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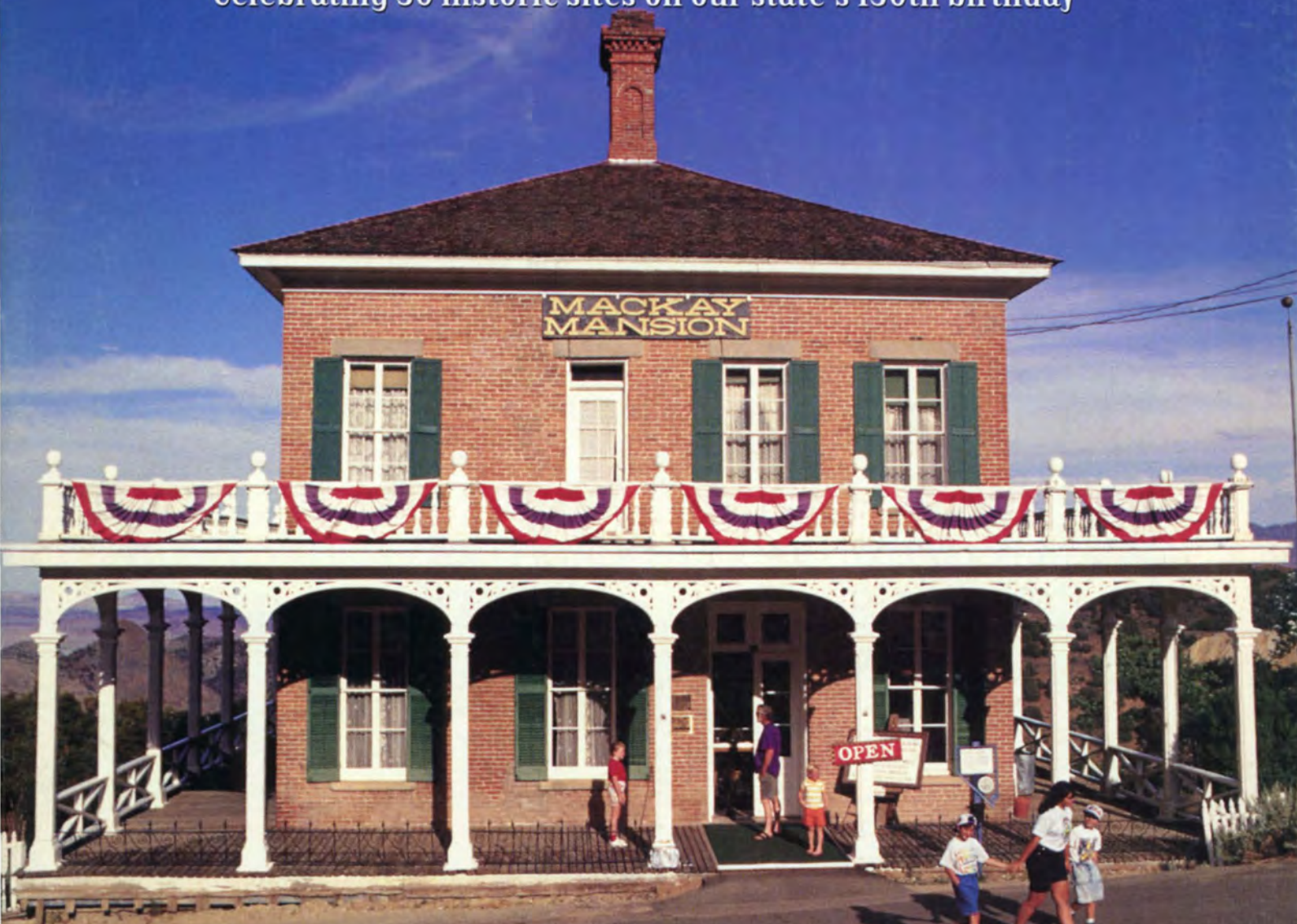
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Two Ty's

Ty Cobb, the Reno newspaperman and Virginia City native, met the man who shared his name more than 40 years ago on the first tee of the Washoe County Golf Course. Ty walked up and introduced himself to Ty Cobb, the retired Detroit Tiger outfielder who spent his summers at Lake Tahoe. The occasion was a golf tournament, and the Georgia Peach—the first player to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame—was about to tee off.

"The P.A. announcer gave Cobb a big blow," Ty recalls today "Then he muffed his drive."

Cobb wasn't thrilled to have hacked the shot, but he didn't lose his legendary temper. Cobb, the subject of a new movie that was partly filmed in Reno, wasn't mean-spirited at all, according to Ty, who recalls his friendship with Cobb in "The Other Side of Cobb" in this issue.

Still, Ty remembers Cobb's eccentricities, as when the old ball player and a sportswriter pal would drop by and polish off all the booze in the house. Or how Cobb would invite Ty and his family up to the lake and, after dinner, spin baseball yarns.

Ty, who turns 79 this September, still writes a weekly column for the *Reno Gazette-Journal*. His columns connect the past to the present, describing recent travels, current Reno affairs, and tales of old-time Virginia City. Occasionally Ty recalls the sports figures he has met, such as Jim Thorpe, Archie Moore, Ben Hogan, and Ty Cobb, controversial baseball hero and cinematic subject.

This issue is honored by the presence of another distinguished West Coast newspaperman, Herb Caen, columnist for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. (As a "namephreak" purveyor, Herb likely will appreciate the two Ty Cobbs' connection.) In "Golden Days" he reflects on "superior, mystical, untouchable" Lake Tahoe and the lake's poignant September song.

In a Nevada Day special, publisher Richard Moreno presents "Discovering the Old Nevada." Also, Helen Oster recalls the hole-digging, but on the whole endearing, "Pete the Badger." Kim Pryor throws a Halloween scare into "10 Great Ghost Stories," and Mike Sion reports on beer ads and "The Secret Lives of Limo Drivers." —David Moore

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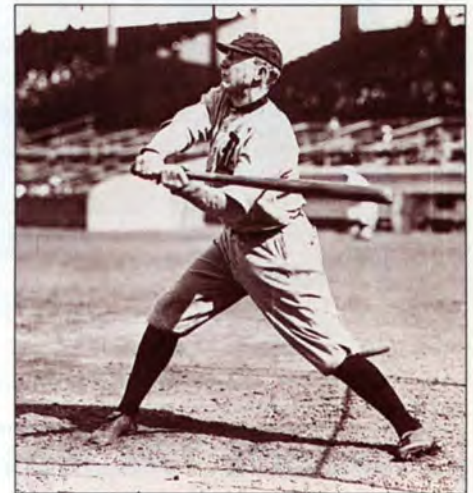
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On the Cover:
The Mackay Mansion in Virginia City was built four years before statehood.
Photo by Gary Elam

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Subscription inquiries:
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Publisher: Richard Moreno
Editor: David Moore
Art Director: Paul Allée
Associate Editor: Carolyn Graham
Events Editor: Melissa Cronin Loomis
Las Vegas Representative: Ann Henderson
Production Editor: Gary Elam
Circulation Manager: Debi Frame
Retail Coordinator: Isabel Espinoza
Accountant: Jacqueline Morgan
Young Volunteers of Nevada: Leslie Kidd, Amber Tate
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Advertising Offices

Advertising Manager: Patty Noll
Advertising Assistant: Denise Madera
Advertising Support: Ruth Buechel
Main Advertising Office: 1800 Hwy. 50 East, Suite 200, Carson City, NV 89710-0005, (702) 687-5888
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LETTERS

Sacred cows and a horse statue.

Family Following

I just finished last issue's "Kids in Vegas" story by David W. Toll about the trip he and his family took to Las Vegas. I think it's wonderful. I want to go there and do all the things they did.

It's great to learn that there are so many things for children to do in what is supposed to be an adult city.

Thank you for all the information you give me about Nevada.

Tommie Roy
San Gabriel, CA

Commercial Comment

Your last issue is nothing but an unpaid commercial for Las Vegas. Glitz, glitz, glitz. If this is a Magazine of the Real West—get real!

Frances M. Harrell
Gardnerville

Keeping Track

I recognize the difficulty of capsulizing a railroad's historical highlights into

no more than a paragraph, as Richard Moreno has accomplished in "10 Great Railroad Traits" in the July/August issue.

Far be it for me to carp, but duty and a certain historical spirit move me to set the story back on track, so to speak.

"Longest Narrow Gauge": The Carson and Colorado did not connect "with the Central Pacific in Reno." The C&C's northern terminus was at Mound House, where it met the Virginia and Truckee Railroad. Later, when the C&C was acquired by the Southern Pacific and for the most part broad-gauged, its standard-gauge trains ran from Mina to Reno via Hazen over new track, connecting with the Southern Pacific.

"Strangest Name": Austin's "Mules' Relief" may have been the only steam railroad running on a main street in Nevada at the time (1881), but let's not overlook the Virginia and Truckee, which ran its trains through Carson City until 1950. Then there were the Neva-

da Northern passenger trains that once steamed into downtown Ely.

"Crookedest Railroad": This ever-popular sobriquet by which the Virginia and Truckee is known refers to not only its financial and political pacts but also its tortuous route, not between Virginia City and Gold Hill, which section is substantially straight, but from Gold Hill through American Flat to Mound House as well as along the Carson River.

Richard C. Datin
Reno

The Main Attraction

These people who write in complaining about too many advertisements never cease to amaze me. Whether people like Art Wheeler in the May/June "Letters" accept it or not, casinos are the main attraction in Nevada. If I want scenery, I'll stay in my own beautiful and multifaceted state of Washington (the eastern part of which also has sagebrush and tumbleweeds). Although some of our Native American tribes run small casinos here, no other place does glitter and gaming like Nevada.

Diane Rudesal
Kennewick, WA

Risqué Business

Thanks, but the magazine has too much gambling and sex in it to suit me.

Bob Smith
Indianapolis, IN

Horse Cents

These "far-fetched" ideas have been in my head for several years. They could be a great attraction for Nevada.

1) That the U.S. government try once again to replace the dollar bill with a unique type of silver dollar. I suggest a square silver dollar with rounded corners.

2) Symbols on coins in the past have been presidents, Indians, buildings, eagles, buffaloes, etc. Why not a new symbol such as a horse? The horse has done so much for us in the development of this nation, I think it is time we paid recognition to it.

3) This could be a landmark for generations to come: Erect a large statue of the horse depicting a new national symbol. Carson City would be the ideal location.

Ken Bennett
Redding, CA

Ken, good luck with the ideas.—Ed. ♡

Send your letters, comments, and advice to Nevada Magazine Letters, 1800 Hwy. 50 East, Carson City, NV 89710, or fax 702-687-6159.

Sign of the Bovines

Brrump. You roll over another cattle guard. This is open range. No fences, just resonant metal grates dividing the endless stretch of road into sections.

Beyond each grate, the ubiquitous black-on-yellow "cow" sign reminds you to watch out for a cow or steer that may have strayed onto the road.

We've seen these signs all across the Southwest, a single stencil, borrowed from state to state. Black and genderless, the generic cow stares with heavy apathy—at nothing.

What a delight to discover that Nevada has an artist, someone with humor and imagination, who has given life to a rakish bull. Have you seen him prancing on his yellow field? Thanks, Nevada, for adding a smile to the drive.

Penny Deley
Santa Barbara, CA
Penny, it's true that Nevada's "watch



How a placid cow turned into a raging bull.

out for cows" signs are utterly unique. Rich Johnston, a photographer with the Nevada Department of Transportation, says about 10 years ago ranchers complained that the cows on the signs were not representative of what drivers could expect to see on Nevada's open range. NDOT artists took the bull by the horns and designed the new symbol. They have added signs for ducks, sheep, elk, and even elephants. Symbols on state signs have to comply with federal guidelines, Johnston adds, "but after that, anything goes."—Ed.



Pete the Badger

How a baby badger brought an untamed spirit to our Mountain City home.

By Helen Oster

The badger is reputed to be one of the toughest, most vicious animals living in the Nevada desert. Although it is in the same family as the skunk and weasel, the badger is distinguished by the long claws and sharp teeth that it uses for digging and capturing field mice, gophers, and ground squirrels. The badger's legs are strong and thick, and it has such a wide, flat body that when it stands up, it looks like a doormat set on legs.

