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NEVADA

THE MAGAZINE OF THE REAL WEST

FEBRUARY 1996 ■ \$3.50

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to Events & Shows

60TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

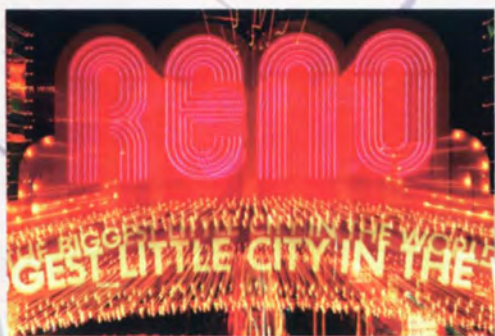
The Early Years:
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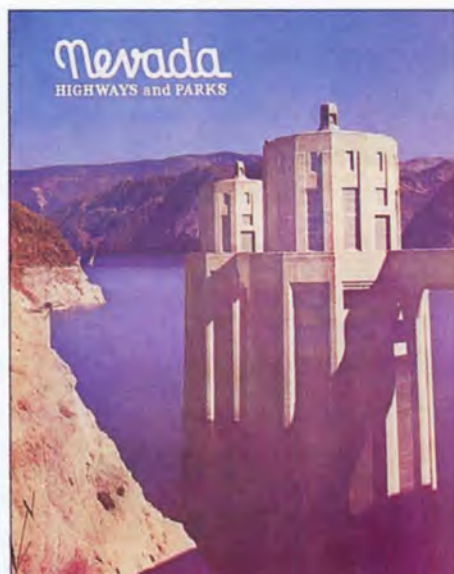
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On the Cover:
Nevada travelers take a nostalgic road trip in a 1933 Chevrolet.
Photo by Jay Aldrich

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60 Years on the Road

Nevada has pretty good roads. That was one of the main reasons *Nevada Magazine* was created 60 years ago. At a time when many people outside Nevada thought of the state as either a last outpost of the Wild West or an impenetrable desert wasteland, *Nevada Magazine* showed them there were places to visit in the Silver State, such as ghost towns, state parks, lakes, and mountain trails.

Fred Greulich, the magazine's founding editor, described the purpose of the publication as "giving authentic information regarding Nevada's excellent highway system over which travelers can journey in safety and comfort, natural scenic features, and promoting the general welfare of the State through publicity." Greulich then noted another element of the magazine's mission, reflecting the road-building era of the 1930s: "Contrariwise it is intended to dispel any prejudice which might exist in other States concerning conditions of travel throughout our own State."

The magazine's first issue appeared in January 1936. Over the next 60 years and 226 regular issues, *Nevada Magazine* has shared with readers stories and photos about the state's people, places, events, history—and roads. Along the way, it has evolved from a free, black-and-white

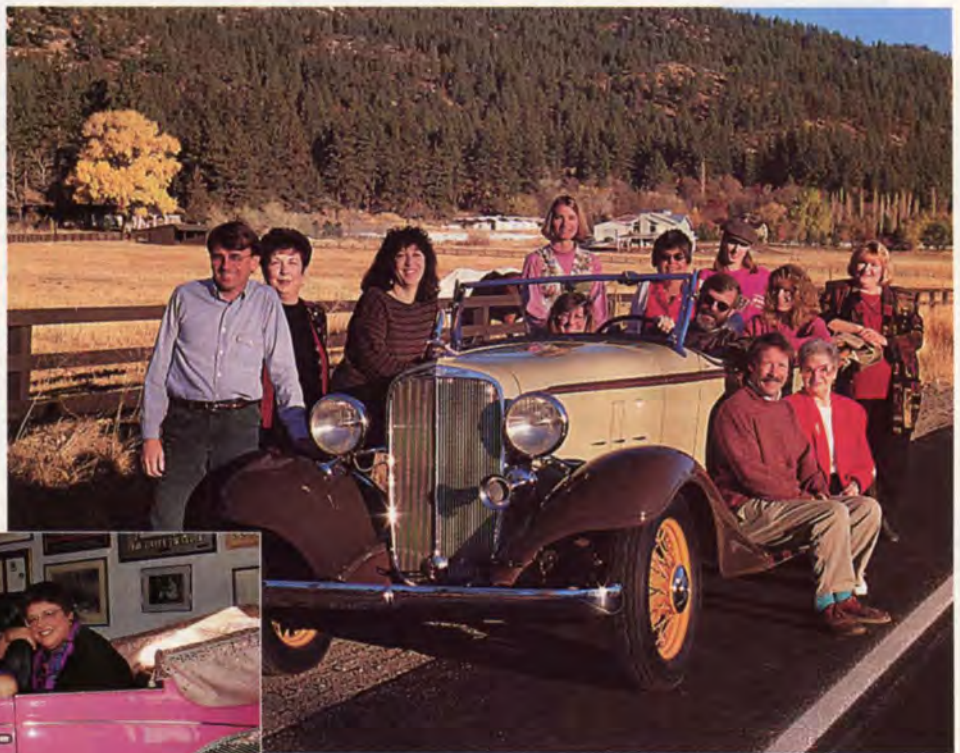
digest to a full-color travel publication with nearly 400,000 readers.

Through the years, the magazine's most important assets have been our loyal readers and a committed staff. *Nevada Magazine* owes its longevity to the folks who have worked here and fought for its survival—people like Greulich and succeeding editors and publishers such as Don Bowers, Judy Casey, C.J. Hadley, and Kirk Whisler. The magazine also owes a tremendous debt to past and present staff members and to the hundreds of freelancers who have contributed to the magazine during the past six decades. This issue is dedicated to them.

In coming months, you will see a few changes in the magazine as we

introduce a new design that will give features and guides a livelier, more contemporary format. You'll notice some initial changes in this issue's Nevada Events and Shows.

The redesign is spearheaded by Art Director Denise Barr, who recently joined the staff after working in advertising and design in Las Vegas and California. Denise succeeds Paul Allée Curtis, who recently traded his light box for law books and returned to school after a successful five-year stay at the magazine. Paul, who began the redesign effort, contributed greatly to the magazine in his roles as art director, production editor, and Mexican-food connoisseur. We wish him well.—Richard Moreno



The magazine's Carson City staff visits Washoe Valley in a 1933 Chevrolet Master Series CA Phaeton. The car was transported from the National Automobile Museum in Reno by Roger Hiestand, collections manager at the museum. Clockwise from left are Gary Elam, Jacqueline Morgan, Denise Barr, Debi Frame (in front passenger seat), Melissa Loomis, Isabel Espinoza, Katherine McDonnell, Richard Moreno (driver's seat), Carolyn Graham, Susan Wunsch, Patty Noll, and David Moore.



Nevada Magazine's Las Vegas staff members, Dianna Simpson (left) and Ann Henderson, are pictured here in a customized Volkswagen at the Liberace Museum.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The '30s

This issue, we celebrate the magazine's 60th birthday with several features set in the 1930s. One, **Mark McLaughlin's** account of "The Big Chill," deals with a subject that remains just as powerful and immediate six decades later—the weather.

Mark, who lives at Carnelian Bay on Lake Tahoe's north shore, is a weather historian. "In fact, I moved here because of the weather," he says. Twenty years ago, when Mark lived in Philadelphia, fate intervened. "I saw a photo of Nevada that had cowboys in the dust and snow in the mountains—both at the same time. I said I have to see that."

Today Mark is working on two books about Nevada and Sierra weather history. During his research he followed the cold and perilous adventures of the Prettyman party, who were trapped near present-day Rachel (and the top-secret Area 51) by a series of snowstorms during the winter of 1936-37. That winter's cold spell, Mark points out, set Nevada's all-time record-low temperature—50 below zero at San Jacinto, near the Idaho border.

Longtime *Variety* correspondent **Bill Willard** describes in "Celebrity City" how movie stars stayed and played in Las Vegas during the 1920s and '30s.

In "Reno Divorce Days" authors **Barbara** and **Myrick Land** revisit the days when the rush to be "Reno-vated" granted the city celebrity status of its own. The account is an excerpt from their book *A Short History of Reno* (University of Nevada Press, 1995).

Reno explorer **Alvin McLane** warmly introduces us to the art of snow camping in "Among Winter Crystals."

Photographer **Jay Aldrich** and Art Director **Denise Barr** turned back the clock to take this issue's cover photo. The scene is the Clear Creek Grade, the old road up to Lake Tahoe from Carson City. The car is a classic 1933 Chevrolet, kindly provided by the folks at the National Automobile Museum in Reno.

Also, see Publisher **Richard Moreno's** story "Nevada Magazine: The Early Years." Rich tells how the magazine's first editor, Fred Greulich, traveled the state for the original *Nevada Highways and Parks*, bringing home ore samples and feature-worthy nuggets from all over the Silver State. —David Moore

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LETTERS

Vintage saloons and Mark Twain.

Central Nevada Bound

I enjoyed "The Copper Queen" by Sally Zanjani in the Nov/Dec issue. I really love the desert, and after reading about Ferminia Sarras, I am ready for another trip to her area of the state.

Tom Lyman
Tacoma, WA

A Marked Man

The Nov/Dec issue disclosed new vistas to this transplant from the Hawaiian Islands. Richard Moreno's "Old-Time Saloons" article slaked my thirst for classic Western groggeries.

Waddie Mitchell's Christmas poem I plan to read to my seven-year-old son on Christmas morning. And if I could buy David Toll a drink for that article on Mark Twain, I would if the price were right; however, he's just the kind of Nevada fella that won't allow a public show of gratitude like that.

But as for my being pictured on the cover, that has brought me more aggravation than anyone can imagine. Everywhere I go now, from Ely to Genoa, north and south, people hail me and ask all kinds of infernal questions about Mark Twain that I can't answer.

McAvoy Layne
Incline Village

Cruisers: Skipped School

I read "Cruising Fremont" by K.J. Evans in the Nov/Dec issue with great interest. I'm an alum of Bishop Gorman High School, class of 1961, and I assure you that the story contains a gross error when it says, "During the 1950s and part of the '60s the town had only three high schools: Rancho, Las Vegas, and Western." Many of us who cruised Fremont in the '50s happened to be from Gorman High School. So straighten out, fly right, and try to drive in the center of the road.

State Senator Bob Coffin
Las Vegas

Don't Miss Mia's

I was delighted to see the article "Old-Time Saloons" by Richard Moreno but

disappointed to find that Mia's Odeon Hall in Dayton was not included. The Odeon was built in 1863 by the Odd Fellows and was the town's first community building. In its more recent past the saloon was used in the Clark Gable-Marilyn Monroe film *The Misfits*. The building now houses Mia's Swiss Restaurant and Bar. My husband and I were recently married there.

I have been to a number of the Northern Nevada saloons in the article, along with those in Midas, Tuscarora, and Jiggs. Mia's is another where one can experience the wonderful feelings these historic buildings emit.

Sharon H. Donaldson Arnold
La Habra, CA

Giving the Buzz to an Old Saw

How many times do we have to hear the old saw that *Nevada Magazine* just spotlights Las Vegas and gambling? After reading E. Butler's letter in the Sept/Oct issue, I decided to create a spreadsheet and chart to see if the accusations would hold up under scrutiny. My research materials were the last three issues.

I found that Las Vegas is a major source of stories in the Silver State, but it's also true that all parts of the state get exposure. In fact, the articles were fairly evenly divided among Las Vegas, Reno-Tahoe, and rural Nevada. I think perhaps E. Butler ought to reread the last few issues.

P.S. When can we expect a Web page?

Scott Greenfield
Stockton, CA

Scott, thanks for the data. Yes, we hope to develop an Internet page on the World Wide Web in the near future. If it happens, you'll see an announcement here.—Ed.

Picture Imperfect

I found some of the pictures offensive and articles unnecessary in the July/August issue. For example, the article on the *Playboy* show at Harrah's Reno. Who cares? The ad for Melinda at the Lady Luck was grossly immodest. The recent article on country stores, however, was very good. I just can't handle the bad pictures. I guess I'm just a prude.

Mark Cash
Warren, MI



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MUSEUMS

Museum a Gold Mine

CARSON CITY—In the 1930s the **Nevada State Museum** had not yet made the transition from U.S. Mint to museum. Minting operations had ceased in 1893, after only 23 years of operation, and the building then served as a federal assay office until 1933.

The building stood abandoned through most of the 1930s. The state bought the building in the late 1930s and reopened it in 1941 as the Nevada State Museum, which now is a treasure in its own right. A collection of the U.S. Mint's old coins as well as the coin press and other mint relics are on display. A popular section of the museum is the underground mine with windows into mine shafts and tunnels.

The museum is filled with remnants of Nevada's history and prehistory, such as Washoe weaver Dat So La Lee's baskets, the silver service from the *U.S.S. Nevada*, and a display featuring the

skeleton of an ancient mammoth. In January the museum opens an exhibit chronicling the 60-year history of *Nevada Magazine*, which began publication in 1936.

The Nevada State Museum, at 600 North Carson Street, is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2.50 for seniors, and free for children under 18. Call 702-687-4810.—Carolyn Graham



The Nevada State Museum, shown here in the 1960s, opened as a U.S. Mint in 1870.

SIGHTSEEING

Harvesting History

LAS VEGAS—One mile north of downtown's casinos, you'll find an unlikely Las Vegas attraction—a historical vegetable garden. Located at **Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort Historic State Park**, the garden is dedicated to the Mormon pioneers who built Las Vegas' first permanent structure, an adobe fort, in 1855.

The structure served as a way station between Utah and California. An ongoing archaeological dig has unearthed the fort's

foundations and numerous artifacts.

During its 141-year history, the Mormon Fort has served as a ranch, supply station, tourist camp, dairy, and research center. In 1929, before the Bureau of Reclamation had its own facilities in Boulder City, it used the fort as a gravel and concrete testing laboratory for Hoover Dam.

The three-acre site became a state park five years ago. In the pioneer garden, the crops are similar to those grown by the early settlers, says Phares Woods, the park's ranger and resident horticulturist. Vegetables such as corn and tomatoes are grown, as well as a patch of cotton. "Everyone is quite surprised how well

we do with corn in the Las Vegas climate," says Woods. In the fall visitors can take home a sample of the day's harvest after touring the park.

Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort Historic State Park is located next to Cashman Field and the Las Vegas Natural History Museum at 908 Las Vegas Boulevard North; call 702-486-3511. The landmark is open from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily. Admission to the fort is \$1 adults and 50 cents for children.—Ann Henderson



The Mormon Fort was a lab for the dam.



The Cal-Neva has a glassy bar.

CASINOS

Frank's Place

CRYSTAL BAY—If you close your eyes while sitting in the **Cal-Neva Resort's** Circle Room lounge, you can imagine that you've stepped back 30 or 40 years. The strains of Frank Sinatra's "Strangers in the Night" may come from a recording, but the song echoes the days when the singer owned the resort and his guests included the biggest names in show business.

Straddling the Nevada-California border at North Lake Tahoe, the Cal-Neva Lodge opened in 1926 and was rebuilt in 1937 following a fire.

Sinatra purchased the Cal-Neva in 1960. While his tenure was brief—he lost his Nevada gaming license in 1963 for allowing Chicago mobster Sam Giancana to stay at the Cal-Neva—Sinatra built the Celebrity Room and stocked it with entertainers, including pals Dean Martin, Joey Bishop, and Eddie Fisher.

Today's owner, Charles Bluth, has restored the best aspects of the resort's history. You can enjoy a drink at the 1930s-style Circle Bar, with its domed ceiling made of 7,000 pieces of hand-cut German crystal, or be entertained in the Celebrity Room, which looks much the same as it did when it was opened in 1960 by Sinatra and friends. Call 702-832-4000.—Richard Moreno

THE BARGAIN ADVISOR

By Deke Castleman

Bargains have long been the gambling business's preferred mode of enticing people into the casino. In fact, it has been exactly 60 years since Raymond "Pappy" Smith, the man generally credited with sanitizing and popularizing casinos for the masses, introduced the idea of offering free drinks and inexpensive meals at Harolds Club in Reno.

Benny Binion must have learned a few lessons from Pappy Smith. The longest surviving meal deal in Nevada is the late-night steak dinner at **Binion's Horseshoe** (702-382-1600) in downtown Las Vegas. This 10-ounce grilled New York strip, which comes with soup or salad, baked potato, and dinner roll, has been around so long that no one can remember exactly when it started. In the 1950s, most steak dinners cost \$2, and in subsequent decades Binion's simply never raised the price—until January 1995. But even at \$3, this bargain is the standard by which all other Nevada bargains must be judged.

The **buffet** is also a casino enticement with a lengthy history. El Rancho Vegas inaugurated the buffet (then called a "chuck wagon") in the late 1940s, laying out a big midnight spread designed to keep patrons in a gambling mood after the second show. It was quite a bargain feast—for a dollar. Other casinos quickly adopted the \$1 graveyard feed, which evolved in the 1950s into the "hunt breakfast," the forerunner of today's Sunday champagne brunch.

Gradually, the three-meal buffet replaced the chuck wagon, but the bargain element is still in force: The average cost to experience gluttony in unabridged proportions at any one of the state's 50 or so buffets is \$4 for breakfast, \$5 for lunch, and \$7 for dinner.

Some bargains have a history, and some history has bargains. At the **Liberty Belle Saloon and Restaurant** in Reno (702-825-1776), you can sip a \$2 beer from the old bar while you enjoy a free history lesson on the origins of the slot machine. The Liberty Belle, owned by Marshall and Frank Fey, grandsons of slot-machine inventor Charles Fey, is filled with a unique, fascinating, and well-labeled collection of antique slots and gaming devices. □

Deke Castleman is the managing editor of the Las Vegas Advisor, a monthly newsletter on the Las Vegas bargain scene.



The slot collection is a bargain jackpot for diners at Reno's Liberty Belle Saloon.

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NEVADA MAGAZINE:

How two Nevada highway men led the magazine for the first four decades of its 60-year road trip. By Richard Moreno

When the first issue of *Nevada Magazine* appeared in January 1936, Hoover Dam was less than a year old, George Burns was 40, and the state's population had just passed 100,000. Nevada had 2,100 miles of oil-surfaced roads—and couldn't wait to tell the world.

The magazine, which celebrates its 60th anniversary with this issue, was originally called *Nevada Highways and Parks*. It was published by the Nevada Department of Highways, and one of its primary jobs was to tell people that the state had good roads.

The publication contained no advertising and was distributed free to tourists. Produced on a shoestring, *Nevada Highways and Parks* was edited by Fred Greulich, who doubled as the highway department's publicist, and printed in black and white by the State Printing Office in Carson City.

Exactly how the magazine came into being isn't clear, but old-timers recall that Greulich either suggested creating the magazine or was given the job by former State Highway Engineer Robert A. Allen.

Greulich worked in a cramped office in the Heroes Memorial Building across the street from the State Capital. During his two decades on the job, he wrote virtually every article that appeared in

Nevada Highways and Parks. He cajoled highway department photographers, who were more accustomed to snapping pictures of bridges and roads, to

"Out of a maze of wagon ruts, Nevada has successfully developed its highway units into a systematic, modern network of roads."

March 1936

shoot landscapes, parks, ghost towns, and dams.

The timing of the magazine's appearance was fortuitous. The 1930s were dynamic years in Nevada. Americans had discovered the automobile and the

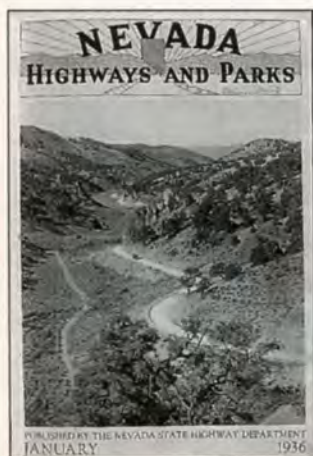
thrill of driving open roads, of which Nevada has always had plenty. Also, the federal government was trying to help the country recover from the Great Depression through such projects as the construction of Hoover Dam, creation of jobs by the Works Progress Administration, and New Deal road-building programs.

Nevada lawmakers did their part to stimulate the state's economy. In the '30s, divorce laws were loosened, gambling was made legal, better roads were built, and the legislature created both the Nevada State Park System and the Nevada State Museum—actions aimed at attracting more visitors.

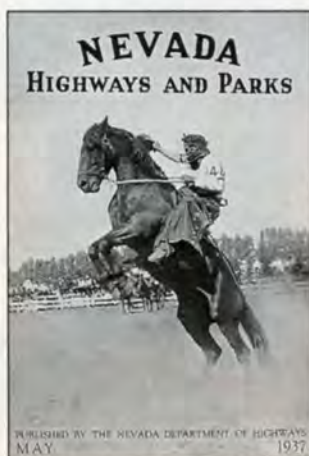
Meanwhile, other Western states saw the importance of tourism. State publications began to appear, including *New Mexico* (1923), *Arizona Highways* (1925), *Colorado Outdoors* (1938), and *Texas Parks and Wildlife* (1938).

Producing the bimonthly (later quarterly) *Nevada Highways and Parks* was an ideal assignment for Greulich, a former telegrapher who enjoyed exploring the state's back roads and mines.

Greulich shared his vision of Nevada in the first issue when he stated his hope that *Nevada Highways and Parks* "will serve a useful purpose in disseminating facts and news about Nevada's highways and parks, its abundant



January 1936



May 1937



May 1938



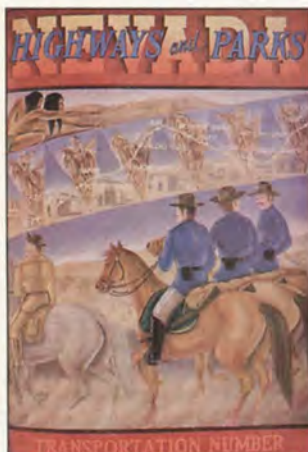
July/August 1939

THE EARLY YEARS



"Less than 30 years ago the few citizens in the State who drove motor cars were hesitant about attempting a trip across the State in their 'gas buggies. One never knew whether or not the destination would ever be reached; whether the uncertain coughing mechanical contraption would break down somewhere on the terrible roads and leave the traveler stranded for days, awaiting repairs or parts."

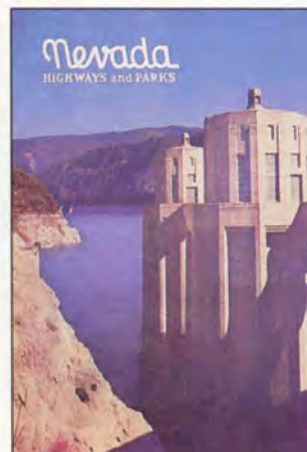
March/April 1940



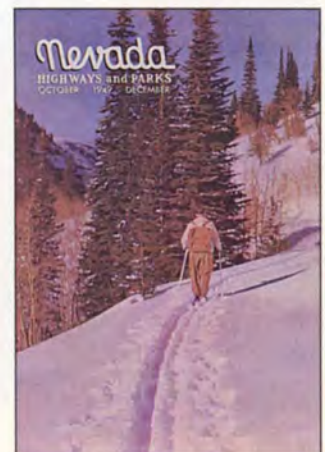
March/April 1940



September 1940



April 1948



October-December 1949

natural scenic places, and perhaps promote a wider knowledge of its mountains, deserts, and the real western, friendly spirit of its people."

Some subjects, though, were off-limits. For the magazine's first 17 years, gambling and divorce were virtually ignored. Adrian Atwater, who during the early 1950s became the first highway department photographer assigned to the magazine,



Fred Greulich, Nevada's founding editor, was a mining buff.

recalls that references to gambling and divorce were "discouraged" because officials felt they did not present a positive image for the state. Road construction and mining, however, were welcome topics.

"Fred loved mining. There was never a trip that he didn't bring back a bag of ore samples," Atwater says.

Atwater describes Greulich as "a fine old gentleman, well-groomed, well-spoken, with a good sense of humor. I never heard him swear." Greulich, a quiet, formal man, always wore a coat and tie, even when traveling in remote parts of the state.

"In those days, Fred and I were a two-man team," Atwater recalls. "He did all the writing, and I did all the photography. One week each month we'd travel the state together to do stories."



Photographer Adrian Atwater often was accompanied by his wife Jane, a writer, on magazine trips throughout the state.

QUOTES AND IMAGES FROM THE PAST

"This U.S. 395 is what we westerners call the 'inside passage' because it courses from top to bottom, east of the Sierra wall of mountains and affords a distinct safety way just in case some Nation should get the idea to wreck some of the coastal routes."

January 1953

"Some folks may call it Ro-dee-o, others say it's Ro-day-o, and some strangers have even labelled it Rodd-e-o."

Spring 1947



With 21,000 residents, Reno was by far the state's largest town in the late 1930s.



Las Vegas' future Glitter Gulch had curbside parking and a small-town atmosphere in the 1940s.



A sunny day at the Reno Rodeo brought out a variety of headwear.



Tourists could see Lake Mead by seaplane in the 1940s.



"The International Hotel of Austin is an old Nevada landmark. Buses make it their stopping place." – January-March 1950



"These Nevada young women reflect the picture of health, youthful vigor, and beauty in their skiing costumes." – April 1948

"Las Vegas, city of destiny, on the southwestern desert is the next stopping place With a population of about 7,000 it is one of the few cities in the great southwest retaining its truly western flavor."
July/August 1938

"Native nimrods travel anywhere from six to six hundred miles in quest of their yearly venison."
May/June 1939

"Boulder Dam has conquered the river and tamed its passions so that travelers—the general public, if you please—can now glide over the lake thus formed in convenience and comfort, although awed by the majestic scenery, into an area which an exploring army officer less than 80 years ago predicted would be 'forever unvisited.'"
July 1937



Turkeys gobble while children pose at their family's Churchill County ranch.

"The romantic, book-pictured West as now found in Nevada has been seasoned with spices represented in high speed motor cars, radios, power washers, and mechanical coolers for the family and ranch house."

September 1937



Gaming was taboo at the magazine until 1953. Above is a 1962 feature, "Las Vegas: America's Roaring Rambunctious Playground."

During World War II, paper shortages shut down the magazine, but it reappeared in January 1946. The headline over the lead story, written by Greulich, proclaimed, "Nevada Tourist Roads Are Calling You."

America was ready for change in the postwar years, and *Nevada Highways and Parks* changed along with it. The magazine began using color photography as well as more, and larger, pages. Stories highlighted the state's growing cities, towns, and industries. In the 1940s and '50s, the magazine was published somewhat irregularly. At least two issues appeared per year, and in some years as many as four were printed. The magazine was mailed free to tourists asking for information about the state.

Two issues in 1953 were noteworthy. In January, Greulich finally acknowledged the phenomenal growth of Las Vegas and put a daytime photo of Fremont Street on the cover. Except for two photos that appeared in 1938, it was the first time readers were allowed to glimpse casinos. Inside, the magazine featured night shots of Las Vegas and Reno.

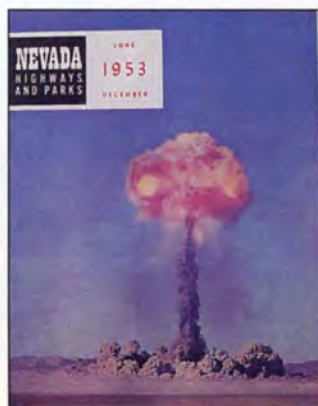
The December issue was the most unusual in the magazine's history. The cover showed a mushroom cloud rising above the Southern Nevada desert, and atomic testing was the subject of the lead story, "Operation Doom Town." Reflecting attitudes of the times, the issue's stories described how atomic testing in Nevada helped to keep America strong and safe.

In the January 1956 issue readers finally saw the man who had been responsible for the magazine for two decades. On the inside cover was a tiny photo of a smiling, bespectacled man at a typewriter. An editor's note explained that Fred Greulich was retiring after having produced 52 issues.

Replacing Greulich was Donald L.



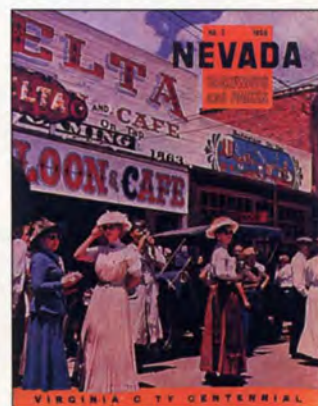
January-June 1953



June 1953



No. 1, 1956



No. 3, 1958

Bowers, former chief of the *Fallon Eagle*. Bowers, a native of Fallon, had served in the Navy during World War II and following the war edited an English-language magazine in Russia. After he took over *Nevada Highways and Parks*, Bowers made subtle changes. He introduced shorter articles, modern page design, a new masthead, and features about events and historical Nevada characters like Mark Twain and Hank Monk.

