939

Celebrity Sports Invitational, Jan. 6-8, celebrities race for charity, Resort at Squaw Creek, 916-581-1946

Winter Celebration, Jan. 6-29, South Lake Tahoe, 586-7000

Sharkey's Serbian Christmas Dinner, Jan. 7 Gardnerville, 782-3133

USASA Series Half-Pipe Competition, Jan. 7 U.S. Amateur Snowboard Association event, Boreal and Soda Springs ski areas, 916-426-3666

International Ice Sculpting Competition, Jan. 7 Embassy Suites, Lake Tahoe, 916-544-5050

Jeep Challenge Series, Jan. 7-8, public ski races,



Several Tahoe-area resorts are snowed under with ski races like this one at Heavenly.

Sierra-at-Tahoe Ski Resort, 916-659-7453

USASA Series Slalom Competition, Jan. 8, event for United States Amateur Snowboard Association competitors, Boreal and Soda Springs ski areas, 916-426-3666

Art Show, Jan. 9-Feb. 3, Gardnerville artist Emily Silver will show her paintings and designs through exhibits and workshops, Gardnerville, 463-3066

Glass Media Group Show, Jan. 9-Feb. 24, glass sculpture and blown glass exhibit, CITY 2000 Gallery, Reno City Hall, 329-1324

Night Race Series, Jan. 11, Wed. night races will continue throughout the winter, Boreal Ski Area, 916-426-3666

Concert in the Atrium, Jan. 13, free noon concert, Perfect Touch performs classical music on violin and vibes, Airport Gardens Office Bldg., 329-1324

"Nonsense," Jan. 13-14, 20-21, and 27-28, musical comedy presented by the Proscenium Players, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

C.E. Sports Snowboard Race, Jan. 13-15, professional snowboard series race, Squaw Valley USA, 916-583-6985

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration, Jan. 13-16, locations TBA, Reno, 800-FOR-RENO

Fantasy Wedding Faire, Jan. 15, benefit for the American Heart Assn., Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 322-7064

Bowling: America's Favorite Sport, Jan. 16-March 6, international bowling exhibit, National Automobile Museum, 333-9300

"Music From Moscow," Jan. 17 Reno Philharmonic plays Russian compositions by Scriabin, Tchaikovsky, and Stravinsky, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 825-5905

Concert in the Atrium, Jan. 20, free noon jazz concert with the Hanepen-Venuto Trio, Airport Gardens Office Bldg., 329-1324

Sierra-at-Tahoe Bump Series, Jan. 20, pro/am ski races, Sierra-at-Tahoe Ski Resort, 916-659-7453

King of the Mountain Downhill, Jan. 20-21, televised ski race, Heavenly Ski Resort, 586-4451

Sheep Dip 31, Jan. 20-21, annual spoof of community leaders, Flamingo Hilton, 785-7080

"HOT L BALTIMORE," Jan. 20-29 and Feb. 3-4, comedy set in a rundown hotel, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

A Common Thread, Jan. 20-April 15, exhibit of the fine crafts of Nevada and the Great Basin, Nevada Historical Society, 688-1190

Reno Grand Prix and Pro Indoor Track Racing, Jan. 21, Reno Livestock Events Center, 800-FOR-RENO

Freestyle Mogul Event, Jan. 21, Ski Homewood, 916-525-2992

USSA Masters Race: Preb Motley, Jan. 21-22, Alpine Meadows Ski Area, 916-583-4232

USASA Northern California/Nevada Snowboard Series, Jan. 22, Sierra-at-Tahoe Ski Resort, 916-659-7453

17th Annual Telemark Race and Telebration, Jan. 22, Northstar-at-Tahoe, 916-562-1010

Bump Series, Jan. 23, Sierra-at-Tahoe Ski Resort, 916-659-7453

HOT LINES

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

University of Nevada Basketball: Jan. 9 v. Santa Barbara; Jan. 11 v. Long Beach State; Jan. 19 v. UNLV; Jan. 21 v. New Mexico State; Feb. 9 v. Cal State Fullerton; Feb. 11 v. UC Irvine; Feb. 25 v. Utah State; March 2 v. Pacific; March 4 v. San Jose State

University of Nevada Music Dept.: Concerts, recitals, 784-6145

For chamber of commerce and convention center phone numbers, see page E-34

PREVIEW

Festivals of Fun

BY KATHERINE McDONNELL

Wintertime is cause for celebration in the Lake Tahoe area, and throughout the region you'll find several festivals and ski events that offer wacky ways to weather the cold. For instance, you can join the polar bears for an icy dip in Lake Tahoe, dress up your dog like Marilyn Monroe, or participate in a variety of other wild winter activities that are held during Tahoe's snow-festival season. Following are some of this winter's highlights.

Fireworks and a torch-light parade down Heavenly's World Cup Run will ignite Tahoe's third annual **Winter Celebration**. More than 30 events, from ski races to parties, are scheduled January 6-29 throughout the Tahoe basin. For a taste of the South Shore night life, Turtles nightclub at Embassy Suites will host a hot-drink contest with creative hot-libation recipes

and enthusiastic cheering sections. During the day, Embassy Suites will have an ice-sculpting competition, and Heavenly will host televised ski races including the **Jeep Hard Corps Ski Challenge** and the **Celebrity Ski Classic**.

At Squaw Valley, Hollywood and sports celebrities will unite for the **Resort at Squaw Creek Celebrity Sports Invitational** January 6-8. Stars will compete in events like broom ball, a hockey-like competition in which players use brooms to push a ball on the ice, as well as ski races.

Races and snow sculptures are part of the festivities during the University of Nevada's **Winter Carnival**. The Reno and Tahoe events take place January 30 to February 4.

The **U.S. Women's Pro Tour** will schuss into Squaw Valley February 17-19. Following the races on February 19,



North Lake Tahoe's Snowfest events, which this year will be March 3-12, can get doggoned competitive.

top dogs compete at the **Pedigree Petathlon**, where pooches run pylons and paw their way through a snowy obstacle course.

From January through March Homewood will offer the **"Not Necessarily Mature" Snowboarding Clinic** for adults who want to stay clear of shredders while they weather the bumps and bruises of introductory snowboarding.

Fireworks and laser-light shows will brighten the skies over North Lake Tahoe and Truckee during the 14th annual **Snowfest** March 3-12. At the **Dress-Up-Your-Dog Contest**, you'll

find Dalmatian owners wearing spots and dogs donned with wigs to compete in categories like "Looks Most Like Your Owner" and "Rock Star." Another dog-eat-dog showdown at Snowfest is the **Tahoe Localman Triathlon**, where Sierra survivalists race to install tire chains, stack wood, and shovel snow.

Warm-blooded swimmers will gather during Snowfest's **Polar Bear Swim**, a 150-yard dash in the 40-degree water of Lake Tahoe. Not surprisingly, the event attracts more spectators than participants, says Snowfest director Joy Doyle. She estimates that 500 to 800 onlookers, warm drinks in hand, will watch from the deck of Gar Woods Grill and Pier in Carnelian Bay, host and headquarters of the swim, while fewer than 30 hardy souls take the plunge.

"As long as we get a few crazy people out there trying it, we'll always get a few more crazy people watching it," Doyle says.

The North Lake Tahoe gay and lesbian community will host an AIDS fund-raiser on March 16 at the Horizon at Stateline during the **Winterfest** celebration March 16-19. Other Winterfest events include a St. Patrick's Day party and ski days.

The **California Gold Nuggets Kids Race** pans out at Royal Gorge Summit Station on March 25. Tots will race on an obstacle course with curves and wooden animals. Participants can shake off the chill afterward at the cake and hot chocolate social.



Fireworks sizzle on the slopes at snow-festival time.

Katherine McDonnell goes swimming in Tahoe only in the summer

1995 Downhill Skier's Guide

Nevada's ski resorts offer a variety of terrain—whether you like to schuss through deep powder high in the pines or prefer the bunny slopes. Most ski areas have beginners' packages that include rentals, lessons, and lift tickets. Several resorts have children's learn-to-ski programs that include lessons and rentals, and some

offer licensed child care. To ski on the cheap, you often can find price breaks mid-week or with season passes or packages that pair hotel rooms and lift tickets. Several resorts offer discounts for students and seniors. For evening fun on the slopes, Squaw Valley, Donner Ski Ranch, Boreal, and Lee Canyon offer night skiing.