In Nevada's early mining camps the badger was known as a brave animal that would fight savagely if cornered by dogs. Badger-and-dog fights were held for wager. In this historically cruel sport known as "badger baiting" the wild creatures were placed in barrels and then made to fight dogs that were pushed in to drag them into the

open. For this reason the expression *to badger* means *to tease*.

I know another side of the badger's character, for I had the privilege of spending the fifth summer of my childhood with one as a pet.

It was 1950, and I was living with my parents, grandmother, and older sister in Mountain City. Our small Elko Coun-

He was as playful as a puppy and would chase us barking somewhat like a dog. When mad, he would hiss like a cat.

ty community had about 50 residents who were holding on after a series of mining booms and busts, having just suffered the closure of the Rio Tinto copper mine. I was the fourth generation on my mother's side of the family to live there, as my great-grandparents had been among the first settlers. My mother was the town's school teacher. My father worked on ranches after the Rio Tinto closed.

Dad had been blasting dams and roads at the Charlie Sewell Ranch just north of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation. He usually stayed there all week and came home on Sundays.

One day he found a baby badger in the road, abandoned by its mother. He didn't know what to do with the animal, so he brought it home for me and my sister. The badger was just a small

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ball of fur and looked so scared that we begged my mother to let us keep it. Since it looked harmless—its teeth and claws hadn't started to grow—my mother, who was a real animal lover, agreed.

The question of what to feed the baby badger was answered when he gobbled up one of the beets we were having for dinner. We quickly christened him "Pete," which was my childhood pronunciation of "beet." We soon found that Pete would eat almost anything the family ate—turnips, fried chicken, even toast with jelly.

As Pete grew, he became a constant companion to my sister and me. Although his teeth and claws began to grow and look quite menacing, he never bit or scratched us. He was as playful as a puppy and would chase us barking somewhat like a dog. When mad, he would hiss like a cat. We took great delight in watching him dig countless holes in the hills behind our house. It was remarkable how fast he could dig. He used his front feet to dig and his back legs to push the dirt out. He would disappear down a hole in a minute. He used various holes as his den, and I was never sure in which one I would find him in the morning.

One of my clearest memories of Pete is of him chasing my feet back and forth, barking all the while, as I rode in our swing. He could go backward as fast as forward, and no matter how fast I went, he always kept up.

Pete would accompany me on walks in the hills behind our house. There I would search for buttercups, my favorite wildflowers, which could be found nestled beneath the sagebrush in the spring. He also would tag along with my sister, a couple of the neighborhood kids, and me as we undertook the ambitious task of building our version of an Indian wickiup with tall branches of sagebrush. This was no easy task but well worth the effort when all of us, including Pete, shared that golden moment when we hid in our fort.

Two members of my family were not as thrilled with Pete as my sister and I. They were my grandmother and our dog. My grandmother believed that cleanliness was the most admirable of all human virtues. Her pride and joy was the large kitchen that she kept spot-



The author (right) and her sister Connie were Pete's pals.

less. At every opportunity Pete would make a mad dash through the back door to his "den" between the stove and ice box, where he would station himself facing outward until Grandma spotted him. Immediately she would grab her broom and launch a vigorous attack upon Pete and his character. His only defense would be to cling to the floor—he could flatten himself to the floor so tightly you could barely pull him loose—and issue a musky scent similar to a skunk's but not as strong. This scent would infuriate Grandma further, increasing the intensity of her attack and her conviction that all wild animals belonged outside.

Our dog, a medium-sized border collie mix, loudly objected to Pete's presence when he first arrived. But apparently they reached an understanding because over the next few months the dog chose to ignore Pete and allowed him his own space.

Pete left our lives almost as suddenly as he arrived. It was the summer after Dad brought him home, and Pete and I were watching Grandma perform the gruesome and captivating ritual of killing and cleaning chickens. Suddenly Pete raced toward the discarded entrails and ran off into the sagebrush with his bloody prize.

At dinner Grandma declared, "That will be the last of our badger once he's tasted blood," and her prediction soon came true. The neighbors' chickens began to disappear, and Pete was identified as the villain. Pete's passion for digging holes was becoming more destructive to our property, and as his teeth and claws grew, Mother feared he might unintentionally hurt us girls.

By this time Dad was building a fence for the WP Ranch near Tuscarora. After much discussion and many tears the

Grandma would grab her broom and launch a vigorous attack upon Pete and his character. His only defense would be to cling to the floor.

folks decided we had to take Pete back to the wild. It was decided that Dad would take Pete out to his work crew's camp and put him down an abandoned badger hole in the desert.

Dad later told us that after he released Pete near the camp, Pete was soon challenged by a huge black tomcat that the crew kept to keep animals away from the food supplies. The cat began to circle Pete, who turned slowly as he watched the cat come in closer and closer. Quick as lightning Pete pounced, knocking the cat end over end. The cat took off at full speed and from then on gave Pete all the room he wanted.

Pete, however, wanted nothing to do with the men of the camp. The food they left for him near his hole seemed to disappear, but they seldom saw him.

The Fourth of July came, and the crew had several days off. We had been begging Mother to take us to see Pete, so we went to stay with Dad and see how Pete was doing.

When we arrived at Pete's hole, we called him, and he came bounding to us from across the desert. He greeted us with such glee that the memory still pulls at my heart. He made large swooping circles around us, sometimes leaping toward us. Any dog owner has experienced the same joyous greeting. We stayed for a few days, and Pete played with us every day.

We left our happy reunion with Mother's promise that we would return many times more. However, our calls to Pete on our next visit were answered only by the silence of the desert. On the tearful way home I chose not to give in to the frightful visions of Pete being attacked by a bobcat or other predator. Instead I clung to my mother's assurances that Pete had met one of his kind and had gone off to have a family of his own. □

Helen Oster of Carson City works in the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Today her parents, Ned and Christina Bell, live in Reno, and her sister Connie Smith, lives in Santa Rosa, California.

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The sanctuary is open Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is located just



Ron Martinez wings it with Max, a red-tailed hawk, at Gilcrease.

south of Floyd Lamb State Park at 8103 Rachel Street, about 10 miles north of Las Vegas via U.S. 95. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$1 for children six and older, and free for kids five and under. Call 702-645-4224.—Kate Butler

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The auto collection is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. on the fifth floor of the Imperial Palace parking garage. Admission is \$6.95 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens and children 12 and under, and free for kids under three. Call 702-731-3311 for more information.—Ann Henderson



Ike's 1952 Chrysler Imperial.

SHOPPING

Old-Time Country Store

WASHOE CITY—Nevada Lynn's Emporium in Washoe Valley is an old-fashioned general store that stocks wagon wheels, stick candy, nuts, dried fruits, quilts, wildflower seeds, and assorted country knickknacks. The mercantile also is filled with an assortment of culinary delights, including jalapeño olives, homemade jams and jellies, chili fixings, and fresh fruits and vegetables.

Each October straw-stuffed scarecrows stand over hundreds of pumpkins scattered throughout the store's garden.

Nevada Lynn's in Washoe City, 435 U.S. 395, is midway between Carson City and Reno, and is open every day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Watch for the bright signs and wooden cows that dot the front lawn at Nevada Lynn's, which is on the west side of the highway; call 702-849-2811.—Deborah Mawhar



Gillian Dennehy, 2, peeks over the pumpkins at Nevada Lynn's Emporium.

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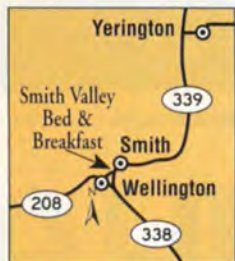


The Smith Valley Bed and Breakfast is a cozy inn nestled near alfalfa fields.

Historic House Call

SMITH VALLEY—Visitors will find a comfortable room for the night as well as a lesson in Nevada history at the Smith Valley Bed and Breakfast.

The cozy three-bedroom, two-bath inn was built in 1879 in picturesque Smith Valley and has been known for more than 70 years as "Dr. Mary's house," the home-office of the late Nevada physician Dr. Mary Fulstone.



Situated on the Fulstone family ranch between Smith and Wellington, the home is decorated with antiques such as an 1860s burl walnut piano from Germany, family photographs, and fresh flowers. Picture windows frame views of a shady garden and alfalfa fields.

Dr. Mary began practicing medicine in 1919 from her tiny office tucked off the dining room and continued doing so for more than 65 years, delivering hundreds of babies in the area.

Innkeepers Amy Fulstone and her mother-in-law, Georgia Fulstone, turned the house into an inn two years ago to preserve the historic family home. Georgia is the daughter-in-law of Dr. Mary who died in 1987 at the age of 95.

Breakfast is self-serve with essentials such as juice, coffee, cereal, fruit, and homemade muffins.

The Smith Valley Bed and Breakfast is on State Route 208, 22 miles southwest of Yerington and 75 miles south of Reno. Rates range from \$50 to \$60 per night. Reservations are required, call 702-465-2222.—Jackie Ruffin

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Austin, THE TOWN THAT DIED LAUGHING, nestled in the Toiyabe Range. It was once Nevada's second largest city. Photo by Rich Moreno

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Grapevine Canyon is a spring-fed, artistic oasis near Laughlin where Native Americans carved petroglyphs centuries ago.

Discovering the

The Nevada of 1864 lives on. Here's where to find those early historic sites on the state's 130th birthday.

By Richard Moreno

One hundred and thirty years ago, Winnemucca was a Paiute chief and not yet a town. Lincoln was a president, not a Nevada county, and the best known Clemens in the state was Orion, not his brother Sam.

Barely 25,000 people lived in Nevada on October 31, 1864, when President Lincoln proclaimed it the 36th state, making Nevada the least populated state ever admitted to the union. The new state's

largest community was Virginia City, with 15,000 residents. Neither Las Vegas nor Reno yet existed—the future Las Vegas was an abandoned Mormon settlement that didn't become part of Nevada until 1867, while Reno, then called Lake's Crossing, consisted of a boardinghouse and a wooden bridge over the Truckee River.

Nevertheless, we can still find a few reminders of Nevada's pioneer days on

the 130th anniversary of statehood, which will be marked by this year's Nevada Day celebration. Most of the relics are concentrated in Genoa, Carson City, and Virginia City, where the majority of the state's early residents lived. But other historic buildings and places tucked away throughout the state also offer us the chance today to explore and appreciate the Nevada of 1864.



President Lincoln declared Nevada a state 130 years ago.



The Genoa Bar, said to be Nevada's oldest saloon, can trace its lineage to the 1850s.



Genoa's old Mormon Station (above). Pioneers inscribed high in High Rock Canyon.



Old Nevada

Grapevine Canyon, 6,000 B.C.

Carvings of bighorn sheep, swirls, squiggles, and other designs peek out from cliffs painted dark by desert varnish. A small spring-fed creek gurgles down a narrow canyon and through a patch of wild grapes before emptying into a dry playa.

The place is Grapevine Canyon, 10 miles west of Laughlin, a virtual oasis and site of a large collection of the prehistoric rock writings called petroglyphs, some more than 6,000 years old. They may have had spiritual significance for the first Nevadans, but their precise meanings remain a mystery.

Native Americans left petroglyphs throughout the state. Other good sites include Petroglyph Canyon and Atlatl Rock at Valley of Fire State Park, near Overton, and Grimes Point, east of Fallon.

High Rock Canyon, 1841-1869

The wave of 19th-century emigrants who passed through Nevada on their way to California and Oregon left an intriguing record in High Rock Canyon at the west end of the Black Rock Desert. Today we can see dozens of names and dates that were chiseled into the walls of this steep, narrow canyon by travelers on the Lassen-Applegate Trail. The carv-

There is irony in the fact that the oldest structure in glitzy Las Vegas is a nondescript adobe building.

ings, made between 1841 and 1869, are 12 to 15 feet high because emigrants made the marks while standing on their wagons. An informative brochure about the Emigrant Trail is available from the Bureau of Land Management (916-257-5381) in Susanville.