"Don knew a lot about magazines," recalls veteran Nevada journalist Guy

"He seemed to know everyone in the state," recalls David Moore, the magazine's current editor, who was hired by Bowers in the early 1970s as a circulation gofer. "He really liked traveling around the state, particularly to places like Eureka and Unionville."

In 1964, Bowers introduced his most sweeping changes. He persuaded the legislature to allow him to convert the free publication into one with paid subscriptions, national distribution, and advertising.

The first issue of the new *Nevada Magazine*, as most people called it, was a special edition celebrating the state's centennial. The 68-page magazine—the largest issue produced to that time—carried a 50-cent price tag and a message from Bowers: "This special issue of *Nevada Highways and Parks* marks our Centennial [and a] new, bigger *Nevada Magazine*. Costs you a little but brings you much more." The subscription price was \$2 for four issues.

In 1975, after 20 years as editor, Bowers retired. His successor was Judy Casey, who had served as managing editor for five years. A few issues later, Casey became a highway department publicist and was followed as editor by Caroline J. Hadley, a former managing editor of *Car and Driver*.

Other changes coincided with Hadley's arrival. The magazine moved from the Department of Highways to the Department of Economic Development and later the Nevada Commission on Tourism. The name was officially shortened to *Nevada Magazine*, and in 1979 frequency increased to six times a year. Meanwhile, Hadley was giving the magazine new editorial vigor, and circulation increased tremendously.

In 1985, Hadley departed to pursue other projects—today she rides herd on *Range Magazine*—and was followed by



Don Bowers, a former Fallon newspaper editor, took over *Nevada Highways and Parks* in the mid-1950s. He pushed for the changes that gave the magazine national distribution and advertising in 1964, Nevada's centennial year.

Kirk Whisler, former publisher of *Caminos* magazine in Los Angeles. During Whisler's six-year tenure the magazine became self-supporting and entered the era of desktop publishing. Additionally, Whisler introduced the popular Nevada Events section.

Nevada Magazine has clearly changed since the days when Fred Greulich would, as his friend Adrian Atwater recalls, sit in a chair at the State Printing Office and doze while he waited for copies to roll off the presses. Today, the magazine has full-color photos, stories about casinos, and advertising. But in important ways, *Nevada Magazine* hasn't changed. The stories and photographs still highlight the state's history, culture, and landscape. And, occasionally, those wonderful roads are mentioned, too. □

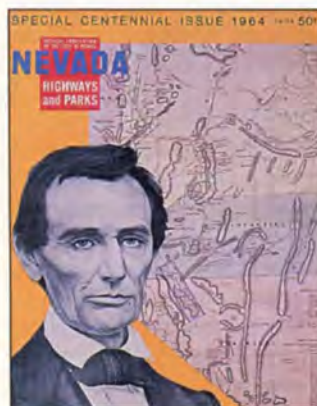
Richard Moreno is publisher of Nevada Magazine. His first story for the magazine, "Cow County Chow Houses," appeared in the March/April '87 issue.

"This special issue of
Nevada Highways and Parks
marks our Centennial
[and a] new, bigger
Nevada Magazine."
Centennial Issue, 1964

Shipler, who contributed to the magazine during Bower's tenure. "My recollection is that he was a good editor.

"I think he was more responsible than anyone else for turning the magazine from a highway brochure to an honest-to-god magazine."

Shipler and others describe Bowers as a free-thinking intellectual who was well read, well traveled, and well connected.



Centennial Issue, 1964



Fall 1970



September/October 1980



November/December 1994

THE BIG CHILL

AS FIERCE SNOWSTORMS POUNDED NEVADA IN JANUARY 1937, FIVE PEOPLE STRUGGLED FOR SURVIVAL. BY MARK McLAUGHLIN

During a winter storm, the wild beauty of the Nevada desert can become forbidding and dangerous. Desert blizzards often strike suddenly and with lethal force. Gale-driven snow can cause impossible traveling conditions, and the lack of visibility may disorient the most experienced snow travelers. Even well prepared motorists are at risk in this stark and primeval landscape, where drifting snow can cut off roads with little warning.

In the winter of 1936-37, Nevadans were stopped in their tracks as Mother Nature walloped the state with storm after storm, blanketing valleys and mountains in deep, impassable drifts. Rescuers spent the holidays burrowing pathways for stranded residents and travelers as the storm raged on.

At a remote mine near Groom Lake, a desperate drama unfolded shortly after Christmas in 1936. Five people were trapped by snow, and their attempt to escape proved to be a memorable and harrowing struggle for survival.

Christmas Day dawned pleasantly enough for the unsuspecting residents of the Silver State. But the skies turned gray, and a blustery southwest wind signaled a fast-approaching storm. With surprising force, blizzards swept across the state.

A group of six friends soon found themselves snowbound at the Nevada-Maryland Mine, also known as the Gold Range Mine, located near the present-day town of Rachel and the Nevada Test Site. The silver mine's operator, Lee Prettyman, shared the isolated quarters with his wife, identified in newspaper accounts only as Mrs. Lee Prettyman; her younger brother, James Ross Poe, and

his wife, first name also unknown; as well as prospector Fred Miller and a cook, Doris Dunn.

Supplies were running low at the mine, so Prettyman decided to leave his wife and friends to go for food in Las Vegas, 110 miles south. A storm ap-

"From the plane they saw Prettyman's half-buried Packard surrounded by shovels. But no one was in sight, and several sets of footsteps led off into the frozen landscape."

proached as Prettyman departed, but he made it to Las Vegas just ahead of the bad weather.

The people he left behind weren't so lucky, however. The wind howled, and snow fell for seven days straight. Soon their camp near Yucca Pass was buried under drifts 10 feet deep. Despite intense efforts by Nevada highway crews, all roads into the district were lost to the storm's assault. The five members of the Prettyman party were now trapped and running out of food.

Temperatures near 30 below zero fueled fears that the stranded party would not survive. Civilian Conservation Corps workers began searching for

the five, who were presumed lost. As soon as weather permitted, Lee Prettyman hired an airplane and flew within 200 feet of the cabins at the mountainous mining site. There was no sign of life, and Prettyman noticed that his automobile was missing. He and the pilot figured that the group had attempted a desperate escape during the storm. Prettyman dropped 50 pounds of food into the camp and returned home to alert the authorities.

Within 48 hours nearly 200 CCC youths armed with shovels, trucks, and tractors joined in the battle to open the roads. An anxious Lee Prettyman was back in the air the next day. This time he ordered the pilot to head south, where they saw Prettyman's half-buried Packard sedan surrounded by shovels. But again, no one was in sight, and several sets of footsteps led off into the frozen and forbidding landscape. Prettyman feared the worst as he contemplated the fate of his wife and his other snowbound friends.

His concerns were justified. Things were not going well for his companions. On December 27 they had panicked and attempted to break out and drive to Las Vegas, but drifts from the Christmas storm covered the roads, and another storm was brewing darkly over the mountains.

The five had piled themselves, two cats, and a dog into Prettyman's sedan, fired up the big engine, and made their escape down the snow-covered road. It wasn't long before the car bogged down in the deepening drifts. After hours of shoveling they managed to dig themselves out but soon stalled again about

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NEVADA'S
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Member United Press

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1937.

Member United Press

FIVE CENTS A COPY

NINE DEAD AS COLD WAVE SWEEPS WEST

Eight Known Dead in Midwestern Floods

19 ARE FEARED LOST IN SNOWS AS FRIGID SPELL DEEPENS TODAY

REFUGEES CAMP IN BOXCARS AS FLOOD WATERS STEADILY RISE

Hazleton, Indiana, Deserted as Residents Flee Mounting Flood

WORKERS POWERLESS

Rivers in Section Pouring thru Breaks in Levees Along Banks
By United Press

Refugees in the flood section camped in box-cars today as the rising water sent the damage estimates as high as five million dollars.

The refugees passed 10,000 on the flood peak swirled down the Ohio valley, bursting levees, swamping villages and isolating cities. Eight persons were known to have died in the floods.

The entire population of 200 persons Ben-Akashion, Indiana, where the White river, swollen by four hours of rain, burst a levee and rushed them a gain with a roar.

WHERE PRETTYMAN PARTY SPENT EIGHT DAYS



This NEA photograph shows the Prettyman automobile stalled in the snow just prior to the time Fred Miller started on the trip for help from which he never returned. Miller is shown standing by the side of the car and a shovel, used fruitlessly in an effort to dig the machine out, is shown leaning against the side of the machine. This photo was taken by Mrs. Prettyman during the time the party was stranded.

MURDER VEXES OAKLAND POLICE

Body of 21 Year Old Mother Found in Ditch Near Mills College

Jean Overpass To Be Replaced By An Underpass

Plans for the elimination of the present Jean overpass on the Los Angeles highway, are being drawn in Carson City.

STORIES VARY IN WAE CRASH QUIZ

Witnesses Tell of Hearing Motors of the Plane

Vegans Shiver As Mercury Plunges To 13 Last Night

Las Vegas residents shivered and their teeth chattered today as Old Man Winter hovered over

It Isn't Sunny California, It Must Be Alaska

BRENO, Jan. 21 (UP)—Nevada, along with California and the other states of the west coast, was gripped in the icy fingers of King Winter today and record cold was being reported from most sections of the state.

Well, in the northern tip of Elko county, was the coldest spot in the state with a low of 36 below zero. Elko reported 43 below. Winnemucca 36 below and Reno 14 below.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 21 (AP)—Temperatures in California plunged to as low as six degrees above zero today and orchards in the citrus belt smothered the heaviest they have done in the past 20 years.

The smudge was so thick that Ontario residents could not see across the street. Schools were closed in Ontario, also, because the smudge equipment was unable to compete with the unusual frigid.

Ranfa Anita race-track officials considered calling off the races today because the far side of the track couldn't be seen thru the smudge smoke which hung over the area like a pall.

Palm Springs, 30 miles from Los Angeles, reported a temperature

Eighteen Shepherders Are Marooned in Pleasant Valley, Nevada

RESCUE ATTEMPTED

Little Relief Is Forecast For Western U. S. and Cold to Continue

By United Press

Nine persons were dead and at least 19 feared lost in the snow as a new wave of Arctic weather swept over the western states, damaging crops and sending the temperatures to new lows.

Eighteen shepherders were believed snowbound and without food at Pleasant Valley, in Elko county, Nevada. The state highway has dispatched a crew of workmen to the vicinity to try to break thru the huge drifts blocking the road into the valley. It is feared that they may be dying from starvation or cold.

The family of John Vargas, 24, was wiped out last night when fire from an overheated stove

The plight of the Prettyman party was front-page news for weeks in Las Vegas. The photo above, taken by Mrs. Prettyman, shows prospector Fred Miller standing next to the Packard that gave them shelter after the party's escape to Indian Springs was thwarted by snow and an empty gas tank. After several days, Miller left to seek help.

three miles from Groom Lake—and ran out of gasoline.

Despite constant shoveling by James Poe and Fred Miller, the relentless wind buried the car with snow blown from the dry lake bed. They huddled under blankets in the car for three days before deciding that it was suicide to remain there without heat and food. On December 30, Fred Miller, the unmarried member of the party, volunteered to brave the blizzard and hike to another mine for help. Bill and Alice Smith had a year-round cabin at the Kelly Mine, about 20 miles south, and were well known for helping others in distress. It was a mission of life or death.

Only hours after Miller set out, the storm exploded in its fury. All night long the wind shrieked and pelted the car with ice. As the snow deepened around them, the four companions feared Miller would not survive his desperate trek. Two days passed, and despite



The rescue route crossed what is now the Nevada Test Site and the top-secret Area 51.

their prayers, Miller failed to return.

By previous agreement James Poe was next to go. Provisioned with only one can of corned beef, Poe solemnly left the

safety of the sedan and pressed out into the cold. He could not fail. The lives of three women, one of them his wife and one his sister, depended upon his success.

In his heroic effort to get help, James Poe battled temperatures of minus 10 degrees. The wind chill was 30 below, and the snow three feet deep. After walking for 11 hours, he came upon the frozen body of Fred Miller. The sight of his friend face-down in a snowbank only intensified Poe's determination to push on. He set Joshua trees on fire to keep warm and signal distress, but no one came. Every hour or so he ate a finger full of corned beef to maintain his strength. At one point Poe stopped between two rocks to rest but knew that if he laid down to sleep, he would never get up again. So Poe sat there, slowly smoking a cigarette, waiting for his strength to return. He couldn't sit long. The cold reminded him of the desper-

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FLORENCE LEE JONES=

PRESSED FOR CONDITION PRETTYMAN PARTY SURVIVORS. WILL POE'S TOE BE AMPUTATED? HOW LONG HE AND OTHERS BE IN HOSPITAL? ANY SERIOUS COMPLICATIONS LIKELY?=
ASSOCIATED PRESS.

News organizations begged Las Vegas reporter Florence Lee Jones for details of the group's ordeal.

ate nature of his mission, and it wasn't long before he resumed walking.

Poe stumbled through the storm for 22 hours. He was delirious from cold, hunger, and fatigue when he finally found the Kelly Mine. The Smiths were stunned when he burst into their cabin holding a half-filled can of corned beef and crying, "Kitty, kitty, kitty." Poe, crazed and incoherent, thought he was back at the stranded automobile. The Smiths offered Poe bread, water, and whiskey and tried to calm him down.

Despite Poe's frozen feet and compromised mental state, he and Smith took off immediately in Smith's 1929

half a loaf of bread and one can of corn beef with him. James took only one can of corn beef with him. For water we have eaten snow, also snow for food for the last three days. There are also our two cats and one dog with us. Had we not had our blankets with us, we would have frozen to death before now."

The women were weak and fading fast when they heard Smith's truck laboring toward them. The women and animals were loaded onto the truck and rushed back to the cabin for first aid. Mrs. Prettyman, Mrs. Poe, Doris Dunn, and James Poe were all suffering from painful frostbite on their feet, which were

Model A Ford truck to rescue the women. But the disoriented Poe was no help to Smith, and two days were wasted before they found the buried sedan.

Meanwhile, the three women calmly awaited the end. Mrs. Prettyman wrote in her diary, "This being the third day of January, it makes us here eight days. We have lived on three cans of corned beef and a half loaf of bread. Miller took

so swollen that Smith had to cut their boots off with a razor blade.

Mrs. Prettyman was also suffering from mental fatigue and severe gallstone attacks. She had hardly slept since leaving the mine eight days before.

Eight more days passed as the four ragged survivors were doctored and tended to by the Smiths. Their enforced isolation at the cabin was reminiscent of the misery the group endured while marooned in the car. They still were cut off from the outside world by an impenetrable barrier of snow.

There was a small radio at the cabin, however, and on January 12 a bedridden James Poe heard a garbled broadcast. It described a massive rescue effort. Bulldozers were opening snow-choked roads while hundreds of men hacked away at the enormous drifts. Planes flew overhead looking for life, but searchers feared that the members of the Prettyman party were lost and possibly dead.

Knowing a rescue effort was under way, they scrawled a message on a bedsheet and fastened it to the roof of the small shack. It read, "Help. One dead. Three sick. Prettyman party here."

Two hours later Lee Prettyman flew over the Smith cabin and saw the message. Thirty-six hours later a large tractor-plow was chugging toward the



A Pacific Greyhound bus is stuck near Wells in the early 1930s.

Winter traveling is much safer in Nevada today than in the winter of 1936-37 when the Prettyman party and other travelers were marooned during endless blizzards. But even with modern roads, cellular phones, and better automobiles, winter travelers should be alert for Mother Nature's unpredictability and watch for signs of the first snowflake or icy overpass. Trooper Jeff Leathley, public information officer for the Nevada Highway Patrol, has helped rescue a number of snowbound

SNOW TRAVEL

motorists. Here, he offers a few key winter traveling tips:

Car Check: Before traveling you should inspect your vehicle for good tire tread, fluid levels, windshield-washer spray and antifreeze. It's also wise to carry tire chains, blankets, nonperishable food, and water.

Radar on the Range: The single most important thing to remember when driving in winter is simply to reduce your speed. Also, wearing a seat belt gives you a 70-percent better chance of surviving and avoiding serious injury in an accident.

Stay Put: If you become stranded, stay with your vehicle. Unless you have appropriate clothing and like cold-weather hiking, you won't enjoy—or possibly survive—a nasty storm. Windchill and wet feet can be your worst enemies, and staying in your car is the best way to shun the elements. Nevada also is notorious for "horizontal snow" which makes it notoriously easy to get lost while on foot.

Lonely Roads: Just because there's a line on a road map, don't assume that it represents a good road. It gets lonely out there, and Nevada has remote, seldom-traveled roads—and even highways—where you might not see a fellow traveler during a blizzard. Be aware that some of the rural roads on maps may be dirt roads and quite possibly not plowed during storms.

Weather Watching: Keep an eye on the weather—Nevada is one big meteorological extreme. A major storm can appear in a minute, and dry roads can be quickly covered by a sea of flickering snowflakes. Check road conditions before setting out on a trip. For Nevada conditions call 702-793-1313. For information about travel in the Sierra call 916-445-ROAD if you're in Nevada and 800-427-ROAD if you're in California. Travelers who carry cellular phones can dial the Nevada Highway Patrol's "motorist assist" program, *647 (NHP), to alert officers to stranded motorists, reckless drivers, or accidents.

—Carolyn Graham

Smith cabin. Prettyman, accompanied by two policemen and a doctor, followed the plow in a car.

But sometimes no lessons are learned from tragedy. The four men, gung-ho but poorly prepared, ran out of gas and became stranded on the road. The lead tractor pushed on, leaving the four behind in the frigid darkness of night. Without blankets, the would-be heroes were left to shiver helplessly and wait for the snowplow's return. Their only food was a container of potato salad and sandwiches that were too frozen to eat.

The tractor forged ahead another 20 miles before it ran low on fuel. Heading back to base camp, the tractor crew came upon Lee Prettyman and company 10 hours after their car had run out of gas. The four men were suffering from frostbite and needed medical attention.

As darkness neared and ominous

"But for the heroic efforts of Poe, whose stamina and determination carried him through, the entire party would have perished in the snowbound wastes."

clouds portended more snow, snowplows and trucks broke through to the Kelly Mine. The exhausted rescue crews decided to wait until daylight before attempting to evacuate the three women and Poe. Fortunately, the weather held, and the next day the convoy began the slow crawl home.

The drama might have ended there, but fate demanded more from the battle-weary group. When the convoy reached Indian Springs, it was decided that the automobiles carrying the victims should go ahead unescorted. This decision proved overly optimistic, as the makeshift ambulances soon became mired in slush and snow. No further progress was made that day, and everyone was forced to spend another night in the desert.

To Mrs. Prettyman and the others it seemed as if their punishment would never end. Finally late the next day a tractor arrived to drag the autos onto the cleared Tonopah-Las Vegas Highway. The four survivors were admitted to a Las Vegas hospital on January 18,

22 days after their ordeal began.

The Prettymans were happily reunited, and doctors said everyone in the party should completely recover. In the end, all three women were fine, and James Poe lost parts of two toes.

Fred Miller, the prospector who lost his battle with the elements, was remembered for his valiant effort.

"When Miller set out, he was determined to get help...but his strength failed, and he sacrificed his life," read a story in the *Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal* on January 19, 1937. "But for the heroic efforts of Poe, whose stamina and

determination carried him through indescribable hours, the entire party would have perished in the snowbound wastes."

Poe wrote a first-hand account in the newspaper recalling his grueling trek through the snow. Likely echoing the feelings of his companions, he concluded, "I've been through hell and I don't want to go back." □

Mark McLaughlin of North Lake Tahoe is a university lecturer and freelance writer. He currently is writing two books about the weather history of Nevada and the Sierra.

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Shades of Skiers Past

"Nevada folks have gone in for winter sports in a big way," proclaimed a story accompanying this photograph in the April 1948 issue of *Nevada Highways and Parks*. The skiers were enjoying the "picturesque surroundings" of the Mount Rose Course, one of several "winter sports bowls" taking shape in Nevada in the late 1940s. The article noted:

"On weekends especially, the vari-

ous courses adjacent to the Nevada towns accommodate hundreds of warmly dressed sports fans revelling in the snow. Some of these fans will come from points a hundred miles or more distant to enjoy the better courses which are to be found on the Nevada side of the mountains.

"Ski lanes and trails are found in all parts of the State. Many fans ride the glistening white trails on the snow-

covered slopes near Las Vegas, Ely, Elko, Reno, Winnemucca, and Carson City," the story continued.

"It's hard to keep Nevada folks indoors now, even in the winter time. No matter how cold it may get, or how severe the storm, they want to be outside and active during the daylight hours of leisure, and in a common chorus they sing that popular refrain 'let it snow, let it snow, let it snow'" □

Reno Divorce Days

In their book

"A Short History of Reno,"

Barbara and Myrick Land

chronicle how the

Biggest Little City

became world famous

as a divorce capital.

"I'm going to Reno!" the angry wife announced in countless movies of the 1930s. Audiences knew exactly what she meant. By that time, Reno was the divorce capital of the world.

Who hadn't heard about those "quickie" Nevada divorces that made headlines back east? If a Broadway celebrity wanted freedom from a spouse, New York divorce courts required proof of adultery. No other reason would do—and the process was slow.

In Reno it was so much easier. Just visit the town for six weeks and become a legal resident of Nevada. After that, the restless one could join a line of divorce-seekers at the Washoe County Courthouse, spend no more than 10 minutes answering the judge's questions, and—presto! Divorce granted—on grounds no more specific than "incompatibility" or "mental cruelty."

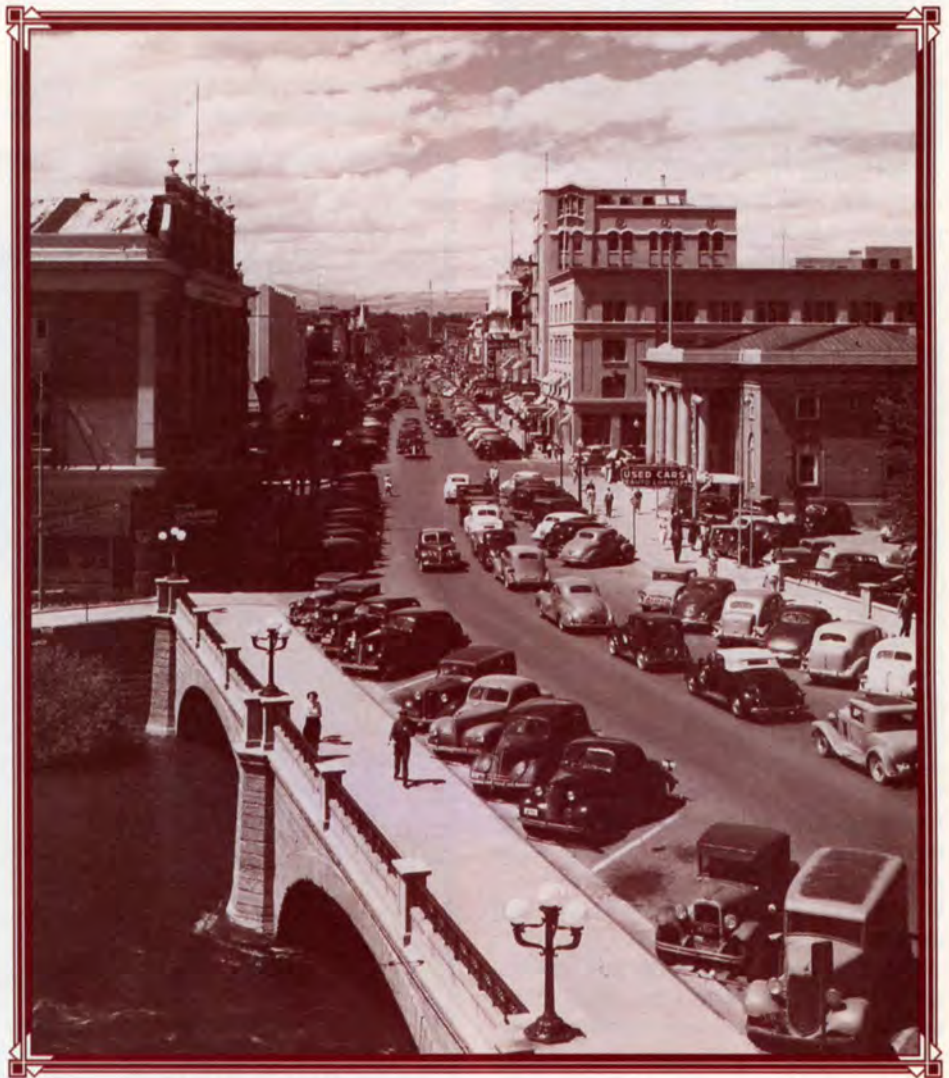
In a scene from "The Women," Clare Boothe's 1936 Broadway play, four friends from New York are in Reno to break out of troubled marriages.

When the much-married Countess deLage proposes a celebration of a friend's divorce, young Peggy Day protests:

PEGGY: Oh, Countess deLage, I don't think a divorce is anything to celebrate.

COUNTESS: Wait 'til you've lost as many husbands as I have, Peggy... Married, divorced, married, divorced! But where Love leads I always follow. So here I am in Reno.

As soon as her divorce becomes final, the countess intends to marry a cowboy—with whom, she says, "I've been



The view from the Riverside Hotel, a headquarters for the divorce set, included what publicists called the Bridge of Sighs. According to legend, newly divorced women would fling their wedding rings into the Truckee River from the bridge.

galloping madly over the desert all day!" The countess is about to become a statistic—one of the many divorcees who came to Reno to shed one mate and find another.

The playwright's vision of Reno, designed for laughs, exaggerates and simplifies Nevada's divorce mill of the '30s, but Clare Boothe knew the scene firsthand. She had spent three months in Reno in 1929—before the residence requirement was reduced to six weeks—waiting for her divorce from New York millionaire George Brokaw. During that time, five years before her marriage to

Time-Life publisher Henry Luce, Boothe met dozens of women whose stories provided later inspiration for some of her characters in "The Women."

Many of these divorcees she met at the home of Washoe District Judge George A. Bartlett and his wife Pearl. During his 20 years on the bench, Judge Bartlett granted thousands of divorces. It was Bartlett who introduced into the Nevada divorce statute a clause that made it unnecessary for a divorce-seeker to make specific charges against a mate.

"In this way," he said, "the present

morbid practice of publicizing the intimate details of divorce action will be avoided."

One Hollywood starlet, grateful for her freedom, said she owed it all to "Judgie." Others picked up the nickname—and it stuck. Everybody in Reno knew "Judgie" Bartlett.

The Bartletts loved giving parties where authors and movie stars exchanged chit-chat with opera singers, prizefighters, and medical researchers. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Tallulah Bankhead, Sherwood Anderson, Katherine Anne Porter, Jack Dempsey, and Paul de Kruif were just a few of the famous names on their guest lists.

Those were the days when local newspapers kept track of divorces and marriages and presented the numbers like baseball scores.

A headline in the *Nevada State Journal*, December 31, 1931.

**DIVORCE DECREES
OF 1931 NEARLY DOUBLE
THOSE OF 1930
4248 Get Marital Freedom;
Marriage Licenses Larger Than
Divorce Actions**

Nevada's easy divorce laws had shocked sedate Easterners since territorial days. Miners who came to find fortunes in the Comstock often found new lives and new loves. If they were going to establish new families legally—they had to be sure of legal separation from former mates.

As early as 1871, Nevada courts declared that anyone who had been a resident of the state for six months could obtain a divorce without documenting charges of adultery. Nevada's reputation for easy divorce-with-few-questions-asked spread around the world, propelled by such sensational divorces as those of Britain's Lord and Lady Russell in 1899 and William Ellis Corey, the president of U.S. Steel, and his wife Laura in 1905.

In 1920, the really big name was Mary Pickford, "America's Sweetheart." The silent screen star had decided to leave her first husband, Owen Moore, to marry Douglas Fairbanks, the dashing actor. Attempting to avoid publicity, the actress used her legal name, Gladys Moore, when she arrived at a ranch near Minden, south of Reno.