Area/Phone	Elevation	Top Vertical	Lifts	Rating Bg-Int-Adv	Snow-boards	Adult/Child Prices				Ski Lessons
						Daily Lift Ticket	Half-Day Lift Ticket	Daily Ski Rental	Half-Day Ski Rental	
Lake Tahoe Basin										
Alpine Meadows										
916-583-4232	8,637'	1,800'	12	25-40-35		\$43/\$29	\$18/\$12	\$20/\$15	\$17/\$12	\$20/\$15
Boreal										
916-426-3666	7,800'	600'	9	30-55-15	✓	\$33/\$10	\$25/\$10	\$19/\$14	\$16/\$13	\$22
Diamond Peak										
702-831-3211	8,540'	1,840'	7	18-49-33	✓	\$35/\$14	\$27/\$11	\$17/\$11	\$13/\$7	\$29
Donner Ski Ranch										
916-426-3635	7,751'	720'	6	25-50-25	✓	\$20/\$10		\$15/\$10		\$12
Granlibakken										
916-583-4242	6,480'	280'	2	50-50-0		\$12/\$6		\$15/\$12		\$15
Heavenly										
702-586-7000	10,040'	3,500'	24	20-45-35	✓	\$42/\$18		\$19/\$10		\$28
Homewood										
916-525-2992	7,880'	1,650'	10	15-50-35	✓	\$32/\$11		\$18/\$12		\$33/\$25
Kirkwood										
209-258-6000	9,800'	2,000'	12	15-50-35	✓	\$39/\$5		\$20/\$14		\$12
Mount Rose										
702-849-0704	9,700'	1,440'	5	30-35-35	✓	\$34/\$14		\$18/\$12		\$22
Northstar										
916-562-1010	8,600'	2,200'	11	25-50-25	✓	\$42/\$18	\$28/\$12	\$22/\$14		\$25/\$20
Sierra-at-Tahoe										
916-659-7453	8,852'	2,212'	10	25-50-25	✓	\$37/\$17		\$20/\$14		\$25
Soda Springs										
916-426-3666	7,352'	650'	2	30-50-20	✓	\$20/\$5	\$13/\$5	\$18/\$14		\$22
Squaw Valley										
800-545-4350	9,050'	2,850'	33	25-45-30	✓	\$43/\$10	\$29/\$5	\$20/\$12		\$26
916-583-6985										
Sugar Bowl										
916-426-3651	8,383'	1,500'	9	20-30-50	✓	\$37/\$10		\$19/\$13		\$25
Tahoe Donner										
916-587-9400	7,350'	600'	3	50-50-0		\$26/\$12		\$17/\$13		\$22
Mount Charleston (Las Vegas)										
Lee Canyon										
702-646-0008	9,510'	1,000'	3	15-80-5	✓	\$25/\$18	\$20/\$15	\$15		\$15
Elko										
Elko Snobowl										
702-587-9400	7,000'	620'	3	Rope Tows	✓	\$6				Free

All prices subject to change. Call resorts for information about children's programs.

Tournament of Champions Race, Jan. 23-25, Squaw Valley USA, 916-583-6985

Alfredo Rolando Ortiz Concert, Jan. 25-26, South American harpist, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

U.S. Pro Tour Far West Challenge, Jan. 26-29, men's pro tour ski racing, Heavenly Ski Resort, 586-4451

Concert in the Atrium, Jan. 27, free noon concert featuring the Sierra String Quartet, Airport Gardens, 329-1324

National Custom Gunmakers and Engravers Exhibition, Jan. 27-29, Sands Regency Hotel, Reno, 829-2810

Chrysler Celebrity Ski Classic, Jan. 28, Heavenly Ski Resort, 586-4451

Reno Chamber Orchestra Concert, Jan. 28, works by Weber, Hindemith, Schibler, and Mozart, Nightingale Hall, U of N, 784-6847

Corporate Ski Classic, Jan. 28-29, corporate teams compete in dual slalom format, Sierra-at-Tahoe Ski Resort, 916-659-7453

Mohlon Ski Challenge, Jan. 28-29, Kirkwood Ski Resort, 209-258-6000

Harvey Reid in Concert, Jan. 29, guitar and mandolin selections, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Mitsubishi Motors Diamond Ski Classic, Jan. 29, Ski Homewood Resort, 916-525-2992

Indian Head Challenge, Jan. 29, cross-country ski race, Sorenson's Resort, Hope Valley, 800-423-9949

Winter Carnival, Jan. 30-Feb. 4, activities TBA, U of N, 784-6505

February

"Small Paintings for Small Places," Feb. 1-28, featuring miniatures and medium-sized paintings by members of the Artists' Co-Op, 322-8896

"Voices: Great Moments in Literature," Feb. 2, prominent Nevadans select readings from books that have changed their lives, benefit for the university libraries, Nightingale Hall, U of N, 784-6564

Concert in the Atrium, Feb. 3, free noon concert of classical chamber music by the Aurora Brass Trio, Airport Gardens, 329-1324

Nevada and California Legislators Cup, Feb. 3, ski races at Sierra-at-Tahoe Ski Resort, 916-659-7453

Janacek Philharmonic Orchestra, Feb. 3, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 333-4330



Lake Tahoe is surrounded by ski resorts.

National Bowling Stadium Grand Opening, Feb. 3-4, downtown Reno, 827-7603

Digital Media Technology and Process Art Show, Feb. 3-March 3, multimedia event featuring nationally known artists, Sheppard Gallery, U of N, 784-6658 or 334-9696

USTSA Telemark Regionals, Feb. 4-5, Alpine Meadows Ski Area, 916-583-4232

World's Largest Cribbage Tournament, Feb. 4-5, 1,000 players compete for \$100,000 in prize money, \$67 entry fee, 800-233-4939

Peking Acrobats, Feb. 5, Caesars Tahoe, Stateline, 586-2044

Carson Valley Bridal Affair, Feb. 5, wedding attire, planning, and catering advice, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711 ext. 615

Chocolate and Champagne, Feb. 5, Capital City Community Band fund-raiser at the Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 267-2604

No Sweat No Sand Volleyball Tournament and Professional Exhibition, Feb. 5, Associated Pro Volleyball team members play far from their beaches, Sierra-at-Tahoe Ski Resort, 916-659-7453

Ski the Huts Marathon Tour, Feb. 5, cross-country ski tour, Royal Gorge Summit Station, 916-426-3871

Modern Mandolin Quartet, Feb. 8, Nightingale Hall, U of N, 784-6847

Martha Graham Ensemble, Feb. 9, ballet touring company performs contemporary works, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 333-4330

The Soul of Nevada, Feb. 9-March 12, independent exhibitions of three Nevada realist painters, Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

"The Miracle Worker", Feb. 10-11, 17-18, and 24-25, Gothic North Community Theater, Laxalt Auditorium, 401 W. Second St., 852-PLAY

Concert in the Atrium, Feb. 10, free noon concert, classical chamber music by the Great Basin Brass Quintet, Airport Gardens Office Bldg., 329-1324

National Football Players Assn. Challenge, Feb. 11, ski racing, Alpine Meadows Ski Resort, 916-583-4232

Civil War Era Valentine's Ball, Feb. 11, silent auction, dancing to 19th century music, California Building, Idlewild Park, 246-3393 or 972-4521

Alpine County Canine Connection Sled Dog Races, Feb. 11-12, Markleeville, 916-694-2466

Truckee Lions Sierra Sweepstakes Sled Dog Races, Feb. 11-12, Truckee-Tahoe Airport, 916-587-3276

USASA Series Slopestyle Competition, Feb. 12, snowboarding event, Boreal and Soda Springs ski areas, 916-426-3666

Bud Mogul Series, Feb. 12, professional mogul skiing competition, Heavenly Ski Resort, 586-4451

Beer and Bard Festival, Feb. 12, regional microbreweries serve their best brews and contemporary poets read original compositions, Comstock Arts Council fund-raiser, Knights of Pythias Hall, Virginia City, 847-9ART

Argenta Trio and Friends Present Brahms and the Romantic Classicists, Feb. 16, Nightingale Hall, U of N, 784-6847

Sierra-at-Tahoe Bump Series, Feb. 17 pro/am ski races, Sierra-at-Tahoe Ski Resort, 916-659-7453

Concert in the Atrium, Feb. 17, free noon concert, classical music by the High Noon String Quartet, Airport Gardens Office Bldg., 329-1324

Women's Pro Tour, Feb. 17-19, ski races, Squaw Valley USA, 916-583-6985

"Art Books", Feb. 20, special exhibit at the Sierra

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NIGHTLIFE

Dunn on the Road

BY GUY RICHARDSON

For performers, the road is a killer. Days and days of blurred scenery, nights of playing to crowds in darkened halls that also blur together. Rock bands on tour often have roadies print, "This is (name of town)" and "Today is (day of week)" on the monitors.

Holly Dunn began her music career in 1979 after a brief stint as a receptionist for Nashville music publisher CBS Songs. Dunn wrote songs for other people—notably "I'm Not Through With Loving You Yet" for Louise Mandrell—and by 1984 signed her own recording contract.

After three albums, she got hot in 1987 and stayed on the road for a full year. She earned enough awards and plaques and scrolls, as publicist Evelyn Shriver put it, "to stock a good-

sized pawnshop." That was the year she first sang in Nevada, opening for the Oak Ridge Boys at Harrah's Lake Tahoe.

Now her pace has slowed to 120 dates a year, which translates to about 150 days yearly on the road. "That's not too bad," Dunn said. "Some country performers are on the road 300 days a year."

About the longest she's out now is three weeks. "I find if I'm gone longer you feel like guppies in a bowl you begin to eat your young."

When Dunn finds herself in guppy mode, she tries exercising in her hotel room or taking a walk. "I like to get out and see the town—I'm the biggest

tourist in the world," she said. "The frustrating part is when we're someplace really cool, and I don't have any time. It always seems when you're in some little town is when you have two or three days."

That's one of the reasons she likes working gigs like Harrah's Reno, where she gets a chance to play tourist even

if she is on a tour to promote her new album, distributed by Polygram. Even with the promotional stuff, she'll get to walk across the river to the auto museum or stay in and get lunch at the new Planet Hollywood.

Often on the road she doesn't get to be a tourist. "I've been within a hundred miles of the Grand Canyon at least 10

times," Dunn said. "Each time we blow past it without time to stop. Or take national parks like the Grand Tetons or Yellowstone. We have to wave at the exit sign and keep going."



Singer Holly Dunn.

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CARSON CITY

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Earlier this year she discovered the celebrity miniature golf tournament, which is exactly what it sounds like. Instead of watching a thousand yards away as Willie Nelson hits, or misses, a teeny white ball, spectators can see celebrities doink their ball past windmill blades. "Doink," by the way is a technical term used mostly by miniature golf hustlers.