Genoa and Mormon Station, 1851

With its tree-lined streets, Victorian homes, and false-front stone and brick stores, downtown Genoa conjures images of frontier Nevada. Two landmarks, Mormon Station State Historical Monument and the Genoa Bar, reflect early Nevadans' propensity for trade and thirst.

Mormon Station commemorates the state's first permanent white community, a small fort and trading post erected in Genoa by Mormon settlers in 1851. The original station in Genoa was destroyed by fire in 1910, but in 1947 Nevada State Parks built a replica on the site. Today, visitors can tour a small museum in the log fort or picnic in the shaded park grounds.

Down the street is the Genoa Bar, housed in a building made of locally-fired bricks that dates to the mid-1850s. Originally called Livingston's Exchange, the bar claims to be "Nevada's Oldest Thirst Parlor."

A more obscure historic site is the grave of Elzy H. Knott, tucked in the trees behind the Wildrose Bed and Breakfast. The grave is on private property, so curious visitors should ask for permission at the Wildrose. Knott, a member of a pioneering Carson Valley family, was shot and killed in 1859 during an argument over a bridle. His family refused to have him buried in the local cemetery for religious reasons, so he now lies in the small grove of black locust.

Las Vegas Mormon Fort, 1855

There is irony in the fact that the oldest structure in glitzy Las Vegas is a nondescript adobe building. Originally used for storage, the rectangular structure—half hidden between the Las Vegas Mu-



About 200 soldiers served at Fort Churchill, built in 1860. The fort survived years of neglect before becoming a state park.

seum of Natural History and Cashman Field—is the sole remnant of the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort, built in 1855 by Mormon settlers.

The fort was used for just three years and then abandoned. When Nevada

gained statehood in 1864, Southern Paiutes were the only permanent residents of the future Las Vegas area. Rancher O.D. Gass acquired the fort site in 1865, and the area became part of Nevada two years later. Today the fort

is a state park that is open daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the summer (call 702-486-3511 for winter hours). Visitors will find interpretive displays in the fort building.

Roberts House, 1859

Strangely, the oldest home in Carson City, one of Nevada's oldest communities, isn't from Carson City. The Roberts House was built in 1859 in Washoe City. Then in 1873, when that Washoe Valley community began to decline, the Gothic revival structure was moved, possibly on the Virginia and Truckee Railroad, to its current location on Carson Street. Visitors can tour the home, now a small museum, on weekends and holidays.

Fort Churchill, 1860

Picturesque adobe ruins are all that remain of Fort Churchill, built in 1860 following hostilities between Northern Paiutes and settlers. Now a state park, the fort was used until 1869 and then abandoned. A visitors center, located on a bluff overlooking the grounds, was built to resemble one of the original structures. In the summer and fall rangers and volunteers present living-



The Roberts House, now a museum, was moved from Washoe Valley to Carson City.



Las Vegas' Old Mormon Fort recently became a state park. Hoover Dam engineers used the building in the 1930s.



Virginia City's historic Mackay Mansion.

history performances at the park, which is near Silver Springs.

Mackay Mansion, 1860

Standing amid gardens and shade trees a block from the bustle of C Street, the Mackay Mansion was once surrounded by the industrial tumult of mines and mills. Today the mansion's marble fireplaces and elegant furnishings hint at the opulence once common

in Virginia City. The D Street mansion was built in 1860 by George Hearst, one of the owners of the profitable Gould and Curry Mine. Hearst's success on the Comstock formed the foundation of the newspaper empire developed by his son, William Randolph Hearst. In



John Mackay of Virginia City.

In the 1870s the house was acquired by John Mackay, one of the Comstock's so-called "Silver Kings." Mackay used it as his office and residence until the late 1880s. Today, tours are conducted on



This view of Las Vegas Ranch shows the remnant known as the Old Mormon Fort.

weekends year-round and daily during the summer.

Ruby Valley Station, 1860

It's easy to overlook the small log cabin that sits in front of Elko's North-

eastern Nevada Museum, but this crude wooden building with a sod roof is the Old Ruby Valley Station, one of the few survivors of the 28 Pony Express stations that were used in Nevada between April 3, 1860, and October 28, 1861. Orig-

Other 1864 Survivors

As Nevada hits its 130th year, it's good to know other pre-statehood survivors can still be found, including:

Dayton Cemetery: Dayton's 1851 cemetery is believed to be the state's oldest.

Genoa: The Pink House, a two-story house near the restaurant of the same name, dates to 1853, when it was built on a different site by Genoa founder John Reese.

Gold Hill: The Gold Hill Hotel (1859)—still open for business—and the Bank of California (1862).

Virginia City: The King Mansion (1861), Savage Mansion (1861), Edith Palmer's Country Inn (1862), and Chollar Mansion (1863). The last two are bed and breakfasts.

Carson City: More than a dozen pre-statehood sites include the Stewart-

Nye house, now St. Teresa's Church rectory (1860), the St. Charles and Muller hotels (1862), the sandstone core of the Nevada State Prison (1863), and the Orion Clemens home (1864).

Historic Documents: Besides the State Constitution, the Nevada State Archives in Carson City is displaying the Nevada Territory Journals (1861-64), the official records of Orion Clemens, secretary to Territorial Governor James Nye (1863), and other early records until January.

Glendale School: This one-room schoolhouse, built in 1864, now stands in Victorian Square in Sparks.

Bowers Mansion: Part of a Washoe County park, the mansion was built in 1864 by Comstock millionaires Sandy and Eilley Bowers.—Richard Moreno

inally located near Ruby Lake, 60 miles south of Elko, the station was moved to the museum in 1960 in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Pony Express. Ruins of other Pony Express stations can be found at Cold Springs, Sand Mountain, and Friday's Station at Stateline, Lake Tahoe.

Gridley Store, 1863

Among the few buildings in Austin that predate Nevada's statehood is the Gridley Store, built in 1863. The one-story stone building was restored a few years ago as a museum and is open

during the town's annual Gridley Days celebration in June and by appointment (702-964-2200).

The building originally was a general store partly owned by Reuel Gridley. Gridley gained lasting fame—Mark Twain wrote about him in *Roughing It*—after he carried a 50-pound sack of flour a mile up Austin's main street to his store after losing an election bet.

Gridley's Sack of Flour, 1864

Reuel Gridley's yellowed, wrinkled sack—filled with rock-hard, 130-year-old flour—can be viewed at the Neva-

The entire State Constitution was sent by telegraph to Washington, D.C., on October 17, 1864.

da Historical Society in Reno. The sack of flour has become famous because following his walk through Austin Gridley repeatedly auctioned the sack, with the proceeds going to the Sanitary Fund, a Civil War forerunner of the Red Cross. Word of his charitable deed spread, and he was invited to conduct similar auctions throughout the West. Gridley and his sack eventually raised more than \$275,000 for the fund.

Ione, 1864

You can feel the history when you stroll by weathered wooden shacks and stone dugouts on Ione's graveled main street. Although newer homes and buildings have sprouted from the sagebrush, you can still see a few tumbledown survivors of earlier times.

Silver was discovered in 1863 in Ione, which a year later was named the seat of Nye County. Today residents claim that a dilapidated log structure was Nye County's first courthouse.

Tannehill Cabin, 1864

Standing incongruously beside a baseball diamond and U.S. 50 is Eure-

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Celebrating Nevada Day

This year Nevada Day October 31, falls on a Monday. The state holiday will be celebrated in the Las Vegas area by a narrated cruise on Lake Mead's *Desert Princess* on October 29. In Elko, residents will march down Idaho Street in their seventh annual Nevada Day parade on October 31.

The biggest celebration will be in Carson City also on October 31, with a parade, miners' rock-drilling championship, waterfights, and an ever-growing beard contest. See this issue's Nevada Events for details.

ka's oldest home. The one-room Tannehill Cabin was built in 1864 (or 1865) by the Tannehill brothers, who owned several mines in the area.

The log cabin served as a residence and later as a mercantile. It was the only structure of its era to survive a plague of disasters that devastated Eureka, including fires in 1872, 1876, 1878, 1879, and 1880 and flash floods in 1874 and 1878.

Spring Mountain Ranch, 1864

You can find two buildings that date back to 1864 at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas. That year, merchants from the mining camp of Ivanpah, 50 miles to the south, built a small sandstone cabin and a blacksmith shop in Red Rock Canyon. Their aim was to provide services to travelers using an alternate route of the Old Spanish Trail, which passed through Las Vegas. The 130-year-old structures can be inspected during guided tours of Spring Mountain Ranch.

State Constitution, 1864

The single most significant document related to Nevada's statehood is the handwritten State Constitution on public display at the Nevada State Library and Archives in Carson City. One of the first things you notice about the document is the elegant penmanship of William M. Gillespie, who was secretary to the 1864 Constitutional Convention. The 16,543-word constitution, displayed in four wooden cases in a temperature-controlled room, is perfectly scripted with careful, even strokes.

The entire constitution was sent by telegraph to Washington, D.C., on October 17, 1864, because President Lincoln, who was running for reelection in the midst of the Civil War and greatly desired Nevada's electoral and congressional votes, wanted to seal the deal before the November election. The telegram cost \$3,417.77 to send, which at the time made it the most costly telegram ever. Fourteen days later Lincoln officially proclaimed Nevada a state.

So this Nevada Day, October 31, we can take a moment to reflect on how much Nevada has changed in the past 130 years, imagine what it might be like 13 decades from now—and wonder what might have happened if Lincoln hadn't needed the votes. □

Richard Moreno is the publisher of Nevada Magazine and was a member of Nevada's 125th Anniversary Ad Hoc Committee, which helped plan that celebration.



The State Constitution is on display at the Nevada State Archives in Carson City.



Reuel Gridley lugged his sack of flour in 1864, two years after Austin was founded.



Spring Mountain Ranch was in Arizona Territory when its first structures were built.



Golden Days

As August laps against September, Lake Tahoe stirs memories of summers past.

By Herb Caen

LAKE TAHOE AT the end of August, mellow, hazy, awash with memories as fresh as the wavelets that splash ceaselessly onto the beach, as wispy as the smoke from the old stone chimneys. The greatest of all mountain lakes is as old as eternity, young as the new Riva powerboat tied to the nearby dock, straining to be freed for another noisy run. The people come and go, dragging their toys behind them. The lake continues to contemplate the sky, superior, mystical, untouchable. There is teeming life along its

shores—some of it ridiculously ill-suited to nature's grand plan—but the lake is so vast it hardly matters. The degraders are swatted away like a gnat or a nit, a minor inconvenience. The lake is a cupped creature on top of the world, its moods changing as constantly as its colors, one moment sunny and bright, the next dark and stormy. Through the ages it has strewn its treasures of sapphires and emeralds, diamonds and turquoise across the icy waters that reach down 1,600 feet to mystery. It is a constant fascina-

**We think of the first time
we saw Tahoe, awe-
struck and overwhelmed
by its grandeur.**

tion, whether observed or ignored. The lake was admiring itself before man arrived. It will continue to do so long after the last Coca-Cola sign has crumbled to dust.

THE LAKE IS a religious experience. Burnt offerings are prepared nightly on a thousand barbecues. The people gather along the shores to drink magic potions and utter the strange incantations of small talk. But eventually they fall silent and their eyes turn to the lake, now luminous under the moonrise. Even the least introspective among us are stirred by this timeless, restless presence. It has been part of our summers for so many years, summers that seemed endless, filled with the joys and juices of life. At the end of summer, now, we grow as melancholy as the lake itself, when the waters turn cobalt and the dying sun burns itself out on a distant peak. We think of the first time we saw Tahoe, awe-struck and overwhelmed by its grandeur. We felt smaller than usual, shy and yet excited by the possibilities. But as September approaches, we are confronted with another ending, and we are allowed only so many. Now we look at the lake as though for the last time, trying to savor its blessings.

BUT ENOUGH OF this heavy-handedness. For all its majesty, Lake Tahoe is fun. It may even be fun-loving, for it has not yet burst out of its shores to destroy the gambling casinos or the noisier affronts to peace and common decency. The lake looks with favor on young lovers and some not so young. There are still a few faded photographs around of a famous San Francisco couple—married to others—making love atop a great smooth rock not far from Secret Harbor, a secret harbored for two generations now. They were beautiful, they were young, they are gone. Most of the rest of us, neither to the manor nor manner born, had more painful summer loves, almost as tender as the sunburns we were warned about. Skin cancer, however, had not yet been invented, nor had sunblock, so we anointed ourselves with a mixture of olive oil and iodine. Instead of baking, we fried. How the ghosts of Washoe warriors long gone must have laughed.