Two weeks later, Owen Moore showed up in Minden and was hand-

ed divorce papers. When the case came up before District Judge Frank P. Langan, he granted the divorce, ignoring the six-month residence requirement.

Was the divorce legal—or wasn't it? Newspapers speculated. Unquestionably, the actress was not a permanent resident of Nevada. As soon as Judge Langan handed down his decree, she returned to California to marry Fairbanks.

Gossips predicted trouble. They said the sheriff of Douglas County had been

idence period to six weeks, Berry's freelance opportunities multiplied. His byline turned up everywhere.

"My stories made the front pages—with headlines THAT big," Berry recalled more than 60 years later. His biggest break came in 1941 when he told the world that Gloria Vanderbilt was getting a Reno divorce from Pat DeCicco to marry white-haired conductor Leopold Stokowski.

The millionairess recalled her meetings with the reporter in *Black Knight*—*White Knight*, her 1987 memoir based on her own diaries:

"Bill Berry is a constant companion, following me everywhere, friendly as pie, questioning me as if he knows nothing, so I'll be drawn into explaining things and talking a lot. L. is already on the train and I'm desperate as there's no way to warn him."

Stokowski hated personal publicity, she explained, and she was determined to protect him from reporters. "He has stressed to me that if ever questioned by reporters I'm to keep repeating, no matter what, 'I never answer personal questions I never answer personal questions I never answer personal questions I never answer personal questions...'"

So Gloria left her rented car parked outside the Riverside Hotel, hoping

to divert Berry, and drove off in another car with a woman companion, in the middle of the night, to meet Stokowski at the railroad station in Truckee.

When Stokowski stepped down from the train, "wearing the hat he always wears for disguise," guess who appeared on the platform to welcome him? Bill Berry grabbed the famous conductor's hand and said, "Welcome to Truckee, the back door to Nevada!"

"He thought Bill Berry was a railroad employee," Vanderbilt wrote—until the reporter announced, "I represent the *New York Daily News*." Stokowski choked, while Berry—asking questions all the way—followed him to the car where Gloria was waiting. As they drove



When Actress Mary Pickford was granted a speedy divorce in Minden, the outcry was as swift as the judge's decree. The actress then married Douglas Fairbanks.

bribed to serve the divorce papers and that Judge Langan had been paid \$1,000 to call a special session of his court to hear the case. Nobody proved the rumors, but newspapers managed to keep the Pickford divorce story alive for the next two years.

A young reporter who came to Reno in 1928 was William B. Berry, an ambitious freelancer who took a job as a linotype operator at the *Nevada State Journal*. He sold divorce stories to United Press, pictures to the Associated Press, and celebrity interviews to newspapers across the country. In 1931, when Nevada divorce laws reduced the required three-month res-

**"There were
about 4,800
divorce-seekers in
Nevada in 1931
when a peculiarly
Nevada kind of
dude ranch
began to appear."**

away through the snow, Berry wished the couple "all the happiness in the world." At that moment, the bride-to-be recalled, she was so happy she loved everybody—"Bill Berry, too, yes I did!"

The Vanderbilt story led Berry to a full-time job with the *New York Daily News*. After that, he became the paper's full-time Reno correspondent—until 1964.

When Berry first arrived in Reno, most wealthy divorce-seekers rented houses for the required three months or lived at the Riverside Hotel. A few of them found more privacy on ranches outside of town.

Cattle rancher Neil West, recognizing an opportunity when he saw one, built cabins on his property west of Pyramid Lake and rented them to "dudes" who wanted a taste of home on the range. By 1931, when the six-week divorce law went into effect, other horse and cattle ranches—most of them near Pyramid Lake—were offering accommodations to visitors.

In *Nevada Towns and Tales* Nancy J. Jackson describes the most popular divorce ranches of the time:

"There were about 4,800 divorce-seekers in Nevada in 1931 when a peculiarly Nevada kind of dude ranch began to appear; built for the 'trade,' they usually were full before the paint was dry in the new kitchen."

Journalist Lloyd Boles, a high school student when Reno was the country's divorce capital, remembers his own after-school job at Lawton Hot Springs, a favorite refuge for Eastern divorce-seekers.

"I used to drive a 1935 Dodge station wagon down to the Reno railroad station to pick up guests," he recalled. "Mark Yori, the owner of the resort, would point out socialites when they registered—but I was just a kid, so it didn't mean an awful lot to me."

What *did* mean a lot to a teenage boy was meeting a famous movie star. Boles was working in the produce department of a Reno supermarket one day when he was suddenly aware of an exotic perfume and noticed a set of bright green fingernails hovering over the lettuce.



Bill Berry, here offering a toast at his 80th birthday party, scooped the world when Gloria Vanderbilt sought a Reno divorce in 1941.



Lloyd Boles was a teenager when Paulette Goddard gave him a memorable tip. She was in Reno to divorce Charlie Chaplin.

He looked up—into the luminous eyes of Paulette Goddard.

"She was here to get a divorce from Charlie Chaplin," Boles explained. "She was staying in a bungalow near the market and she asked me to carry her groceries home." Half a century later, Boles still has the silver dollar the actress gave him for a tip. □

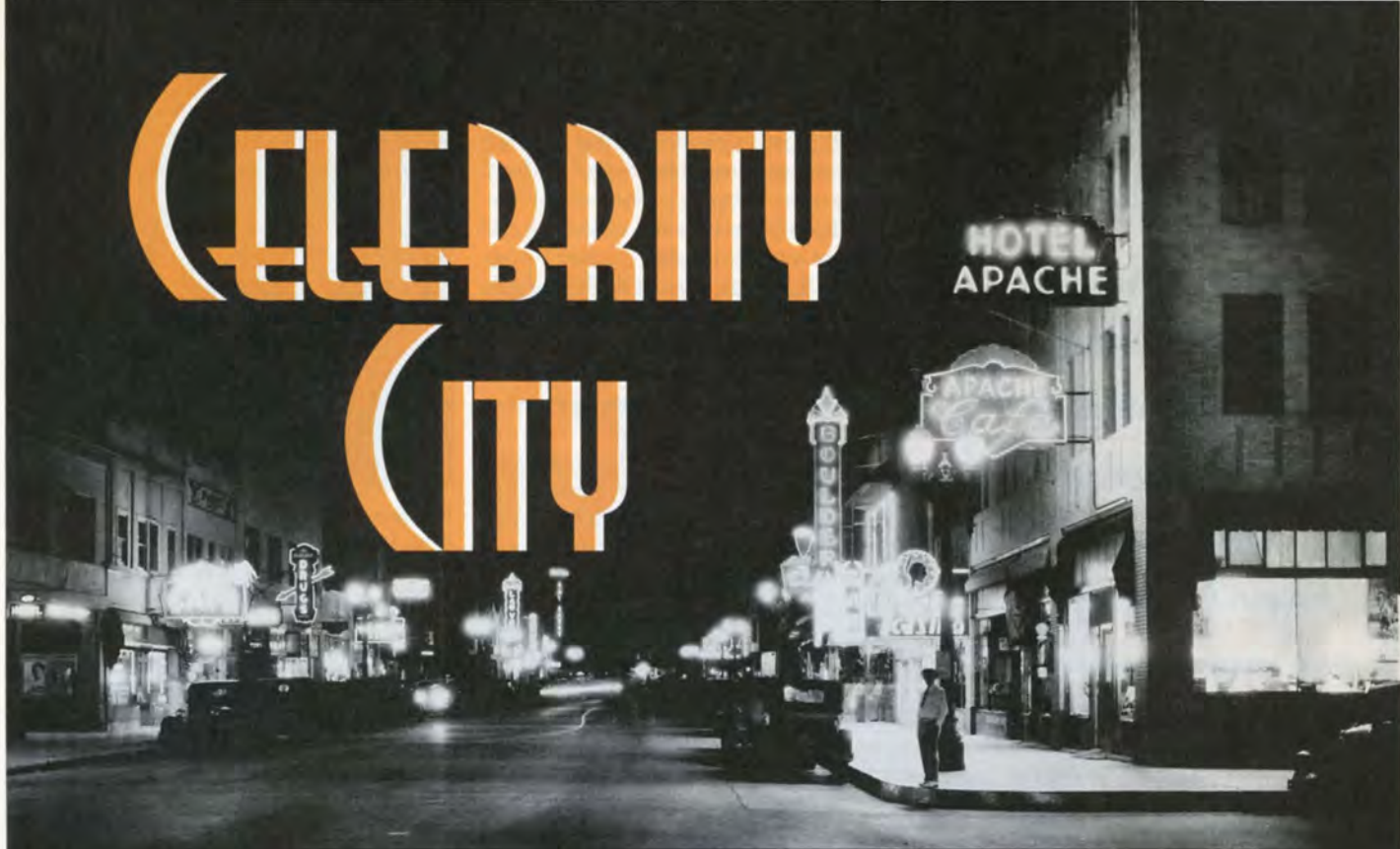
Barbara and Myrick Land of Reno have coauthored six books, including *A Sierra Mosaic*. Barbara Land is the author of five books, including her latest, *Las Vegas With Kids*, and is a book columnist for the *Reno Gazette-Journal*. Myrick Land has written several mysteries and is professor emeritus of journalism at the University of Nevada, Reno.

The preceding excerpt is from *A Short History of Reno* (130 pages, \$14.95), published recently by the University of Nevada Press. *A Short History of Reno* is available from the University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV 89557-0076 (phone 702-784-6573) and at bookstores.



Divorce-seekers found companionship, horsemanship, and sometimes romance on dude ranches in Washoe Valley and near Pyramid Lake. The state's residence requirement was reduced to six weeks in 1931, the same year wide-open gambling became legal.

CELEBRITY CITY



Las Vegas attracted the glitterati long before Bugsy Siegel showed up.

BY BILL WILLARD

Jhey've all been to Las Vegas or they're on their way to the Big Attraction..

All of the Grand Panjandruns of the world.

Presidents of the U.S.A. and Senators and Congressional Representatives and Grand Sachems and Big Cheeses and Cocks of the Walk from all continents...

Premiers and Prime Ministers and Royalty and Chiefs and Shahs and Sheiks and Brass Hats and Admirals and Corporate Poobahs and All Other High-Mucky-Muck Factotums.

But it took a movie star to rescue Las Vegas: Clark Gable.

The noise and hoopla from the building of Boulder Dam had receded by the late 1930s, and the town of 7,000 was subsiding into normalcy, which was not the way to go at all. Sure, the dam was a tourist attraction, but Vegas wanted to offer more than a big cement stopper to the Colorado River.

By chance it seemed like a salubrious toss of the dice or a row of sevens on the slot machine.

Ria Gable showed up one fine day to get a divorce from the screen's Number

One box office biggie, choosing Vegas over Reno, which was world-famous as a divorce capital in the late '30s...

"In doing so, she accomplished what the combined efforts of all the local civic

organizations had failed to do," wrote Las Vegas attorney Paul Ralli in *Viva Vegas*. "She put Las Vegas on the map as a divorce competitor to Reno. From that day on, Vegas has never looked back."

Clark Gable figured in many an item and article stamped with Las Vegas and Reno datelines from the '30s to the '60s finale, his last film hurrah, *The Misfits* with Marilyn Monroe...

Other famous folk did flock to the outrageous little desert playbox in the 1920s and '30s...

Top item in the early '20s was the arrival of Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover to look over his special project, Boulder Dam, but not before he and Governor Emmett Boyle and Arizona Governor Thomas Campbell were cheered and lauded by a big party in the Union Pacific dining room.

Hollywood moved to Vegas in 1923 as Hal Roach Studios found Valley of Fire and Overton a perfect area to shoot some horse-oriented oaters such as *Rex, Rex: The Devil Horse*, *Black Cyclone*, and *Rex: King of the Wild Horses*, pitching the fabulous steed as "the horse that won the West." Cameraman was George



Clara Bow (above) and Rex Bell were an original celebrity couple. In the 1930s, Las Vegas nightlife was centered downtown (top).

Stevens lensing stars Barbara Kent and Billy "Big Boy" Williams and villain Oliver Hardy... Roach later wound his Valley of Fire shot with *One Million B.C.* in 1940 with Victor Mature, Lon Chaney Sr., and Carole Landis...

Amelia Earhart landed her De Havilland Moth at Rockwell Field after bucking gale winds and decided to stay over to explore the glowing incandescence of Fremont Street, bunking overnight at the Nevada Hotel before flying on to Salt Lake City ('28)... Fancy Hollywood contingent up to applaud "It" girl Clara Bow in *Ladies of the Mob*, inaugurating the new El Portal Theatre with Mayor Ernie Cragin introducing Neil Hamilton and Doris Hill from the stage ('28)...

The "World's Greatest Lover" John Gilbert slipped the ring on Ina Claire's finger at the Clark County Courthouse, which puts Las Vegas one-up over Yuma as the Gretna Green of the West ('29)...

Mary Pickford, Doug Fairbanks, and Lillian Gish winged in to take the Boulder Canyon tour ('29).. Paramount Pictures crew arrived to shoot footage of Boulder dams site ('29). New York playboy Kip Rhinelander crept into town for a divorce and slushed up to Mount Charleston to rent a cabin for six weeks ('29)... That was some promotion Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer pulled, rolling Gary Cooper to Las Vegas from Los Angeles on the Union Pacific as the picture party watched Gary's latest, *The Virginian* ('29)...

Clara Bow and b.f. Rex Bell (George Beldam) were seen chatting with Will Rogers at the McDonald ('30)... Wallace Beery steered his 16-cylinder Caddy touring car up Highway 91 from L.A. in a fast getaway from the studio and a week's rest here ('30).. Star Hearst columnist Louella Parsons was furious at local United Press reporter John Cahlan for scooping her on the Clara Bow-Rex Bell nuptials. The blissful couple bought the old Wolfe ranch south of Searchlight, but there are whispers they were honeymooning at the ranch long before they made it legal ('31)... Although husband Hal was filming one of his oaters in Val-

Mae West had the town males panting during her visit last week

ley of Fire, Mrs. Roach checked in for a divorce ('31). Meanwhile bells were ringing for cowboy star Bill "Hopalong Cassidy" Boyd, hitched for the fourth time but mebbe his Vegasplice will last ('31).

The wide-open gambling bill was good news for visiting celebrities, and the six weeks' residence divorce bill made Las Vegas a certain tourist attrac-

also wanted to compete with lurid Block 16 downtown offering svelte nocturnal ladies for the carriage trade ('31)...

Clark and Ria Gable and Mary Astor were given the gimlet eye and admitted to the secret speakeasy at the newly opened Apache Hotel. That was some premiere with Hollywood comedian Roscoe Ates spouting his stuttering nonsense, the event marked by a crush to ride the only elevator in town up and down three floors ('32)... Jack Dempsey is now sponsoring fights at the American Legion stadium ('33). Separately spotted making the Fremont Street scene were Katharine Hepburn and Oliver Hardy, and there were a couple of weddings that hit the wires, Andy Devine's and Polly Moran's, but they didn't marry each other, more's the pity ('33). National print and radio waves were made when the flash hummed about the secret Las Vegas wedding of Johnny Weiss-

muller and Lupe Velez. The honeymooners broke the story in Hollywood a month later ('33)... It was a lonely revisit by ex-President Herbert Hoover to the dam he worked years to get built knowing that Interior Secretary Harold Ickes in FDR's cabinet was going to officially switch the name from Hoover Dam to Boulder Dam ('33)...

It's Happy New Year 1934 with repeal of Prohibition as Las Vegas no longer has to put up with the Prohi's knocking off the best saloons. The Feds did hand the local distillers a compliment, however, admitting their stuff was some of the best booze in the country..

Rex Bell passing out stogies as wife Clara Bow gave birth to a lad they named Rex Latham ('34). *Tarzan* author Edgar Rice Burroughs holed up at Kyle Ranch for a divorce from his Jane ('34)... Former screen actor now

lawyer Paul Ralli has been tabbed by Chamber of Commerce to cajole the movie industry into building studios in Las Vegas. He's been showing the town to Helen Hayes and Ronald Coleman and Richard Barthelmess. Also in tow is new Western-type heartbreaker John Wayne ('34). Harold Anderson is fight-



Clark and Ria Gable visited the Apache Hotel's speakeasy in 1932, but their divorce seven years later was really big news.

tion. Notice that the Prohibition bill sponsored by the Women's Christian Temperance Union couldn't find a single lawmaker in Carson City to introduce it ('31)... Gala black tie and hoity-toity evening-gown opening for the Corneros' resort, The Meadows, very posh. Brothers Tony, Frankie, and Louie



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ing a \$100,000 divorce settlement from Miss America 1930, Betty Lee ('34).

The old saw "Go west, young man" really meant something as Mae West had the town males panting during her visit last week, while John Wayne and Clark Gable were causing the same symptoms among femmes ('35). President Roosevelt, wife Eleanor, to Boulder Dam for dedication of the Eighth Wonder of the World with FDR inton-

*Elks Club toppers to
invite Tom Mix,
Tex Ritter, and
Hoot Gibson
to head parades*

ing, "I came, I saw, and I was conquered, as every man will be who sees for the first time this great achievement." It was last year that Las Vegas lost out to Reno when FDR's daughter Anna buzzed to Nevada for her six-week cure ('35). Success of the first Helldorado in May



Aviator Howard Hughes, future Strip hotel magnate, caroused downtown in the '30s.



Virginia Jones and Oliver Hardy were among the Hollywood folks who tied the knot in Vegas.

prompts sponsoring Elks Club toppers to look ahead and invite Tom Mix, Buck Jones, Tex Ritter, and Hoot Gibson to head the parades, not to pass up the genuine Hollywood-Vegas cowboy from Searchlight, Rex Bell ('35)... Las Vegas mourns the passing of Will Rogers, killed in Alaska in the crash of the plane flown by Wiley Post, also killed. Will loved his rounds of the Bright Lights on Fremont Street and was the Goodwill Ambassador of the town for years ('35)...

Checking into the new Wollman Hotel, Alice Faye, Ozzie and Harriet Nelson, Charles Bickford, greeted by innkeepers Murray and Agnes Wollman in person, up from L.A. ('36)... Viscount and Lady Falmouth and Maharajah of Indore with fancy retinues bypassed Las Vegas to soiree at the Boulder Dam Hotel. This spa is getting to be one of the most prestigious resorts in the West with the desk blotter imprinting many eminent names—Cardinal Pacelli, who looks certain to become Pope Pius XII, Boris Karloff, Howard Hughes, Bette Davis, Ronald Coleman, Henry Fonda, and Shirley Temple ('37)...

Item: Then comes Ria Gable to be cured of Clark, who is already an item with Carole Lombard ('39).

Meanwhile, Nelson Eddy and Ann Franklin are wed in Las Vegas, as are Tommy Dorsey and Pat Dane, Betty Grable and Harry James, Zsa Zsa Gabor and George Sanders...

Add considerably more names to the marriage roster, all illumined by press and radio and television fanfare date-

lined Las Vegas: Fernando Lamas and Arlene Dahl... Joan Crawford and Alfred Steele. Rita Hayworth and Dick Haymes... Artie Shaw and Lana Turner. Oliver Hardy and Virginia Jones...

Brides and grooms Judy Garland and Elvis Presley and Ann-Margret and Wayne Newton and Tony Randall and Corinne Calvet and Deanna Durbin and Betty Hutton and James Caan and Rod Taylor and David Cassidy and Richard Gere and Paul Revere.

Paul Revere?

Not that one-if-by-land-two-if-by-sea Paul Revere but the leader of the rock

group called the Raiders.

And so it goes on and on and on and on and on.

The list of fancy names has never stopped filling columns and broadcasting air. And will never stop as long as there is a Celebrity City, U.S.A.

Las Vegas... the city that never looked back. □

Bill Willard, actor, artist, columnist, is also director of the Arnold Shaw Research Center for Popular Music at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and is writing a nonfiction tome titled Alas Vegas!

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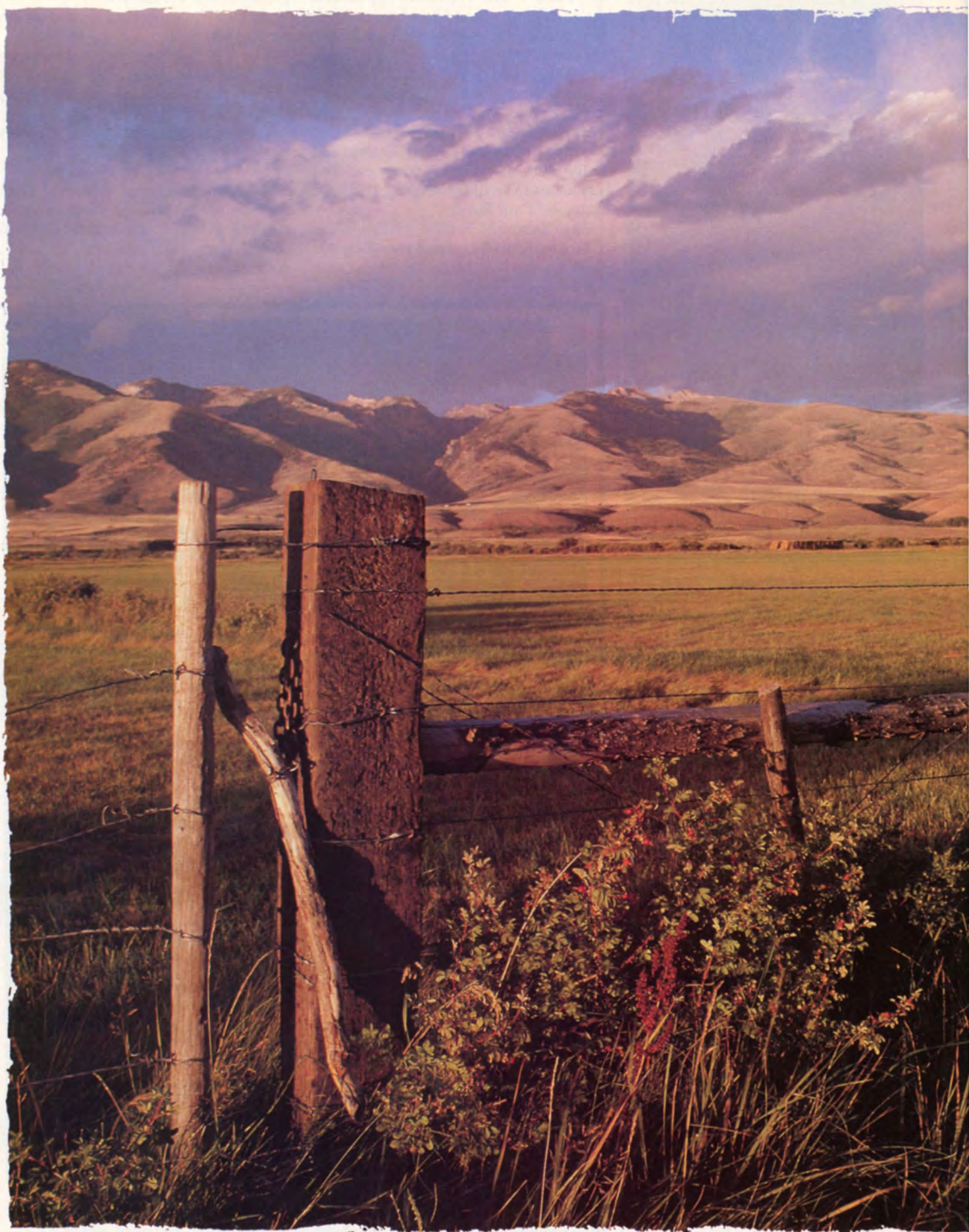


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DINING OUT

History adds spice to these three Nevada eateries.

Boulder Dam Hotel: Dinner at Tiffany's

By Ann Henderson

During the Boulder Dam Hotel's heyday in the late 1930s, when the handsome, pillared hotel entertained Hollywood stars and European royalty, guests like Bette Davis and Prince Otto of Austria could enjoy food fit for the famous in the hotel's dining room. Over the next 50 years, however, the hotel was often closed, leaving the restaurant all too quiet.

Today the hotel is open again, thanks to an alliance of Boulder City civic organizations that are leading a \$1-million renovation of the landmark. It is home now to the town's art guild and a new restaurant, Tiffany's.

As you enter though the lobby, you see the dining room's period chandeliers, tapestry panels that reach the ceil-

Besides the art gallery
and a small bar,
Tiffany's shares the
hotel with a number
of resident ghosts.

ing, and tables draped in red to match the window coverings.

Owner Jay DeRusso and his son, Jim, opened Tiffany's last May. Jim manages the restaurant for his father, a shift boss at Harrah's Las Vegas.

"There was no master plan to do this," says Jim, who previously worked in public relations for a minor-league hockey team in New Haven, Connecticut. "My dad called me, wanting to know if I wanted to open a restaurant with him in Boulder City. My response was, 'Why not?'"

Jay's family owned DiNicola's restau-



Dignitaries stayed at the Boulder Dam Hotel while visiting the dam and Lake Mead in the 1930s. Today at Tiffany's Ristorante: chef Fabio Pagnozzi (left), manager Jim DeRusso, and Boulder City resident Pamela Hyde.

rant in New Haven for 25 years, but the recipes at Tiffany's aren't from Connecticut. Instead, Jay gives credit to chef Fabio Pagnozzi, who emigrated from Naples three years ago.

The menu offers pasta, chicken, veal, steak, and seafood dishes. One of the restaurant's specialties is an excellent Duck à l'Orange (\$22). Moist and lightly seasoned, it is a treat. The Chicken Marsala (\$11.50) is particularly good. The chicken breasts are sautéed with shallots and mushrooms in a wine sauce and served with vegetables and potatoes seasoned in butter and basil.

Each of the 24 entrees is served with warm bread and garlic and rosemary-flavored olive oil for dipping. If captain Piero Castagna or his daughter, Eileen, urge you to try the house dressing, a sweet vinaigrette, heed their advice.

Tiffany's offers a small selection of wines and an array of other beverages, such as astrological drinks (\$6.50 and you keep the glass). For instance, an



Aries drink is a potent concoction consisting of vodka, raspberry liqueur, and grape juice.

Besides the Boulder City Art Guild's gallery and a small bar, Tiffany's shares the 62-year-old hotel with a number of resident ghosts. In 1980 a psychic detected the presence of a friendly woman on the second floor and a more mischievous spirit in the basement. So far, the misty manifestations haven't discovered Tiffany's, which is their loss.

Tiffany's Ristorante: Boulder Dam Hotel, 1305 Arizona St., Boulder City, 702-294-1666. Most entrees \$9.50 to \$17.95. Open daily 4 to 10 p.m. Reservations suggested. Major credit cards accepted.

Ann Henderson plans to return to the Boulder Dam Hotel for Duck à l'Orange and a ghost search.

Martin Hotel: Basqueing in Plenty

By K.J. Evans

There already may be a restaurant somewhere serving nouvelle Basque cuisine, a place of petite portions where a culinary artisan deftly transforms a single cherry tomato into a dozen long-stemmed roses—and then serves them for dinner.

But not in Nevada. Not now, and not anytime soon. And certainly not at the venerable Martin Hotel in Winnemucca, where owner Bill Arant upholds the Basque tradition of feeding all guests as though they had been in the hills for the past three years herding sheep and living off hardtack and beans.

There are four Basque eateries in Winnemucca. The oldest is the Winnemucca Hotel, built in the 1860s. Ormachea's dates from 1978, and the San Fermin is brand-new.

The Martin was constructed in the 1880s beside the tracks at Melarkey and Railroad streets. Nowadays, the town's main drag is blacktop, not steel rails, a fact that puts the Martin a few blocks off the beaten path. No problem, says

Arant. "Since we have the worst location in the West, we have to serve the best food in the West," he declares.

In fine Basque tradition, the front door opens into a tidy bar, where you may titillate your palate—or paralyze it, depending upon your personal preference—with that most potent of Basque potables, a picon punch. Don't rush. Savor the ambience and furnishings, the old, dark woods and the pressed-tin walls and ceilings. Spend some time looking over the historic photos of old Winnemucca and the letters from members of the Martin family recalling the hotel's early days.

Meanwhile, over in the dining room, wine is flowing, and bowls and platters are floating from hand to hand, replenished as soon as they run low. The crowd is friendly, and everyone seems to know each other. You might think this is an

exclusively local crowd, but you would be wrong. The Martin is well-known throughout the state and is even developing an international following, hosting appetites from as far away as Rio de Janeiro and Cairo.