Dunn discovered the fun of doinking in a tournament for Southwest artist Armada Peña. "It was the most fun I've had for a long time," she said, "and I came in third."

So what are the chances of seeing a Holly Dunn Miniature Golf Tournament any time soon?

"Hmm," she said, and laughed. "When you think about it, it's very hip. I may do that."

Whatever keeps the road guppies at bay

Holly Dunn appears at Harrah's Reno February 7-19.

Guy Richardson is an editor and writer for the Reno Gazette-Journal.

Arts Foundation, 329-1324

Jack Gladstone, Feb. 21, singer, songwriter, and storyteller, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

"Cosi fan tutte," Feb. 23 and 25, presented by Nevada Opera, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 333-4330

Adopt-A-Car Wax and Shine Party, Feb. 24, National Automobile Museum, 333-9300

Concert in the Atrium, Feb. 24, free noon concert, classical music by the Argenta Trio, Airport Gardens, 329-1324

"The Learned Ladies," Feb. 24-25 and March 1-5, Moliere play presented by Nevada Repertory, Redfield Proscenium Theatre, U of N, 784-6847

Playboy Winterfest, Feb. 24-26, ski races and parties, Heavenly Ski Resort, 586-7000

Reno Little Theater Lip Sync Show and Contest, Feb. 25, \$10 entry fee, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Coors Light Freestyle Aerial Competition, Feb. 25-26, Northstar Ski Area, 916-562-2286

"Breaking Away: The Romantic Story," Feb. 26, Argenta Trio with guest viola player Virginia Lenz, Nightingale Hall, U of N, 784-6847

USASA Northern California/Nevada Snowboard Series, Feb. 26, half-pipe competition, Sierra-at-Tahoe Ski Resort, 916-659-7453

Emigrant Trail Tour, Feb. 26, cross-country ski tour from Summit Station to Rainbow Lodge along the historic Emigrant Trail, Royal Gorge Cross-Country Ski Resort, 916-426-3871

Big Air Snowboard Competition, Feb. 26, Sierra-at-Tahoe Ski Resort, 916-659-7453

Carson City Chamber Orchestra Concert, Feb. 26, Carson City Community Center, 883-4154

International Police Winter Games, Feb. 26-March 3, Heavenly Ski Resort, 586-4451

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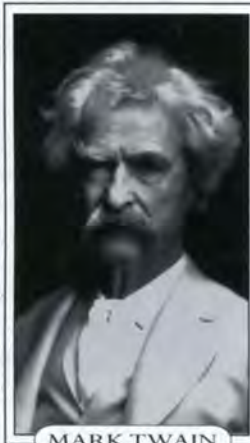
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Snowboarders Ride Against AIDS, Feb. 27, Sierra-at-Tahoe Ski Resort, 916-659-7453

March

"Wing and a Prayer," March 2, Sarah Bogard's dance ensemble, Middle School Gym, Virginia City, 847-9ART

Concert in the Atrium, March 3, free noon concert featuring jazz harpist Liza Rey, Airport Gardens Office Bldg., 329-1324

Snowfest, March 3-12, winter carnival with a Polar Bear Swim, Localman Triathlon, and Dress-Up-Your-Dog Contest, North Lake Tahoe, 800-TAHOE-4-U or 800-GO-TAHOE

"The Seasons," March 3-31, Betty Mills' eclectic paintings in oils, acrylics, and watercolors, Artists' Co-Op of Reno, 322-8896

Comstock Student Art Show, March 5-18, Sun Mountain Gallery, Virginia City, 847-9ART

Reno Chamber Orchestra Concert, March 6, featuring guest violinist Itzhak Perlman, Reno Hilton Showroom, 348-9413

Greg Brown Concert, March 10, singer-songwriter appears at the Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Friends of Pyramid Lake, March 10-June 30, exhibit of photos and Pyramid Lake-related material, Nevada Historical Society, 688-1190

"Someone Who'll Watch Over Me," March 10-11, Proscenium Players present the play by Frank McGuinness, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

"Bullshot Crummond," March 10-25, satirical farce, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

"World War II," March 10-July 4, traveling exhibit of National Archives material, National Automobile Museum, 333-9300

Cowboy Jubilee and Poetry, March 11, Sons of San Joaquin and cowboy poets perform, Carson City Community Center, 883-1523

Kid Stuff Weekend, March 11-12, entertainment for kids of all ages, National Automobile Museum, 333-9300

Laura Spitzer Concert, March 15, classical pianist, Carson City Community Center, 883-1079

Winterfest Lake Tahoe, March 15-19, gay and lesbian winter festival featuring skiing, snowboarding, sleigh rides, St. Patrick's Day party, proceeds to benefit the Lake Tahoe AIDS Task Force, various Lake Tahoe properties, 800-824-6348

COMING EVENTS

Mother Earth Powwow, March 16-18, Carson City, 882-1808

Cowboy Culture Weekend, March 31-April 2, Minden, 782-9711 ext. 679 or 800-321-6983

RSVP Spring Fun Fair, April 26-30, Carson City, 687-4680

Rod Hall Invitational/Reno 300 Off-Road Race, April 28-30, 800-FOR-RENO

Fiesta Nevada Hispanic and Latin Celebration, May 4-7, Sparks, 353-2284

Asian-Pacific Spring Festival of Fortune, May 19-21, Sparks, 800-843-2427 ext. 3312

SHOWGUIDE

Reno/Sparks

Bob Cashell's Horseshoe Club, 323-7900: *Boots Bar, Grill, and Dance Hall:* DJs nightly, free dance lessons Tues.-Sat.

Circus Circus, 329-0711 or 800-648-5010: Free circus acts, 11am-midnight



Johnny Cash appears at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks February 23-24.

Clarion, 825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Bands play nightly

Eldorado, 786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside Nevada), or 800-648-3024 (Canada): Rob Hanna's Salute to Rod Stewart, Dec. 26-Jan. 16; Danny Marona, Feb. 2-26

Fitzgeralds, 785-3300 or 800-648-5022 (U.S. outside Nevada)

Flamingo Hilton Reno, 785-7080: *Flamingo Showroom*: "American Superstars," indf. (dark Tues.)

Harolds Club, 329-0881 or 800-648-5022: *Dick Clark's American Bandstand Club*: DJ and live bands alternate, Tues.-Sat.

Harrah's Reno, 788-3773 or 800-HARRAHS: *Sammy's Showroom*: "Hit City!" and "Skin Tight" (dark Tues.); Phyllis Diller/Tony Tillman, thru Jan. 1; Patti Page, Jan. 14-22; Bill Medley, Jan. 24-Feb. 5; Holly Dunn, Feb. 7-19; Blood, Sweat and Tears, Feb. 21-Mar. 5; *Rendezvous Bar*: Savage, indf. (dark Sun.); Sailwinds, indf. (dark Mon.-Thurs.); High Limit, indf. (dark Wed.-Fri.)

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3304 or 800-648-1177 (U.S. and Western Canada): *Celebrity Showroom*: Brenda Lee, Dec. 27-29 and Jan. 1-11; Paul Anka, Dec. 30-31; Johnny Cash, Feb. 23-24; *Casino Cabaret*: Flashback, indf.

Peppermill, 826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Cameron, thru Jan. 1; Tommy Bell, thru Jan. 8; Lelands, thru Jan. 8

Reno Hilton, 789-2285 or 800-648-3568 (U.S. outside Nevada): *Goldwyn Ballroom*: Dennis Miller, Dec. 31; Neville Brothers, Jan. 1; *Hilton Theatre*: Jeff Kutash's "Splash," water-theme show, indf.; *Just for Laughs Comedy Club*: comedians perform nightly, indf.

Reno Hotel, 788-2000

Silver Club, Sparks, 358-4771 or 800-648-1137 (U.S. outside Nevada): Tammy Allen and RSVP, thru Jan. 1; Dynatonnes, Dec. 28-31; Joey Carmon, Jan. 2-16; George Pickard, Jan. 2-22; The Act, Jan. 16-22; White Wing, Jan. 23-29; Sierra, Jan. 23-Feb. 6; Paradise, Jan. 30-Feb. 12; Cheryl Cotton, Feb. 6-19; Inside Out, Feb. 13-19; David Proud, Feb. 19-March 5; Silk, Feb. 19-March 5; Tammy Allen and RSVP March 6-12; Double Edge, March 6-12; Madison Avenue, March 13-19; George Pickard, March 13-April 2

Western Village, Sparks, 331-1069 or 800-648-1170: St. Romaine, thru Jan. 1; Garfin Gathering, Jan. 2-15; Powerhouse, Jan. 23-29

Carson City/Carson Valley

Carson City Nugget, 882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (continental U.S. outside Nevada): Entertainment TBA

Carson Station, Carson City, 883-0900: Entertainment TBA

Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711 or 800-321-6983 (continental U.S. outside Nevada): The Act, thru Jan. 7; Tommy Bell, Jan. 9-14; Edy Gainer and Desire, Jan. 16-28; Get Ready, Jan. 30-Feb. 4; Whiskey Ridge, Feb. 6-11; White Wing, Feb. 13-18; The Game, Feb. 20-25; Paradise, Feb. 27-March 11; Slick Gypsy, March 13-18