SO STRONG WERE the joys and defeats of summers at Tahoe that to this day, I envy peo-

**The people gather
along the shores to drink
magic potions and utter
the strange incantations
of small talk.**

ple with a smooth, even suntan. Like most fair-skinned people, I turned red and splotchy, or burned so badly I had to retreat indoors. The golden girls of summer reigned like queens over the beaches. They laughed among themselves over secret jokes about the oafs who were staring hopelessly at them. There is no evidence that this is what they were laughing at, but it's a good bet.

Nevertheless, thanks to the immutable laws of nature, even these superior beings had to have a date now and then, and there we were, eager to please as puppy dogs. The girls were superior, the boys hopeless, and the equation never changed. The girls were already women and would be in charge for the rest of their lives. The boys would never grow up. Old, at the end of summer, they would stand at the edge of Tahoe and remember all the words to "Faded Summer Love." (Leaves come tumbling down, round my head, some of them are brown, some are red .). In "Private Lives," Noel Coward has one of his characters say to another, "Strange, the potency of cheap music," although we didn't think of it as cheap. "My Silent Love" summed up the drama and tragedy of life as we knew it, which wasn't very much.

TAHOE, A FAMILY lake in its more beneficent moods. A great place for kids and dogs. The kids throw the old yellow tennis ball endlessly, the dogs fetch it tirelessly. All three are third-generation, at least. The First Families of San Francisco staked a claim on the best parts of Tahoe shortly after the Comstock Lode leaked the rivers of silver that made the city rich, and the clans are holding fast, ingrown, intermarried, and interlocked at the corporate level. Like the lake itself, some things never change. (A sightem to remember at the Reno airport: Judy Flood Wilbur, great-granddaughter of "Bonanza Jim" Flood, feeding quarters into a slot machine; she was returning some of the silver to Nevada.)

END OF SUMMER '94. 1894? 1694? To the eternal lake, it doesn't matter, and that's why each parting is such a sweet sorrow. □

Herb Caen is a columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle and author of Herb Caen's San Francisco, 1976-91 (Chronicle Books). This story is an excerpt from one of his Tahoe columns.



THE SECRET LIVES OF LIMO DRIVERS

Their days, their nights, and the ad that drives them crazy.

By MIKE SION

Almost all Nevada limousine drivers agree on certain points: People who hire a limousine are either rich or splurging on a special night out. Chauffeurs accept tips—gladly. Celebrities are lousy tipppers.

And the genius who created the beer-in-the-limousine television commercial should be found and throttled.

You probably have seen the commercial, set in an airport: A young man approaches a limo driver who is holding a greeting sign that says "Galackiewicz." The young man asks, "Excuse me, driver do you have Bud Light in your limo?"

"Yes."

"Then I am Mr. Gally-wee-kich."

"Doctor Galackiewicz?" asks the driver incredulously.

"Yes, I am," says the young man, with a tone of finality.

Since the commercial began airing last year, hapless limo drivers at airports have been hassled by passersby who ask about light beer or loudly bleat, "Yes, I am." The perpetrators are mostly twenty-something males wearing ballcaps and wisecrack grins, but even senior citizens get into the act.

Of course, the drivers have learned to cope. One Reno chauffeur places the words "Bud Light" inside a slashed circle on his greeting signs. Jack Rubin, a driver for Caesars Tahoe, has another method for dealing with Aggravating Question Numero Uno. "I usually just say, 'I'm sorry, I don't carry Bud Light'—before they ask me," says the tight-lipped Rubin, who adds, "You can tell who they are when they approach you."

Ken Sasser, 14-year veter-

an of limousine navigation, knows a colleague who truly turned the tables: "When they'd ask him for [the beer], he'd just pretend like he never heard of it."

Sasser himself finally relented and now stocks Bud Light. He strives to be

**Hapless limo drivers
at airports have been
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philosophical about the offensive commercial. "Most of the time we enjoy anything that has to do with limousines being put into the public eye, because it makes more people aware of the limousine service, and maybe they'll book us," he says.

"But after a while, if you get asked 15,000 times a day—We'd like to find the guy who invented that commercial. And we'd like to hang him."

Sasser, 44, drives for Sierra West Limousine. Sierra West is one of five limo companies that are licensed for Reno Cannon International Airport and based at a long counter near the baggage-claim area. The rates are uniform: \$42 per hour, \$55 for a limo equipped with a wet bar. There is a one-hour minimum charge. Unless the customer is a guest at a major resort, drivers ask for payment up front. The larger hotel-casinos have their own limos for high-roller guests.

Sasser drives a white 1992 Lincoln Presidential Town Car—an ultra-stretch limo that is 22 ¾ feet long. When a beeper on his belt notifies him of an impending fare, he hops to action. Otherwise he is never far from his car's cellular phone.

Like all limo drivers, Sasser understands the strange twists human nature can take when a person is enjoying the posh and very private comfort of the back of a \$60,000 limousine. He has seen all sides of life in his years on the road.

He'll tell you George Foreman is a gentleman and that Charles Barkley is a sweetheart who signed all the autographs the airport porters asked of him. Celebrities may not tip, but they're courteous.

Bachelorette parties, on the other hand, make for the craziest fares. "Anytime the girls have you outnumbered six to one, they just try to embarrass you," Sasser says. "And if you think guys can talk bad—"



Ken Sasser (left), Doc Chavez, and Gil Orozco at the Reno airport. Drivers sometimes resort to pseudonymous signs.



Las Vegas driver Arto McGee (above) reveals the secrets of life in the limo lane: champagne and a well-mannered attitude.

Some customers violate the rule of keeping body parts inside the vehicle. "I've had them moon people. Of course, there's no body parts out the window *Unless* they're first inspected by the driver."

A more frequent concern for Sasser is the potential for passengers getting sick. Some arrive from lower elevations, unaware that Nevada's higher altitude can heighten the effects of alcohol. A winding ride up to Lake Tahoe may exacerbate the condition of passengers who have imbibed cocktails on the plane then hit the champagne offered in the limo.

"You can usually tell if anybody is getting a little sick," Sasser says. "There's a rule. You tell them, 'You have to tell me if you're starting to feel ill. I'll pull the car over to the side of the road and allow you to get sick. If you *don't* tell me, I'm going to charge you \$100 for the cleanup of this automobile.'"

Fortunately, Sasser is always prepared. He says, "I carry towels in the front seat."

Inebriated passengers drove Charlie Hayes to driving shuttles after five years behind a limo's wheel. "I didn't like the proms—kids trying to sneak booze in or something like that—and fighting with the drunks," says the 47-year-old Hayes, who works for Aero-Trans in Reno. "In this [shuttle] business, I just take them from Point A to Point B and get rid of them."

But Hayes has enough good memories to lure him back to a limo someday. He's driven Wynonna Judd, Donna Mills, Maury Povich, and B.B. King. He knew actor John Stamos was breaking up

with singer Paula Abdul before the tabloids did.

His fondest memory is taking Hall of Fame shortstop Ernie Banks to a celebrity golf tournament at Edgewood Tahoe on the lake's south shore.

"Him and I visited all the way up there," Hayes says. "I'm a big baseball fan. We had an hour and 20 minutes one-on-one. I interviewed him. We talked about the modern players and the older players. He talked about some of his favorite players. He thought Roger Maris was one of the best players he ever saw. But he liked to talk about his golf game. He's about a seven or eight handicap."

"The first impression is the most important," says Ken Sasser, who has five black suits, three pairs of black shoes, two raincoats, and 40 ties. "You try to look as nice as possible."

He also outfits his vehicle with care. "Not all the drivers carry all the things I do," he says. He has videotapes ranging from porno to sports bloopers to



Pampered patrons can sip bubbly or watch the news.

'THE PASSENGER IS ALWAYS RIGHT'

As long as they keep their clothes on.

BY ART NADLER

You have to be able to deal with people," says Arto McGee, reciting one of the key lessons of life as a Las Vegas limo driver. "You get so many complaints from passengers that you have to be able to smooth things over and not offend them. The passenger is always right. Remember that. And, you have to be a very careful driver."

McGee, who drove a limo for four years in Las Vegas before becoming personnel director of Lucky 7 Limousine last spring, points to several other secrets for success: champagne on hand, a six-pack of beer iced down in summer, chilled sodas, and a well-mannered attitude.

Pleasing passengers leads to good tips, he adds. A driver can expect an average of \$50 a night in tips. On holidays, such as New Year's Eve, \$150 to \$200 tips are common.

Some of McGee's best passengers were couples arriving at McCarran International Airport in a hurry to get married. They would ask how long it would take to tie the knot, and he'd say 30 to 40 minutes.

"They were surprised," the Air Force veteran says, laughing. "I'd take them to the marriage bureau for the license and then to a chapel or justice of the peace."

Often McGee found that driving impassioned newlyweds back to the hotel was—well—interesting. "You'd pull up to a light, and people outside would start smiling because the limo was rocking," McGee says. "I couldn't wait for the light to change, so I could get out of there."

His most unusual passenger was a young woman he picked up at seven in the morning. She was feeling



Arto McGee looks back on the limo life.

no pain. "I got near the Silver Bowl, and when I looked in the rear-view mirror, I saw that she had taken all her clothes off," McGee says. "She leaned over the seat and told me to join her in the back." McGee turned into a parking lot and pleaded with his passenger to put her clothes back on. Finally she did, and he quickly took her home.

McGee's best passenger was a wealthy woman from New York City. Every time she came to town, they would go to lunch together (on her). Then he'd take her shopping for three to four hours, and in the evening they'd go to an expensive steak house. "I'd ask her why she invited me to dinner, and she'd say she hated to eat alone," he says. "She said she liked my company and felt safe with me."

McGee enjoyed chauffeuring celebrities such as Magic Johnson, Paula Abdul, and Kenny Rogers, but generally "stars never tip you. They leave it to their staff, or the person handling their traveling."

"You also don't make tips on proms," he says. "The kids always try to drink in your car, and it's like babysitting." That's one time a limo driver has to hide the champagne.

Art Nadler is a Las Vegas Sun writer

children's films such as *The Last Rain Forest*. ("It keeps them from tearing up stuff, playing with the buttons.") His tapes include Elvis, James Brown, the Eagles, Billy Joel, and big band.

"No rap, no punk rock. That's my rule," Sasser says. "If the customer wants to bring it, that's all right, because they're paying for the car."

Sasser's bar boasts the basic vodka, scotch, and bourbon as well as Evian water, O'Douls, Bud Light (yes), basic mixes, two kinds of champagne ("cheap and not-so-cheap"), Crown Royal, JB, gin, and miniature bottles of liqueurs. Sasser, whose bushy gray hair resembles Mark Twain's, used to be a bartender.

His car has a plush burgundy interior, a long L-shaped seat, a back seat, a champagne bucket, ice bin, retractable television, and tinted windows.

For customers who want to use the back of the limo as their temporary bedroom, Sasser keeps a supply of ginseng tablets, condoms, and Cuban cigars. Customers merely inform their driver, via back-seat phone, to close the privacy window.

Sasser also carries a Polaroid camera to commemorate the ride for first-timers. Last but not least, he keeps a small stock of Fritos, Snickers, and other snacks in case he is stuck in his car for a long wait while his fare is indisposed. "You never want to leave your car," Sasser explains.

It's all about professionalism, he says. "A limousine driver is not just someone who takes you from Point A to Point B. He's someone who has to be knowledgeable about the area. He has to be well aware of things that are happening in the area. Entertainment, sports, whatever. He has to know what's going on in the world, so he can talk to you on a level plane."

Sasser watches CNN, reads the paper, and checks the stock reports daily. "Everything that I think that my clientele might ask me in the course of a day, I read up on."

He knows the maitre d's around town, which helps when booking tables at the last minute. He catches the big casino shows. "Never recommend anything you've never seen," he says. "If you recommend something that's bad, there goes your gratuity."