The fare is traditional Basque, served family style. First, you order an entree—steak, prime rib, shrimp, or the highly recommended leg of lamb. Your order unleashes a flood of food. The salad looks simple, and is. But it packs



Winnemucca's Martin Hotel in 1916, when the Martin family took it over. From left: Mr. Pasquale, A. Rene Martin, Marco the dog, and Elisee and Augustine Martin.

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a massive garlic wallop, providing a pungent appetizer. The soup is simple and fresh, cabbage and potatoes, usually. The bread is French, with integrity enough for soup-sopping. There are beans and French fries or baked potatoes, or possibly Basque potatoes, a fusion of mashed spuds, spinach, and garlic. Something unusual may arrive: a bowl of tripe and pig's feet, or breaded, deep-fried tongue. Too exotic? Have some more wine and reconsider.

Basque meals are designed to be eaten at a leisurely pace, with plenty of talking and gesticulating, which helps digestion. Those who stick their noses in the trough and don't surface until they are sated may miss half the dining experience. Arant has a simple and valuable piece of advice:

"Pace yourself," he says. "There's a lot more coming."

Martin Hotel: Melarkey and Railroad streets, Winnemucca, 702-623-3197. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (varied menu, \$5 to \$13). Dinner 5 to 9:30 p.m. (\$16.50). First come, first served. MasterCard and Visa.

K.J. Evans lives in Gardnerville, another Basque dining capital.

Coney Island: Where Lunch Is a 'Mess'

By Lenita Powers

It all started when an Italian bought a place in Sparks and his German cook showed him how to make great tamales.

Maybe that's why the people who frequent the Coney Island Bar are still an eclectic mix.

"We get governors and truck drivers, casino owners and construction workers, teachers and attorneys," says John Galletti, whose father Ralph opened the Coney Island in 1928 with a German cook who had a flair with Mexican dishes.

Or maybe the place opened in 1929 or '30. Galletti's not sure, but he remembers when his father only sold tamales wholesale to other Reno-area eateries. After Galletti returned from World War II, he took over his dad's wholesale tamale business and turned it into a restaurant and bar. This St. Patrick's Day the establishment will celebrate its 50th anniversary with green beer and other specials.

Galletti, 73, retired a couple of years ago, but he's still a fixture at the Coney



Island, which derives its name from an old amusement park that operated across the street. Son Greg runs the business now with the help of his sister, Dayna Galletti. His other sister, Lorri Van Woert, prepares gourmet meals every Wednesday night, the only day the Coney Island serves dinner. You can sit down to lunch, though, every day except Sunday.

Tucked away on Fourth Street between a gas station and an I-80 off-ramp, the Coney Island is drab brick outside. Inside it's plain bar—checkered linoleum floor, brown and beige walls, and that lived-in look, like a favorite old sweater that's worn but warm and cozy.

"We don't get any tourists," the elder Galletti says. "It's all local people." Indeed, it's the kind of place all the locals seem to know, a secret they try to keep to themselves. The parking lot is usually packed before noon.

You know you've found a place with character the moment you walk inside and see the "Free Beer Tomorrow" sign, the beady glass eyes staring from mounted animal heads on the walls, and a man in a Harley-Davidson vest crumbling Saltines on top of his homemade enchilada.

The Gallettis bring out the table linen on Wednesday night. Dinner entrees and pastas can vary from salmon fillet and risotto primavera to top sirloin and ravioli.

The Coney Island is famous for its

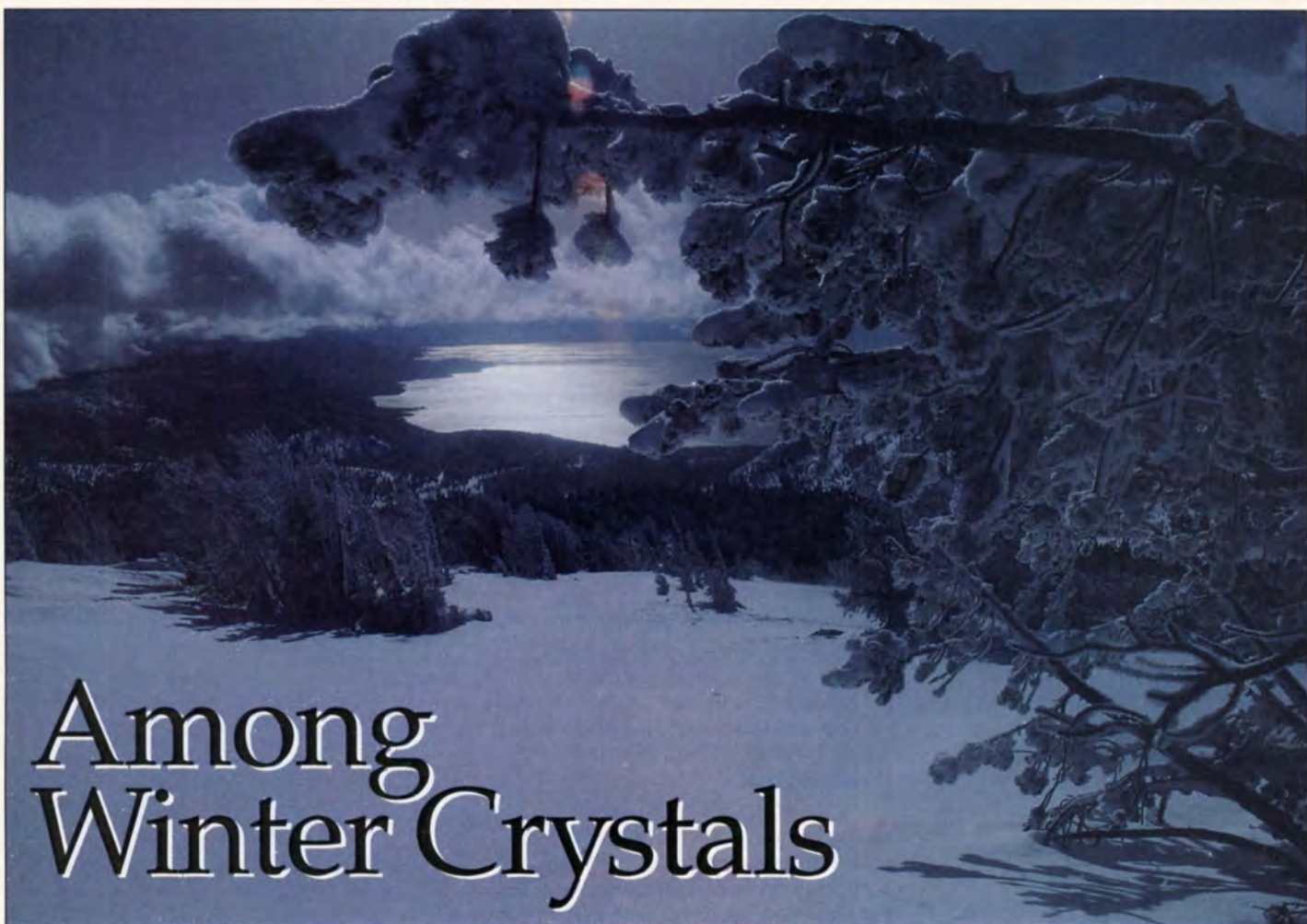


The Coney Island Bar in Sparks was named after an amusement park (top) that operated nearby in the early 1900s. At lunch time, Greg Galletti (left) works the kitchen with his father John.

luncheon specials. On Tuesday there's spaghetti with red sauce or pesto topped with roast beef (\$5.50). On Thursday the special is corned beef and cabbage (\$6.50). Other days you can dig into "The Mess," an enchilada buried under a mess of beans and salad (\$4.50). Saltines are optional.

Coney Island Bar: Two miles east of downtown Reno via Fourth Street, at 2644 Prater Way, Sparks, 702-358-6485. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday (\$4 to \$6.50). Reservations are required for dinner (\$14), which is served Wednesday evening only. MasterCard and Visa are accepted. □

Lenita Powers is a writer, columnist, and occasional dining critic for the Reno Gazette-Journal.



Among Winter Crystals

Winter camping can be a matter of survival—
or a sublime experience.

Stories and Photos by Alvin McLane

Snow camping is quiet. Sounds are deadened. All you hear are your own breathing and heartbeat and maybe a falling snowflake. You might notice the wind whistling through the woods or over the ridge top. Sensuous lines of snow, rosettes of snow flowers, and beautiful white-draped trees are framed by the clear blue sky.

When I told a friend recently that I was going snow camping, he said, "Brrrr, it doesn't sound like fun to me." But camping in the snow is wonderful if you are ready to adapt to your surroundings.

I enjoy winter sojourns just as much as summertime outings because a fresh snowfall obliterates all traces of hu-

**Snow camping
doesn't have to be
part of an emergency.
Instead, it can be
an invigorating
element of skiing or
snowshoeing.**

mans—the landscape is pure and white. The lengthened shadows cast by the winter sun create ethereal scenes. It feels as if there is no one else on earth. The wind sculpts the snow into dramatic forms. During a warming trend, the wind may cool the moisture in the air enough to form beautiful frost feathers on rocks and trees. At night the stars twinkle in the crisp air, and moonlight can make the snow bright as day.

Camping out in Nevada's snow country can be a sublime experience. It also can be a matter of survival.

An early-day account of winter camping on Wheeler Peak illustrates both the frightening and life-saving qualities of snow in the wilderness. It was Novem-

Top: This view of Lake Tahoe looking south from Tamarack Peak, near Mount Rose, sparkles with new-fallen snow.

ber 1882, and a group of surveyors was camped on Wheeler's 13,063-foot summit. One night a huge snowstorm engulfed the camp. The temperature plunged to 20 below zero, and the surveyors suffered terribly from the cold. Drifts of 10 to 12 feet covered the tents. Fortunately, the men saw firsthand snow's power of insulation. As William Eimbeck, one of the surveyors, wrote in a report, "the high snowdrifts which covered the living tents to within a foot or two of the apex saved the party from freezing to death."

Snow camping doesn't have to be part of a mid-winter emergency. Instead, it can be an adventurous and invigorating element of cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, mountaineering, or ice climbing.

Of course, to enjoy winter camping, you must be prepared. Equipment is important, but much of the preparation involves common sense.

For instance, if you're a beginner, go snow camping with knowledgeable persons. This safety rule cannot be stressed enough. It is simply too difficult and too dangerous to try to learn the basics on your own or with inexperienced friends.

It's also wise to pick a period of good weather. You do not want to take your first trip in a blizzard. Tents are hard to put up, and you'll wish your feet were propped up beside the fireplace at home.

Remember, this is a new experience, so take an easy route in an accessible area. The Tahoe Meadows area between Reno and Lake Tahoe is such a place. Northwest of Las Vegas, Mount Charleston has nice spots in Lee and Kyle canyons. South of Austin, Kingston Canyon is attractive. South of Elko, Lamoille Canyon in the Ruby Mountains is stunning in winter. Any one of the spectacular canyons in Great Basin National Park, east of Ely, is a great place to pitch a tent.

You'll want to take equipment that is lightweight and snow worthy. A good winter tent will have a waterproof bottom, a rain fly, and an external frame. Avoid tents that have to be pegged to the ground because pegs do not hold in the snow. You'll want a warm sleeping bag and a foam pad or air mattress, which provides insulation and helps prevent your body heat from melting a cavity in the snow under the tent.

Strive for three or four layers of clothing instead of one heavy set. This way, clothes can be easily added or removed as the temperature changes.

Boots should be water-resistant. I was reminded of the importance of good footgear while making the first recorded winter ascent of Mount Morrison, south of Mammoth Lakes in the Sierra, with two friends. Nightfall caught us near the summit, so we dug a snow hole and bivouacked. One partner complained of miserably cold feet. We took off his wet, soggy boots, and he warmed his bare feet on our other friend's bare chest. Only superficial frostbite came out of the misadventure—it could have been worse. Do not skimp on boots.

Take high-energy and easy-to-cook food to eat. Snack a lot and drink plenty of water or juice. This refuels the body

and keeps you warm before cold and tiredness set in.

Other essential items for a winter trek are sunglasses, sunblock (see sidebar), gloves or mittens, a mountaineer's shovel, and a head lamp. Ski poles are useful for balance. Remember that a heavy pack means fatigue—and a lousy time.

On any snow-country junket, it's wise to temper your enthusiasm and avoid all avalanche terrain. Valley bottoms, away from avalanche slide zones, and ridge tops are generally good routes. However, in areas of heavy snowfall, stay off the leeward sides of ridges where overhanging snow



Cross-country skiers glide across Tamarack Peak amid beautiful snow forms.



A camp in the Monitors looks almost summery—except for the skis and snow.



This snow cave has a kitchen counter. At night the upper portion will be plugged with snow blocks.

cornices build up. Be careful at stream crossings where snowbanks may collapse. Also, never travel across steep slopes.

Ironically, the biggest danger is often on shallow slopes of about 30 degrees. On steeper slopes, which are still dangerous, excess snow tends to slide naturally and frequently. But on shallower slopes, the skier or snowshoer may trig-

gers are warm, relatively speaking. My son and I should have been in one 15 years ago when we were camping one chilly night in the Toiyabe Range near Austin. We found a place along a creek to pitch the tent, but the cold was so intense that our hammer blows shattered the plastic tent pegs. The temperature was below zero, and my son and I shivered all night in our tent. A snow

ger an avalanche because he's creating the fracture plane where the slide can start.

After choosing a place to set up your tent, you'll want to stamp down the snow with your skis or snowshoes. This keeps holes from forming under your sleeping bag during the night.

You might want to build a snow shelter such as a snow cave or igloo. Snow shel-

cave would have been much warmer.

If the snow's consistency is right—that is, damp and solid—try building an igloo. You can use your shovel to make large blocks of snow. Remember not to make your first circle of snow blocks too big—this is an igloo, not a condominium—and your house of snow will go up fast. The floor can be shoveled out to add additional depth. Or, you can place the blocks in two rows so the tops touch each other like the peak of a house roof. Afterward, chink any openings with loose snow.

In making a snow cave, you need to start in a deep bank. After shoveling out the cave, test the roof to make sure it

**Take your camera—
the long winter
shadows allow good
photography all day.**

won't collapse. Then refill the entrance, but leave a low opening to crawl through. Before snuggling inside do not plug the entrance up tight. Besides shelter you also need air for survival—so punch a small hole through the top of your masterpiece.

The next day is the time to relax and enjoy the snow. After breakfast, look for animal tracks. Maybe you will see the print or trail left by a snowshoe hare, a coyote, or even a mountain lion. A couple of winters ago I came upon a line of mountain lion tracks in the Kawich Range east of Tonopah. I did a lot of peering back over my shoulder before returning to my Jeep.

Pull out the camera that you remembered to bring along. The camera and film must be kept from freezing. I place mine under my parka while hiking and take it to bed with me at night. Frozen or cold film will break or cause static streaks on the film when it is wound. The long shadows under the winter sun allow good photography all day long.

A couple of final tips: During the spring thaw, the snow may be stable in the morning, but by afternoon the sun can warm the snow enough to cause wet, cement-like avalanches, which you do not want to get caught in. While I was spring skiing one afternoon, my ski

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plunged under heavy snow, and I could not extricate my foot. With my shovel, which I always carry in my pack, I was able to dig away the heavy snow and free myself.

Also watch out that your group doesn't trek so far that you get tired and find it difficult to return to your car. Start out with as light a load as possible, and share tent parts and food with other members of the party. That way you'll remember your snow-camping excursion as more serendipity than survival. □

Alvin McLane of Reno is a widely traveled mountaineer and author of Silent Cordilleras, a guide to Nevada's mountain ranges.

Advice and Sun Notes

Be sure to go winter camping with friends who know the ropes (and snow). Forest Service offices can provide additional information. Mountaineering stores are good sources of equipment and advice.

Books: A good book currently in mountaineering shops is *Cold Comfort (Keeping Warm in the Outdoors)* by Glenn Randall (Lyons and Burford, 1987). An excellent book about snow with lots of pictures is *Avalanche Safety for Skiers and Climbers* by Tony Daffern (Alpenbooks, 1983).

Guided Trips: Camping and ice-climbing tours in the Sierra are available through Alpine Skills International (209-536-9108 for business office). You can stay overnight and have breakfast for \$24 at the ASI lodge, Donner Spitz Hütte (916-426-9108), at Donner Summit on Interstate 80.

Sun Notes: Sunblock is extremely important. The sun, altitude, and that crisp blue Nevada sky can cause sunburn. Snow reflects light from all directions. You can get sunburns under your chin and nose and behind your earlobes. I recall when one friend, who was dressed in knickers and socks, remembered to protect his arms, face, and neck. That evening at camp we found a neat red ring around his leg below the knee where socks and pants did not meet.

You did remember to bring that sunblock, didn't you?—*Alvin McLane*

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1930s Attractions

Many old-time tourist lures are still magnetic.

By David Moore

The 1930s not only introduced wide-open gaming and *Nevada Magazine* to the Silver State but also brought tourists lured by paved roads and new parks. As we celebrate the magazine's 60th birthday, here are some of the attractions that Nevada travelers found in the '30s.

1 Boulder Dam: Visitors began taking guided tours of Hoover Dam, or Boulder Dam, as it was then called, in 1936. Because workers were still installing generators in the power plant, tour guides had to speak through large megaphones so they could be heard above the din.

2 Lake Mead: The lake became a tourist attraction as soon as the Colorado River began filling behind Boulder Dam in 1936. From a dock on Regatta Bay (now Hemenway Harbor), visitors took boat cruises upstream to Grand Canyon National Park with Grand Canyon-Boulder Dam Tours. The company also offered scenic airplane flights over the dam for \$3 per person.

3 Lost City Museum: Before Lake Mead began covering some of the Pueblo ruins known as the Lost City, a museum was established in Overton, a small farming community 65 miles northeast of Las Vegas. Civilian Conservation Corps workers helped excavate the ruins and built the museum, which still stands, out of adobe.

4 Las Vegas: Downtown Las Vegas had a lively nightlife. Gamblers and carousers visited the Apache Hotel, the Northern Club, and the Sal Sagev ("Las Vegas" spelled backwards). Before it was closed during World War II, the infamous Block 16, near today's Lady Luck and California hotels, offered more exotic amusements.



Happy Lake Mead anglers reel at the size of their catch.

5 Lehman Caves National Monument: Visitors to Lehman Caves Resort in the early '30s were fed, lodged, and led on pack-horse trips by caretakers Clarence and Beatrice Rhodes. The couple illuminated their cave tours with carbide lamps. A supervisor described Beatrice as "a very hard working woman" and "a good cook," while Clarence was "somewhat of a boaster of the wild west type." Overnighters stayed in cabins, one of which, the Rhodes Cabin, today is on the grounds of the Great Basin National Park visitor center.

6 Murray Summit: Skiers in Eastern Nevada could take their wooden "blades" eight miles southwest of Ely to Murray Summit, where White Pine snow lovers had established a ski hill, two jumps, and a mechanical ski tow. The Ely Ski Club charged 15 cents a ride or \$1 for a full day of skiing at the homespun resort.

7 Elko: A hot spot in the '30s was the Elko Natatorium, built around a group of warm-spring pools. Now

graded over, the old natatorium ("swimming pool") was two miles west of downtown. Recreationists also took auto trips 20 miles south to Lamoille Canyon, where CCC crews had built a road into that scenic area.

8 Dad Lee's Station: In the early '30s C.B. "Dad" Lee, who claimed he was a nephew of Robert E. Lee and had served in the Civil War, established one of modern Nevada's first tourist traps on old U.S. 40, the Victory Highway, north of Lovelock. There he created his version of an old-time trading post, with cabins, mining equipment, Indian baskets, freight wagons, and other artifacts. With his beard, hat, and long coat, Dad Lee resembled Buffalo Bill. Indeed, before he died in 1934, he told many of his customers that he was Buffalo Bill.

9 Bowers Mansion: This grandiose relic of the Comstock era is now a county park, but between 1916 and 1946 the Riter family operated the Washoe Valley mansion as a wayside inn. Picnickers and swimmers crowded the grounds by day, while carloads of Reno and Carson residents arrived at dusk, ready to dance the night away.

10 Reno: Idlewild Park, a mile west of downtown, had a pool, zoo, and Mark Twain's cabin—or at least what some folks believed was the cabin Twain occupied during his 1862 stay in Aurora. The *WPA Guide to 1930s Nevada* noted, "The forlorn, dilapidated structure may well have been the humorist's home during his brief stay in that town; it certainly accords with the condition of his pocketbook at the time." The cabin, which was moved to the park in 1924, eventually was stripped of its lumber by souvenir hunters. □

David Moore is Nevada's editor

Your Home On The Range



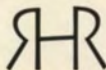
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first came to Nevada as
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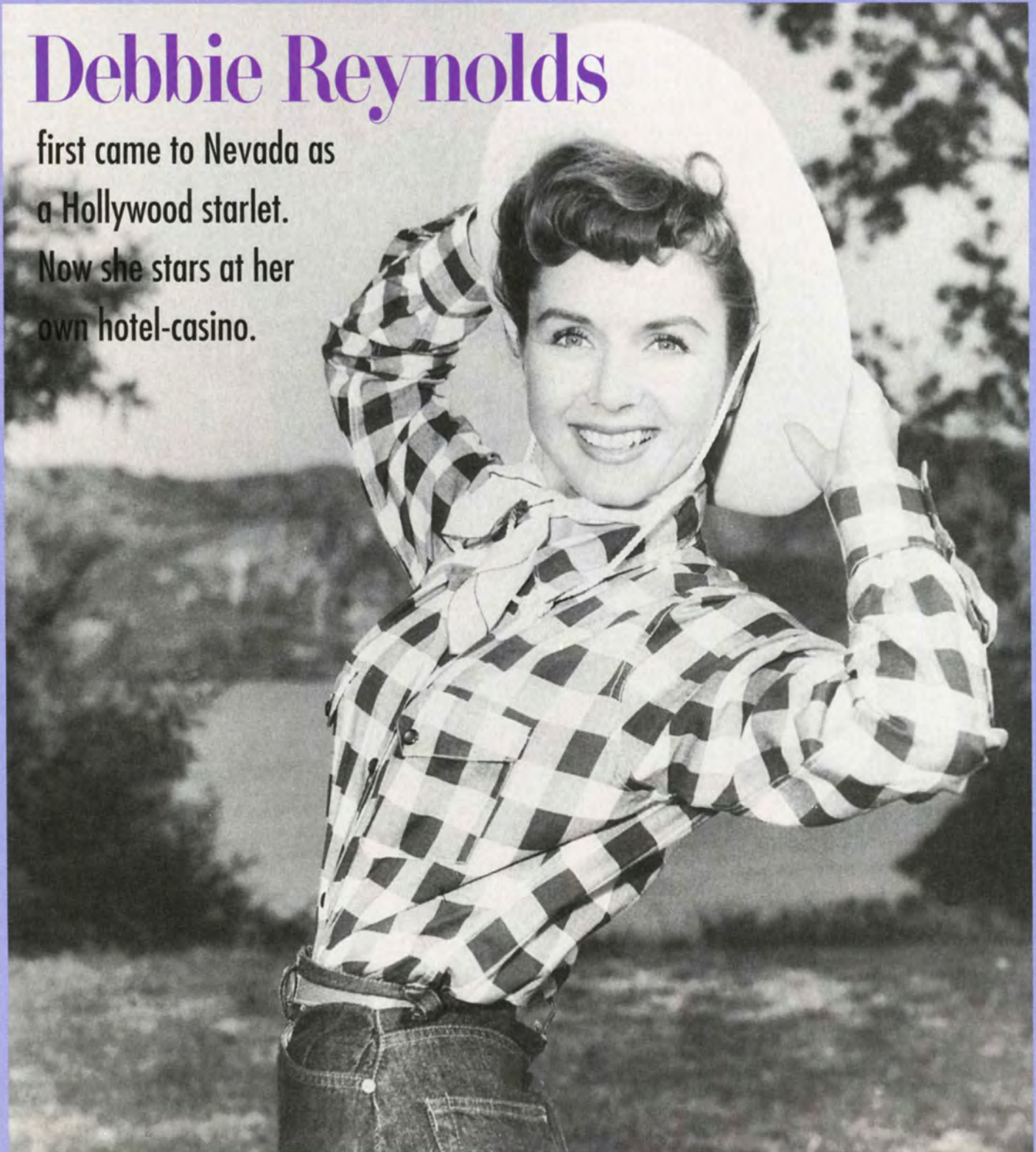
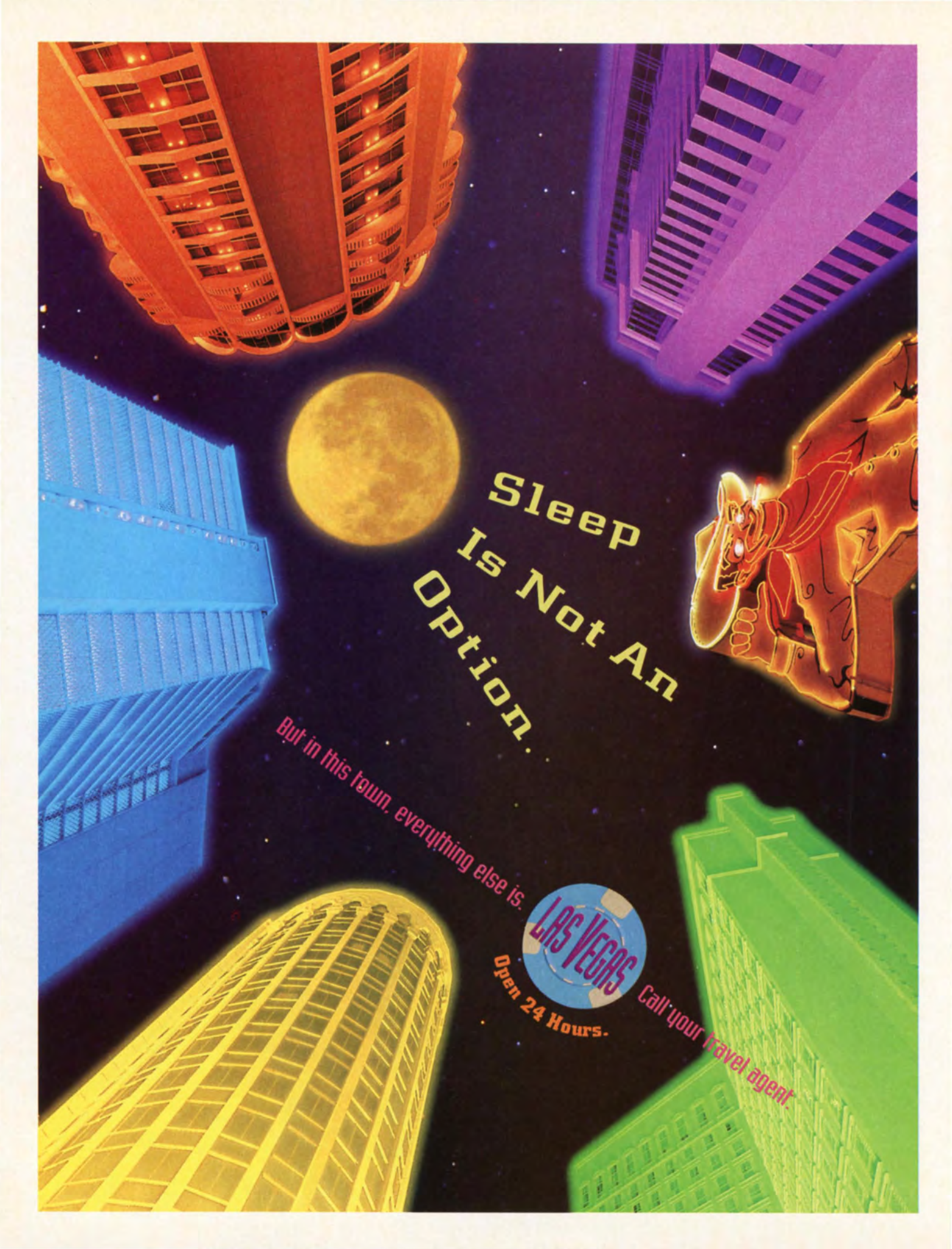


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Star of Her Own Show



Debbie Reynolds faces her biggest professional challenge—owning a Las Vegas hotel. By Ann Henderson

Debbie Reynolds stands in the middle of the theater, as she does each night, greeting fans after her show. Two long lines extend on either side of her. To the left are those waiting to have their picture taken with Reynolds by the hotel photographer. To the right are those who brought their own cameras.