Sharkey's Nugget, Gardnerville, 782-3133

Topaz Lodge, Topaz Lake, 266-3339

Lake Tahoe

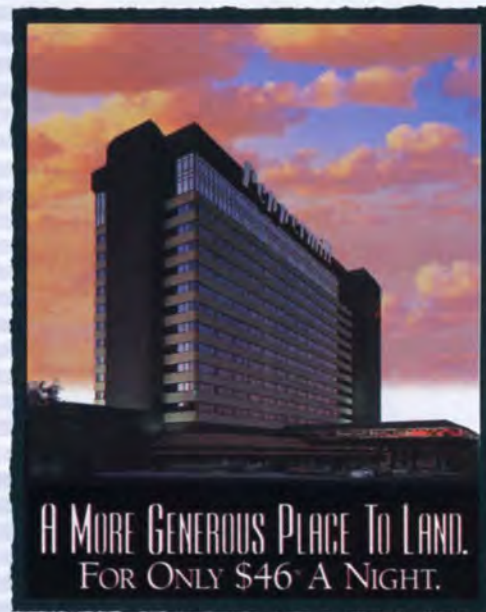
Bill's Lake Tahoe, Stateline, 588-2455

Caesars Tahoe, Stateline, 586-2044 or 800-648-3353: *Circus Maximus*: Beach Boys, Dec. 31-Jan. 1; Doobie Brothers, Jan. 13-15; Huey Lewis and the News, Jan. 27-28; Peking Acrobats, Feb. 5; Moody Blues, Feb. 17-19

Cal-Neva Lodge, Crystal Bay, 832-4000 or 800-225-6382

Crystal Bay Club Casino, Crystal Bay, 831-0512: Tammy Allen and RSVP, Jan. 10-22; Heidi Wilson and the Affair, Jan. 24-Feb. 5

Harrah's Lake Tahoe, Stateline, 588-6606 or 800-HARRAHS: *South Shore Room*: "Ice: A Frozen Fantasy," starring 1994 U.S. Open Professional Gold Medalist Caryn Kadavy, Jan. 1-Jan. 30;



Price is per room, per night, Sunday-Thursday, excluding holidays and subject to promotional room availability. Other days slightly higher and some restrictions may apply. Up to 4 adults per room at no extra charge

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HOTELS

Casino Notes

Stadium Parking: The Club Cal-Neva is adding a \$10-million, 775-space parking garage designed to look like a baseball stadium. The garage, which is scheduled to be completed by next spring, will be linked to the casino by a 95-foot-wide skyway across Center Street.

Radio Signals: John Ascuaga's Nugget broadcasts a live radio program from its lobby every Thursday during football season. A sports panel runs down the list of the week's college and NFL games. The show is broadcast on AM 1270 KPLY, and the public is invited to watch each week from 4 to 6 p.m.

Striking It Rich: The opening ceremonies for the country's first National Bowling Stadium will be February 3-4 in Reno. The event also will kick



The National Bowling Stadium's grand opening ceremonies will take place in Reno on February 3-4.

off the six-month American Bowling Congress Centennial Tournament. The downtown facility will house 80 championship Brunswick lanes and a state-of-the-art scoring system.

Berry Good Drink: The Peppermill recently toasted day-shift bartender Diane Peters for her concoction "Berried Treasure," which was recognized by the food and beverage magazine *Cheers*. The libation consists of two rums, Southern Comfort, orange and cranberry juices, and Grand Marnier.

Silver Stakes: The Silver Club in Sparks announced plans for a \$20-million expansion. Phase One, which is expected to be finished by summer 1996, will add 260 rooms in a nine-story hotel tower and 8,000 square feet of casino space, bringing the total guest rooms to 1,000.

Bridge Over Sparks: The \$235-million Victorian Square Project, a downtown Sparks renovation project, includes plans to transform Victorian Square into a 19th-century festival center and to connect John Ascuaga's Nugget to the Silver Club by bridges. The six-block area also will have shopping, restaurants, high-tech rides and games, a cinemplex, and an IMAX movie theater. Completion is expected by 1996.



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Dr. John, Feb. 3-4; "High Voltage," Feb. 8-April 15; Harry Belafonte, Feb. 17-20; *Casino Center Stage*: Inside Out, thru Jan. 2; Louie Fontaine and the Rockets, thru Jan. 8; Mitch Woods and His Rocket 88s, Jan. 6-9; Entertainment Committee, Jan. 10-22; The Outsiders, Jan. 13-16; Next Movement, Jan. 24-Feb. 5; Garfin Gathering, Jan. 21-23, 27-30, and Feb. 3-6; Sneak Preview, Feb. 7-19; The Outsiders, Feb. 10-13; Steppin' Stonz, Feb. 21-March 5

Harveys, Stateline, 588-2411 or 800-HARVEYS: *Emerald Theatre*, "A Blast From the Past," indf.; *Llewellyn's*: Ron Rose Sound, indf.

Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe, Incline Village, 832-1234: Entertainment TBA

Lake Tahoe Horizon, Stateline, 588-6211 or 800-648-3322: "Cheers," variety revue, indf.

Lakeside Inn, Stateline, 588-7777: Entertainment TBA

Tahoe Biltmore, Crystal Bay, 831-0660 or 800-BILTMOR: Bands play Tues.-Sun.; The Robey's, Jan. 17-29; Sierra, Jan. 31-Feb. 12; Bob Dee and Co., Feb. 14-26; L.J. Lawrence, Feb. 28-March 12

ATTRACTIONS, TOURS & MUSEUMS

Carson City

Amuseum of Northern Nevada: 813 N. Carson St., 884-2226

Great Basin Wildlife Center: 3770 Butti Way, 887-2172

Kit Carson Trail: Self-guided walking tour, 882-1565 or 800-638-2321

Nevada State Capitol: 687-5030

Nevada State Library and Archives: State Constitution exhibit, 100 Stewart St., near State Capitol, 687-5210

Nevada State Museum: 600 N. Carson, 687-4810

Nevada State Railroad Museum: S. Carson St. at Fairview Dr., 687-6953

Roberts House Museum: 1207 Carson, 882-1805

Stewart Indian Museum: 5366 Snyder, 882-1808

Warren Engine Co. No. 1 Museum: 777 S. Stewart, 887-2210

Genoa

Genoa Courthouse Museum: 782-4325

Mormon Station State Historic Park: Seasonal, 782-4325, 687-4379

Walley's Hot Springs: 2001 Foothill Rd., 782-8155

Lake Tahoe

Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park: 2005 Hwy. 28, Incline Village, 831-0494

M.S. Dixie II Sternwheeler: Zephyr Cove, 588-3508

Ponderosa Ranch: Seasonal, Incline Village, 831-0691

Tahoe Gal Paddlewheeler: Tahoe City, 916-583-0141

Tahoe Queen Sternwheeler: South Lake Tahoe, CA, 800-23-TAHOE

Tahoe Rim Trail: 916-577-0676

U. S. Forest Service Visitors Center: Tours, 916-573-2600

Vikingsholm: Tours, 916-525-7232

Reno

Bull Creek Ranch: Verdi, 345-7600

Fleischmann Planetarium: U of N, 784-4811

Liberty Belle Slot Collection: 4250 S. Virginia St., in Liberty Belle Saloon, 825-1776

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Mackay School of Mines Minerals Museum: U of N, 784-6052
Nevada Historical Society Museum: 1650 N. Virginia St., 688-1190
Nevada Museum of Art, E. L. Wiegand Gallery: 160 W. Liberty St., 329-3333
Numana Hatchery Visitors Center: Pyramid Lake, 574-0290
Raymond I. Smith Truckee River Walk and Wingfield Park Amphitheater: 334-2077
Reno Tahoe Gaming Academy: Tours, 300 E. First St., Suite 103, 329-5665
U of N Anthropology Dept. Research Museum: U of N, 784-6704
Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden: Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-4153
Wilbur D. May Great Basin Adventure: Seasonal, Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-4064
Wilbur D. May Museum: Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-5961
William F. Harrah Foundation National Automobile Museum: 10 Lake St. S., 333-9300

Sparks

National Air Race Museum and Hall of Fame: 1570 Hymer Ave., 356-7544
Sparks Heritage Foundation and Museum: 820 Victorian Ave., 355-1144
Wild Island: Wild Island, Adventure Golf and Raceway, 250 Wild Island Ct., 359-2927

Virginia City

Chollar Mine: Tours, seasonal, 847-0155
1869 Territorial Prison Museum: Tours, 847-0500
Fourth Ward School Museum: Seasonal, 847-0975
Julia C. Bulette Red Light Museum: 847-9394
Liberty Engine Co. No. 1 Comstock Firemen's Museum: Seasonal, 847-0717
Mackay Mansion: 847-0173
Mark Twain Museum of Memories: 847-0454
Nevada Gambling Museum: 847-9022
Piper's Opera House: Seasonal, 847-0433
Ponderosa Mine: Tours, 847-0757
Territorial Enterprise Mark Twain Museum: 847-0525
The Castle: Seasonal, 847-0275
The Way It Was Museum: 847-0766
Virginia and Truckee Railroad: Seasonal, 847-0380
Virginia City Radio Museum: 847-9047
Wild West Museum: 847-0400

Washoe Valley

Bowers Mansion Park: Pool, 849-1825
Davis Creek Park: 849-0684
Washoe Lake State Park: E. Lake Blvd., 687-4319

GAMING TOURNAMENTS

January

Slots, Jan. 6-11 and 16-18, Fitzgeralds, 785-3381
Keno, Jan. 20-22, Comstock, 329-1880
Slots, Jan. 22-23, Peppermill, 689-7125
Keno, Jan. 27-28, Clarion, 825-4700
Slots, Jan. 29-31, Clarion, 825-4700

February

Blackjack, Feb. 3-4, Peppermill, 689-7125
Slots, Feb. 3-5, 10-12, and 20-22, Fitzgeralds, 785-3381
Slots, Feb. 20-21, Peppermill, 689-7125
Slots, Feb. 24-26, Comstock, 329-1880
Slots, Feb. 26-28, Eldorado, 786-5700



The Rural Territories

PREVIEW

Dances With Bulls

You'll find lots of bulls, beef, and boot-scootin' during Fallon's 28th annual Nevada Cattlemen's pre-sale dinner and dance on February 17 at the Fallon Community Center. The dinner and dance kick off the Nevada Cattlemen's Association All-Breeds Bull and Heifer Sale, which will be held on February 18.