"The food operations are really important. Don't ever recommend any place to eat unless you've eaten there yourself or have had two or three of your other clients say that it was excellent, or the service was great."



Ken Sasser delivers service with a smile to a client at the Eldorado in Reno.

Sasser keeps one gourmet restaurant as an ace in the hole. "If your charter isn't going well, and the people are kind of ho-hum, and it seems like everything's not really working out for them, take them to Adele's in Carson City, and you'll win every single time."

Junior Honan, a 10-year limo veteran, has had his share of amiable clients. The late Sammy Davis, Jr. was "a very nice gentleman, very first class," says Honan, 47, who drives for Bell Limo. "We just talked about your everyday things. He wasn't a braggart. He was just a nice guy."

Some celebrities are stuck up, Honan admits. "I had this comedian, we got up to the top of the lake, he gives me four quarters as a tip. So I says, 'Thank you, sir. His wife heard me. His wife says, 'Where's the \$40 I had for Junior?' He had put it in his pocket. He gave it to me after his wife told him. That's what you get."

Most of the rich and famous behave as ladies and gentlemen, he says. Mike Love of the Beach Boys is a regular pa-

tron since he lives at Lake Tahoe. He's chatty and will talk about the towns he plays. Leonard Nimoy, another Tahoe regular, usually keeps to himself, although when his wife is aboard the *Star Trek* star talks about upcoming projects.

Because of his famous face, Nimoy wears a baseball cap at the Reno airport, and it seems to work. "Not too many people run around him," Honan says. And when a chauffeur is waiting to pick up the actor, his greeting sign will bear an alias Nimoy has specified.

It surely won't be "Dr. Galackiewicz."

Limo drivers are as closed-mouthed about tips as one would expect of service-industry people who fear the Internal Revenue Service more than a belligerent fare.

But one driver who requested anonymity talks about the time he was beeped at 1:30 a.m. by a casino general manager. The exec had a guest who had just dropped \$40,000. The GM wanted the driver to take the high roller back home to San Francisco. The casino was going to pick up the tab, which would have been a 10-hour minimum fare, including the driver's return to Reno.

The chauffeur wondered, "What do you say to a man who's just lost \$40,000? I'm going to be spending five hours with him."

Recalls the chauffeur, "When I got to the casino to pick him up, he was shaking hands with the manager, drinking with him, seemed very happy. I thought he was very chipper for a man who had just lost \$40,000."

LIMO SCENE

The following limousine companies offer long-car services in Nevada. Most limos have color TV, stereo, privacy window, and a bar. In some cases you need to bring your own booze or reimburse the driver. Also, there may be a minimum time period, so ask when making reservations. All rates are hourly.

Las Vegas

Bell Trans: 702-385-5466. \$25 for sedan limo, \$33 stretch, \$60 superstretch, B.Y.O.B. No credit cards.

Lucky 7 Luxury Limousine: 702-739-6177. \$44 stretch, B.Y.O.B. AE, MC, Visa.

Presidential Limousine: 702-731-5577. \$42 stretch, \$65 superstretch, B.Y.O.B. Champagne, rose for the lady, access to cellular phone for \$2 per minute. Convertible limo has a karaoke machine. AE, MC, Visa.

Reno-Sparks

Bell Limo: 702-786-3700, 800-BEL-LIMO. \$30 sedan limo, \$42 stretch, B.Y.O.B. bar. AE, MC, Visa.

Executive Limousine: 702-882-7776 or 333-3300. \$42 stretch, \$55 with bar, \$65 superstretch with bar. All major cards.

Sierra West Limousine: 702-329-4310, 800-258-0408. \$42 stretch, \$55 with bar. AE, MC, Visa.

Lake Tahoe

All Seasons Tahoe Limousine Service: 800-334-1826. \$50 stretch, \$65 executive stretch. AE, MC, Visa.

Luxury Limousines of Tahoe: 800-458-9743. \$50 stretch, \$65 superstretch. AE, MC, Visa.

Sierra West Limousine: 702-588-1079, 800-258-0408. (See Reno-Sparks.)

During the drive to the city, the driver finally asked, "You know, you're awfully chipper for a man who's just lost \$40,000." The man said, "Oh, I got out cheap this month. Last month I lost \$90,000."

The driver drove the gambler to his home above the Golden Gate, passing through three security gates to get to the house.

"The man gave me a \$500 tip," the driver says.

It was his largest tip ever. He swears. And chauffeurs always tell the truth. Unless they're asked if they carry Bud Light. □

Mike Sion is a writer for the Reno Gazette-Journal. His stories have appeared in Nevada, Silver and Blue, and People.

**Celebrities usually
prove to be
lousy tippers, but
most behave as
ladies and gentlemen.**

Trails for Treadheads

Two fall havens where mountain bikers are the big wheels.

By Carolyn Graham and Chris Leedham

Mountain bikers can find hundreds of miles of trails in Nevada, and the state's parks and natural wonders offer superb fat-tire turf.

Off-road pedalers can discover two trails in particular with wildly different personalities. The heavily traveled Flume Trail at Lake Tahoe has lush scenery and views from high above the lake. The Cottonwood Valley Trail winds through a remote area near Las Vegas, and wild horses often outnumber the mountain bikers amid the sagebrush and Joshua trees.

Fall is a great time to explore these scenic bicycle byways. Autumn brings mild temperatures and more color to the landscape, as aspens bask in red and gold glory at the higher elevations.

Cottonwood Valley

Wild horses forged the Cottonwood Valley Trail between Blue Diamond and Goodsprings, and mountain bikers have since discovered this Southern Nevada trail with its natural and man-made spectacles.

"It's an awesome ride," says mountain biker Jared Fisher of Henderson. "It's extremely desert and has lots of vegetation and wildlife."

The trail has great views of the desert as well as Las Vegas. Bikers can see jackrabbits, buzzards, bighorn sheep, and even an occasional tarantula along the 12-mile loop. The trail is popular with all levels of riders, although beginners should be ready for uphill climbs and rocky spots. "It's a moder-



Scott Cadger laps a Joshua tree on the Cottonwood Trail.

ate ride," says Fisher, who is a guide for Escape the City Streets mountain bike tour company in Las Vegas. "Beginners just need to be energetic beginners."

Etched in the foothills of the Spring Mountains 20 miles south of Las Vegas, the single-track trail winds up through Dead Horse Loop, named for a horse skeleton that lies beside the trail, and climbs to Cottonwood Pass.

Wilson Tank Overlook, where two big metal tanks funnel rainwater into troughs for wild horses and other animals, is one of the trail's high points at 5,300 feet in elevation. Here, riders can take in sweeping views of Red Rock

Canyon and Las Vegas. The trail then winds past the sandstone cliffs of Red Valley in the southeastern section of Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.

Cottonwood Valley is about 5,000 feet above sea level, more than twice the elevation of Las Vegas, so it's usually 10 to 15 degrees cooler than the city. Fall and spring are the best times to tackle the trail, but it's pleasant even with a light dusting of snow on the ground, and crowds are rare.

Flume Trail

The Flume Trail is the premier ride for mountain bikers at Lake Tahoe, especially in the fall when the air is crisp and the hillsides are doused in red and yellow.

Beginners need to be in shape for this 14-mile trek and shouldn't have a fear of heights—the Flume Trail rests on a narrow lip of the Sierra Nevada, 2,000 feet above Lake Tahoe. Be sure to bring a

camera to capture the area's rugged beauty, but also remember to wear a helmet since the trail is hairy in places.

The ride begins at Spooner Lake, from where it's uphill on North Canyon Road to Marlette Lake. Expect to spend some time hiking instead of biking and sucking in lots of pine-scented air. This first stretch is five miles of muscle-burning terrain, and the last quarter-mile is such agony that even experienced riders have to walk it.

"Beginners shouldn't be discouraged

In the fall, fat-tire fanatics find aspens blazing enroute to the Flume Trail at Tahoe.



.....

On the Flume Trail, it's impossible to watch the trail and the scenery at the same time.

.....

when they have to walk," says Mark Kimbrough, a mountain biker and Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park ranger. "Even if you're in good shape, it's hard."

When you reach the summit at 8,200 feet, you can pat yourself on the back and look forward to flat trail that is rocky and narrow in places but has incredible views of the pine-carpeted mountains cradling Lake Tahoe.

A quarter-mile past the summit is the centerpiece of the ride—Marlette Lake. Each June rainbow trout travel up a tiny inlet from Tahoe to Marlette to spawn. Bikers cross a small bridge over the creek at the south end of Marlette where park rangers have set up a hatchery.

The Flume Trail begins just past Marlette. The skinny pathway once held wooden square-box flumes built in the late 1800s to deliver water to Virginia City. The old flume is gone now, but the view is phenomenal—you can see Sand Harbor far below. The Flume Trail is extremely narrow, so the main rule of thumb for mountain bikers is stop and take a breather while you enjoy the view—it's impossible to watch the trail and the scenery at the same time.



A mountain biker negotiates the Flume Trail, which overlooks Sand Harbor 2,000 feet below.

It's also important to wear a helmet. Hazards include low-slung precipices, darting chipmunks, rock piles, and, of course, your mountain-biking brethren. Big boulders have plopped onto the trail in spots, requiring riders not only to dismount but also to carry their bikes over them. It's wise to hop off in advance of such perils to avoid an ungraceful—and painful—shortcut to the beach.

The Flume Trail ends at Tunnel Creek Road, and it's downhill the rest of the way (watch out for slippery gravel and washboard areas). Since the trail has lots of foot and two-wheel traffic, riders will find a 15-mph speed limit on

the downhills. "There's some real inconsiderate gonzos that come down, and they give everybody a bad name," Kimbrough says.

The trail spits you out next to the Ponderosa Ranch in Incline Village on State Route 28. At the bottom, pedalers often opt to take a quick trip down to the beach, where they can cool their aching dogs in Lake Tahoe. ▢

Carolyn Graham, Nevada's associate editor, conquered her acrophobia on the Flume Trail. Chris Leedham is a Henderson photographer who dodged his first tarantula on the Cottonwood Valley Trail last fall.

Trail Notes

When mountain biking in Nevada, it's wise to carry water, snacks, a tire pump, a tire-repair kit, and a few band-aids, which help cover the scrapes known as "rock bite."

Riders can reach the **Cottonwood Valley Trail** off State Route 160, near Blue Diamond, 20 miles south of Las Vegas in Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. There are no facilities, so be sure to bring water. The weather can be extremely hot in the summer.

For information on area trails in Red Rock (the 13-mile scenic drive also is popular) call the BLM visitor center at 702-363-1921



or write Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, Box 26569, Las Vegas, NV 89126.

The Las Vegas area has two active mountain-bike tour companies, **Escape the City Streets** (800-596-BYKE) and **Downhill Bicycle Tours** (702-897-8287). (Also see page 73.)

Bill Duca, owner of **Blue Diamond Bicycles**, provides trail tips and the only rentals in Red Rock. Rates are \$7 per hour, \$15 for three hours, or \$25 per day and include bike, helmet, and water bottle. Call 702-875-4500 or write Blue Diamond Bicycles, Box 157, Blue Diamond, NV 89004.

Most **Flume Trail** riders start at Spooner Lake, which is in



Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park. The park's entrance fee is \$4 per car, \$2 if you ride in on a mountain bike, and \$1 for walk-ins. Spooner has restrooms, water, and picnic tables. The Flume Trail ends near Incline Village, so it's wise to car pool so you don't have

to pedal 11 miles back on State Route 28. Trails are not accessible by mountain bike in winter. For information call Lake Tahoe Nevada State Parks, 702-831-0494, or write the park at Box 8867, Incline Village, NV 89452.

The Incline Village/Crystal Bay Visitor and Convention Center has area bike rental and trail information; call 800-GO-TAHOE or write 969 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village, NV 89451.

—Carolyn Graham

Great Nevada Tours

How to go sightseeing while someone else does the driving.

By Kate Butler and Sharon Carter

For some people, it's the only way to travel. Just climb aboard a tour bus, boat, balloon, plane, train, helicopter, raft, bike, or horse-drawn wagon and let professionals navigate for you.