Security guards hold purses and coats as Reynolds jumps back and forth between the two lines. "Who is this for?" she asks as she signs a 1951 copy of *Life* Maga-

zine with her picture on the cover. The ever-effervescent Debbie tells a young woman, "I'm so glad you enjoyed the show." Then she adds cheerfully, "Be sure to see the museum."



Today Reynolds is not only the star of her own Las Vegas show. She's also the hotel owner. Four years ago Reynolds, who has performed on Vegas stages since 1963, bought the Paddlewheel Casino, a quarter mile east of the Strip. In 1993 she opened it as the Debbie Reynolds Hotel and Hollywood Movie Museum.



Reynolds' movie museum displays costumes and props from classic films. She began her collection in 1969 when MGM auctioned off its back lot.



Reynolds is hotelier and headliner at her Debbie Reynolds Hotel in Las Vegas.

turned whenever her favorite singers, such as Lena Horne and Pearl Bailey, were playing in Las Vegas. "I'd pay \$25 and hop a plane from Los Angeles to be there every time they appeared," she says.

Reynolds was a veteran of 16 movies, including *Singin' in the Rain* and *Tammy and the Bachelor*, when her husband, Eddie Fisher, opened the Tropicana Hotel in 1957. When he played the Tropicana again the next year, Elizabeth Taylor was there, making her first public appearance after the death of her husband, Mike Todd, Eddie's best friend. Eddie consoled his friend's widow. Soon Eddie left Debbie for Liz in one of the era's most publicized splits.

In 1963, Reynolds made her Nevada show-room debut at the Riviera. At the time she was married to shoe manufacturer Harry Karl and negotiating for the film role that would become her trademark—*The Unsinkable Molly Brown*.

"Molly was a really gutsy, yet sensitive, vulnerable girl," she wrote in her autobiography, *Debbie: My Life*. "I was Molly Brown and I intended to prove it."

Reynolds, who earned an Oscar nomination for her role in the picture, has proved that she, like the unsinkable Molly, is a survivor. She has coped with a succession of bad marriages and financial woes.

On stage, she turns emotional pain into comedic patter. The fans who cram the 540-seat Star Theatre for 90 minutes of nostalgia, music, and comedy enjoy her self-deprecating humor.

"My husbands married me, and they retired," she tells the audience. As for Liz Taylor, "We have a lot in common. Liz sold her Van Gogh recently for \$40 million. I watched my van go when it was stolen."

During her show, she points to her biggest professional challenge—owning a Las Vegas

were doing jokes and worrying about whether water was overflowing in Room 709," the comedian says. "The audience was unaware of the extent of the problem because we were having such a good time." Never one to miss a one-liner, Taylor adds, "After the show I'd vacuum and Debbie would dust."

Reynolds is unusually generous with showgoers, staying long after each show to satisfy requests for pictures and autographs. She also permits members of the audience to take photos during her performance, which is rare in Nevada showrooms.

"My show is a family show, a very personal show," she explains. "I've signed autographs all my life. People like it, and personally, being a collector, I would like it."

ter *With Helen* in 1972. She says all that will change this winter when shooting begins on an Albert Brooks comedy, *Mother*, in which she plays the title role.

Although she probably won't be able to per-



Son Todd and daughter Carrie appeared with Debbie during a Desert Inn engagement in 1971.



Reynolds and her husband, Eddie Fisher, chat poolside with Eddie Cantor in 1957. Fisher, who was discovered by Cantor while singing at a Catskill resort eight years earlier, was appearing at the brand-new Tropicana.

hotel-casino. She describes her introduction to the Paddlewheel in 1992.

"I saw this sign that said, 'Auction,'" she recalls. "I went in because I had to go to the bathroom anyway."

After buying the 193-room property, Reynolds put on work clothes and personally took charge of gutting the place, which she recalls as "a plumbing nightmare." On June 28, 1993, she opened the Debbie Reynolds Hotel and Hollywood Movie Museum.

Longtime friend Rip Taylor, an investor in the memorabilia-filled hotel, remembers how the two stars did free shows in the lobby before the showroom was constructed. "We

Collecting has become one of her passions. Since the late '60s, she has gathered 5,000 pieces of movie history, and on her 63rd birthday, April 1, 1995, she opened her dream museum with part of her collection of costumes and props. Reynolds' son, Todd Fisher, who is the company president, designed the museum. Visitors sit in comfortable theater seats, watching 145 pieces from 16 films rotate on display. On video, Reynolds hosts a 38-minute show with film clips and anecdotes about such movies as *Ben Hur* and *Cleopatra*.

Reynolds herself has made 32 movies, but she hasn't starred in one since *What's the Mat-*

form her Las Vegas show while the movie is being filmed, she expects to be back on stage in March. In the meantime Reynolds will juggle the hotel, museum, appearances, and the movie. It's enough to poke holes in the most unsinkable ship, but as she tells her audience, "Whatever life throws at me, I get back up."

Ann Henderson is the Las Vegas representative for Nevada Magazine.

Singin' in the Desert

Debbie Reynolds' performance schedule at her Las Vegas hotel is on hold so that she can make her first movie in 24 years. She will return about March 1 to the Star Theatre in the Debbie Reynolds Hotel after completing the film *Mother*.

Playing in the showroom is "Boy-lesque" starring Kenny Kerr. Show time is 10:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday with an early show at 7:30 p.m. Monday. The price, \$24.95, includes tax, tip, and one drink.

The Hollywood Movie Museum is open daily with hourly tours beginning at 10 a.m. Admission is \$7.95 adults, \$5.95 children. Call 702-734-0711 for show reservations and information.

SAM'S TOWN®

Where Locals Bring Their FriendsSM

News
Number One

Volume One



Sam's Town is Now the Second Largest Casino In Las Vegas!

(Las Vegas, Nev.) Preferred by Las Vegas area residents and tourists alike, Sam's Town Hotel Gambling Hall & Bowling Center has grown to become the second largest casino in Las Vegas according to Sam's Town Executive Vice President / General

Manager Bob Neuman. "We have grown over the years because savvy Las Vegas residents and tourists recognize value. They come to Sam's Town mainly because we have very loose slots and fantastic food at reasonable prices. Consequently, we've had to expand six times and now offer over 2800 slot machines, 52 table games, keno, bingo and a huge race & sports book. We also have 10 restaurants, 14 bars, 650 beautiful rooms, 500 RV spaces, a Western Emporium® a western dance hall and 25,000 square foot indoor park. Sam's Town is now a huge, full service destination resort that rivals the largest casino hotels in Las Vegas."

Las Vegas Residents Lead Tourists To The Loosest Slots In Town!

Las Vegas tourists are always shopping for the slot machines "that are looser than all those tight machines on the Strip" More and more of them are finding that the loosest slots in Las Vegas are found where the local area residents play. They're discovering Sam's Town, just 15 minutes from the Strip, where on average the slots are 1/3 less expensive to play than machines on the Strip. Sam's Town is located 15 minutes east of the Strip at Flamingo and Boulder Highway.



Where Locals Bring Their Friends

SAM'S TOWN Las Vegas recently surveyed its customers and found that 84% have brought friends and relatives to Sam's Town. Local residents who shop for the best values in gaming, food and entertainment prefer Sam's Town. They

are quick to recommend and bring others to Sam's Town because of the western atmosphere, friendly employees and free entertainment. Popular attractions at Sam's Town include The Sunset Stampede Show, an extraordinary laser

light and water show, presented nightly at 8:30 and 10:30, with free admission. Roxy's Saloon® and The Western Dance Hall both feature live music and dancing nightly, also with free admission.



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Las Vegas Territory

EVENTS

January & February

EXHIBITS

"Bats" • thru Oct. 31 • Exhibit featuring species common to Las Vegas Valley and the Spring Mountains. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 486-5205.

Baby Boomer Toy Exhibit • Jan. 1-27 • Toys from the '40s thru the '60s on loan from the Detroit Antique Toy Museum. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955.

Absolut Nevada • Jan. 11-Feb. 25 • Works by Nevada artists incorporating the Absolut Vodka image. The Cannery, Las Vegas, 434-2666.

Nevada Camera Club Exhibit • Feb. 29-April 30 • Black-and-white and color photos taken during 1995, reception 5-7pm on Feb. 29. Spring Valley Library, Las Vegas, 368-4411.

SEASONAL

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Week • Jan. 7-13 • 15th annual, Youth night, interfaith services, Jazz night, 10am parade and 6pm banquet Jan. 13. Various locations throughout Las Vegas, 631-1913.

Black History Month Exhibit • Jan. 23-May 7 • Pastel portraits of African and Afro-Caribbean faces. West Las Vegas Library, 647-2118.

Black History Month Exhibit • Jan. 30-March 19 • Acrylic works of African-American art. Whitney Library, Las Vegas, 454-4575.

Black History Month Exhibit • Feb. 14-April 14 • Memorabilia of Ida B. Wells, a founder of NAACP. Clark County Library, Las Vegas, 733-7810.

TERRITORY MAP



Snow White and her friends skate into Thomas and Mack Center with Walt Disney's World On Ice, January 23-28.

Black History Month Celebration • Feb. 21-22 • 19th annual, gospel music Feb. 21, talent show Feb. 22. Doolittle Community Center, Las Vegas, 229-6374.

"Freedom Train" • Feb. 26 • Theatreworks/USA musical about Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad. Artemus Ham Concert Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

PERFORMANCES

"Les Misérables" • Jan. 13-22 • UNLV Performing Arts Center, 895-4711.

Isaac Stern in Recital • Jan. 19 • 8pm, \$30-\$75. Artemus Ham Concert Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

Lula Washington's Los Angeles Contemporary Dance • Jan. 19 • Modern, jazz, African, and Afro-Caribbean styles. Virgin Valley High School Auditorium, Mesquite, 346-ARTS.

Snow White • Jan. 23-28 • Walt Disney's World On Ice. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 895-3900.

"La Sylphide" and "Bolero" • Feb. 8-11 • Nevada Dance Theatre production. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 732-3838.

"No, No, Nanette" • Feb. 8-11 • Musical comedy. Cheyenne campus, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 651-4052.

Boys Choir of Harlem • Feb. 12 • 7:30pm, \$11.75-\$29. Artemus Ham Concert Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

"The Hobbit" • Feb. 19-20 • Theatre Sans Fil production of "The Hobbit," admission prices are \$11.75-\$29.

Artemus Ham Concert Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

"Man of La Mancha" • Feb. 20-March 3 • Las Vegas Music Theatre production. Cashman Theater, Las Vegas, 895-3801.

"Pirates of Penzance" • Feb. 21 • Opera a la Carte production, 8pm, \$20-\$50. Artemus Ham Concert Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

Glenn Miller Orchestra • Feb. 22, 16 • Musicians, two vocalists, big band sounds of the '40s and '50s. Virgin Valley High School Auditorium, Mesquite, 346-ARTS.

Comedy Show • Feb. 24 • Sinbad performs. Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 651-4052.

Preservation Hall Jazz Band • Feb. 24 • 7:30pm, \$12-\$22.50. Artemus Ham Concert Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

Choreographer's Showcase • Feb. 24-25 • 17th an-

Nevada Events & Shows

Nevada Events & Shows is a section of Nevada Magazine. To list an event, contact Events Editor Katherine McDonnell: 702-687-5416 • fax 702-687-6159 • 1800 Hwy. 50 East, Ste. 200, Carson City, NV 89710. Subscription rates for Nevada Magazine are \$15.95 for one year, U.S.; \$21.95 Foreign. To subscribe call toll-free, 1-800-495-3281.

Paris in the Desert

The 'Folies Bergere' is Nevada's longest-running production show.

By Ann Henderson

Thirty years ago, Parisian musicals were mainstays of Las Vegas nightlife. Three had arrived on the Strip in a five-year period—the "Lido de Paris" (1958) at the Stardust, "Folies Bergere" (1959) at the Tropicana, and "Casino de Paris" (1963) at the Dunes.

In recent years the "Lido" and "Casino de Paris" took their final bows. Today the sole survivor of the French Invasion is the "Folies," where the cancan, a sea of feathers, and backstage tours continue to evoke Paris in the desert.

Now in its 16th edition, the "Folies" remains a classic Las Vegas musical spectacular. The longest running production show in Nevada, the "Folies" has logged more than 22,000 performances since it opened on New Year's Eve in 1959.

Ironically, the show's first producer, Lou Walters, considered the "Folies" a gamble when he imported the musical from Paris, according to his daughter, television newswoman Barbara Walters. "At first, he wasn't sure that it would work, but it turned out to be a tremendous success," she recalls. "The showgirls and chorus girls were beautiful. The costumes were exquisite, and the production had the stamp of class."

Lou Walters brought in the "Folies" because the Tropicana couldn't compete with other hotels for big-name stars, according to Harvey Diederich, who was the hotel's publicist in the '60s. Although Eddie Fisher drew good crowds during the hotel's opening in 1957, the singer was followed less successfully by such headliners as Carol Channing, a relative unknown at the time. "Even Walter Winchell took his turn on stage, which tells you how desperate the booking problem was," Diederich says.

When the "Folies" arrived in Las Vegas, it was a copy of the show that had been a hit in Paris since 1869. Over the years producers have kept the best of the original version and Americanized the tempo by tracing homegrown music through the decades, including gospel, blues, and boogie-woogie.

Strong on musical and visual variety, the "Folies" is paced so there is some kind of change—music, performers, costumes, or set—every 30 to 45 seconds. The 90-minute show visits memorable moments in entertainment history, including a mirrored, synchronized ballet made famous by Busby Berkley's movie musicals of the '30s. In all, the "Folies" has 62 different sets.

Until 1975, all the show's costumes were made in Paris, which created a problem when they needed to be replaced. Producers had two choices: Ship the expensive costumes back to Paris and pay a hefty tax, or burn them. "At one time we had a million-dollar fire behind the hotel," recalls Diederich.

The "Folies" has launched a number of famous entertainers, says Larry Lee, the show's current producer. Siegfried and Roy appeared as a specialty act in the '60s before becoming headliners at the Frontier and the Mirage. Magician Lance Burton, who stars in his own show at the Hacienda, also performed in the "Folies." Today, the Cavarettas, an acrobatic duo, and comedian Ray Fell are the specialty acts that keep the show moving.

The "Folies Bergere" continues to make entertainment history in Nevada each time the show closes with its famed cancan and signature

nose-bumping kicks and acrobatic splits. The "Folies" makes good on its promise of sophistication and elegance. It has been that way for 36 years—and counting.

Cancan Classic

"Folies Bergere" plays at 7:30 (dinner or cocktails) and 10:30 (cocktails only) nightly except Thursday at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas. Dinner-show prices start at \$28.95; the cocktail show is \$22.95, not including tax or tip. Call 702-739-2411 for reservations.

Behind the Scenes

Visitors can take a backstage tour of the "Folies Bergere" at the Tropicana. Led by a former showgirl, the tour offers intriguing trivia and the chance to try on one of the show's elaborate headpieces. The guide explains what it is like to be one of the five showgirls who drop from the showroom ceiling wearing little else but strategically placed spangles. The female dancers must be at least five feet, 10 inches tall, and they earn an extra \$50 per week for appearing toless.

Tours are given at 12:30, 1:30, and 2:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The cost is \$3.50 per person. Tickets are available at the Tropicana's ticket booth.

Ann Henderson first saw the "Folies Bergere" in 1961.



The Tropicana Hotel's "Folies Bergere" is a classic feathers-and-rhinestones production show and the longest running in state history.

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E-8 NEVADA JAN/FEB 96

PREVIEW

Battle of the Ballroom



The Challenge of Champions Ballroom Dance Championships in Las Vegas showcase beauty and excitement.

With a flurry of feathers and sequined gowns, the Challenge of Champions Ballroom Dance Championships bring more than 5,000 dancers from all over the U.S. to Harrah's Las Vegas February 23-25. The competition is an unusual mix of graceful movement and high drama.

When each dance is announced, a crowd of competitors assembles on the 2,500-square-foot championship floor. Couples elbow for prime positions as a hush falls over the room. The tension builds, and dancers shoot piercing glances at their competition. It's clear that the challenge begins long before the first note of music.

The couples then whirl to exotic Latin tempos and waltzes, vying for the attention of judges and audience. Experienced competitors mesmerize the crowd with the passionate and graceful choreography of an Argentine Tango or Paso Doble. Spectators see lightning-quick fox trots, glam-

orous waltzes, and sultry cha-chas danced by women in yards of chiffon and rhinestones and men in white ties and tails.

Amateur and pro-am competitions are held from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday and on Sunday morning. Professionals dance all day and evening on Saturday and Sunday. The Grand Championships are held Sunday evening. Tickets are \$15 for the day sessions (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and \$25 for the evening sessions (6 to 11 p.m.). Call 702-367-8194 for more information.—Katherine McDonnell and Rickey Thornhill-Geiger

Dancing on Your Own

The Gold Coast has ballroom dancing with a deejay on Tuesday nights and Sunday afternoons. Call 702-367-7111. Caesars Palace hosts big band music and ballroom dancing on January 15. Call 702-731-7333.

Photo: Tim McCray

nual, new works by Las Vegas choreographers, 2pm. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 229-6383.

GENERAL INTEREST

Wings of Courage • thru April 20 • 40-minute film about the first airmail flights in the Andes, stars Tom Hulce, Elizabeth McGovern, and Val Kilmer, IMAX film. Caesars Palace Omnimax Theatre, 731-7900.

Black and White Ball • Jan. 13 • Fund-raiser for Nevada Dance Theatre. Mirage, 732-3838.

Mardi Gras Galore • Feb. 3 • Concert, dancing, Cajun foods, 8pm, \$10. Charleston Heights Arts Center Ballroom, Las Vegas, 229-6383.

Joycelyn Elders Lecture • Feb. 23 • Former U.S. Surgeon General. Cheyenne campus, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 651-4052.

SPORTS AND COMPETITIONS

Las Vegas Thunder • International Hockey League, Jan. 5 v. Peoria Rivermen, Jan. 9 v. Fort Wayne Comets, Jan. 16 v. Minnesota Moose, Jan. 19 v. Utah Grizzlies, Jan. 20 v. Houston Aeros, Jan. 30 v. Phoenix Roadrunners, Feb. 2 v. Utah Grizzlies, Feb. 7 v. Indianapolis Ice, Feb. 20 v. Milwaukee Admirals, Feb. 23 v. Minnesota Moose, Feb.



Hockey fans can cheer the Las Vegas Thunder during home games at Thomas and Mack Center.

27 v. Los Angeles Ice Dogs. Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 798-7825.

UNLV Men's Basketball • Runnin' Rebels play Jan. 4 v. Utah State, Jan. 8 v. Pacific, Jan. 13 v. Long Beach State, Jan. 15 v. UC Santa Barbara, Jan. 29 v. Nevada-Reno, Feb. 1 v. San Jose State, Feb. 17 v. Cal State Fullerton, Feb. 19 v. UC Irvine, Feb. 24 v. New Mexico State. Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 895-3900.

UNLV Women's Basketball • Lady Rebels play Jan. 7 v. Pacific, Jan. 9 v. Nevada-Reno, Jan. 19 v. Cal State Fullerton, Jan. 21 v. UC Irvine, Jan. 27 v. New Mexico State, Feb. 9 v. UC Santa Barbara, Feb. 11 v. Long Beach State, Feb. 29 v. Hawaii. South Gym, UNLV, 895-3207.

Las Vegas International Marathon and Half-Marathon • Feb. 11 • 13th annual race. Finish line at Vacation Village, starting lines in Jean and Sloan, 876-3870.

Challenge of Champions Ballroom Dance Championships • Feb. 23-25 • Harrah's Las Vegas, 367-8194.

COMING EVENTS

Hoover Dam Square Dance • March 2-3 • Boulder City, 293-4918.

USPA Invitational Rodeo • March 28-31, Laughlin, 298-2214.

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Las Vegas

Clark County Fair • April 11-14 • Logandale, 398-3247.
Harley River Run • April 18-21 • Laughlin, 298-2214.
Henderson Heritage Days • April 19-28 • 565-8951.
Las Vegas Senior PGA Classic • April 22-28 • 382-6616.
Wilderness Circuit Rodeo • April 25-28 • Laughlin, 298-2214.
Olympic Torch in Las Vegas • May 1 • 731-2115.
Spring Jamboree and Crafts Show • May 4-5 • Boulder City, 293-2034.
Helldorado Days and Rodeo • May 14-19 • Las Vegas, 870-1221.
Mesquite Days • May 30-June 1 • 346-2902.
Laughlin River Days • May 31-June 2 • 298-2214.
Desert Challenge Off-Road Race • Sept. 6-8 • Laughlin, 298-2214.
Rattlin' Rails Handcar Races • Sept. 21-22 • Boulder City, 293-2034.
Las Vegas Invitational Golf Tournament • Oct. 2-6 • 382-6616.
Laughlin RiverFlight '96 • Oct. 18-20 • 298-2214.
Las Vegas Balloon Classic • Oct. 25-27 • Hot-air balloons, 434-0848.
National Finals Rodeo • Dec. 6-15 • Las Vegas, 731-2115.

SHOWGUIDE

The Las Vegas area offers big-name entertainment and production shows at many clubs and hotels. David Copperfield is coming to Caesars Palace, and Robert Goulet performs in concert every Friday at the Flamingo Hilton. Showrooms often fill fast, so call ahead for show times and reservations.



Illusionist David Copperfield appears in the Circus Maximus Showroom at Caesars Palace January 23-February 13.

BOULDER CITY

Gold Strike Inn • Between Boulder City and Hoover Dam, 293-5000 or 800-245-6380: Country-western entertainment.

HENDERSON

Eldorado • 564-1811: *Margaritaville Lounge*: Dance bands play Wed.-Sun.

Joker's Wild • 564-8100: Karaoke on Tues.; entertainment Wed.-Sun.

JEAN

Gold Strike Hotel • 477-5000 or 800-634-1359: Bands play (dark Tues.).

Nevada Landing • 387-5000 or 800-628-6682: Live entertainment (dark Wed.).

LAS VEGAS

Aladdin • 736-0240: "Country Tonite," revue (dark Tues.).

Arizona Charlie's • 258-5100: *Palace Grand Theatre*: Tito Puente, Jan. 7.

Bally's • 739-4567 or 800-237-SHOW: *Jubilee Theater*: "Jubilee!" (dark Fri.); bands play nightly in the *Panda Lounge*.

The Beach • 731-9298: Concerts by contemporary artists.

Boomtown • 263-7777 or 800-588-7711: *Rattlesnake Ricky's Lounge*: "Boomtown Belles of the West" (dark Mon.).

Boulder Station • 432-7777 or 800-683-7777: *Railhead Saloon*: Dance bands; piano music presented in the *Lobby Bar*.

Bourbon Street • 737-7200: *Basin Street Lounge*: Entertainment nightly except Mon.

Caesars Palace • 731-7333 or 800-445-4544: *Circus Maximus Showroom*: David Copperfield

appears Jan. 23-Feb. 13.
Circus Circus • 734-0410: Free circus acts, 11am-midnight.

Continental • 737-5555: Jazz Jam Session, Mon.; Stevaughn Freschette, Wed.-Sun.

Debbie Reynolds Hotel and Hollywood Movie Museum • 733-2243 or 800-633-1777: *Star Theatre*:

"Boy-lesque," with Kenny Kerr, indf. (dark Sun.); museum of movie memorabilia open for tours.

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Excalibur • 597-7600: "King Arthur's Tournament," nightly; "A Symphony in White" starring the Royal Lipizzan Stallions, noon and 2pm Sat.-Sun., 2pm Mon.-Fri. (dark Wed.); *Wild Bills Saloon and Steakhouse*: Entertainment nightly.

Fitzgeralds • 388-2400 or 800-274-LUCK (U.S. outside Nevada): Don Cloe (dark Tues.) and Anthony Micco (dark Wed.-Thurs.).

Flamingo Hilton • 733-3333: *Flamingo Showroom*: "The Great Radio City Spectacular" with the Rockettes (dark Fri.); "Robert Goulet in Concert," every Fri.; *Bugsy's Celebrity Theatre*: "Forever Plaid," '50s musical revue (dark Mon.).

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

Gold Coast • 367-7111: *East Lounge*: Sorta Dixie Jazz Band, noon-5:30pm, bands play 9pm-3am; *West Lounge*: Entertainment 10pm-4am; *Dance Hall*: Randy Anderson thru Jan. 1; Touch of Country, Jan. 3-15; ballroom dancing with deejay Larry Taylor, 7:30pm-1:30am Tues. and 1-5pm Sun.

Golden Nugget • 386-8100: "Country Fever," country stars look-alike variety revue (dark Fri.).

Garden: TBA; *Center Stage Cabaret*: "Catch a Rising Star," comedy-variety club.

The Mirage • 792-7777: *Siegfried and Roy Theater*: Siegfried and Roy, magic spectacular (dark Wed. and Jan. 25-31, Feb. 29-March 6).

O'Sheas Hilton • 737-1343: Mini magic show, 2, 3, and 4pm (dark Mon.-Tues.).

Palace Station • 367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Dance to bands nightly.

Rio • 252-7776 or 800-888-0400: *Club Rio Entertainment Complex*: "Copacabana Show," revue (dark Sun.-Mon.); Sergio Alberti performs in *Mambo's Lounge*.

Riviera • 794-9301 (477-5274 for "Splash"): *Versailles Theatre*: Jeff Kutash's "Splash II: The Voyage of a Lifetime," nightly; *Mardi Gras Plaza* (third floor): "An Evening at La Cage," female celebrity impersonators revue (dark Tues.); *Mardi Gras Plaza*: (second floor) "Crazy Girls: Sensuality, Passion, and Pudgy!" adult revue (dark Mon.); "Bottoms Up," 2 and 4pm (dark Thurs.); *Riviera Comedy Club*: comedians; *Le Bistro Lounge*: Jazz on the Strip, every Mon.

Sahara • 737-2515: *Congo Theatre*: TBA; entertainment in the *Casbar Lounge*.



Nevada Dance Theatre presents Vassili Sulich's "Bolero" at UNLV's Judy Bayley Theatre February 8-11.

Hacienda • 739-8911: "Lance Burton: World Champion Magician" (dark Mon.).

Hard Rock Hotel • 800-HARD-ROCK: *The Joint*: Weekly rock concerts.

Harrah's Las Vegas • 369-5222 or 800-392-9002: *Commanders Theatre*: "Spellbound: Starring Mark Kalin and Jinger" (dark Sun.); "The Improv at Harrah's" (dark Mon.); bands play Sun.-Thurs. and karaoke Fri.-Mon. at the *Court of Two Gators*.

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

Jackie Gaughan's Plaza • 386-2464 or 800-634-6575 (U.S. outside Nevada): "Xposed," adult revue (dark Fri.).

King 8 Hotel • 736-8988: Bands play nightly except Mon.

Lady Luck • 477-3000 or 800-523-9582: "Lady Luck Luau," Polynesian revue, every Mon.

Las Vegas Hilton • 732-5755 or 800-STARLIGHT: Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Starlight Express" (dark Mon. and Jan. 1-8); *The Nightclub*: Kristine W and the Sting, The Emeralds (dark Thurs.); guest artists every Thurs.

Luxor • 262-4000 or 800-288-1000: *Nefertiti's Lounge*: "Beehive," '60s musical revue (dark Mon.).

Maxim • 731-4300 or 800-634-6987: "Comedy Max," comedy nightclub; "Comedy Magic," 1 and 3pm (dark Sun.).

MGM Grand • 891-7777 or 800-929-1111: *Grand Theatre*: "EFX" starring Michael Crawford (dark Thurs. and Jan. 11-18); *Hollywood Theatre*: TBA; *MGM Grand*

Sam's Town • 454-8048: *Western Dance Hall*: Bands play 9pm-3am; *Roxie's Lounge*: Entertainment till 5am.

Sands • 733-5453 or 800-446-4678: *Copa Room*: Neil Sedaka, Feb. 13-25; Smokey Robinson, Feb. 27-March 10; "Viva Las Vegas!" revue, 1 and 3:30pm weekdays; *Celebrity Theatre*: TBA.