The Nevada Cattlewomen cook up a hearty meal of tri-tip roasts, baked potatoes, salads, and cakes for the more than 300 people who attend the dinner. Although the beef is occasionally donated, the Nevada Cattlewomen provide most of the food. After dinner, a live band takes the stage, and you can dance till the cows come home—usually about midnight.

The evening event originally was created for the 40 or so bull sellers from Nevada, Utah, Oregon, Idaho, and California as well as the 40 to 100 buyers who gather for the annual sale at Gallagher's in Fallon.

"Over the years it's turned out to be a big social event," says Betsy McFarland, executive director of the Nevada Cattlemen's Association.

Cocktail hour is at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. The dance begins between 8:30 and 9 p.m. Tickets for the dinner and dance cost \$10 per person with \$5 going toward a raffle ticket to win a calf. For more information call Betsy McFarland at 702-738-9214.—Monie Byers



There's lots of bull in Fallon at February's dinner and sale.

COWBOY COUNTRY



January

Art Show, thru Dec. 27 ink, pencil, chalk, watercolor, and computer works by Don Collins of Bruneau, Idaho, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Ansel Adams and Edward Weston Photographs, thru Jan. 24, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Photography Show, Dec. 30-Jan. 24, photos by Lorraine Giurlani of Winnemucca, North-

eastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418
1995 Blizzard Open Golf Tournament, Jan. 10-15, second annual, open play is Jan. 10-15, on Jan. 14-15 the tournament will include individual stroke play, two-person best ball, and couples best ball; play is on nine-hole indoor arena golf course laid out inside the Spring Creek Horse Palace with water hazards, sand traps, and trees on the par 36 course, Spring Creek, 12 miles south of Elko, 753-6295

Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Jan. 21-28, cowboys and cowgirls gather and recite poetry about life on the range, includes exhibits of Native American ranching techniques, music, workshops, and evening shows, Western Folklife Center, Elko Convention Center, 738-7508

Shakespeare's "Villians, Fools, and Clowns," Jan. 25, Marc Weishaus acts out scenes from the Bard's plays and poems, Pershing County Community Center, Lovelock, 273-2082

Native American Cowboy Exhibit, Jan. 28-March 15, gear and crafts of area Native American cowboys and craftspeople, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

February

Snobowl Canoe Races, Feb. 4, Elko, 738-2050
Slot Tournament, Feb. 5-6, Peppermill, Wendover, 664-2255

Eagles Crab Feed, Feb. 11, Community Center, Lovelock, 273-7144 or 273-2611

Gun Show, Feb. 11-12, Elko Convention Center, 738-4091

Mule Deer Expo, Feb. 17-19, hunting equipment, display of trophy heads, Elko Convention Center, 738-4091

HOT LINES

Nevada Division of State Parks: District III office in Fallon: 867-3001; District IV office in Elko County: Northfork 6493; District V office in Panaca: 728-4467

For chamber of commerce and convention center phone numbers, see page E-34

PREVIEW

Texas Blues in Fallon

Texas blues singer Keri Leigh has been compared to Janis Joplin and Bonnie Raitt. Concertgoers will have the chance to hear the 24-year-old vocalist, who has a four-octave range and a voice that can go from a whisper to a fierce growl, in Fallon on Saturday, January 21.

Leigh and her Austin, Texas-based band, the Blue Devils, perform music that both celebrates tradition and expands the genre. They have released two albums, "Blue Devil Blues" and "No Beginner," on the Amazing Records label.

The band is led by Leigh's husband, guitarist Mark Lyon, who plays a down-and-dirty steel gui-

tar. Leigh writes many of her own songs, and the group also covers the work of blues giants like Charlie Patton, Ida Cox, Hound Dog Taylor, and Little Milton.

Keri Leigh and the Blue Devils will make their only Nevada appearance on Saturday night, January 21, at the Fallon Convention Center. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the show starts at 8 p.m. There will be a no-host bar as well as dancing.

Tickets are on sale for \$12 and are available in Reno at Soundwave CD's, in Fallon at Jeff's Office Supply and Lady Faire, in Carson City at Kennedy's Books, and through the Churchill Arts Council (702-423-1440).



Keri Leigh sings in Fallon January 21.

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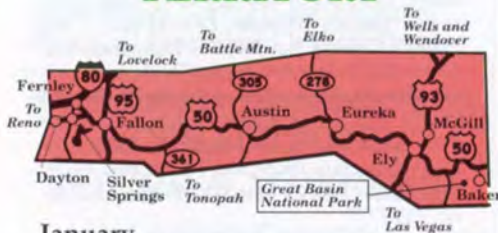
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Bill Haley's Comets bring rock 'n' roll to Cactus Petes in Jackpot January 3-8.

PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY



January

Hidden Cave Tours, Jan. 14 and 28, free, meet at 9:30am at the Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677

Keri Leigh and the Blue Devils, Jan. 21, Texas rhythm and blues band, Fallon Convention Center, 423-1440

February

Art Show, Feb. 1-28, works by Robert Morrison, Churchill Public Library, Fallon, 423-1440

Hidden Cave Tours, Feb. 11 and 25, free, meet at 9:30am at the Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677

Nevada Cattlemen's Assn. All-Breeds Bull and Heifer Sale, Feb. 17-18, 28th annual, pre-sale dinner and dance on Feb. 17 auction on Feb. 18, Gallagher's Livestock, Fallon, 738-9214

PIONEER TERRITORY



January

Berlin-Ichthyosaur Fossil House and Berlin

Ghost Town Tours, state park rangers lead tours of 225-million-year-old ichthyosaur fossils and the Berlin ghost town site, call for days and times, Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, 23 miles east of Gabbs, 964-2440

Ms. Nye County Senior Pageant, Jan. 8, Amargosa Multi-Purpose Building, Amargosa, 372-5655 or 372-5459

Freeway Philharmonic Concert, Jan. 20, four-member band combines the classics with jazz using guitar, electric violin, and chapman stick, Catholic Center, Yerington, 463-3066

Stagecoach Blackpowder Shoot, Jan. 21-22, Beatty, 553-2424

February

Hawthorne Volunteer Fireman's Ball, Feb. 25,

featuring Papa Clutch and the Shifters, annual fund-raising dance for Hawthorne's volunteer fire department, Hawthorne Convention Center, 945-2497

March

Loren Kahn Puppet Theatre, March 3, short plays for adults and children, 7:30pm, \$8 general admission, \$6 students and seniors, Catholic Center, Yerington, 463-3066

COMING EVENTS

Rachel Days, April 1, 729-2515

Mason Valley Gem and Mineral Society Spring Festival, April 30, Yerington, 463-2245



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- Cinco de Mayo Celebration, May 5, Amargosa Valley, 372-5459
Cinco de Mayo Festival, May 6, Wendover, 664-3414 or 800-426-6862
Desert Oasis Bluegrass Festival, May 12-14, Fallon, 423-4556
BluBlocker Nevada 100, May 20-21, auto race, Ely, 289-8877
Smith Valley Strawberry Festival, May 21, Smith Valley, 465-2481
Jim Butler Days, May 26-29, Tonopah, 482-3859
"Best in the Desert" Grand Prix, June 10, motorcycle race, Ely, 289-8877
Gridley Days, June 16-18, with fiddling contest, Austin, 964-2200

RURAL SHOWGUIDE

Cowboy Country

- Battle Mountain:** Owl Club, 635-5155
Elko: Commercial Hotel, 738-3181: Comedy on Wed. Red Lion, 738-2111 or 800-545-0044 (Western U.S. outside Nevada). Stockmen's Hotel, 738-5141
Jackpot: Barton's Club 93, 755-2341. Cactus Petes, 755-2321 or 800-821-1103: *Gala Showroom:* Tammy Wynette, Dec. 31-Jan. 1, Bill Haley's Comets, Jan. 3-8; The Diamonds, Jan. 10-15; Bill Pinkney's Original Drifters, Jan. 17-22; The Kingston Trio, Jan. 24-29; Boxcar Willie, Feb. 14-19; *Cabaret Lounge at Cactus Petes:* Mike and Jackie Nigro, Jan. 2-15; Ross Lewis Duo, Jan. 16-29; Soft Touch, Feb. 13-26; Blue Flame, Feb. 27-March 12. Horseshu Casino, 755-7777
Mill City (on Interstate 80): Burns Bros. Casino, Mr. B's Lounge, 538-7306: Flat Creek Band, Dec. 29-31
Wendover: Mac's Casino and Nevada Crossing Hotel, 664-4000: The Robey's, Jan. 3-15; Sierra, Jan. 17-29. Peppermill, 664-2255 or 800-648-9660 (U.S. outside Nevada). Red Garter, 664-2111 or 800-982-2111 (continental U.S. outside Nevada): The Living Daylights, Dec. 27-Jan. 1; Neil Miller Duo, Jan. 3-22; Alan Redstone, "The One Man Band," Jan. 24-Feb. 12; Ross Lewis Duo, Feb. 14-March 12. Silver Smith, 664-2231 or 800-354-3671: Nightly entertainment. State Line, 664-2221 or 800-648-9668: Nightly entertainment
Winnemucca: Winners Hotel, 623-2511: R.C. and Lonesome Heart, Jan. 3-15; Herb McQuay, Jan. 24-29; karaoke on Mon.; comedy on Wed.; live entertainment Tues.-Sun.