More than 50 Nevada companies can take you sightseeing by land, air, and water. Some arrange rentals, horseback riding, theme parties, and picnics. They also can customize tours.

Taking a tour is a good way to see city life, historical sites, and Nevada's natural wonders. With few exceptions, tours are offered daily and throughout the year. Following is a sampling of Nevada tours where you can sit back, take in the sights, and leave the driving to someone else. The prices listed are per person, with some overnight



Explorers can tour in climate-controlled motorcoach comfort.

rates based on double occupancy. The area code is 702 in Nevada; 800 numbers are toll-free. Prices should be confirmed when making reservations.

Touring Southern Nevada

For tours out of Las Vegas, major attractions are parks and scenic marvels like Red Rock Canyon, Lake Mead, Hoover Dam, Valley of Fire, the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, and Zion. Inexpensive day tours go to the casinos of Laughlin and State Line. Also popular are Las Vegas city tours that visit stars' homes, Glitter Gulch, the Strip, the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, and other attractions like Ethel M Chocolate Factory and Cactus Garden.

Las Vegas

Creative Adventures—Personalized touring with Char Cruz, native-born Las Ve-

Railroad Tours

Nevada has three tourist railroads that run in summer and early fall. Also, Amtrak (800-872-7245) has service to Las Vegas and Reno.

Reno: Golden State Limited—A private railroad car that can take you anywhere Amtrak goes, the Golden State Limited requires a month's notice and \$1.60 per mile plus switching and parking fees (\$700 to \$2,000 per day). The car itself, with crew, food, beverages, and sleeping accommodations for 12 people, runs \$500 per day. Box 863, Verdi, NV 89439. 702-851-RAIL.

Carson City: Nevada State Railroad Museum—Visitors can ride on steam train or motorcar on a 1.5-mile loop of track on summer weekends and Sept. 3-5, Oct. 22-23, and Dec. 10-11. Museum is one mile south of downtown. 2180 S. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89710. 702-687-6953.

Virginia City: Virginia and Truckee Railroad—Revived historic railroad offers six-mile, 35-minute round trip between Virginia City and Gold Hill. The V&T operates daily in summer, through September, and later on weekends as weather permits. Tickets are \$4 adults, \$2 children. Box 467, Virginia City, NV 89440. 702-847-0380.

Ely: Nevada Northern Railway Museum—The Nevada North-



Trains steam up in Virginia City, Ely, and Carson City (above).

ern runs primarily in summer. Rail Days is celebrated on Labor Day weekend (see Nevada Events). Later, diesel engine No. 109 runs Sept. 10-11, and steam engine Old No. 40 on Sept. 17. The Keystone and Hiline routes take 90 minutes each. Prices are \$8 to \$12 for adults, \$6 to \$10 for students and seniors, \$3 to \$4 for children. Box 150040, Ely, NV 89315. 702-289-2085. —Sharon Carter

gan, includes storytelling, history Can "step on" for private tours. Box 19524, Las Vegas, NV 89132. 702-361-5565.

Desert Action—Air-conditioned, narrated jeep tours to Red Rock Canyon and Bonnie Springs (\$49.95), Valley of Fire (\$59.95), Mount Charleston (\$74.95). Also 15-passenger vans to Death Valley and Grand Canyon. 2812 S. Highland, Las Vegas, NV 89109. 702-796-9355.

Garth Tours—Tours of Las Vegas, Hoover Dam, Valley of Fire, Lake Havasu, Zion, Death Valley. Price range: \$8 for Laughlin trip to \$389 for Grand Canyon-Monument Valley ground-air tour. Hoover Dam-Lake Mead Cruise is \$31.90. Deluxe Air and Ground Tour of the Grand Canyon is \$179. Box 26837, Las Vegas, NV 89126-0837 702-382-2010, 800-647-1414.

Gray Line—Twenty tours of wide variety, ranging from Laughlin day trip for \$7.95 to overnight Grand Canyon tour for \$179. Mini City Tour is \$17.50, Hoover Dam and Lake Mead Cruise \$31.60. Flightseeing/rafting packages, driver narrated. 1550 S. Industrial Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89102-2699. 702-384-1234, fax 387-6401.

Guaranteed Tours—Tours visit all major attractions. Laughlin is \$5, deluxe



The Las Vegas Strip is a major tour attraction by both land and air

Grand Canyon tour with flight is \$189.50. Deluxe Hoover Dam is a six-hour tour visiting stars' homes, Boulder City, lunch at Gold Strike Inn, and stop at Ethel M Chocolates for \$22.95. 4740 S. Valley View, Las Vegas, NV 89103. 702-369-1000 (fax 795-8735), 800-777-6555.

Key Tours—Bus tour to Laughlin is \$5, Hoover Dam Plus is \$28. Step-on guides. 3305 W Spring Mountain Rd., Suite 92, Las Vegas, NV 89102. 702-362-9355.

Kidz Adventure Tours—Day and evening outings for kids aged five to 16 to such places as Grand Slam Canyon, Lied Discovery Children's Museum, and other

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Las Vegas Adventure Tours—Variety of scenes and conveyances. Bus tours. Kayak tour of Black Canyon is \$89, ATV riding on Nellis Dunes is \$149, skydiving \$169, bungee jumping \$59, Grand Canyon air and ground tour \$179, Grand Canyon helicopter tour \$269. Ultralights, dune buggies, and mountain climbing. Kids' tours also. 444 Water St., Henderson, NV 89015. 702-564-5452, 800-553-5452.

M.A.I.N. (Museums and Attractions in Nevada)—Known as M.A.I.N., this organization has a free brochure with map to 31 places to visit including the Guinness World of Records Museum, Liberace Museum, Ethel M Chocolate Factory, and Las Vegas Natural History Museum. For the M.A.I.N. guide contact the Visitor Information Center, Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, 3150 Paradise Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89109-9096. 702-892-7575.

Old West Territory Tours—Guided back-road travel in eight-passenger 4x4s or stretch safari suburban for 14. Tours to Las Vegas/Laughlin/Oatman and to Grand Canyon/Zion. Price range \$69 to \$129. 181 Main, Oatman, AZ 86433. 702-454-5555, 602-768-7787, 702-371-2011 (reservations).

Ray and Ross Transport—Besides traditional tours, Ray and Ross offers a Black Cultural Tour of five hours with visits to Moulin Rouge for a soul-food lunch, distinctive markets and churches, Nevada State Museum, and Sammy Davis Jr. Theater for \$35.50. Also Black Religious Experience on Sunday with church visit and lunch. Tour to Laughlin is \$8, Grand Canyon Air Ground Deluxe Tour with flight to South Rim is \$179.50. 300 W Owens, Las Vegas, NV 89106. 702-646-4661, 800-338-8111.

Silverline Tours—Tours in 15-passenger vans. Mojave Desert (Valley of Fire, Lost City Museum) is \$46, Grand Canyon \$99, Zion \$99, Death Valley \$99. Lunch included. 3355 Las Vegas Blvd. South, Las Vegas, NV 89109. 702-733-8283.

Teddy Bear Express—Free Laughlin fun bus or van trips. 2235 East Flamingo Rd., Suite 103, Las Vegas, NV 89119. 702-737-0094.

Tours of Distinction—Ask for schedule, which has great variety. State Line trip

Cool Time on the River

Floating the Colorado below Hoover Dam.

It's hot in Black Canyon, and the passengers start peeling off their clothes as they watch Hoover Dam's smiling concrete face recede behind a wall of dark volcanic rock. Soon everyone has stripped to shorts, T-shirts, and bikini tops.

As he steers the raft down the river, guide Jim Cave pulls off his shirt. He warns his passengers to put on sunscreen, but already they are smearing handfuls of white goop on their faces and shoulders. He points out that although the air temperature may be above 100 degrees in summer, the water temperature is under 60 degrees year-round because of the coldness of the water released from the middle of Lake Mead.

Still, when the first chilly spray comes over the bow, no one is quite prepared. "Yikes!" a dozen people cry in unison. Normal contact between raft and river has created a bit of spray. It's just a few drops of water. Some days, rafters experience hardly any spray at all.

"Wow!" shrieks a man as he feels a few cold droplets splash against him. At the bow, a woman in a bathing suit bravely straddles a pontoon, facing forward like the figurehead of a ship. Head thrown back defiantly, she shields several passengers who are cowering behind her.

It is a phenomenon on this stretch of the Colorado: Although the air is prickly warm, the water is so cold, it is said, that a person who falls in should get out quickly or risk hypothermia.

However, after a mile or so the passengers are joking about their wet feet, and the spray produces more laughs than shivers. Everyone looks for desert bighorn sheep, and a sharp-eyed passenger spots a band of 12 on a cliff high overhead. The raft passes hot springs and grassy side canyons. Jim points out the lone ring-bolt left from the days when boatsmen had to winch their vessels upriver against the current.

After lunch on a sandy beach, the group sees a remarkable catwalk that

was attached to the canyon's east wall in the 1930s. The river gaugers who used it must have been as agile as bighorns, and just as oblivious to heights.

Soon the crowd is clamoring onto the ramp at Willow Beach. It's good



Rafters pause at a desert grotto during their downriver journey.

to stretch after three hours on the raft. The river rats shuffle slowly into the bus for the return trip to Boulder City. The air-conditioned bus ride is civilized and comfortable, but the raft on the open water, with views of noble bighorns and that cool, tingling spray, was better. —David Moore

Black Canyon Raft Tours, based in Boulder City, 24 miles south of Las Vegas, conducts 12-mile, three-hour float trips on the Colorado River from Hoover Dam to Willow Beach. You might catch a bit of spray and get your feet wet, but it's part of the fun, and there's no white water. Bring camera, sunscreen, and tennis shoes or sandals. Open February through November. Cost is \$64.95 per person, or \$69.95 with hotel pickup. Meet at the Expedition Depot, 1297 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005. Phone 702-293-3776 or 800-696-RAFT

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Las Vegas companies like Sundance Helicopters (above) fly to the Grand Canyon.

is \$2 on Oct. 25 and Dec. 7. Death Valley/Scotty's Castle is \$45 on Nov. 19. Escorted tours to the Grand Canyon, Zion, often coinciding with festivals. Box 71566, Las Vegas, NV 89170-1766. 702-454-3838, 800-368-2727

Las Vegas by Water

Black Canyon Raft Tours—Narrated four-hour float trip on the Colorado River from the base of Hoover Dam to Willow Beach. History, geology, wildlife, picnic lunch en route. May get sprayed but no white water. \$64.95 (or \$69.95 with hotel pickup). 1297 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005. 702-293-3776, 800-696-RAFT

Lake Mead Cruises—The *Desert Princess*, a 300-passenger paddlewheeler, makes daily round-trip cruises from Lake Mead Marina to Hoover Dam. Has two climate-controlled decks, dining room, cocktail lounge, and open-deck viewing. Basic sightseeing \$14.50. Also breakfast buffet \$21, early dinner \$29 (April-Oct.), and dinner-dance \$43. 707 Wells Rd., Boulder City, NV 89005. 702-736-6180.

Las Vegas by Air

Adventure Airlines—Daily narrated Cessna flights to the Grand Canyon. All-air touring (\$129.95), a resort landing and champagne-lunch tour (\$149.95), or landing and barbecue on canyon rim in Hualapai Indian country (\$159.95). Also air-water-ground tour of Red Rock Canyon, Lake Mead on *Desert Princess*, Hoover Dam, and Boulder City. Box 93445, Las Vegas, NV 89193-3445. 702-736-7511, 800-543-3077

Air Nevada—Visits Grand Canyon,

Bryce Canyon, and Monument Valley, \$79 to \$389. 5700 S. Haven, Las Vegas, NV 89119. 702-736-8900.

Biplane Rides of Las Vegas—The wind's in your hair while riding an open-cockpit biplane around the valley. Rates are \$30 (\$40 double) to \$125 (\$150 double). North Las Vegas Airport, 702-375-0048.

Eagle Canyon Airlines—Aerial sightseeing of Las Vegas Strip, Hoover Dam, Red Rock Canyon, and Lake Mead, \$79.50 to \$179.50. Tours to Grand Canyon and Monument Valley. 185 East Reno, Suite 8-1, Las Vegas, NV 89119. 702-736-3333, 800-446-4584.