San Remo • 597-6028 or 800-897-SHOW: "Comedy Cabaret" (dark Wed.); bands play in the *Winner's Circle Lounge*.

Santa Fe • 658-4900: Live entertainment Tues.-Sat. in the Ice Lounge.

Sheraton Desert Inn • 733-4566 or 800-634-6909: *Crystal Room*: Ray Charles, Dec. 30; B.B. King, Jan. 12-14; Wayne Newton, Jan. 16-21; Melissa Manchester, Feb. 16-18; "Epicurean Comedy," weekday dinner show; *Starlight Theatre*: Entertainment nightly except Mon.

Showboat • 383-9232 or 800-634-3484: *Carnival Room*: Entertainment nightly.

Stardust • 732-6111 or 800-824-6033: *Stardust Theatre*: "Enter the Night" (dark Tues.); bands play in the *Starlight Lounge*.

Treasure Island • 894-7111: Cirque du Soleil: "Mystère," circus theater (dark Mon.-Tues. and Feb. 7-8).

Tropicana • 739-2411: *Tiffany Theatre*: "Folies Bergere" (dark Thurs.); *Comedy Stop Theatre*: "Comedy Stop"; bands also play in the hotel's *Atrium Lounge* and *Tropics Lounge*.

Vacation Village • 897-1700 or 800-658-5000: *Koo Koo's Lounge*: Entertainment and dancing Tues.-Sun.

Westward Ho • 731-2900: "Hurray, America," starring

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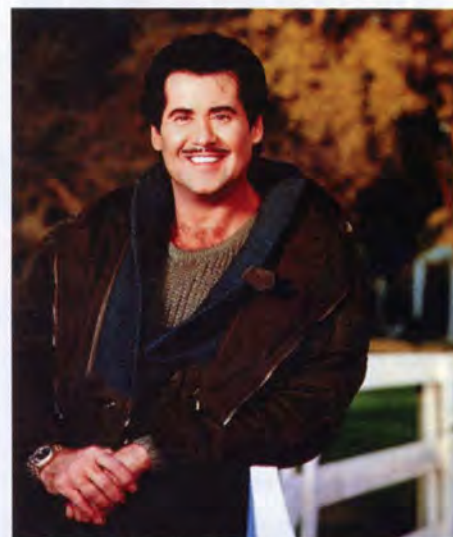
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Edgewater • 298-2453: Bands play nightly except Mon. in the *O'Aces Lounge*.

Flamingo Hilton Laughlin • 298-5028 or 800-435-8469: *Club Flamingo Room*: "Jukebox Giants" (dark Thurs.).

Gold River • 298-2242 or 800-835-7904: *Cody's Saloon*: Free entertainment nightly; free line-dance lessons Tues.

Golden Nugget Laughlin • 298-7111 or 800-237-1739: *Tarzan's Lounge*: Entertainment Tues.-Sun.

Harrah's Laughlin • 298-4600 or 800-447-8700: *Club La Bamba*: Entertainment nightly except Mon.

Ramada Express • 298-4200: Entertainment nightly in the *Caboose Lounge*.

Regency • 298-2439.

Riverside Resort • 298-2535 or 800-227-3849 ext. 616: *Don's Celebrity Theatre*: Mel Tillis thru Jan. 1; Charlie Prose, Jan. 7-Feb. 14; Eddy Arnold, Feb. 27-March 3; Roy Clark, March 6-10.

MESQUITE

Players Island • 346-7529: *Bali Hai Theater*: "Island Fever," musical revue, Mon.-Thurs.; bands play nightly in the *Cascades Lounge*.

Si Redd's Oasis • 346-5232: Entertainment nightly in the *Cabaret Lounge*.

Virgin River • 346-7777 or 800-346-7721: Bands include Randy Anderson and Western Rain, Tues.-Sun.

NORTH LAS VEGAS

Fiesta Casino • 631-7000: Live entertainment in the *Cantina Bar*; Mariachis, 10:30am-2:30pm Sun.

Texas Gambling Hall • 631-1000: Live entertainment in the *Armadillo Honky Tonk Lounge* Thurs.-Sun.

STATE LINE

Buffalo Bill's • 382-1111: *Star of the Desert Arena*: TBA; *Carolee's Theatre*: "Primadonna Comedy Club," Fri.-Sun.; Entertainment in the *Stage Bar Lounge*.

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Casino Notes

Poker Face: Fredrick Oishi of Honolulu took home a check for \$2 million in the Let It Ride Tournament at Bally's recently. The poker game allows players to take back two of their three initial bets if they don't like their cards. Oishi carried pictures of his grandchildren for good luck.

Roman Feast: Caesars Magical Empire, a themed dining and entertainment complex next to Caesars Palace, opens March 1. Visitors will experience the illusion of being in a catacomb, which has 10 dining chambers each hosted by a sorcerer, and two theaters with live magic shows.

On the Move: "Boy-lesque," starring Kenny Kerr, has moved from the Sahara to the Debbie Reynolds Hotel for an indefinite run. For 20 years the singer-comedian has entertained audiences with his impersonations of such stars as Barbra Streisand and Cher.

Bugsy's Joint: Having finished a \$130-million expansion, the Flamingo Hilton in Las Vegas has 3,642 rooms and is now the third largest hotel in the United States (only the MGM Grand and Excalibur are bigger). The resort began as a 77-room casino built in 1946 by mobster Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel.



The 31-story Landmark tower was imploded last November. Built in 1961, the hotel was once Nevada's tallest building.

World Record: A 29-year-old history student dropped \$15 in a Megabucks slot machine and won a world-record jackpot—\$10.9 million—at the Gold Coast in October. The dollar progressive jackpot beat the previous world record of \$9.3 million won at Harrah's Reno in May 1992. The winner, who wants to remain anonymous, says he gambles no more than \$5 a year. At the time of the jackpot he was in the Gold Coast to take advantage of a prime rib dinner special.

Well Done: The tour operator Canadian Holidays has selected the Luxor for top honors in outstanding customer service. The award is based on the number of customer complaints versus commendations from guests who make reservations through Canadian Holidays.

Fabulous Faker: Eager fans mobbed female impersonator Chris Woods when he decided to create some mischief after a recent Diana Ross concert at the MGM Grand. Woods, who portrays the singing star in the Riviera's "An Evening at La Cage," decided to test the crowd by appearing in costume. The experiment proved too successful when autograph hounds forced him to seek refuge in a nearby restaurant.

Another One Bites the

Dust: In 13 seconds the Landmark Hotel, once the tallest building in the state, was reduced to a pile of rubble one day last November. The implosion received little advance publicity so that Hollywood camera crews could film the spectacular sight for a Tim Burton movie tentatively titled *Mars Attacks!* Built in 1961 and once owned by reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes, the 356-foot-high needle-shaped Landmark had a number of secret walls and stairwells discovered by the demolition team. The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority acquired the property and plans to use the lot for additional parking.

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Las Vegas

Whiskey Pete's • 382-1212 or 800-367-7383: Kris Kristoferson, Jan. 27.

GAMING TOURNAMENTS

January & February

Queens Poker Classic VI • Jan. 2-27 • Four Queens, 385-4011.

Rock 'n' Reel Slots • Jan. 9-11 • Ramada Express, Laughlin, 298-6231 or 800-243-6846.

Gridiron Gold Video Poker • Jan. 12-14 • Tropicana, 739-2614 or 800-521-8767.

Island Bowl Slots • Jan. 19-21 • Tropicana, 739-2614 or 800-521-8767.

'50s Theme Slots • Jan. 22-24 • Binion's Horseshoe, 382-1600 or 800-937-6537.

Maximus II Slots • Feb. 9-11 • Caesars Palace, 731-7485 or 800-262-2502.

ATTRACTIONS, TOURS & MUSEUMS

BOULDER CITY

Black Canyon River Raft Tours • 293-3776.

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

Boulder City/Hoover Dam Museum • 444 Hotel Plaza, 294-1988.

Hoover Dam • Tours, U.S. 93, 293-8367.

Hoover Dam Visitor Center • Theaters, exhibit hall, 293-8000 or 293-8419.

Lake Mead Cruises/Desert Princess • 293-6180.

Lake Mead National Recreation Area • 601 Nevada Hwy., 293-8906.

HENDERSON

Clark County Heritage Museum • 1830 S. Boulder Hwy., 455-7955.

Cranberry World West • 1301 American Pacific Dr., tours of Ocean Spray facility, 566-7160.

Escape the City Streets • Mountain bike tours, 800-596-2953.

Ethel M Chocolate Factory and Cactus Garden • Tours, 2 Cactus Garden Dr., 458-8864.

Green Valley Outdoor Sculpture Museum Information Center • Driving tour, Sunset Rd. and Green Valley Pkwy., 458-8855.

Kidd Marshmallow Factory • Tours, 8203 Gibson Rd., 564-3878 or 800-234-2383.

Mountasia Family Fun Center • 2050 Olympic Ave., 454-4386.

Ron Lee's World of Clowns • Free factory tours, 330 Carousel Pkwy., 434-1700.

LAS VEGAS

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

Aladdin • Predator's Paradise, wildlife habitat, 871-LION.

Bonnie Springs Old Nevada • Red Rock Canyon, 875-4191.

Boomtown • Pan for gold, 1-15, 263-7777.

Desert Demonstration Gardens • Tours, 3701 W. Alta, 258-3205.

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Flyaway Indoor Skydiving • Convention Center Drive, 731-4768.

Forum Shops at Caesars • 893-4800.

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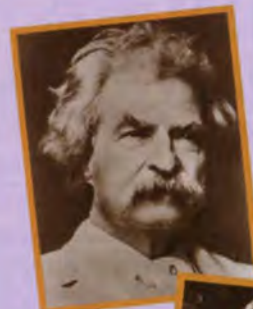
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Las Vegas Mini Gran Prix • 1401 N. Rainbow Blvd., 259-7000.

Las Vegas Museum of Natural History • 900 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 384-DINO.

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MGM Grand Adventures • Theme park, 891-7979.

Mirage • Dolphin habitat, erupting volcano, 791-7111.

Mount Charleston • Recreation info., 222-1597.

Nevada State Museum and Historical Society • Lorenzi Park, 700 Twin Lakes Dr., 486-5205.

Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort • 908 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 National Conservation Area • 363-1921.

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

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

Star Lane Shoppes at MGM Grand • 891-7262.

Sam's Town • Water and laser show, 456-7777.

Thrill Climbers • Rock climbing on artificial surface, 810 Circus Circus Dr., 699-5710.

Treasure Island • Buccaneer Bay pirate battle, 894-7111.

Tropicana Wildlife Walk • 739-2222.

Wet 'n Wild • 2601 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 737-SURF.

LAUGHLIN

Lake Mohave Resort • 602-754-3245.

Riverside Resort • Classic car showroom and antique slots, 298-2535.

MESQUITE

Desert Valley Museum • 31 W. Mesquite Blvd., 346-5705.

Arvada Gun Club • Si Redd's Oasis, 346-5232.

NORTH LAS VEGAS

The Planetarium • Community College of Southern Nevada, 651-5059.

OVERTON

Lost City Museum of Archaeology • 721 S. Hwy. 169, 397-2193.

Valley of Fire State Park • 397-2088.

SEARCHLIGHT

Searchlight Historic Museum • 455-7955.

STATE LINE

Buffalo Bill's • Roller coaster, 382-1111.

A Reminder:

To confirm dates and times, please use the phone number listed with each event. The area code is 702 throughout Nevada. For hotels' toll-free phone numbers, call 800-555-1212.

Sorta Dixie, Sorta Jazz

The Sorta Dixie Jazz Band has its roots in Vegas. By Mike Weatherford

When the music of old New Orleans meets up with the spirit of old Vegas, a lot of folks find the result sorta irresistible.

The Sorta Dixie Jazz Band plays its namesake music authentically enough to travel to Dixieland jazz festivals, but the group would admit that its heritage lies not on Bourbon Street but in Las Vegas lounges.

"We stand out because we aren't just traditional Dixieland," says trombonist and band leader Jim Fitzgerald. "Our

keep that spirit alive in his band's stage banter and informality.

"Our approach is we involve the audience," Fitzgerald says. "If somebody wants to hear something, they yell it out."

Fitzgerald joined a group called the Royal Dixie Jazz Band in 1973, playing Sunday afternoons at the Royal Inn Casino. He's worked for casino owner Michael Gaughan ever since but with an evolving band that now includes George Mosse on reeds, George Pollak on piano, Bruce Harper on drums, Ty Lemley on bass, and Stan Mark on trumpet.

"I've been playing 'Muskrat Ramble' since I was 12 years old," Fitzgerald says. However, he adds, "I didn't want to be known as a Dixieland trombone player. I wanted to be a Carl Fontana or Bill Watrous."

Those jazz chops surfaced when California-based jazz writer and historian Floyd Levin caught the band six years ago and realized they weren't just a "funny hat" pizza-parlor act. Levin helped them get booked on the jazz festival circuit. That opened a whole new door: The band has 13 festivals booked for 1996 and has turned down another 24 dates. And the group has just recorded its sixth self-marketed album, "Reflections," a collection of 1940s standards.

"I'm 61 years old, and I've never been so busy in my life," Fitzgerald says. "Why couldn't I have had all this when I was 25 and had the energy to do it?"

On days when he feels his age, Fitzgerald says the band's loyal fans get him through. "This is a happy place to be," he says of the Gold Coast lounge. "Everybody knows me and my family. If I come in here and I'm not as chipper as usual, they ask me what's wrong."

And if he needs a boost, he remembers the day in 1973 when he first saw the Royal Dixie Jazz Band. "I got gloriously drunk in the afternoon and never had so much fun. The next day I asked them if I could sit in," he says. "So I try to think of the first time I ever heard the band and say to myself, 'Somebody out there is enjoying it like I enjoyed it the first time.'"

Mike Weatherford is a Las Vegas Review-Journal entertainment reporter.



The Sorta Dixie six play weekdays at the Gold Coast in Las Vegas. Front row, from left: Jim Fitzgerald, manager and trombone; George Pollak, piano; George Mosse, clarinet. Top row, from left: Ty Lemley, bass; Bruce Harper, drums; Stan Mark, trumpet.

group has evolved from Dixieland to a lot more four-part vocals and standards arranged for groups such as the Four Freshman and the Ink Spots." Even festival crowds "want to hear what we do with the vocals and comedy stuff," he says.

The six-piece band has more than 350 arrangements in its song book and ample opportunity to play them. For eight years they've been the house band at the locals-oriented Gold Coast on West Flamingo Road. Each day they see a core group of familiar, mostly retirement-aged faces in the lounge, and they often win a few new converts in the course of an afternoon.

"It's like a family here," Fitzgerald says. "This is the way Vegas used to be. In the '60s, there were a ton of great lounge acts. We're all of that generation." Fitzgerald came to Las Vegas in 1960, playing bass in the trio that backed "loudmouth comic" Kay Stevens at the Riviera, and he remembers cooling down at the legendary 5 a.m. Louis Prima shows at the Sahara's Casbar Lounge. He tries to

Jazz Notes

The Sorta Dixie Jazz Band plays every weekday from noon to 5:30 p.m. at the Gold Coast's East Lounge. The group also appears January 31-February 12 on Tuesdays from 7:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. in the Dance Hall during ballroom dancing. Call 702-367-7111.



Reno-Tahoe Territory

EVENTS

January & February

EXHIBITS

International Automotive Stamp Exhibit • thru Jan. 6 • Stamps featuring automobile art. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.

Quilted Wheels • thru Jan. 6 • Auto-themed quilts. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.

French Quarter • thru Jan. 15 • French marque cars. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.

Capitol Drawings • thru Feb. 27 • Display of the restored plans for the 1870 design of the State Capitol

Building. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 688-1190.

Nevada Gold Museum • thru Sept. 2 • Gaming chips and memorabilia. skyway, Flamingo Hilton Reno, 322-1111.

Art and the Parks • Jan. 12-March 10 • Paintings of today's national parks. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 329-3333.

Old Flames • Jan. 15-March 29 • Fire equipment from the 1820s to the 1920s. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.

Weavers of Tradition • Jan. 19-March 31 • Historic and contemporary baskets from Washoe, Paiute, and Shoshone tribes. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 688-1190.

Hot Rod Heaven • Jan. 29-April 1 • Custom hot rods on display. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.

TERRITORY MAP



SEASONAL

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration • Jan. 12-15 • Various events at locations in Reno and Sparks, 827-7603 or 800-FOR-RENO.

Martin Luther King Jr. Torchlight Parade and Fireworks • Jan. 14 • Kirkwood, Hwy. 88, 30 mi. south of Tahoe, 209-258-6000.

President's Day Torchlight Parade • Feb. 17 • Parade of lights. Kirkwood, 209-258-6000.

Civil War Era Valentine's Day Ball • Feb. 17 • 7-11pm, 19th-century music and dancing, \$5 per person, Nevada Civil War Volunteers. California Building, Idlewild Park, Reno, 972-4521 or 246-3393.

PERFORMANCES

Concerts in the Atrium • thru May 24 • Fri. only, free, classical music concerts, noon-1pm. Airport Gardens Office Bldg., Reno, 329-1324.

Letters From the Earth • Jan. 5 • Mark Twain impersonator McAvoy Layne looks at the writer's dark side.



Sled dogs run their paces at the Truckee-Tahoe Airport, January 13-14.

Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

"The Lion in Winter" • Jan. 12-13, 19-20, and 26-27 • 8pm, Proscenium Players. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

"Winter to Spring" • Jan. 16 • Reno Philharmonic concert. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 825-5905.

"Love Letters" • Jan. 26-27, Feb. 2-4 and 9-10 • Reno Little Theater, 329-0661.

Reno Chamber Orchestra Concert • Jan. 27 • Nightingale Concert Hall, U of N, 784-4046.

"She Loves Me" • Feb. 1-3 • Broadway-show series. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 348-4600.

Argenta Trio • Feb. 2 • Virginia Lenz, guest viola. Nightingale Concert Hall, U of N, Reno, 784-6847.

Tandy Beal and Company • Feb. 9 • Modern dance concert. Celebrity Showroom, Cal-Neva Resort, Crystal Bay, 916-546-4602.

Gershwin by Request • Feb. 10 • Reno Philharmonic concert. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 825-5905.

Klezmatiks • Feb. 14 • Klezmer Conservatory band, eclectic brand of Yiddish vocal-instrumental music. Nightingale Concert Hall, U of N, Reno, 784-4046.

"La Cenerentola" • Feb. 22-24 • Rossini's comical spin on the Cinderella story performed by Nevada Opera. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 786-4046.

"Dames at Sea" • Feb. 23-24 • Proscenium Players. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

"One Act Competition" • Feb. 23-24 • Reno Little Theater, 329-0661.



The National Automobile Museum in Reno offers auto-themed exhibits and children's programs.

Keyed Up With Rose

**Ron Rose has played
a record run at Tahoe.**

By Guy Richardson

When Ron Rose came to Nevada in the late 1950s, Lake Tahoe was a rustic resort. Harvey Gross' club was called the Wagon Wheel, and it was a tiny place with one restaurant, according to Rose. "Today, they have so many restaurants, no one can count them," he said.

Rose signed a two-week contract when he began playing at Harveys in September 1958. "It was a hand-written contract," Rose said. "Bill Ledbetter, Harveys entertainment and hotel manager, signed it." The two-week contract had options. Talk about your options. Off and on, mostly on, Rose has been at Harveys ever since. He did one 210-week stretch at Harveys. That may not be a record—I remember Fred Finn did a gigantic streak at the Landmark in Vegas during the '70s—but what must be a record in both Northern and Southern Nevada is a fellow working the same club, doing the same thing, for 37 years.

"I really love playing piano," Rose explained.

Over the years Rose has played music ranging from pop to jazz. Today he plays piano in Llewellyn's, Harveys' 19th-floor, top-of-the-tower restaurant. "I get to play the great ones—Gershwin, Cole Porter."

Rose also has seen great performers at Tahoe. The biggest stars in the world appeared in Reno and Tahoe in the '50s and '60s. Casinos now can't compete with huge arenas to attract huge stars, but back before amplifiers could fill a ball park Rose saw all the big-name entertainers of the day.

"Tony Martin, Durante, Bobby Troup and Julie London, Liberace, Marlene Dietrich, Rowan and Martin, Sammy—I knew 'em all." Rose paused and added, "In fact,



After 37 years at Harveys, Ron Rose plays "the great ones" in his 19th-floor ivory tower.

I'm one of the only ones still alive."

He recalled, "Wayne Newton started at Harveys [in the lounge]. He used to bring his mother and father with him—he was 16 or 17. Vikki Carr was around 17 or 18, and she used to sit on the piano bench with

**"Tony Martin, Durante,
Liberace, Marlene Dietrich,
Rowan and Martin, Sammy
—I knew 'em all."**

me during her breaks." Carr was singing as Carlita. Wayne and brother Jerry—the Newton Brothers—were billed below The Characters.

Rose acknowledges that he might have picked a better profession to make big money. "But if I had it to do all over again, I probably wouldn't have done anything different. I don't think anything I could have done would make me happier."

A few years ago he got a big black Yamaha

grand piano to play at work. That made him happy, too.

In fact, Rose is a happy sort of guy. He talks about his wife Toots, his grandchildren, the friends he's known in and out of the business.

He fondly remembers entering the Mint 400 off-road race in Las Vegas a few years ago with his friend Shecky Greene. "We were in a dune buggy, and I got my helmet on backwards. Toots said I looked like one of the Flintstones."

He laughed. "I've sure had a lot of great friends."

Guy Richardson is a Reno Gazette-Journal editor and entertainment writer.

Rose to the Occasion

Ron Rose tickles the ivories from 6 p.m. to closing time Wednesday through Sunday at Llewellyn's in Harveys at Stateline, Lake Tahoe.

Star-Studded Slopes

This winter, during three celebrity skiing events at Tahoe resorts, you can rub ski poles with and cheer on your favorite stars from the movie, television, and sporting worlds.

The first event of 1996 is the Golden Gate Productions Downhill Relays at noon on January 6 at Squaw Valley. The pulse-pounding race will feature skiing superstars such as Austria's Franz Klammer, gold medalist in the 1976 Winter Olympics, and North Tahoe resident Tamara McKinney. For more information call Squaw Valley, 916-583-6985.

On January 12-14, you can see Hollywood stars during the Squaw Creek Celebrity Sports Invitational. Olympic champions and entertainment and sports personalities will compete in a downhill race, cross-country ski challenge, and a broomball tournament, where contestants trade hockey sticks for brooms. Last year's competitors included Gabrielle Carteris of *Beverly Hills 90210*, Jane

Seymour of *Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman*, and Tim Daly of *Wings*. All downhill races, including Saturday's finals, start at 10 a.m. The best vantage point is from the Squaw Creek Lodge Sun Plaza deck. For information, call the Resort at Squaw Creek, 916-583-6300.

During the King of the Mountain Downhill Series Final, 12 Olympic and World Cup champions, including Phil Mahre, Franz Klammer, and Tamara McKinney, will dash down one of North America's toughest courses, the Face, a steep run above Heavenly Ski Resort's main lodge. Between races, spectators can visit the expo tent, which has exhibits and prize giveaways such as skis and jackets. Racers train February 22-23; competition starts at 11:30 a.m. on February 24. To avoid the jammed parking lot, take the free Heavenly



Fans can watch top skiers battle it out during the King of the Mountain Series Final at Heavenly Ski Resort, February 23-24.



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Timothy Busfield at the Celebrity Ski Invitational.

Ski Shuttle from Stateline casinos. For more information call Heavenly, 702-586-4462.

Finish-line viewing for the events is free, but watching the King of the Mountain from the starting gate requires a pass. Olympic athletes usually welcome autograph seekers, but some celebrities are autograph-shy.—*Kim Pryor*

Future Festivals

Snowfest, March 1-10, is a major celebration at North Lake Tahoe. Popular events include the Localman Triathlon, in which residents test their talents in three essential skills—shoveling snow, stacking wood, and installing tire chains. Call 916-583-7625.

Northstar will be the site of the **California Special Olympics Winter Games** on March 4-7. The special athletes take part in skiing and other snow events. Call 916-562-1010.

Squaw Valley holds its **Winter Carnival** on March 15-17. Call 916-583-6985.

Tahoe Winterfest, a gay and lesbian celebration, takes place March 16-23 at North Lake Tahoe. Call 916-582-1889.



Skiing Around the State

A guide to Nevada and Tahoe Basin ski areas.

1996 Downhill Skier's Guide

Area	Phone	Top Elevation	Vertical	Lifts	Rating Bg-Int-Adv	Lift Price Adult/Child	Rental Adult/Child	Snowboards
TAHOE BASIN								
Alpine Meadows	916-583-4232	8,637	1,800	12	25-40-35	\$45/\$18	\$20/\$15	No
Boreal	916-426-3666	7,800	600	9	30-55-15	\$34/\$10	\$19/\$14	Yes
Diamond Peak	702-831-3211	8,540	1,840	7	18-46-36	\$35/\$14	\$17/\$11	Yes
Donner Ski Ranch	916-426-3635	7,751	720	6	25-50-25	\$20/\$10	\$15/\$10	Yes
Granlibakken	916-583-4242	6,480	280	2	50-50-0	\$15/\$8	\$15/\$12	No
Heavenly	702-586-7000	10,040	3,500	25	20-45-35	\$44/\$19	\$20/\$10	Yes
Ski Homewood	916-525-2992	7,880	1,650	10	15-50-35	\$34/\$11	\$19/\$12	Yes
Kirkwood	209-258-6000	9,800	2,000	11	15-50-35	\$41/\$20	\$20/\$14	Yes
Mount Rose	702-849-0706	9,700	1,440	5	30-35-35	\$38/\$14	\$20/\$12	Yes
Northstar-at-Tahoe	916-562-1010	8,600	2,200	11	25-50-25	\$43/\$19	\$22/\$14	Yes
Sierra at Tahoe	916-659-7453	8,852	2,212	10	25-50-25	\$39/\$19	\$22	Yes
Soda Springs	916-426-3666	7,352	652	2	30-50-20	\$15/Free	\$15	Yes
Squaw Valley	916-583-6955	9,050	2,850	33	25-45-30	\$43/\$5	\$21/\$12	Yes
Sugar Bowl	916-426-3651	8,383	1,500	9	15-40-45	\$40/\$10	\$19/\$13	Yes
Tahoe Donner	916-587-9420	7,350	600	3	60-40-0	\$26/\$12	\$17/\$13	Yes

AROUND THE STATE

LV Ski & Snowboard	702-646-0008	9,510	1,000	3	20-60-20	\$27/\$20	\$15	Yes
Elko Snobowl	702-738-6125	7,000	620	3	20-60-20	\$6	No	Yes

1996 Cross Country Skier's Guide

Area	Phone	Trail (km)	Trail Fee Adult/Child	Rental Adult/Child	Lessons Adult/Child	Day Lodge
TAHOE BASIN						
Clair Tappaan Lodge	916-426-3632	12	\$5/\$2.50	\$13/\$8.50	\$14	✓
Diamond Peak	702-831-3211	35	\$12/\$7	\$12/\$8	\$15	✓
Hope Valley	916-544-2011	96	none	\$14/\$8	\$26/\$18**	✓
Kirkwood	209-258-7248	80	\$14/\$5	\$12/\$8	\$30/\$20**	✓
Lake Tahoe Basin	916-573-2600	The U.S. Forest Service has brochures on many forest areas.				
Lake View	916-583-9353	65	\$15/\$6	\$15/\$9	\$35**	
Northstar-at-Tahoe	916-562-2475	65	\$15/\$8	\$16/\$9	\$35/\$25**	✓
Royal Gorge	916-426-3871	321	\$19.50/\$8.50	\$16.50/\$12.50	\$16/\$12	✓
Spooner Lake	702-887-8844	101	\$13.50/\$10	\$14/\$8	\$32/\$20**	✓
Squaw Valley	916-583-6300	30	\$12/\$8*	\$12/\$8*	\$32/\$28**	✓
Tahoe Donner	916-587-9484	70	\$15/\$13	\$13/\$9	\$34/\$25**	✓

AROUND THE STATE

LV Ski and Snowboard	702-252-8077 702-873-8800	Randy McGhie's of the Ski Chalet offers x-country suggestions. The U.S. Forest Service has info on camping and avalanche conditions.				
Ruby Mountains (Elko)	702-753-6867	Ruby Mt. Heli-Skiing in Lamoille offers helicopter skiing.				
Spring Valley (Eureka)	702-237-5280	Ron Carrion at the Owl Club provides directions.				
White Pine (Ely)	702-289-3031	Ward Mt. and Loop Trails info available from the U.S. Forest Service.				