Pony Express Territory

- Ely:** Hotel Nevada, 289-6665: Comedy Night is on Tues.
Fallon: Bonanza Inn, 423-3111 ext. 47 Fallon Nugget, 423-3111

Pioneer Territory

- Beatty:** Stagecoach, 553-2419 or 800-4BIGWIN (U.S. outside Nevada)
Hawthorne: El Capitan, 945-3321: Entertainment TBA
Pahrump: Saddle West Casino, 727-1111 or 800-GEDDY-UP
Tonopah: Mizpah Hotel, 482-6202. Station House, 482-9777
Yerington: Casino West, 463-2481: Karaoke, indf. Dini's Lucky Club, 463-2868: Entertainment TBA



Golfers can tee up on a nine-hole indoor course during Spring Creek's Blizzard Open Golf Tournament January 10-15.

ATTRACTIONS, TOURS & MUSEUMS

Cowboy Country

Bonneville Salt Flats: Wendover, 801-977-4300
Buckaroo Hall of Fame: 50 Winnemucca Blvd. W., Winnemucca, 623-2225
Giant Tufa Park: West of Lovelock, 273-7213
Humboldt Museum: Jungo Rd. and Maple Ave., Winnemucca, 623-2912
Jarbridge Wilderness Area: 208-543-4129
Marzen House Museum: Marzen Ln., Lovelock, 273-7213
Northeastern Nevada Museum: 1515 Idaho St., Elko, 738-3418
Western Folklife Center: 501 Railroad St., Elko, 738-7508
Wild Horse State Recreation Area: 65 miles north of Elko, 758-6493

Pioneer Territory

Belmont Courthouse State Historic Site: 867-3001
Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park: 22 miles east of Gabbs, 964-2440 or 867-3001
Cathedral Gorge State Park: Panaca, 728-4467
Central Nevada Museum: Tonopah, 482-9676
Death Valley National Park: Via Beatty, 619-786-2331
Lincoln County Museum: Pioche, 962-5207
Lyon County Museum: 215 S. Main St., Yerington, 463-3341 ext. 255 or 463-3721
Million Dollar Courthouse: Pioche, 962-5182
Mineral County Historical Museum: 400 10th St., Hawthorne, 945-5142
Pahrump Valley Vineyards: Winery tours, 3810 Winery Rd., 727-6900
Rhyolite Bottle House, Historic Site: 553-2424
Spring Valley State Park: Pioche, 962-5102
Walker Lake State Recreation Area: Hawthorne, 945-5896

Pony Express Territory

Cave Lake State Recreation Area: 15 miles south of Ely, 728-4467
Churchill County Museum and Hidden Cave: Tours, 1050 S. Maine St., Fallon, 423-3677
Dayton State Park: 687-5678
East Ely Railroad Depot Museum: 289-1663
Eureka Opera House: Open Mon.-Fri. or by appointment, tours available, 10201 Main St., Eureka, 237-6006
Eureka Sentinel Museum: Eureka, 237-5010 or 237-5484
Fort Churchill State Historic Park: Silver Springs, 577-2345
Great Basin National Park: Baker, 65 miles east of Ely, 234-7331

Hickison Petroglyph Recreation Site: 24 miles east of Austin on U.S. 50
Nevada Northern Railway Museum: Seasonal, East Ely, 289-2085
Sand Mountain: 20 miles east of Fallon, U.S. 50, 885-6000
Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Site: 16 miles (11 dirt) south of Ely
White Pine Public Museum: 2000 Aultman St., Ely, 289-4710

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



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Vacation Hot Lines

Where to call or write for travel tips.

When planning your Nevada trip or vacation, be sure to write or phone these one-stop sources for information.

If you plan to stop by a chamber (C of C) office, chances are it will be open in the daytime Monday through Friday.

When calling long distance within Nevada, first dial the state's area code (702).

Statewide Information

Nevada Commission on Tourism:
Capitol Complex, Carson City,
NV 89710; 687-3636 or 800-
NEVADA-8 anywhere in U.S.
and Canada

Las Vegas Territory

Boulder City C of C: 1497 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; 293-2034
Boulder City Visitor Center: 100 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; 294-1220
Henderson C of C: 100 E. Lake Mead Dr., Henderson, NV 89015; 565-8951
Henderson Convention Center: 200 Water St., Henderson, NV 89015; 565-2171
Hoover Dam Visitors Services: Box 60400, Boulder City, NV 89006; 293-8367
Jean Visitor Center: Interstate 15 Rest Area (8 mi. south of Jean), Jean, NV 89019; 874-1566
Las Vegas C of C: 711 E. Desert Inn Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89109; 735-1616
Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority: 3150 Paradise, Las Vegas, NV 89109; 892-0711
Latin C of C: 829 S. Sixth St., Las Vegas, NV 89101; 385-7367
Laughlin C of C: Box 2280, Laughlin, NV 89029; 298-2214 or 800-227-5245 outside Nevada
Laughlin Visitor Center: 1555 S. Casino Dr., Laughlin, NV 89029; 298-3321
Mesquite Area C of C: 250 W. Mesquite Blvd., Suite 8, Box 785, Mesquite, NV 89024; 346-2902
Mesquite Visitor Center: Interstate 15 Exit 122, Mesquite, NV 89024; 346-2702
Moapa Valley C of C: Box 361, Overton, NV 89040; 397-2193 (Lost City Museum)
Nevada Black C of C: Box 4850, Las Vegas, NV 89106; 648-6222
North Las Vegas C of C: 1023 E. Lake Mead Blvd., North Las Vegas, NV 89030; 642-9595
Southern Nevada Arts Hot Line: Local arts and cultural events; on touch-tone phone call 385-4444 and enter code 2172

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Carson City C of C: 1900 S. Carson St., Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89701; 882-1565
Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau: 1900 S. Carson St., Suite 200, Carson City, NV 89701; 687-7410 or 800-NEVADA-1 in U.S.
Carson Valley C of C and Visitors Authority:



Nevada Territories

To assist you in your travels through Nevada, the state has been divided into five territories: Las Vegas, Reno-Tahoe, Cowboy Country, Pony Express, and Pioneer. Indian Territory encompasses all of Nevada.

1524 Hwy. 395, No. 1, Gardnerville, NV 89410-7814; 782-8144 or 800-727-7677 in U.S.
Greater Reno-Sparks C of C: 405 Marsh Ave., Reno, NV 89505; 686-3030
Incline Village/Crystal Bay C of C: 969 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village, NV 89451; 831-4440
Incline Village/Crystal Bay Visitor and Convention Bureau: 969 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village, NV 89451; 832-1606 or 800-GO-TAHOE anywhere in U.S.
Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority: 1156 Ski Run Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; 916-544-5050, 800-AT-TAHOE in U.S., or 900-776-5050 for updated visitor info. (\$1/min. charge)
North Lake Tahoe C of C: Box 884, Tahoe City, CA 96145; 916-581-6900
Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority: 4590 S. Virginia St., Reno, NV 89502; 827-7600, 827-RENO, or 800-FOR-RENO in the U.S.

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Tribal Council: 98 Colony Rd., Reno, NV 89502; 329-2936
South Lake Tahoe C of C: 3066 Lake Tahoe Blvd., S. Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; 916-541-5255
Sparks C of C: 831 Victorian Ave., Sparks, NV 89431; 358-1976
Tahoe-Douglas C of C: Box 7139, Stateline, NV 89449; 588-4591
Tahoe North Visitors and Convention Bureau: Box 5578, Tahoe City, CA 95730; 916-583-3494 or 800-824-6348
Virginia City C of C: V&T Railroad Car, C St., Virginia City, NV 89440; 847-0311

Cowboy Country

Battle Mountain C of C: Box 333, Battle Mountain, NV 89820; 635-8245
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 800-248-ELKO outside Nevada
Jackpot Visitors Information: Box 508, Jackpot, NV 89825; 755-2321, 800-821-3935 in Nevada, 800-821-1103 anywhere in U.S.
Jarbridge Community Assn.: c/o Trading Post, Box 260072, Jarbridge, NV 89826; 488-2315
Lovelock C of C: Box 821, Lovelock, NV 89419; 273-7213
McDermitt Information: Box 278, McDermitt, NV 89421
Wells C of C: Box 615, Wells, NV 89835; 752-3540
Wendover USA Visitors/Convention Bureau: Box 2468, Wendover, NV 89883; 664-3414 or 800-426-6862 outside Nevada
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

Pony Express Territory

Austin C of C: Box 212, Austin, NV 89310; 964-2200
Dayton C of C: Box 408, Dayton, NV 89403; 246-7909 (open Thurs.-Sun.)
Ely's Bristlecone Convention Center: Box 958, Ely, NV 89301; 289-3720
Eureka County C of C: Box 14, Eureka, NV 89316; 237-5484
Fallon Area C of C: 100 Campus Way, Fallon, NV 89406; 423-2544
Fallon Convention and Tourism Authority: 100 Campus Way, Fallon, NV 89406; 423-4556 or 800-874-0903 anywhere in U.S.