Grand Canyon Tour Co.—Grand Canyon, \$89 to \$129. One tour includes 15-passenger bus trip and picnic through Indian reservation land to the Colorado River. Boat rentals and horseback trips. Box 95493, Las Vegas, NV 89193. 702-361-7628.

Lake Mead Air—High-wing Cessna flights across Grand Canyon wilderness areas and over Hoover Dam and Lake Mead. \$89 per person plus \$25 park air-tour charge per aircraft. Box 60035, Boulder City, NV 89005. 702-293-9906.

Las Vegas Airlines—Grand Canyon by air \$126, overnight to Grand Canyon \$199. Wake-up calls, multiple daily departures. Box 15105, Las Vegas, NV 89114. 702-647-3056 (fax 647-1846), 800-634-6851.

Las Vegas Helicopters—Night flights over Las Vegas lights: \$19.95 to Strip's south end, \$29.95 whole Strip, and \$39.95 for VIP High Roller Tour. Daytime tours to the Grand Canyon's west rim. 3724 Las Vegas Blvd. South, Suite D, Las Vegas, NV 89119. 702-736-0013.

Scenic Airlines—Day and overnight

sightseeing of the Grand Canyon (\$179), Monument Valley, and Sedona. Prices from \$79 for 75-minute tour of Hoover Dam and Lake Mead to \$429 for three-day Monument Valley trip. Multilingual narration with available video camera patch cords. 241 E. Reno, Las Vegas, NV 89119-1198. 702-739-1900 (fax 739-8065), 800-634-6801.

Sundance Helicopters—Vegas Valley tour of Red Rock Canyon and the Strip is \$79. The Baby Grand, a 90-minute tour of Grand Canyon's west end, is \$195. Deluxe Champagne Picnic includes an exclusive landing inside the Grand Canyon River Gorge and champagne picnic for \$295. Numerous other tours. Customized tours for four or more passengers. 135 E. Reno, Suite F4, Las Vegas, NV 89119. 702-736-0606.

Ultimate Balloon Adventure—One-hour hot-air balloon rides, sunrise and afternoon (Oct.-April) or sunrise only (May-Sept.) over Las Vegas. Finger food, champagne at touchdown, \$135 per

Nevada Tour Tips

When calling or writing about tours, remember to:

- Ask about hotel pickup. Virtually all tour companies will pick you up at your hotel.
- Verify the price, and ask if lunch is included.
- Check the tour's duration. Most day tours last from three to seven hours.
- Ask if bus tour involves switching buses.
- Ask if the driver accepts tips at tour's end—which is nearly always the case.

If you hear strange expressions before or during your tour, don't be afraid to ask for translations. A few examples:

- Fam tour = a "familiarization tour" for travel-industry types.
- Hotel transfer = they'll pick you up at your hotel.
- Multidestinational = there are lots of stops.
- Step-on guide = an outside guide who "steps on" a vehicle to provide narration.

person for two or more. 702-221-9199.

Las Vegas by Bicycle, Motorcycle, Hay Wagon, and Other Conveyances

Downhill Bicycle Tours—No-pedaling bicycle tour, for teens or older, goes 18

miles down Lee Canyon on Mount Charleston through three ecosystems to the desert floor. Optional breakfast or lunch stop in Kyle Canyon. \$35 per person plus shared transport cost (\$15 or less). 1209 S. Casino Center Blvd., Suite 122, Las Vegas, NV 89104. 702-897-8287

Escape the City Streets (ETCS)

Bike Touring—Guided back-country bike touring on 21-speed mountain bikes is \$55 per person. Company focus is on-road pedaling in Red Rock Canyon with short hike to a waterfall; also off-road riding in Cottonwood Valley. Bike touring of Mount Charleston, Grand Canyon, Death Valley Souvenir T-shirt. Box 50262, Henderson, NV 89016. 702- or 800-

596-2953 (BYKE).

Las Vegas Adventure Tours—See earlier description on page 71.

Mount Charleston Resort Wagon Rides—Horse-drawn wagon rides in Kyle Canyon are narrated and run 30 minutes. Open until 10 p.m. with a full moon. Sleight rides in winter. \$5 per per-

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son. Group rides of up to 20 per wagon, reservations required, \$100/hour/wagon. HCR 38, Box 325, Las Vegas, NV 89124. 702-386-6899.

Sky's the Limit—Well known for rock-climbing tours, Sky's the Limit offers van tours, hiking, cross-country skiing, and other outdoor activities, with per-person costs ranging from \$55 to \$125. HCR 33, Box 1, Calico Basin, NV 89124-9204. 702-363-4533.

Thrillseekers Unlimited—Offers "adrenaline vacation" packages of five and nine days with bungee jumping, paragliding, firewalk, skydiving, rock

climbing. Also short programs like an introduction to inline skating. Featured in *Newsweek*, July 19, 1993, issue. 3172 N. Rainbow, Suite 321, Las Vegas, NV 89108. 702-255-7321, 800-8-THRILL.

Special Tours for Foreign Visitors

North American Motorcycle Tours—Guided tours on Harley-Davidson motorcycles for foreign tourists to Lake Mead, Grand Canyon, Death Valley. Also motorcycle rentals for self-guided touring (\$138 per day and up). Four-to-five-day motorcycle tours for groups of four to

10 adults (Americans or foreign visitors) to be offered Dec. to March. 6750 Boulder Hwy., Unit 1, Las Vegas, NV 89122. 702-565-7947

Vacation Tours—Overnight tours to Grand Canyon and Lake Powell for Japanese tourists and tour groups. Four-day tours \$595 per person, double occupancy. 115 East Reno, Suite 6, Las Vegas, NV 89119. 702-737-7654.

Laughlin

Blue River Safaris—Tours by bus and boat from Laughlin to Lake Havasu and London Bridge, \$60 includes lunch. Grapevine Canyon petroglyph tour is \$15, Hoover Dam bus-and-boat tour \$60, bus tour to Grand Canyon (12 hours) \$89. Rafting, horseback riding, barbecues, and hayrides. Box 31998, Laughlin, NV 89029. 702-298-0910, 800-345-8990.

Laughlin River Tours—Colorado River cruises of 75 minutes on the *Fiesta Queen* and the *Little Belle*, both 150-passenger sidewheelers, are \$10. Wedding cruises are \$250 to \$1,175 for group. Box 29279, Laughlin, NV 89029. 702-298-1047, 800-228-9825.

Mesquite

Peppermill Wagon Tour and Steak Fry—Wagon rides (up to 40 people per wagon) through the Arvada Ranch with steak fry, entertainment, and dancing on Saturday nights. \$22 per person includes shuttle to ranch from Si Redd's Peppermill Oasis Resort. Occasionally closed to the public. Box 360, Mesquite, NV 89024. 800-621-0187

Touring Northern Nevada

Tours are plentiful in the Reno-Tahoe area. Popular attractions are Reno, Lake Tahoe, Ponderosa Ranch, Carson City, and Virginia City. Lake Tahoe has several cruise ships. Ballooning is increasingly elevated as a means of sight-seeing, with five outfits launching at Stead, Carson Valley and Fernley, 33 miles east of Reno. As one might expect, most tours are taken by bus.

Reno and Sparks

Casino Host—A free tour by van, sponsored by the casinos visited, with one to two hours at each. Bonus packs contain food credits and discounts. Box 6503, Reno, NV 89513. 702-333-2858.

Gray Line—Variety of tours. Bus tour to Virginia City, Carson City, and Lake Tahoe, with lunch at the Lake Tahoe Horizon, takes 8½ hours and costs \$39.

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Virginia City and its historic buildings are popular with Reno-based tours.

The seven-hour Virginia City-Carson City tour with lunch at the Carson City Nugget is \$19. 2050 Glendale Ave., Sparks, NV 89431. 702-331-1147, 800-822-6009.

Hardy and Associates—Tour to Virginia City, Carson City, North Lake Tahoe,

Ponderosa Ranch, and Truckee takes 9 1/2 hours and costs \$34, with breakfast in Virginia City included. 96 Winter St., Reno, NV 89503. 702-329-3114, 800-627-8222.

Virginia City-Lake Tahoe Tours—Tours to Virginia City, Reno, North Lake Tahoe,

and Truckee, with breakfast, is \$34. Summer's Ponderosa Ranch Tour is \$39. 22890 Carriage Dr., Reno, NV 89511. 702-849-1700, 800-828-7143.

Western Discovery International—Customized tours arranged by travel agencies; guides fluent in English, Japanese, Spanish, and German. 507 Casazza Dr., Suite C, Reno, NV 89502. 702-329-1045.

Reno and Tahoe by Air

Biplane Odyssey—This all-senses tour in an open-cockpit biplane buzzes over Reno and Lake Tahoe. The Basic is a \$45 view of Reno and Sierra. The Lake Tahoe Circle, a hair-blowing 80-minute cruise, is \$125. Based at Reno Stead Airport, 10 miles north of Reno. 702-747-1907

Instigator, Nevada's Hottest Airline—Hot-air balloons lift off from Stead, 10 miles north of Reno. One-hour flight is \$125 per person and includes continental breakfast and champagne certificate ceremony. Half-hour balloon flight is \$80. 1512 Allen St., Reno, NV 89509. 702-323-1443.

Sierra Cloud Dancer—Hot-air balloons launch from the Red Rock area northwest of Stead, about 20 miles north of Reno, with champagne brunch afterward. One-hour flight is \$125, half-hour \$85. 5150 Mae Anne Ave., Suite 213-106,

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Sierra Nevada Helicopters—Tours around Reno and Lake Tahoe cost \$162.50 per half hour for up to two people, or \$325 per hour. Flights leave from east side of Reno Cannon International Airport. 485 Rock Blvd., Reno, NV 89502. 702-856-2200.

Carson City/Carson Valley

Frontier Tours—Custom group tours and packages. 1923 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701. 702-882-2100. Affiliated with Gray Line in Reno, 702-331-1147

Hoofbeats—Horse-drawn tours visit historic homes, leaving from behind Cactus Jack's in downtown Carson City in summer. Adults \$7, seniors and kids under 12 \$5, and \$15 for families of up to five members. Off-season by appointment. 3575 Vicky Lane, Minden, NV 89423. 702-882-8147

Carson Valley and Lake Tahoe by Air

Alpine Adventures Aloft—Hot-air balloon flights offer scenic views of Lake Tahoe. The 60-to-90-minute flight costs \$145 per person and includes champagne brunch, flight certificate, and cloisonné balloon pin. Launches from Lampe Park in Gardnerville. Box 1649, Minden, NV 89423. 702-782-7239, 800-332-9997

Skydance Operations—One-hour jet helicopter tour goes to Yosemite, over Lake Tahoe, and back to Carson Valley. Price is \$475 per hour for three people. Based at the Douglas County Airport, Min-

den. Box 2259, Minden, NV 89423. 702-782-4040.

Virginia City

Virginia City Tours—Tourist trolley carries visitors on a 20-minute narrated tour of Virginia City, \$3 adults, \$2 children. Based at Delta Saloon parking lot. Box 933, Virginia City, NV 89440. 702-786-0866.

Lake Tahoe

Borges Carriage, Hay, and Sleigh Rides—North of Caesars Tahoe, the Borges family offers 35-minute carriage tours of Stateline and Lake Tahoe's shoreline June to Oct., \$10 adults, \$5 children un-

Horseback Tours

It may not be as easy as gliding down the highway in an air-conditioned motorcoach, but for years the horse was the limo of the desert—and still is for many people. In fact, Nevada has more than 30 stables, dude ranches, and Western outfitters ready to put you on horseback.

For a "City Slicker's Guide to Nevada Ranch Vacations, Riding Stables, and Wilderness Outfitters" write the Nevada Commission on Tourism, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710 or call 800-237-0774. The May/June '92 issue of *Nevada Magazine* has a dude's guide as well.

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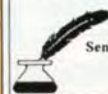
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der 12. Summer hay ride to beach for a sunset barbecue is \$15 adults, \$5 for children under 12. Sleigh ride includes a poetry break, \$10 adults and \$5 children under 12. Box 5905, Stateline, NV 89449. 702-588-2953.