**Includes trail pass, equipment, and lessons.
All prices are subject to change. Call resorts for information about children's programs.

Carson City Chamber Orchestra Concert • Feb. 25 • Carson City Community Center, 883-4154

GENERAL INTEREST

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

Valhalla Winter Brewfest • Jan. 20 • Microbrews and live music, 6:30-9:30pm, \$15. Heavenly Ski Resort, 916-542-4166.

SNOW SPORTS

Cross Training for Cyclists • Jan. 6 • Royal Gorge Ski Resort, Soda Springs, 916-426-3871.

Golden Gate Productions Downhill Relays • Jan. 6 • Olympic and World Cup skiing greats. Squaw Valley, 916-583-6985.

Elvis Lives at Mount Rose • Jan. 6-7 • Celebration of Elvis Presley's birthday, contest, entertainment, races. Mount Rose Ski Area, 849-0704.

Half-Pipe and Boardercross Competition • Jan. 6-7 • U.S. Amateur Snowboard Assn. event. Boreal and Soda Springs ski areas, 916-426-3666.

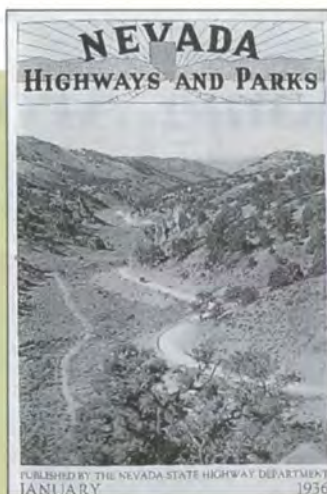
Kids Karnival and Fun Day • Jan. 7 • Boreal Ski Area, 916-426-3666.

Celebrity Ski Invitational • Jan. 12-14 • Celebrities race for the United States Olympic Committee. Resort at Squaw Creek, 916-583-6300.

Truckee Lions Sierra Sweepstakes Sled Dog Races • Jan. 13-14 • Truckee Tahoe Airport, 916-587-3276 or 916-587-7444.

Make-A-Wish Foundation Media Olympics • Jan. 20 • Local radio, television, and newspaper personalities compete in two-person teams. Mount Rose Ski Area, 849-0706.

Tahoe Snowboard Series • Jan. 22 • Boreal and Soda



60 Years of Nevada, 1936-1996

The 60-year history of Nevada Magazine is the subject of a new exhibit at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City. The exhibit, which opens in January, includes displays of classic covers, old printing materials, and other memorabilia that extend back to the magazine's first issue, published by the Nevada Department of Highways in January 1936 (above).

Springs ski areas, Donner Summit, 916-426-3666.

Winter Carnival • Jan. 29-Feb. 3 • Annual celebration. U of N, 784-6505.

Kids Karnival and Fun Day • Feb. 4 • Boreal Ski Area, 916-426-3666.

Ski the Huts Marathon Tour • Feb. 4 • Cross-country ski tour. Royal Gorge, Summit Station, 916-426-3871.

Lakeview Quick Kick • Feb. 10 • 10K cross-country ski race. Lakeview Cross Country Ski Area, 916-583-9353.

Historic Longboard Racing • Feb. 11 • Authentic longboards supplied, Boreal and Soda Springs ski areas, 916-426-3666.

Lakeview Tea Party and Tour • Feb. 11 • 20K ski tour, tea, coffee, and hot chocolate are served at rest stops. Lakeview Cross Country Ski Area, 916-583-9353.

Tahoe Snowboard Series • Feb. 11 • Jumps, tricks. Mount Rose Ski Area, Reno, 849-0704.

Truckee Meadows Community Ski Day • Feb. 14 • Fifth annual, residents ski for \$15, U of N ski team fundraiser. Northstar-at-Tahoe, 916-562-3577.

Boardercross at Mount Rose • Feb. 18 and 25 • Snowboard races. Mount Rose Ski Area, 849-0704.

King of the Mountain Series Finals • Feb. 23-24 • Olympic and World Cup skiing champions race the Face. Heavenly Ski Resort, 586-7000.

Emigrant Trail Tour • Feb. 25 • Cross-country ski tour from Summit Station to Rainbow Lodge along the historic Emigrant Trail. Royal Gorge Ski Resort, Soda Springs, 916-426-3871.

Tahoe Snowboard Series Freestyle Competition • Feb. 25 • Diamond Peak Ski Area, 832-1171.

International Police Winter Games • Feb. 25-March 1 • 10th annual. Heavenly Ski Resort, 586-7000.

SPORTS AND COMPETITIONS

Reno Renegades • Professional ice hockey, West Coast Hockey League, Jan. 16 and 19 v. Fresno Falcons, Jan.

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\$49 per night*



*Rate good Sun.-Thu., through April 25. Excludes holidays. Subject to availability, advance reservations required. Suites and groups not included.

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20 v. Bakersfield Fog, Jan. 23 v. San Diego Gulls, Feb. 13 v. Alaska Gold Kings, Feb. 16 and 19 v. Anchorage Aces, Feb. 28 v. San Diego Gulls, Feb. 29 v. Bakersfield Fog, March 5 and 23 v. Bakersfield Fog, March 6 v. Fresno Falcons, March 19 and 22 v. Alaska Gold Kings, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 828-3400.



Madison Ave. plays at the Crystal Bay Club on Lake Tahoe's North Shore, February 27-March 10.

University of Nevada Men's Basketball • Jan. 3 v. Marshall (ESPN-TV), Jan. 8 v. Utah State, Jan. 13 v. San Jose State, Jan. 15 v. Pacific, Jan. 25 v. UC Irvine, Jan. 27 v. Cal State Fullerton, Feb. 15 v. Long Beach State, Feb. 17 v. Santa Barbara, Feb. 26 v. UNLV (ESPN-TV), March 2 v. New Mexico State, March 8-10 Big West Conference, games are played at Lawlor Events Center, U of N campus, 348-PACK.

University of Nevada Women's Basketball • Jan. 2 v. Cal State Fullerton, Jan. 4 v. UC Irvine, Jan. 12 v. San Jose State, Jan. 14 v. Hawaii, Jan. 21 v. Pacific, Feb. 2 v. UNLV, Feb. 4 v. New Mexico State, Feb. 14 v. Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Feb. 23 v. UC Santa Barbara, Feb. 25 v. Long Beach State, Lawlor Events Center, 348-PACK.

Reno Classic VIII Dart Tournament • Jan. 5-7 • Novice and professional competitors. Sands Regency, Reno, 348-2200 or 800-233-4939.

Reno USA Gymnastics Team Challenge • Jan. 14 • Nadia Comaneci and Bart Connor host competition between top male and female Olympic contenders. Lawlor Events Center, 367-7366 or 348-6388.

Celebrity Bowling Tournament • Feb. 10 • Sports stars bowl for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Reno Hilton Bowling Center, 329-2440.

COMING EVENTS

Snowfest • March 1-10 • North Lake Tahoe, 916-583-7625.

Cowboy Jubilee and Poetry • March 9 • Celebration of

life on the range. Carson City, 883-1532.

Mother Earth Awakening Powwow • March 15-17 • Carson City, 882-1808.

Winterfest • March 15-23 • Incline Village, 916-582-1892.

Cowboy Culture Weekend • March 29-31 • Minden, 782-9711 ext. 697 or 800-321-6983.
RSVP Spring Fun Fair • May 1-5 • Carson City, 687-4680.

Fiesta Nevada • May 3-5 • Sparks, 353-2284.

Minden Spring Arts and Crafts Street Fair • May 18-19 • 782-4227.

Snowshoe Thompson Festival • June 1 • Genoa, 265-2889.

Reno West Coast Wine Tasting and A Taste of Nevada • June 7 • 827-7711.

Celebrate the River • June 7-9 • Reno, 334-2077.

Carson Valley Days • June 7-9 • Gardnerville, 265-5281.

Kit Carson Rendezvous and Wagon Train • June 7-9 • Carson City, 884-7711.

Reno Rodeo • June 22-30 • 329-3877.

Hot August Nights • July 31-Aug. 4 • Reno-Sparks, 829-1955.

Nevada State Fair • Aug. 21-25 • Reno, 688-6767.

Great Reno Balloon Race • Sept. 6-8 • 826-1181.

Virginia City International Camel Races • Sept. 6-8 • 847-0311.

National Championship Air Races • Sept. 12-15 • Reno-Stead, 972-6663.

Great Italian Festival • Oct. 12-13 • Reno, 786-5700.

Nevada Day Parade and Celebration • Oct. 31 • Carson City, 882-2600.

Celtic New Year • Nov. 1-3 • Reno, 800-535-3045.

National Senior Pro Rodeo Finals • Nov. 4-10 • Reno, 829-7469.

Celebrate Christmas on the River • Nov. 30 • Reno, 334-2414.

Sparks Hometowne Christmas • Dec. 7 • 353-2284.

SHOWGUIDE

The Reno and Lake Tahoe area offers production shows and big-name entertainment. Mickey Gilley returns to John Ascuaga's Nugget, and Harrah's presents stage shows in Reno and Lake Tahoe. It's always wise to call ahead for show times and reservations.

RENO/SPARKS

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

Clarion • 825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Bands play nightly in the *Center Stage Cabaret* and on weekends at the *Atlantis* nightclub.

Eldorado • 786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside Nevada) or 800-648-3024 (Canada): My Brother and Me, thru Jan. 7.

Fitzgeralds • 785-3300 or 800-648-5022 (U.S. outside Nevada).

Flamingo Hilton Reno • 785-7080: *Flamingo Showroom*: "American Superstars" (dark Tues. thru Feb. 14); *Monday Night Blues Jam* in the *Showspot Lounge*, where bands play Tues.-Sun.; music at *Top of the Hilton* restaurant.

Harolds Down Under • 329-0881 or 800-648-5022:

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Reno-Tahoe

Harolds reopens with Australian theme; *Dick Clark's American Bandstand Club*: DJ and bands alternate, Tues.-Sat.

Harrah's Reno • 788-3773 or 800-HARRAHS: *Sammy's Showroom*: "Playboy's Ecstasy" and "The Great Reno Wild Wild West Show" (dark Tues.); Bill Medley, Feb. 6-25; T.B.D., Feb. 27-March 3; bands play nightly in the *Rendezvous Bar*.

John Ascuaga's Nugget • Sparks, 356-3304 or 800-648-1177 (U.S. and Western Canada): *Celebrity Showroom*: Smokey Robinson, Dec. 31; Mickey Gilley, thru Jan. 10 (except Dec. 31); T.G. Sheppard, Jan. 11-24; Lacy J. Dalton, Jan. 25-Feb. 7; Roy Clark, Feb. 8-21; Blood, Sweat, and Tears featuring David Clayton Thomas, Feb. 22-March 6; *Rose Ballroom*: Smokey Robinson, Dec. 30; Drifters and Coasters buffet dinner-dance, Dec. 31; bands play nightly in the *Casino Cabaret* and at *Trader Dick's* restaurant.

Peppermill • 826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Music nightly on the casino stage.

Plantation Station • Sparks, 359-9440.

Reno Hilton • 789-2285 or 800-648-3568 (U.S. outside Nevada): *Hilton Theatre*: Jeff Kutash's "Splash" (dark Thurs. and thru Feb. 16); Peking Circus, thru Jan. 7; *Aspen Lounge*: Bands play Tues.-Sun.; *Just for Laughs Comedy Club*: Comedians perform.

Reno Hotel • 788-2000.

Silver Club • Sparks, 358-4771 or 800-648-1137 (U.S. outside Nevada).

Silver Legacy • 329-4777 or 800-MUST-SEE: *Silver Legacy Gazebo*: Wally Jones and Perry Joe Schirmer, afternoons; Gary Xavier, evenings; lightning storm and mining machine shows, throughout the day.

Western Village • Sparks, 331-1069 or 800-648-1170.

CARSON CITY/CARSON VALLEY

Carson City Nugget • 882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (continental U.S. outside Nevada): Preston Hodge appears in the *Cork and Bottle* 3 to 9pm except Mon.; bands play at the *Nugget Showbar*.

Carson Station • Carson City, 883-0900.

Carson Valley Inn • Minden, 782-9711 or 800-321-6983: Entertainment Tues.-Sat. will include The Act and Zella Lehr.

Ormsby House • Carson City, 882-1890.

Piñon Plaza • Carson City, 885-9000.

Sharkey's Nugget • Gardnerville, 782-3133.

Topaz Lodge • Topaz Lake, 266-3339.

STATELINE, LAKE TAHOE

Bill's Lake Tahoe • 588-2455.

Caesars Tahoe • 586-2044 or 800-648-3353: *Circus Maximus Showroom*: Liza Minnelli, Dec. 29-31; Doo-



McAvoy Layne presents Mark Twain's "Letters From the Earth" January 5 at the Brewery Arts Center in Carson.

Team Tumbling

Nadia Comaneci and Bart Connor will leap into Reno's Lawlor Events Center for a high-flying battle of the sexes at the Reno Gymnastics Team Challenge, January 14.

Comaneci, the Romanian gymnastics star who won three gold medals in the 1976 Olympics in Montreal, will coach the women's team, and Connor, who won the gold in the parallel bars at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, will coach the men. The two also will co-host the event.

Comaneci's team includes Shannon Miller, Kim Zmeskal, Amy Chow, Dominique Moceanu, Svetlana Boguinskaya, and Mary Beth Arnold, Reno's Olympic hopeful.

Connor's team has John Roethlisberger, Chainey Umphrey, Jarrod Hanks, Mihal Baglu, Valeri Linkin, and Reno's Mark Booth.

The day's events also will include exhibition performances by some of the competitors as well as Comaneci and Connor. Ticket prices for the Reno Gymnastics Team Challenge range from \$12.50 to \$35. Lawlor Events Center is on the University of Nevada, Reno campus. For information on the event call 702-348-6388 or 800-FOR-RENO.—Carol Infranca



Olympic athlete Kim Zmeskal competes in the Reno Gymnastics Team Challenge at Lawlor Events Center on January 14.

CARSON CITY

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CARSON CITY

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HOTELS

Casino Notes

New Tower: The Clarion recently announced plans for a third hotel tower. In addition to having 921 rooms and a three-story waterfall, the \$120-million, 27-story tower will more than double the casino floor space to 56,000 square feet. The Clarion, in south Reno, also plans to add a skyway over Peckham Lane that will link the property to the Reno-Sparks Convention Center.

Zany Zone: Circus Circus in downtown Reno has brought a bit of wacky midway action to the casino floor in the Zany Zone Party Pit. In the Zany Zone, which has five blackjack tables and one roulette wheel, the dealers act as carnival barkers who might zonk a player on the head with a balloon bat as often as they deal cards. The area is identified by colored blinking lights, prizes like beer mugs and baseball caps, and a thermometer to help dealers keep tabs on hot and cold card games.

Sky Sight: Former Disney muralist Terry Peterson painted more than 3,000 square feet of sunset sky and *trompe l'oeil* ("to fool the eye") architectural features for the Eldorado's new Grand Plaza on the mezzanine level. The plaza also showcases a Baroque-style Fountain of Fortune that spans 50 feet and is crafted from marble and bronze. A new restaurant, Project Bistro 21, is scheduled to open near the Grand Plaza in the spring.

Art Imitating Life: Harrah's Reno commissioned a permanent gaming art exhibit for its new downtown Reno property, the Hampton Inn. The Art of Gaming is a collection of gambling-motif sculptures that can be seen throughout the 26-story, \$30-million hotel, which opened in October.

Reno on the Silver Screen: The National Bowling Stadium's 177-seat movie theater, which sits inside the building's 80-foot-diameter silver "bowling ball," opened its doors to the public in September. *Reno:*

More Ways to Play, the featured 70-millimeter film, plays on a screen that is 42½ feet wide and 31½ feet high.

Let the Games Begin: The roulette wheel



Pigs dressed as showgirls are part of the Art of Gaming, a sculpture collection at the Hampton Inn in downtown Reno.

and slot machines at the Ormsby House in Carson City were awakened from a two-and-a-half-year slumber when the casino reopened at 12:01 a.m. on October 1. The hotel reopened without gaming last February with refurbished rooms and restaurants, all part of a \$5-million renovation project scheduled for completion this summer.

Winning Wines: Le Moulin, the Peppermill's continental restaurant, has been honored with the 1995 Grand Award from *Wine Spectator Magazine* for the ninth consecutive year. The award recognizes the restaurant's wine list, which includes 697 selections.

Silver Service: A portion of the Mackay silver service is on display at the Silver Legacy, Reno's new themed resort. The University of Nevada, Reno owns 58 service items that once belonged to Comstock silver baron John W. Mackay and has loaned the Silver Legacy several pieces, including a 36-inch candelabra that weighs more than 500 ounces.

bie Brothers, Jan. 19-20; Eddie Money, Jan. 26-27; B.B. King, Feb. 2-3; Jackson Browne, Feb. 16-18.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe • 588-6606 or 800-HARRAHS: *South Shore Room*: "Mystique," opening Jan. 12; *Tower of Power*, Feb. 16-18; *Casino Center Stage*: Nightly bands.

Harveys • 588-2411 or 800-HARVEYS: *Emerald Theatre*: "Dick Clark's American Bandstand," musical revue; *Llewellyn's*: Ron Rose Sound; music in the *Emerald Party Lounge*.

Lake Tahoe Horizon • 588-6211 or 800-648-3322: *Grande Lake Theater*: Ty Herndon, Jan. 5-6; Air Supply, Jan. 19-20; Eddie Rabbitt, Jan. 26-27; *Golden Cabaret*: Wise Guys Comedy Cabaret (dark Mon.); bands play nightly in the *Aspen Lounge*.

Lakeside Inn • 588-7777.

NORTH LAKE TAHOE

Cal-Neva Resort • Crystal Bay, 832-4000 or 800-225-6382.

Crystal Bay Club • Crystal Bay, 831-0512: Bands such as *Run and Soul* Providers play in the lounge.

Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe • Incline Village, 832-1234.

Tahoe Biltmore • Crystal Bay, 831-0660 or 800-245-8667: Music and dancing nightly in the *Aspen Lounge* with David Proud and Dakota.

GAMING TOURNAMENTS

January & February

Winners Weekend Slots • Jan. 5-6 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300 or 800-843-2427.

Honey I Shrank the Fitz Dollar Slots • Jan. 5-7 and 15-17 • Fitzgeralds, 786-3663.

Keno • Jan. 12-12 • Clarion, 824-4440 ext. 3348.

Paradise Dollar Slots • Jan. 14-15 • Clarion, 824-4440 ext. 3348.

Blackjack • Jan. 19-20 • Clarion, 824-4440 ext. 3348.

Dollar Slot Marathon • Jan. 21-22 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300 or 800-843-2427.

Slots • Jan. 21-22 • Peppermill, 689-7282 ext. 7282.

Superbowl of Cash Slots • Jan. 21-23 • Comstock, 329-1880.

Slots • Jan. 26-27 • Clarion, 824-4440 ext. 3348.

Super Keno • Jan. 26-28 • Comstock, 329-1880.

\$130,000 Junior Classic Slots • Jan. 28-31 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300 or 800-843-2427.

Keno Shootout • Feb. 2-4 • Comstock, 329-1880.

Let Me Call You Sweetheart Video Poker • Feb. 4-6 • Comstock, 329-1880.

Blackjack • Feb. 4-6 • Peppermill, 689-7282 ext. 7282.

Cupid's Quiver of Loot Super Slots • Feb. 9-11 • Comstock, 329-1880.

Keno • Feb. 16-17 • Clarion, 824-4440 ext. 3348.

Quarter Crazy Slots • Feb. 16-18 • Comstock, 329-1880.

Slots • Feb. 17-19 • Clarion, ext. 3348.

Slots • Feb. 19-20 • Peppermill, 689-7282 ext. 7282.

Pai Gow Poker • Feb. 23-25 • Comstock, 329-1880.

ATTRACTIONS, TOURS & MUSEUMS

CARSON CITY

Brewery Arts Center • 449 W. King St., 883-1976.

Children's Museum of Northern Nevada • 813 N. Carson St., 884-2226.

Kit Carson Trail • Walking tour, talking houses on AM 530, 882-1565 or 800-638-2321.

Nevada State Capitol • 687-5030.

Nevada State Library and Archives • State Constitution

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Carson Valley Inn

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Air Supply performs January 19-20 at the Lake Tahoe Horizon in Stateline.

exhibit, 100 Stewart St., 687-5210.

Nevada State Museum • 600 N. Carson St., 687-4810.

Nevada State Railroad Museum • S. Carson St. at Fairview Dr., 687-6953.

Roberts' House Museum • 1207 N. Carson St., 882-1805.

Stewart Indian Cultural Center • 5366 Snyder, 882-1808.

Warren Engine Co. No. 1 Museum • 777 S. Stewart St., 887-2210.

GARDNERVILLE

Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center • Old Douglas County High School on Hwy. 395 S., 265-2889.

GENOA

Genoa Courthouse Museum • Seasonal, 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.

Planet Hollywood • Movie memorabilia, Caesars Tahoe, 588-7828.

Ponderosa Ranch • Seasonal, Incline Village, 831-0691.

Tahoe Gal Paddlewheeler • Tahoe City, 916-583-0141.

Tahoe Queen Sternwheeler • South Lake Tahoe, 800-23-TAHOE.

Tahoe Rim Trail • 150-mile system, 588-0686.

U.S. Forest Service Visitors Center • Stream chamber in creek, 916-573-2600.

Vikingsholm • Tours, 916-525-7232.

Zephyr Cove Resort • 588-5021.

RENO

Animal Ark • North of Reno on Red Rock Rd., 969-3111.

Bartley Ranch Regional Park • 6000 Bartley Ranch Rd., Western Heritage Interpretive Center, 828-6612.

Earth Window Museum • 500 N. Sierra St., Town Center Mall, 333-2828.

Fleischmann Planetarium • U of N, 784-4811.

Galena Creek Regional Park • Mount Rose Hwy., 785-4319.

Hidden Valley Regional Park • 4740 Parkway Dr., 785-4319.

Liberty Belle Slot Collection • 4250 S. Virginia St., in Liberty Belle Saloon, 825-1776.

Mackay School of Mines Minerals Museum • U of N, 784-6052.

National Automobile Museum • 10 Lake St. S., 333-9300.

National Bowling Stadium • Domed theater, 300 N. Center St., 334-2695.

Nevada Historical Society Museum • 1650 N. Virginia St., 688-1190.

Nevada Museum of Art, E. L. Wiegand Gallery • 160 W. Liberty St., 329-3333.

Planet Hollywood • Movie memorabilia, Harrah's Reno, 322-7837.

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.

Sheppard Fine Art Gallery • U of N, 784-6682.

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.

PYRAMID LAKE

Numana Hatchery Visitors Center • 574-0290.

SPARKS

Sparks Heritage Foundation and Museum • 820 Victorian Ave., 355-1144.

Wild Island • Off I-80, 359-2927.

VIRGINIA CITY

Assay Office Museum • 847-0777.

The Castle • Seasonal, 847-0275.

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 Museum • 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.

Virginia and Truckee Railroad • Seasonal, 847-0380.

Virginia City Radio Museum • 847-9047.

Virginia City Tours • 786-0866.

The Way It Was Museum • 847-0766.

Wild West Museum • 847-0400.

VERDI

Boomtown Family Fun Center • 345-8668.

Bull Creek Ranch • 345-7600.

WASHOE VALLEY

Bowers Mansion Park • Seasonal, 849-1825.

Davis Creek Park • 849-0684.

Old Washoe Stables • 1201 Hwy. 395, 849-1020.

Washoe Lake State Park • E. Lake Blvd., 687-4319.

A Reminder:

To confirm dates and times, please use the phone number listed with each event. The area code is 702 throughout Nevada. For hotels' toll-free phone numbers, call 800-555-1212.

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Rural Territories

EVENTS

January & February

COWBOY COUNTRY



EXHIBITS

Art Shows • thru Jan. 25 • Elko County Art Club juried show, watercolors by Gardnerville artist Janice Powell-Shedd. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418.

SEASONAL

Super Bowl Party • Jan. 28 • Convention Center, Silver Smith, Wendover, 664-2231.

PERFORMANCES

Laura Spitzer Concert • Jan. 26 • 7:30pm. Pianist performs at Pershing County High School Auditorium, Lovelock, 273-2082.

Cowboy Poetry Gathering • Jan. 27-Feb. 3 • 12th annual, cowboys and cowgirls gather and recite poetry, includes exhibits, music, workshops, and evening shows. Western Folklife Center, Elko Convention Center, 738-7508.

GENERAL INTEREST

Cowcamp Trading Post • Feb. 1-3 • Gear show. Red Lion, Elko, 360-668-2349.

Eagles Crab Feed • Feb. 3 • Pershing County Community Center, Lovelock, 273-7144.

SPORTS AND COMPETITIONS

Blackjack Tournament • Jan. 7-8 • Peppermill, Wendover, 664-2255.

Blizzard Open Arena Golf Tournament • Jan. 9-14 • Includes individual stroke play and two-person and couples best ball. Play is on nine-hole indoor course inside the Spring Creek Horse Palace, 12 miles south of Elko, 753-6295.

Keno Tournament • Jan. 21-22 • Peppermill, Wendover, 664-2255.

Invitational Chariot Races • Feb. 3-4 • Wells, 752-3540.

Slot Tournament • Feb. 4-6 • Peppermill, Wendover, 664-2255.

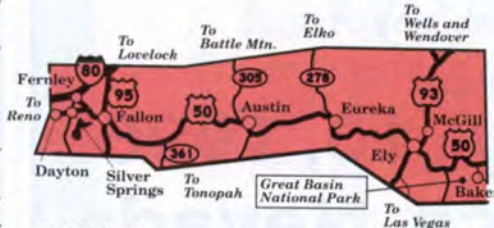
Snobowl Canoe Races • Feb. 10 • Snowy competition at Snobowl ski area, Elko, 738-5106.



Laura Spitzer has traveled throughout rural Nevada with her piano. She plays Lovelock on January 26.

Keno Tournament • Feb. 22-23 • State Line Casino, Wendover, 664-2231.

PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY



EXHIBITS

Photography Exhibit by C.J. Hadley • Feb. 1-28 • Photos from her book, *Trappings of the Great Basin Buckaroo*. Churchill Public Library, Fallon, 423-1440.

PERFORMANCES

Music Concert • Jan. 20 • Singer-songwriters Ian Tyson and Tom Russell. Fallon Convention Center, 423-1440.

GENERAL INTEREST

Hidden Cave Tours • Jan. 13 and 27, Feb. 10 and 14 •

9:30 am, BLM guide leads hike to archaeological site. Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677.

Nevada Cattlemen's Assn. All-Breeds Bull and Heifer Sale • Feb. 16-17 • 30th annual, pre-sale dinner and dance on Feb. 16, auction Feb. 17. Fallon Convention Center, 738-9214.

Livestock and Big Game Symposium • Feb. 27-28 • Regarding elk and livestock. Fallon Convention Center, 738-9214.

PIONEER TERRITORY



PERFORMANCES

Cowboy Culture Music Concert • Jan. 19 • Recording artists Ian Tyson and Tom Russell, guitarist Andrew Hardin. Yerington Theatre for the Arts, 463-3066.

Thomas Otten: Concert Pianist • Feb. 23 • Yerington Theatre for the Arts, 463-3066.

GENERAL INTEREST

Fossil House and 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, 964-2440.

Spaghetti Cook-Off • Feb. 24 • Dinner and raffle. Amargosa Multi-Purpose Building, 372-5433.

Good Sam Jamboree • Feb. 29-March 3 • Camp out, swap meet. Amargosa Multi-Purpose Building, 372-5459.

SPORTS AND COMPETITIONS

Nevada Cowboy Action Shooting Championships • Jan. 12-14 • Pahrump, 564-7762.

Walker Lake Fish Derby • Feb. 17-19 • 11th annual, derby includes heaviest fish, first heaviest fish each day, award for catching the blue-tagged fish. Meet at Sportsman Beach, 15 miles north of Hawthorne, 945-5896 or 945-3266.