Fernley C of C: Box 1606, Fernley, NV 89408; 575-4459

Great Basin C of C: Baker, NV 89311; 234-7302
Silver Springs EDASS (Econ. Dev. Authority of Silver Springs): Box 269, Silver Springs, NV 89429; 577-2008

White Pine C of C: 636 Aultman, Ely, NV 89301; 289-8877

Pioneer Territory

Amargosa C of C: HCR 69-2 Box 401W, Amargosa, NV 89020; 372-5459

Beatty C of C: Box 946, Beatty, NV 89003; 553-2424

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

Gabbs, City of: Box 86, Gabbs, NV 89409; 285-2671

Goldfield C of C: Box 225, Goldfield, NV 89013; 485-9957

Goldfield Historical Society: Box 178, Goldfield, NV 89013; 485-6365

Greater Smoky Valley C of C: Box 2020, State Route 376 at Carver's Station, Round Mountain, NV 89045; 377-2490

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

Mason Valley C of C: 227 S. Main St., Yerington, NV 89447-2536; 463-2245

Mineral County C of C: Box 1635, Hawthorne, NV 89415; 945-5896

Pahrump Valley C of C: Box 42, Pahrump, NV 89041; 727-5800 or 800-633-WEST

Pioche C of C: Box 127, Pioche, NV 89043; 962-5544

Tonopah C of C: Box 869, Tonopah, NV 89049; 482-3859

Tonopah Convention Center: Box 408, Tonopah, NV 89049; 482-3558

Indian Territory

Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada: 806 Holman Way, Sparks, NV 89431; 355-0600

Indian Territory Chair: Stewart Indian Museum, 5366 Snyder, Carson City, NV 89701; 882-1808

State and National Parks

Death Valley National Park: 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

Nevada Division of State Parks: Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710; 687-4387

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area: Box 26569, Las Vegas, NV 89126; 363-1921

More Outdoor Activities

Bicycling in Nevada: Nev. Dept. of Transportation: 1263 S. Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89712; 687-4997

Bureau of Land Management: Main: Box 12000, Reno, NV 89520; 785-6402; Box 26569, Las Vegas, NV 89126; 647-5000; Box 831, Elko, NV 89801, 738-4071

Humboldt National Forest: 976 Mountain City Hwy., Elko, NV 89801; 738-5171

Nevada Dept. of Wildlife: Main: Box 10678, Reno, NV 89520, 688-1500; Southern Nevada: State Mail Complex, Las Vegas, NV 89158; 486-5127

Pyramid Lake: Pyramid Lake Fisheries: Star Route, Sutcliffe, NV 89510; 476-0500

Toiyabe National Forest: 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431, 331-6444; 2881 S. Valley View, Suite 16, Las Vegas, NV 89102, 873-8800

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DINING DIRECTORY

The following Nevada dining directory includes current magazine advertisers. Each listing gives sample dishes, whether breakfast, lunch, or dinner (B, L, D) are served, and accepted credit cards. Price ranges refer to typical entree price per person: up to \$10 (\$), \$11 to \$20 (\$\$), \$21 to \$30 (\$\$\$), and more than \$30 (\$\$\$\$). To phone from out of state or long distance in-state, the area code is 702 throughout Nevada.

LAS VEGAS

AMERICAN

- Excalibur Hotel/Round Table Buffet**—597-7777. Hot and cold entrees in abundance. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Excalibur Hotel/Sherwood Forest Cafe**—597-7777. Burgers, spaghetti, and a variety of sandwiches. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Riviera Hotel/Kady's Coffee Shop**—794-9318. Deli-style restaurant open 24 hours with daily specials, deli, and kosher items. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.
- Sam's Town/Mary's Diner**—5111 Boulder Hwy., 454-8073. A '50s flair. Blue plate specials served 24 hours. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Sam's Town/Smokey Joe's 24 Hour Cafe & Market**—5111 Boulder Hwy., 456-7777. Barbecue specialties served 24 hours. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Sam's Town/Uptown Buffet**—5111 Boulder Hwy., 454-8048. B, L, D. \$, major.

FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

- Las Vegas Hilton/Le Montrachet**—732-5111. Gourmet French cuisine, jackets required, reservations suggested. D. \$\$\$\$; major.

INTERNATIONAL

- Riviera Hotel/Mardi Gras Food Court**—Nine quick-service restaurants serving food from around the world. B, L, D. \$, no CC.
- Riviera Hotel/World's Fare Buffet**—794-9400. Features a different international cuisine every day. B, L, D. \$, major.

ITALIAN

- Excalibur Hotel/Lance-A-Lotta-Pasta**—597-7777. Lasagna, fettuccine Alfredo, plus 14 different pasta creations. L, D. \$, major.

Diners can feast on steak and seafood at the Eldorado's Grill and Rotisserie in Reno.



- Imperial Palace/Pizza Palace**—794-3261. Pizza, pasta, and salads. L, D. \$, major.

- Las Vegas Hilton/Andiamo**—732-5111. Northern Italian cuisine prepared in an exhibit kitchen, fish and poultry specialties. D. \$\$, major.

- Riviera Hotel/Ristorante Italiano**—794-9363. Vermicelli salsa bella vista, lobster Francaise, and fresh seafood. D. \$-\$\$\$\$; major.

MEXICAN

- Las Vegas Hilton/Margaritagrille**—732-5111. Fajitas, burritos, chimichangas, and tostadas. D. \$\$, major.
- Sam's Town/Willy and Jose's Mexican Cantina**—5111 Boulder Hwy., 454-8044. Authentic Mexican dishes in Old Mexico setting. D. \$, major.

ORIENTAL

- Imperial Palace/Ming Terrace**—794-3261. Mandarin and Cantonese cuisine, abalone, kung pao shrimp, roast duck. D. \$\$, major.
- Las Vegas Hilton/Benihana Village**—732-5111. Two traditional-style Japanese restaurants: hibachi and robata. D. \$-\$\$\$; major.
- Riviera Hotel/Rik'Shaw**—794-9537. Pineapple duck, orange roughly with black pepper sauce. Beef, shrimp, chicken, and pork sautéed with Chinese vegetables in oyster sauce. D. \$-\$\$, major.

STEAK AND SEAFOOD

- Excalibur Hotel/Camelot**—597-7777. Escargot, sea bass, St. Michel, rack of lamb, filet Canterbury. D. \$\$, major.
- Excalibur Hotel/Sir Galahad's Prime Rib Room**—597-7777. Prime rib, English-fashioned desserts, entrees with soup, salad, potatoes, creamed spinach, and Yorkshire pudding. D. \$, major.
- Excalibur Hotel/Wild Bill's Saloon & Steakhouse**—597-7777. T-bone steaks, sirloins, ribs, fish, and chicken. D. \$, major.
- Imperial Palace/Seahouse**—794-3261. Alaskan king crab legs, appetizers, seafood salads. D. \$\$, major.
- Las Vegas Hilton/Hilton Steak House**—732-5111. Steaks and seafood. D. \$\$\$; major.
- Riviera Hotel/Kristofer's**—794-9233. Steak, seafood, and chicken. Complete dinners include glass of house wine, vegetable tray, breads, salad, entree, and dessert bonbons. D. \$\$, major.
- Sam's Town/Diamond Lil's**—5111 Boulder Hwy., 454-8009. Fresh fish and seafood daily. D, Sun. brunch. \$-\$\$, major.

LAUGHLIN

- Colorado Belle/Orleans Room**—298-4000. Sunset supper menu. D. \$, major.
- Edgewater/Bountiful Buffet**—298-2453. B, L, D. \$, no CC.
- Edgewater/The Hickory Pit Steak House**—298-2453. Steak, seafood, prime rib, barbecue ribs, and chicken. D. \$\$, major.
- Gold River Resort/Cafe Victoria Coffee Shop**—298-2242. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. \$, AE, MC, V.
- Gold River Resort/Opera House**—298-2242. Buffet. B, L, D. \$, AE, MC, V.



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~ 1995 EVENTS CALENDAR ~

-JANUARY-

- Elko: Cowboy Poetry Gathering
Wells: Hole in the Mountain Cross Country Ski Race

-FEBRUARY-

- Wells: Invitational Chariot Races

-MARCH-

- Winnemucca: Shooting the West VII (A Nevada Photography Experience)

-APRIL-

- Elko: International Collegiate Mining Competition
Wendover 100: National Hare & Hound Motorcycle Race

-MAY-

- Winnemucca: Barrel Racing Futurity & Derby, USTRC Team Roping
Lovell: Portugese Festa
Oasis: Pequops Mountains Bike Challenge

-JUNE-

- McDermitt: Red Mountain Indian Pow Wow and Rodeo
Winnemucca: AMA Mule Show & Races, North American Basque Festival
Elko: Mining Exposition, Cowboy Music Gathering

-JULY-

- Elko: National Basque Festival, Silver State Stampede Rodeo
McDermitt: Ranch Hand Rodeo
Jackpot: Carl Hayden Daze
Jarbridge: Discover Jarbridge Days
Winnemucca: IFCA World Championship Roping
Wendover: Bonneville Land Speed Opener
Battle Mountain: Mining Madness & Bed Races

Write or Call: Nevada's Cowboy Country, 50 West Winnemucca Blvd.
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445 1-800-WMCA-NEV 1-800-962-2638

Gold River Resort/Pasta Cucina—298-2242. Italian diners. \$\$, AE, MC, V.

Gold River Resort/The Lodge—298-2242. Steakhouse. D. \$-\$\$\$; AE, MC, V.

Ramada Express/Dining Car Coffee Shop—298-4200. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. \$, major.

Ramada Express/Passaggio Italian Gardens—298-4200. Homemade sauces, pastas, pizzas. D. \$, major.

Ramada Express/Roundhouse Buffet—298-4200. B, L, D. \$, major.

Ramada Express/The Steakhouse—298-4200. Special flame-broiled meats. D. \$, major.

RENO-CARSON AREA

AMERICAN

Carson Nugget/Bufet—882-1626. Sun. champagne brunch, Sat. breakfast buffet, Fri. seafood buffet. B, L, D. \$, major.

Carson Nugget/Coffee Shop—882-1626. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. \$, major.

Carson Valley Inn/Fiona's—Minden, 782-4347. Steaks, seafood, veal, soup and salad bar. L, D, Sun. brunch. \$-\$\$, major.

Carson Valley Inn/Katie's—Minden, 782-9711. Four-course prime rib dinner, steak and lobster, half-pound burgers. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

Carson Valley Inn/Michael's—Minden, 782-9711. Rack of lamb and fresh seafood creations. D. Closed Tuesdays. \$-\$\$, major.

Fitzgeralds Reno/Molly's Garden—785-3300. Omelets, prime rib, sandwiches, salads. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. \$, major.

Fitzgeralds Reno/Starlight Buffet—785-3300. Open daily. B, L, D. \$, major.

Holiday Hotel Casino/The Shore Room—Reno, 329-0411. Fresh salmon in chive sauce, chicken, prime rib. Steamed vegetable basket. 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. L, D, Sun. brunch. \$-\$\$, major.

Ormsby House Hotel/V & T Coffee Shop—Carson City, 882-1890. B, L, D. \$, major.

Riverboat Restaurant and Coffeeshop—323-8877. Chicken and ribs, Cajun-baked chicken with beef or pork ribs, open 24 hours. B, L, D. \$, major.

Sharkey's Nugget—Gardnerville, 782-3133. Prime rib is house specialty. B, L, D. \$, no CC.

BASQUE

Louis' Basque Corner—301 E. 4th St., Reno, 323-7203. Sweetbreads, tripe, paella, other seafood dishes. L, D. \$\$, major.

FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

Eldorado/The Vintage—786-5700. Continental cuisine, daily specials, choice dry-aged beef, mesquite-grilled. Complimentary wine tasting from award-winning wine list. D. \$\$, major.

INTERNATIONAL

Eldorado/Choices—786-5700. An express cafe with hofbrau, deli, bakery, ice cream. B, L, D. \$, major.

Eldorado/Tivoli Gardens—786-5700. Multi-ethnic, 24-hour restaurant and entertainment attraction. Italian, South American, Caribbean, Thai, Szechwan, Vietnamese, Cantonese, and American cuisine. B, L, D. \$, major.

ITALIAN

Eldorado/La Strada—786-5700. Northern Italian cuisine with veal, chicken, and seafood entrees plus homemade pasta, sauces, and desserts. Award-winning wine list. D. \$\$, major.

ORIENTAL

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Trader Dick's—Sparks, 356-3300. Cashew chicken, Szechwan specialties, flaming dagger brochette. L, D. \$\$, major.

STEAK AND SEAFOOD

Carson Nugget/Oyster Bar—882-1626. L, D. \$, major.

Carson Nugget/Steak House—882-1626. Veal scallopini, scampi in dill sauce, chicken picata, escargot. D. \$\$, major.

Eldorado/Grill and Rotisserie—786-5700. Mahogany-fueled rotisserie and grill, fresh fish, fowl, lamb, and USDA choice dry-aged beef, soup and salad bar. D. \$\$, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/John's Oyster Bar—Sparks, 356-3300. Lazyman's cioppino, seafood stews. L, D. \$\$, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Steak House—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, steak and lobster, snapper, shrimp Louis.

L, D. \$\$, major.

Riverboat/Oyster Bar—323-8877. Riverboat cioppino, bay shrimp cocktail. L, D. \$, major.

LAKE TAHOE

AMERICAN

Caesars Tahoe/Cafe Roma—Stateline, 588-3515. Lamb chops, prime rib. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

ITALIAN

Caesars Tahoe/Primavera—Stateline, 588-3515. Linguini carbonara, tenderloin pizzaiola, pollo allo spumante. D. \$\$, major.

ORIENTAL

Caesars Tahoe/Empress Court—Stateline, 588-3515. Szechwan, Mandarin. D. \$\$, major.

STEAK AND SEAFOOD

Caesars Tahoe/Broiler Room—Stateline, 588-3515. Prime rib, seafood, Cajun specialties. Reservations for large parties. D. \$\$, major.

Caesars Tahoe/Pisces—Stateline, 588-3515. Salmon,

lobster, shrimp, sea bass. Flown in fresh daily. D. \$\$, major.

AROUND THE STATE

Elko: Stockmen's Motor Hotel—738-5141. Casino coffee shop, evening dinner house. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

Ely: Copper Queen—289-4271. Coffee shop, family dining room. Steaks, prime rib, seafood. Fri.-Sat., 5-10 p.m. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

Fernley: Sturgeon's—575-2222. Coffee shop, family dining room. Steaks, seafood. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

Lovelock: Sturgeon's—273-2971. 24-hour coffee shop, family dining room. Fiesta Room Supper Club Tues.-Sat. Steaks, seafood, Mexican. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

Mt. Charleston: Mt. Charleston Hotel/Canyon Dining Room—872-5500. Tournedos of beef, steak Diane, shrimp scampi, chicken piccata. B, L, D. \$\$, major.

Tonopah: Station House/Mary's Kitchen—482-9777. Casino restaurant, breakfasts, hamburgers, steak, and seafood. B, L, D. \$, AE, MC, V.

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Monday Night Music

BY JOHN L. SMITH

Jazz and the night were meant for each other. There is something about the great American music's syncopated rhythms and deep-blue moods that make jazz an art form best suited for around midnight, the time when romance blossoms and hearts get broken.

For proof, look no further than Alan Grant's award-winning Monday Night Jazz at the Four Queens. For the past 13 years Grant has served up a veritable jazz hall of fame each week from the cozy French Quarter Room lounge at the downtown Las Vegas casino. For jazz aficionados, the scene is akin to a baseball fan experiencing a weekly "Field of Dreams" vision. From live performances by guitar great Joe Pass or top vibraphonist Bobby Hutcherson to saxophone legends Pete Christlieb and Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson, the Monday-night program has highlighted many of the giants of traditional jazz.

For Grant it's like having old friends visit him once a week. At 75, the Brooklyn native is a one-man jazz network. The music stirred him from the start, and he quickly gravitated toward New York nightclubs and radio broadcasts. He hung out with Billie Holiday and gained a reputation as a jazz insider. With ABC Radio in New York, Grant



Bobby Hutcherson (left) and Joe Pass jazz up the Four Queens' French Quarter Room.

many of those legends, Grant's personal network of contacts remains vast.

"All these great musicians worked along with me during those years," Grant says. "When I came here, I asked the people at the Four Queens to give me a contract for three months. I knew it would work. That three months has turned into 13 years."

Several years ago, Grant began broadcasting a weekly radio show featuring live performances from the Four Queens. As it had four decades earlier, the music drifted around the world. Today, jazz night from the Four Queens is heard on as many as 140 radio stations. In 1988 Grant's program was honored at the World's Fair as the best radio program of its kind.

Thanks in part to the radio show, the Monday-night scene is special. Rarely a week goes by that tourists from Australia, England, and across America fail to converge on the French Quarter Room, jazz albums tucked under their arms, hoping to catch a few words with their heroes.

"Most of the players are so happy to do it," Grant says. "When I first began asking them to come in and play, they said, 'Who's going to come and see us in Las Vegas?' But a jazz audience is such a great audience. People will come in even when they don't know who's appearing."

In a city flooded with lounge entertainment, Grant's place is jammed with

jazz lovers. The listening is intense, the music memorable.

Perhaps the show's wildest evening featured a guitarist known more for blues than jazz. The evening Buddy Guy and his harmonica-smoking partner, Junior Wells, played the French Quarter Room is one Grant never will forget. Midway through his set, Guy plugged a long extension cord into his Harmony six-string guitar and strolled right through the lounge—and straight out into the casino. The gamblers stopped playing, and the pit personnel scrambled to control the chaos. They didn't know whether to applaud Guy or arrest him.

The guitarist wound up with a thundering ovation, and Grant was reminded that deep emotion and artistry rule jazz and blues.

On Monday night at the Four Queens, the jazz makes anything possible.

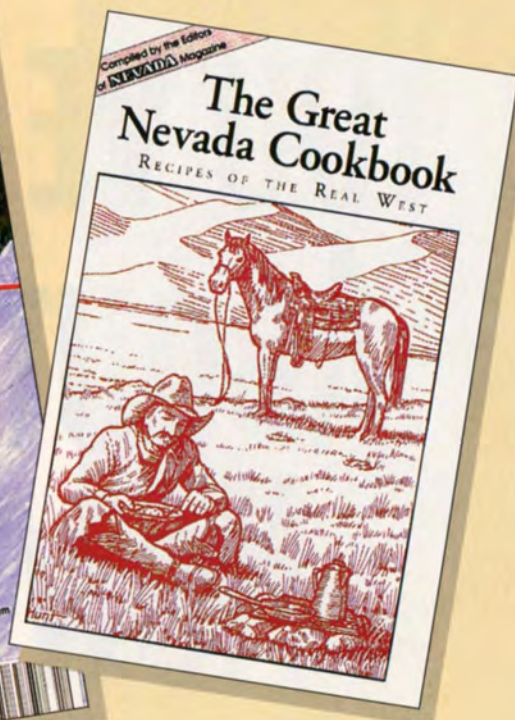
John L. Smith is a columnist for the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

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listening is intense,
the music memorable.

hosted and produced broadcasts from Carnegie Hall and Philharmonic Hall. He emceed the renowned Newport Jazz Festival, and his ABC broadcasts from the Half Note lounge in Greenwich Village were heard in 72 countries. Along the way Grant befriended numerous jazz notables, including John Coltrane, Art Blakey, Dizzy Gillespie, and Wes Montgomery. Although he has outlasted

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