COMING EVENTS

Shooting the West • March 8-10 • Winnemucca, 800-WMCA-NEV.

Walker Lake Bird and Natural History Festival • April 22-24 • 945-5896.

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta • May 6 • Wendover, 664-3403.

Shopping Is Pure Poetry

While cowboys and cowgirls spin yarns about branding, roping, and riding, visitors during Elko's Cowboy Poetry Gathering can saddle up to take part in another fine Western tradition—shopping.

Now in its fifth year, Cowcamp Trading Post, held in the Red Lion Inn Ballroom, offers saddles, spurs, bits, boots, hats, braided rawhide ropes, horsehair hitches, old country clothing, and Western art. Demonstrations by artists, impromptu music, and the ongoing chatter lends an informal, friendly tone to the show. Customers also can create their own pieces with the help of saddle makers, engravers, and other exhibitors.

Cowcamp Trading Post is open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, February 1, through Saturday, February 3. The show is free.

The Cowboy Poetry Gathering takes place January 27 through February 3. Many popular poets and musicians, such as singer Michael Martin Murphey, storyteller Curt Brummett, and the Riders in the Sky, will return this year. About one-third of the per-



The Cowboy Chrome exhibit.

formers are new, including a couple of cowboy poets from England. This year's gathering highlights the Native American ranching traditions of storytelling, poetry, music, leather working, and Apache cowcamp bread making. Most events are held at the Elko Convention Center and the Western Folklife Center, which sponsors the event.

Tickets to performances and hotel rooms are at a premium, so it's wise to confirm plans as soon as possible. For information



At Cowboy Poetry time in Elko there'll be gear shows and exhibits.

call the Western Folklife Center at 702-738-7508 or write Box 888, Elko, NV 89803. For information on Cowcamp Trading Post or a copy of the Hitching Post Supply Company's 1996 catalog *Tools of Tradition* send \$2 to Cowcamp Productions, 110312 210th St. S.E., Snohomish, WA 98290 or call 360-668-2349.—Kate Butler

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Silver State Classic Challenge • May 18-19 • Auto race. Ely, 289-8877.
Jim Butler Days • May 24-27 • Tonopah, 482-3859.
Mesquite Days • May 30-June 1 • 346-2902.
Gridley Days • June 14-16 • Austin, 964-2200.
Elko's National Basque Festival • July 5-7 • 738-7991.
All-Indian Rodeo, Stampede, and Pioneer Days • July 19-21 • Fallon, 423-2544.
Silver State Stampede • July 20-21 • Elko, 738-1499.
Pahrump Valley Harvest Festival • Sept. 13-15 • 727-5800.
Dayton Valley Days • Sept. 21-22 • 246-7909.
Fernley Frontier Days and Rodeo • Sept. 28-29 • 575-4459.
Smith Valley Fun Day • Oct. 6 • 465-2354.
World Finals • Oct. 13-15 • Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 664-3414.
Desert Challenge Motorcycle Race • Nov. 29-Dec. 1 • Fallon, 423-4556.

PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY

ELY

Hotel Nevada • 289-6665: Comedy on Tues.

FALLON

Bonanza Inn • 423-3111 ext. 47.
Fallon Nugget • 423-3111.

PIONEER TERRITORY

AMARGOSA

Longstreet Inn • 431-9882: Weekend entertainment.

BEATTY

Stagecoach • 553-2419 or 800-4BIGWIN (U.S. outside Nevada).

HAWTHORNE

El Capitan • 945-3321.
Joe's Tavern • 945-2302.

PAHRUMP

Saddle West Casino • 800-GEDDY-UP.

TONOPAH

Mizpah Hotel • 482-6202.
Station House • 482-9777.

YERINGTON

Casino West • 463-2481 or 800-227-4661.
Dini's Lucky Club • 463-2868.

SHOWGUIDE

Casinos often bring star entertainment to rural Nevada. For example, Michael Martin Murphey will appear at Stockmen's in Elko and the Tokens play for oldies fans at Cactus Petes in Jackpot. Many lounges have comedy or karaoke during the week and bands on weekends. Call ahead for show times.

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): Comedy Tues.-Sun.
Stockmen's Hotel • 738-5141: Great Northern Jam, Jan. 23-Feb. 4; Cowboy Poetry Jam nightly, Jan. 27-Feb. 3 during Cowboy Poetry Gathering; Michael Martin Murphey, Feb. 1-3.

JACKPOT

Barton's Club 93 • 755-2341.
Cactus Petes • 755-2321 or 800-821-1103: *Cabaret Lounge*: The Diamonds, Jan. 2-7; The Tokens, Jan. 9-14; The Flamingos, Jan. 16-21; The Four Aces, Jan. 23-28.
Horseshu Casino • 755-2321.

MILL CITY

Burns Bros. Casino • 538-7306: Bands play in *Mr. B's Lounge*.

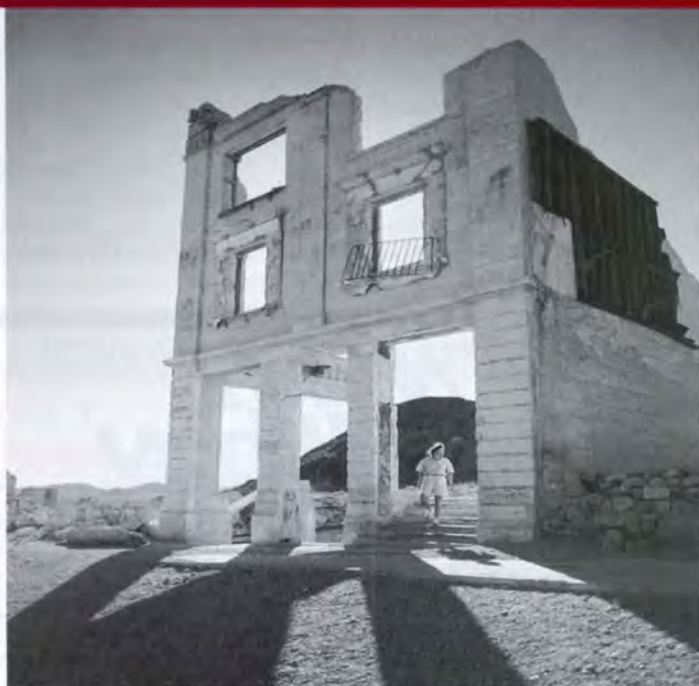
WENDOVER

Nevada Crossing Hotel • 664-2900 or 800-537-0207.
Peppermill • 664-2255 or 800-648-9660 (U.S. outside Nevada).
Rainbow Casino • 664-4000 or 800-217-0049.
Red Garter • 664-2111 or 800-982-2111 (continental U.S. outside Nevada): Bands include the Robey's and Ross Lewis Duo.
Silver Smith • 664-2231 or 800-354-3671: Nightly entertainment.
State Line Casino • 664-2221 or 800-648-9668: Nightly entertainment.

WINNEMUCCA

Winners Hotel • 623-2511: Karaoke on Mon.; comedy on Wed.; Marvin Whitfield, thru Jan. 7; bands are regularly scheduled.

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Shoot-Out at Pahrump

For one weekend in January, Pahrump will be filled with blazing guns and swaggering gunfighters during the fourth annual Nevada State Cowboy Action Shooting Championships, January 12-14.

About 150 men, women, and children from the western United States and Canada will compete in shoot-'em-ups and outrageous side events. In keeping with the Wild West theme, contestants use aliases like Renegade Rene and dress in 1800s Western attire. All shootin' irons are pre-1900.

"These matches are not recommended for first-time shooters," says Gary Ladd of River Mountain Regulators in Henderson, organizers of the championships. "We'd like the contestants to be familiar with these 100-year-old single and lever action firearms."

Side events—long-range rifle, Plainsman, and Toughest Hombre—are Friday and Sunday, but the action really gets fired up at Saturday's main event, which has eight timed stages, many of them based on historical events or scenes from well-known Western movies. These stages, with titles like "Ambush From the Barn," may find gunslingers riding a wooden hobby horse or saving a dummy during a shoot-out.



Shooters hone many skills competing in Pahrump.

In "Escape From the Pokey," for example, the shooter is locked in a jail cell where a handgun is hidden on a lunch tray. As the clock ticks, the desperado takes down the two deputies and shoots the lock off the door. Then he or she blasts a few more targets in the street and escapes.

The three-day event is held 10 miles from the Saddle West Casino, cohost of the activities. Take State Route 160 north about six miles to Bell Vista Street and follow the signs. There is no seating, so spectators can move around to find the best vantage point. For safety, sections close to the shooters are taped off, and safety officers make sure only competitors cross the line or carry firearms into the area.

Entry fees are \$60 for individuals, \$40 for spouses, and \$30 for juniors (under 17). Admission to the event is free, and spectators and contestants are required to wear protective glasses (which are not provided) and are encouraged to use ear plugs. For more information about the Nevada State Cowboy Action Shooting Championships in Pahrump call Saddle West, 800-GEDDY-UP, or River Mountain Regulators, 702-564-7762.—Katherine McDonnell



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- Western Folklife Round-up
- Hot Air Balloon Festival

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ATTRACTIONS, TOURS & MUSEUMS

COWBOY COUNTRY

Bonneville Salt Flats • Wendover, 801-977-4300.
Buckaroo Hall of Fame • Winnemucca, 623-2225.
Giant Tufa Park • West of Lovelock, 273-7213.
Humboldt Museum • Maple Ave. and Jungo Rd., Winnemucca, 623-2912.
Jarbridge Wilderness Area • North of Elko, 208-543-4129.
Northeastern Nevada Museum • 1515 Idaho St., Elko, 738-3418.
Pershing County Marzen House Museum • Marzen Ln., Lovelock, 273-7213.
Western Folklife Center • 501 Railroad St., Elko, 738-7508 or 800-748-4466.
Wild Horse State Recreation Area • 65 miles north of Elko, 758-6493.

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 • Part of White Pine copper line, 289-1663.
Eureka Opera House • Open Mon.-Fri. or by appointment, tours, Eureka, 237-6006.
Eureka Sentinel Museum • Monroe Ave., Eureka, 237-5010.
Fort Churchill State Historic Park • Silver Springs, 577-2345.
Great Basin National Park • Baker, 65 miles east of Ely, 234-7331.



Musician Tom Russell performs in Fallon on January 20.

Hickison Petroglyph Recreation Site • 24 miles east of Austin on U.S. 50.
Nevada Northern Railway Museum • Seasonal, 1100 Ave. A, 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, 728-4467.
White Pine Public Museum • 2000 Aultman St., Ely, 289-4710.

PIONEER TERRITORY

Belmont Courthouse State Historic Site • 50 miles north of Tonopah, 867-3001.
Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park • 23 miles east of Gabbs, 964-2440.
Cathedral Gorge State Park • Panaca, 728-4467.
Central Nevada Museum • Logan Field Rd., Tonopah, 482-9676.
Death Valley National Park • Via Beatty or Pahrump, 619-786-2331.
Lincoln County Historical Museum • Main St., Pioche, 962-5207.
Lyon County Museum • 215 S. Main St., Yerington, 463-2245.
Million Dollar Courthouse • Lacour St., Pioche, 962-5182.
Mineral County Historical Museum • 400 10th St., Hawthorne, 945-5142.
Pahrump Valley Winery • Tours, 3810 Winery Rd., 727-6900 or 800-368-WINE.
Rhyolite Bottle House, Historic Site • Four miles west of Beatty, 553-2424.
Spring Valley State Park • 20 miles east of Pioche, 962-5102.
Walker Lake State Recreation Area • Hawthorne, 945-5896.

A Reminder:

To confirm dates and times, please use the phone number listed with each event. 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; 874-1360

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 89125; 385-7367

Laughlin C of C: Box 77777, Laughlin, NV 89028; 298-2214 or 800-227-5245 outside Nevada

Laughlin Visitor Bureau: 3650 S. Pointe Cir., #104-B, Laughlin, NV 89029; 298-3022

Laughlin Visitor Center: 1555 Casino Dr., Laughlin, NV 89029; 298-3321 or 800-452-8445

Mesquite Area C of C: 250 W. Mesquite Blvd., Box 785, Mesquite, NV 89024; 346-2902

Mesquite Visitor Center: Interstate 15 Exit 122, Box 1560, Mesquite, NV 89024; 346-2703

Moapa Valley C of C: Hwy. 169, Box 361, Overton, NV 89040; 397-2193 (Lost City Museum)

Nevada Black C of C: 1048 W. Owens Ave., 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.



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.

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: 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 Visitors 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: 245 N. Lake Blvd., Tahoe City,

CA 96145; 916-581-6900

Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority: 4590 S. Virginia St., Reno, NV 89502; 827-RENO or 800-FOR-RENO in 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 96145; 916-583-3494 or 800-TAHOE 4 U

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 Visitor Information: Box 508, Jackpot, NV 89825; 755-2321 or 800-821-1103 anywhere in U.S. (Cactus Petes)

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; 532-8742

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: 30 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; 623-2225

Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Bureau: 50 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; 623-5071 or 800-WMCA-NEV

Pony Express Territory

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

Dayton Area C of C: 15 Main St., Box 408, Dayton, NV 89403; 246-7909 (open Thurs.-Sun.)

Ely's Bristlecone Convention Center: 150 Sixth St., Box 958, Ely, NV 89301; 289-3720

Eureka County C of C: Box 14, Eureka, NV 89316; 237-5484

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: 485 Truck Inn Way, Box 1606, Fernley, NV 89408; 575-4459

Great Basin C of C: Box 90, Baker, NV 89311; 234-7302

Greater Fallon Area C of C: 379 W. Williams Ave., Fallon, NV 89406; 423-2544

Silver Springs EDASS (Econ. Dev. Authority of Silver Springs): Box 269, Silver Springs, NV 89429; 577-2069

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: 119 E. Main, Box 956, Beatty, NV 89003; 553-2424

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

Gabbs, City of: Box 176, Gabbs, NV 89409; 285-4019

Goldfield C of C: Box 219, Goldfield, NV 89013; 485-3453

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

Mason Valley C of C: 227 S. Main St., Yerington, NV 89447-2536; 463-2245

Mineral County C of C: 601 Fifth St., 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: 301 Brower Ave., 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: Stewart Indian Museum and Cultural Center, 5366 Snyder Ave., 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; 687-4370

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area: Box 26569, Las Vegas, NV 89126; 363-1921

More Outdoor Activities

Bicycling in Nevada: Nevada Department 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: 2035 Last Chance Rd., Elko, NV 89801; 738-5171

Nevada Division 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: up to \$10 (\$), \$11 to \$20 (\$\$), \$21 to \$30 (\$\$\$), and more than \$30 (\$\$\$\$). The area code is 702 throughout Nevada.

Las Vegas Area

AMERICAN

- Imperial Palace Hotel/Emperor's Buffet**—731-3311. Carving station featuring roast baron of beef. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Imperial Palace Hotel/Imperial Buffet/Teahouse**—731-3311. Carving station featuring prime rib of beef. Weekend brunch. 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.

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 variety of international cuisine plus prime rib served nightly. B, L, D. \$, major.

ITALIAN

- Imperial Palace/Pizza Palace**—794-3261. Pizza, pasta, and salads. L, D. \$, major.
- Riviera Hotel/Ristorante Italiano**—794-9363. Vermicelli salsa bella vista, lobster Francaise, and fresh seafood. D. \$-\$\$\$\$, major.

MEXICAN

- 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.
- Riviera Hotel/Rik's Shaw**—794-9537. Pineapple duck, orange roughy with black pepper sauce. Beef, shrimp, chicken, and pork sautéed with Chinese vegetables in oyster sauce. D. \$-\$\$, major.

STEAK AND SEAFOOD

- Imperial Palace/Seahouse**—794-3261. Alaskan King crab legs, hot and cold appetizers, seafood salads. 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/Billy Bob's Steak House and Saloon**—5111 Boulder Hwy., 454-8060. Prime rib, porterhouse, petite filet, and lobster. 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.
- 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. Specializing in flame-broiled meats. D. \$, major.

Reno-Carson Area

AMERICAN

- Carson Nugget/Buffet**—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.
- Eldorado/The Brew Brothers**—Reno, 786-5700. Gourmet pizzas, ribs, barbecued shrimp, sausage sampler. L, D. \$, major.
- Fitzgeralds Reno/Molly's Garden**—785-3300. Omelets, prime rib, sandwiches, salads. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Fitzgeralds Reno/O' Lucky's Buffet**—785-3300. Open daily. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Holiday Hotel Casino/Shore Room**—Reno, 329-0411. Fresh salmon in chive sauce, chicken, prime rib. Steamed vegetable basket. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Ormsby House Hotel/V&T Coffee Shop**—Carson City, 882-1890. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Peppermill Hotel/Coffee Shop**—Reno, 826-2121. Filet of chicken croissant, Mediterranean omelet, California tostada salad, stuffed shells Florentine. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.
- Peppermill Hotel/Island Buffet**—Reno, 826-2121. Seafood buffet Fridays. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.
- Silver Legacy/Legacy Saloon and Deli Exchange**—Reno, 329-4777. Roast garlic Rosemary chicken with spinach pizza, chicken, warm lamb and feta cheese salad, and assorted deli sandwiches. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Silver Legacy/Victorian Buffet**—Reno, 329-4777. Prime rib, shrimp and crab cioppino, homemade ravioli, and chicken cacciatore. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Virginian Hotel/Ranch Restaurant**—Reno, 329-2673. Gambler's Breakfast, prime rib, New York steak. B, L, D. \$, AE, MC, V.

BASQUE

- Louis' Basque Corner**—301 E. Fourth St., Reno, 323-7203. Sweetbreads, tripe, paella, other seafood dishes. L, D. \$\$, major.

FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

- Eldorado/The Vintage**—Reno, 786-5700. Continental cuisine, daily specials, choice dry-aged beef, mesquite-grilled. Complimentary wine tasting from award-winning wine list. D. \$\$, major.
- Peppermill Hotel/Le Moulin**—Reno, 826-2121. Broiled swordfish Santa Cruz, filet mignon, bearnaise, veal piccata, lobster linguine a la Roma. D. \$-\$\$\$ major.

INTERNATIONAL

- Eldorado/Choices**—Reno, 786-5700. An express cafe with hofbrau, deli, bakery, ice cream. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Eldorado/Market Place Buffet**—Reno, 786-5700. Serving mushroom ravioli, fresh fish, homemade pastas, and prime rib. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Eldorado/Tivoli Gardens**—Reno, 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.
- Peppermill Hotel/Food Court**—Reno, 826-2121.

Manicotti marinara, prime rib, kung pao shrimp, chicken fajitas. B, L, D. \$, major.

ITALIAN

Eldorado/La Strada—Reno, 786-5700. Northern Italian cuisine with veal, chicken, and seafood entrees plus homemade pasta, sauces, and desserts. Award-winning wine list. D. \$\$, major.

ORIENTAL

Silver Legacy/Sweetwater Cafe—Reno, 329-4777. Baked homemade tortellini, fried shrimp, prime rib, and Cantonese pepper steak. B, L, D. \$, major.

STEAK AND SEAFOOD

Carson Nugget/Oyster Bar—882-1626. L, D. \$, major.

Carson Nugget/Steak House—882-1626. Veal scaloppini, scampi in dill sauce, chicken picata, escargot. D. \$\$, major.

Eldorado/Grill and Rotisserie—Reno, 786-5700. Mahogany-fueled rotisserie and grill, fresh fish, fowl, lamb, and USDA choice dry-aged beef, soup and salad bar. D. \$\$, major.

Ormsby House Hotel/Baron's Steak House—Carson City, 882-1890. L, D. \$\$, major.

Silver Legacy/Fairchild's Oyster Bar—Reno, 329-4777. Louisiana crab cakes, oyster pan roast, chicken and seafood jambalaya, and chef's seafood salad. L, D. \$\$, major.

Silver Legacy/Sterling's Seafood and Steakhouse—Reno, 329-4777. Medallions of filet mignon, prime rib, spicy roast chicken, and seafood fettucine. D. \$\$, major.

Lake Tahoe

AMERICAN

Caesars Tahoe/Cafe Roma—Stateline, 588-



Billy Bob's Steak House and Saloon at Sam's Town in Las Vegas offers diners prime rib, steaks, and lobster.

3515. Lamb chops, prime rib. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

ITALIAN

Caesars Tahoe/Primavera—Stateline, 588-3515. Specialties include 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. Dinner menu includes 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. Family-style Basque dinners Fri.-Sat., 5-10 p.m. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major credit cards accepted.

Lovelock: Sturgeon's—273-2971. Coffee Shop open 24 hours, family dining room. Fiesta Room Supper Club Tues.-Sat. Steaks, seafood, Mexican dishes. B, L, D. \$-\$\$\$ major.

Tonopah: Station House/Mary's Kitchen—482-9777. Casino restaurant. Hamburgers, steaks, and seafood. B, L, D. \$, AE, MC, V accepted.

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Man of a Century

George Burns, who bowed out of his 100th birthday show at Caesars, was born to the spotlight.

By Mike Weatherford

When George Burns first played Las Vegas in 1959, he was facing a show-business mid-life crisis. Burns had been in the spotlight more than 35 years but was known mainly as the gravelly voiced straight man to his scene-stealing wife, Gracie Allen. "My talent was off the stage," the comedian recalled in 1989. "I knew what to write, and Gracie knew how to say it. I only needed to feed Gracie one line—'How's your brother?'—and she'd talk for 40 years."

But in 1958, Gracie retired and *The Burns and Allen Show*, the longest-running sitcom on television to that date, went off the air. What could Burns do without her?

The comedian launched his second career at the Sahara Hotel on June 9, 1959. Not used to working alone, he adopted a variety-revue format and let his guest stars steal the limelight—Bobby Darin that first engagement and a 19-year-old Northwestern University student named Ann-Margret in a 1960 Christmas show. Still, *Las Vegas Sun* columnist Ralph Pearl saw that Burns was more than a straight man: "[His] charm and know-how in front of the footlights make

he didn't need a foil. He had something going for him even more unique than his ever-present cigar—his longevity. The key to his success, he would later say, was "I allow myself to get old."

And to joke about it.

While in his 80s, Burns resumed a series of almost-annual showroom engagements that would continue for more than a decade. The jokes took on more resonance with each passing year:

"I plan to keep performing until I'm the only one left."

"I'd go out with women my own age, but there aren't any women my own age."

"There's not a thing I do now that I didn't do when I was 18. Which shows you how pathetic I was when I was 18," he told a Caesars Palace crowd at his 98th birthday performance.

Burns remained a dependable showroom headliner well into his 90s. His act evolved into an autobiography of show-business stories dating back to his birth on January 20, 1896, as Nathan Birnbaum, the ninth of 12 children born on New York's Lower East Side. Of how he was a teen-aged flop on the vaudeville circuit until he teamed with Allen in 1923, changing both their fortunes forever.

Burns even incorporated a little soft-shoe into his routine until the late 1980s, when he began delivering his act from an armchair—"I sold the routine to Gregory Hines," he would explain.

The body became more stooped, the steps across the stage more difficult. But that raspy voice was still huge, the comic timing still precise, the advice always relevant: "Fall in love with what you do for

a living. It's very important," he would tell audiences and reporters.

His birthday was often celebrated on Las Vegas showroom stages. When he was 96, Siegfried and Roy sent a live baby tiger to the Riviera.

No date was more anticipated by Burns



Burns often celebrated his birthday on stage in Vegas.

and his fans than his centennial. He always claimed he wanted to play the London Palladium when he turned 100, "if the Palladium is still around." In reality, it became Caesars Palace, where tickets went on sale two years in advance and sold out for four public shows, at \$100 a seat. He also planned to perform post-birthday shows at Caesars Tahoe.

But in the summer of 1994, Burns slipped in his bathroom while drying himself after a shower and cut his head on a soap dish. Two months later, he required surgery to drain a buildup of fluid on his brain. Last fall, fans received some bad news: There would be no 100th birthday party at Caesars. "For him to do an hour show is too tough at his age," longtime manager Irving Fein announced.

No big plans for a private party had been made by late fall, either. But wherever George Burns spends his birthday, fans will remember the advice he gave in virtually every show: "You can't help getting older, but you don't have to get old."

Mike Weatherford is an entertainment writer for the Las Vegas Review-Journal.



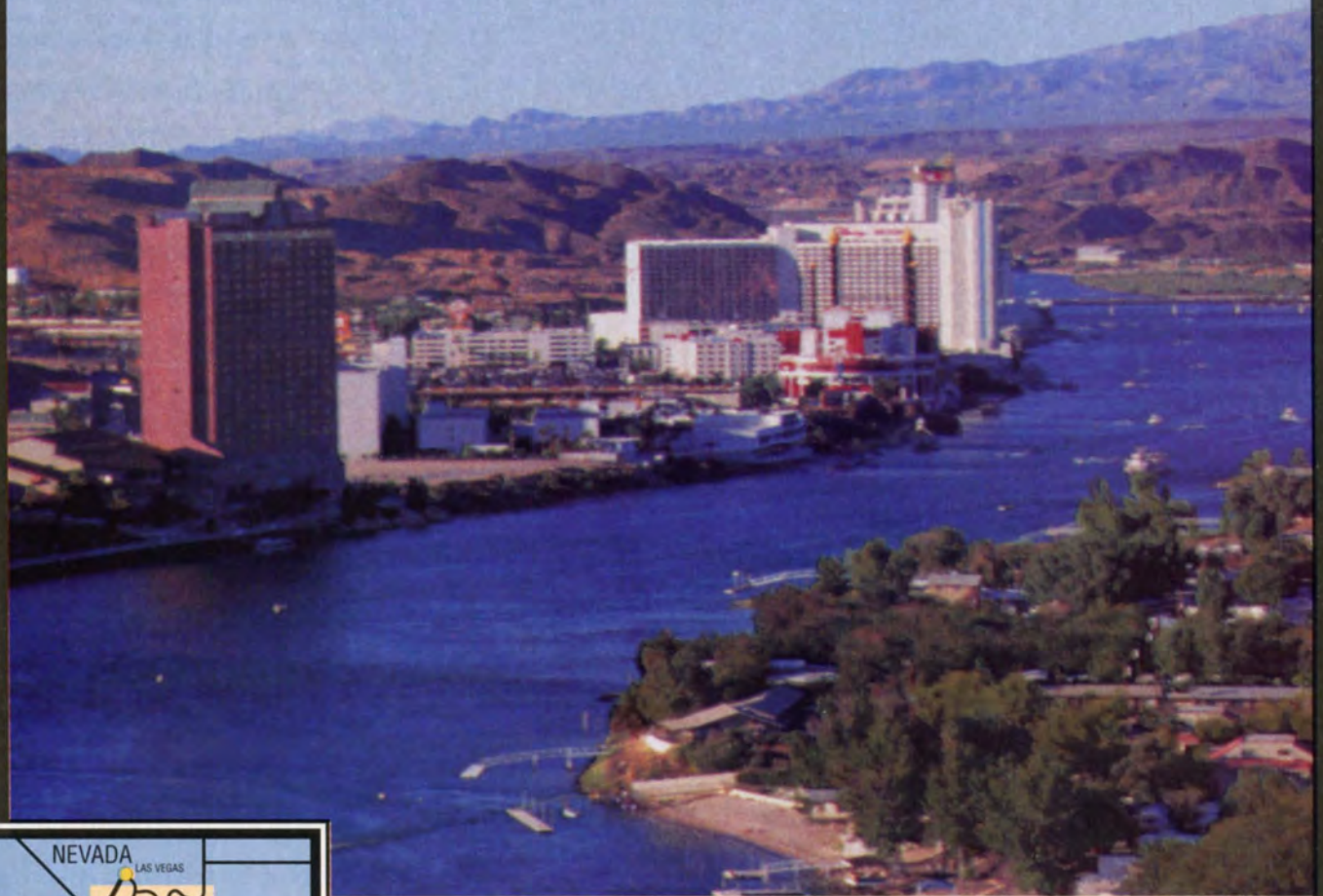
Burns, Gracie Allen, and Las Vegas businessman Jim Cashman chat during an early Helladorado Rodeo.

his variety show glitter from start to finish."

Allen died in 1964, and Burns' career followed his personal life into a slump until his 1975 comeback role in *The Sunshine Boys*. An even bigger screen part came two years later as the title character in *Oh, God!* Burns showed audiences, and himself, that

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