Destination Lake Tahoe—Custom tours for groups. 702-588-5678.

Heavenly Valley Tram—At Heavenly Valley Ski Area, trams run up the mountain every 15 minutes from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily until Sept. 25. Cost is \$10.50 adults until 6 p.m., then \$8; children \$6. Sunday champagne brunch includes the tram ride for \$19 (\$12 children). Box 2180, Stateline, NV 89449. 702-586-7000-6361.

Lake Tahoe Tour Bus—Rim-of-the-lake tours are offered on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Virginia City tours are Wednesday and Saturday. Both are \$29. Box 2000-387, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96151. 916-544-8687.

Offbeat Adventures—Road tour is by bicycle, but support van can carry less athletic tourists. Small-van tours visit Carson City museums and Virginia City, which can include gourmet picnic lunch or Basque dinner, cost \$100 per person for two. Box 10095, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96158. Phone 916-541-4713.

Squaw Valley Tram—Squaw's aerial tram sweeps you up to High Camp at 8,000 feet for tennis, spa-soaking, or dining. Price is \$12 adults, \$5 kids 12 and under, and everyone \$5 after 5 p.m. Extra fees for activities. 916-583-6985.

Lake Tahoe by Water

Lake Tahoe Cruises—The *Tahoe Queen* paddlewheeler, *Miss Tahoe*, and *Tahoe Princess* leave daily from Ski Run Marina in South Lake Tahoe. *Tahoe Queen* has two tours daily to Emerald Bay in autumn and winter, \$14 per person. Sunset dinner-dance cruise with live band is \$18 adults, \$9 children, with meals priced from \$18. Winter ski shuttle cruises to the north shore, leaving at 8 a.m., \$27 includes breakfast and ride to the ski area. Trip back is an apres-ski party. Box 14292, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96151. Phone 916-541-3897.

Liquid Limousine—Boat ride shoreline to shoreline, round-trip or one way, \$100 per hour. Romantic way to go to dinner. Box 9360, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96158. 916-544-4239.

M.S. Dixie II—The *M.S. Dixie II* paddlewheeler cruises all year from Zephyr Cove Marina on Lake Tahoe's southeast shore. The 90-minute breakfast-brunch cruise is \$16.50 adults, \$8 children under 11. Two-hour sightseeing tours to Emerald Bay are \$14 adults,

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Hot-air balloon outfits like *Sierra Cloud Dancer* (above) rise over Reno and Tahoe.

\$5 children. The dinner-dance cruise is \$34 and features a live band. Box 1667, Zephyr Cove, NV 89448. 702-588-3508.

North Tahoe Cruises—The *Tahoe Gal*, a 149-passenger sidewheeler based at Lighthouse Marina, plies the lake in summer and until the end of November. Scenic Shoreline Cruise is \$15 adults, \$5 children. Emerald Bay Cruise is \$18 adults, \$8 children. Also dinner cruises. Box 7913, Tahoe City, CA 96145. 916-583-0141.

Woodwind Cruises—The *Woodwind*, a 40-foot trimaran based at Zephyr Cove, carries up to 30 passengers. It sails five times daily in summer, fewer into winter. Basic cruise is \$14 adults, \$7 children under 12, free for under age two. Sunset Champagne Cruise is \$20 per person. Box 1375, Zephyr Cove, NV 89448. 702-588-3000.

Lake Tahoe by Air

Alpine Lake Aviation—Scenic plane tours leave the South Lake Tahoe Airport. The Champagne Flight, a half-hour sunset tour along the shoreline, is \$69. The Lake Tahoe Tour over Carson City and Virginia City is \$99 per person with a four-person minimum. The 90-minute Lake Tahoe-Yosemite Flight is \$149 per person with a minimum of four people. Box 5249, Lake Tahoe, NV 89449. 702-588-4748.

Mountain High Balloons—Hot-air balloon flights with Tahoe views. Pilot likes to skim across the treetops to pick pine cones and watch the wildlife. Half-hour \$85, 60-to-75-minute flight \$135, certificate ceremonies. Departure from Prosser Reservoir area near Truckee.

10867 Cheyenne Way, Truckee, CA 96161. 916-587-6922, 800-231-6922.

(See also *Reno and Sparks*)

Lake Tahoe by Snowmobile

Zephyr Cove Snowmobiles and Tours—Clients are bused from Zephyr Cove Marina to Spooner Summit for two-hour guided tours at 9 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. daily as long as the snow lasts. Single rider is \$69, double \$99. Box 830, Zephyr Cove, NV 89448. 702-588-3833.

Fernley

Desert Rainbow Balloons—Flights can

originate anywhere within a 200-mile radius of Reno. Balloons have three- and six-passenger capacities. The \$125 per person price for the 60-to-90-minute flight includes champagne, light brunch, flight certificate, and photo of the passengers in the balloon. Usually launches in Fernley or the Big Bend Ranch polo field in Wadsworth. Box 194, Fernley, NV 89408. 702-575-2863. □

Kate Butler of Las Vegas takes frequent tours as a writer, photographer and tourist. Sharon Carter, a Carson Valley writer, is contemplating taking a hot-air balloon ride.

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Asian Garden: Mandarin to Savor

A certain Nevada journalist, who regarded all food items as personal friends, claimed he could appraise the quality of a Chinese restaurant without actually sampling the goods.

"Since all good Chinese restaurants are in storefronts," he opined, "all you have to do is look at the front window. If it's opaque with a thick coat of old grease and dust, it's a first-rate joint. If it's clean, it means they spend too much time cleaning and not enough time cooking."

But the Asian Garden Restaurant has clean windows, and it's one of the better Chinese restaurants in Reno. Go figure.

The Asian Garden might be described as a family-style Chinese restaurant. It is just the sort of place that your parents took you for your first eggrolls, and it can cheerfully handle a station-wagon load of hungry vacationers.

The restaurant is an old Sambo's Coffee Shop that was cleverly given a new architectural identity with just a few modifications. The wavy, space-age '60s roof wasn't altered, but in the context of the building's new use it has taken on a distinctly Oriental look.

The menu is pretty eclectic. There are some Cantonese and a few Szechuan dishes, although the chef seems to be a little timid with the hot stuff. (The hot and sour soup is great; just ask the waiter to jack up the octane.)

Mandarin is what the Asian Garden does best. One of the house specialties, and one that is recommended, is Pork Imperial. This is a wonderful variation on sweet and sour pork in which cubes of spiced pork are dipped in tempura batter, deep fried, and coated in a dark, sweet Mandarin glaze redolent with the essence of plum and sesame oil.

Another house specialty is Orange Steak, thin strips of flank steak cooked in a piquant sauce of orange zest and hot peppers. This is not the sort of dish you share with a loved one. It is a dish one draws close to one's self, out of fork range, and consumes with the gusto of



"The sign is mostly for the tourists," says Ken Hyde, at the "Y" with his faithful dog Ed.

a starving bloodhound. Let your loved one order his or her own.

The service is cheerful and fast, and the fortune cookies are optimistic.

—K.J. Evans

Asian Garden: 1945 S. Virginia St. (at Plumb) in Reno, 702-825-5510. Open 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Takeout available. Entrees: \$5 to \$8. AË, MC, Visa.

Nowhere Cafe: "Y" They're There

"A couple of old people, that's for sure," is the way Kenneth and Ellen Hyde describe themselves. Married now for so long they can read each

other's mind, the Hydes are owners and operators of the Nowhere Cafe at the junction of U.S. 50/6 and State Route 487 in extreme eastern White Pine County. "In other words," adds Ken, "the middle of nowhere."

The catchy name is the only thing that's new and different here. Ellen says her son-in-law painted the sign out front last year while she and Ken were out of town. But most locals, including the Hydes, continue to call the eatery by its old name, "The Y." So if you happen to phone Nowhere, the voice on the other end will answer, "Why?"

Restaurateurs since 1976, the Hydes are in their eighth consecutive year at the Y, which is five miles north of Baker and a 10-mile flapjack toss from Great Basin National Park. The cafe is open for business from 6 a.m. till 8 at night, seven days a week, in summer. The fare is classic trucker tucker: biscuits and gravy, homemade soups, pies, burgers and fries, and chicken-fried steak. The service is leisurely, almost glacial, but the food is well worth the wait.

"Everything we serve is made from scratch," explains Ken. "And, of course, we rustle nothing but the best beef."

—Richard Menzies

Nowhere Cafe: Located 10 miles from

The Asian Garden's
Orange Steak is a dish one draws
close to one's self and
consumes with the gusto of
a starving bloodhound.

Great Basin National Park and five miles north of Baker Phone 702-234-7223. Open daily in summer less so in winter Prices: \$2.25-\$6.95. No credit cards.

California Pizza: Imaginative Italian

In the casino, it's every gambler for himself. But when Golden Nugget patrons ease into their seats at the California Pizza Kitchen, they suddenly catch the sharing spirit.

This downtown Las Vegas eatery—where extra plates are standard issue—delivers a breezy sense of adventure along with imaginative Italian dishes. Instead of pasta and meatballs, you find pasta with tequila-lime and jalapeño-cream sauce or an Oriental garlic-ginger black bean sauce. This is the place to try a tostada pizza or chile relleno calzone. There are 27 varieties of pizza, such as the one made with Peking-style duck, won-ton fettuccine, mushrooms, green onions, and Hoisin sauce.

CPK's Paul Bunyan-sized salads also encourage sharing—regulars know to order a second plate and then negotiate with friends on their choice of salad. Selections include a traditional Caesar salad; a Greek salad with bell peppers, olives, mild goat cheese, and sun-dried tomatoes; and a romaine-and-watercress concoction with Gorgonzola and walnuts in balsamic basil vinaigrette dressing.

If you're on the Strip, there's a second California Pizza Kitchen at the Golden Nugget's sister property, The Mirage. Both CPKs are part of a national chain.

Located off the Golden Nugget's lobby, the downtown California Pizza Kitchen attracts worker bees from law and government offices as well as tourists. Besides good food, CPK has reasonable prices. For example, the Golden Nugget's menu is a la carte, and no dish costs more than \$10, including the desserts.

The desserts are rich, tasty, and considered X-rated by calorie counters—particularly the Myers's Rum Chocolate Pecan Pie. Savvy regulars merely order another plate and share the guilt.

—Ann Henderson

California Pizza Kitchen: Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino, 129 Fremont St. in Las Vegas, 702-385-7111. Open for lunch and dinner daily. Reservations are not accepted. Entrees: \$3.95-\$9.95. All major credit cards are accepted. □

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Laughing Matters

Southern Nevada comedy clubs offer a world of comic relief.

By Mike Weatherford

The comedy club boom of the '80s became no laughing matter in the '90s. The craze that some observers thought would become the primary entertainment of baby boomers soon died like a stale one-liner.

But stand-up comedy continues to thrive in Las Vegas. Although different clubs have come and gone, there have been at least two outlets on the Strip for the past eight years, and currently there are four.

Several factors have helped comedy do well in Las Vegas. An evening of stand-up comedy is still a fresh experience for many vacationers. Frequent visitors can return to the same club and see an entirely different lineup. Also, comedy is the entertainment of choice for the ever-growing base of locals. The price is right, too. With an average admission charge of \$14, a comedy-club date is matched in cost by only the lowliest of the revues.

Alumni of Las Vegas rooms include Yakov Smirnoff, Rosie O'Donnell, Richard Jeni, Pauly Shore, and Brett Butler. But even if none of the names jump out at you, the comedy club atmosphere will. Here's a rundown of the places to hear buffet gags, airline jokes, and the eternal question, "How many of you folks out there are winning tonight?"

An Evening at the Improv at the Riviera



The Riviera's An Evening at the Improv attracts some off-the-wall comedians.

is the most durable of the Las Vegas clubs, having outlasted longtime rival The Comedy Store at the Dunes (and ultimately the Dunes itself). The club, brought to Las Vegas by L.A. comedy impresario Budd Friedman in 1986, looks just it does on television, down to the brick wall behind the small stage.

The room actually seats 400—and the seats are too far back from the action—but even with 150 it seems cozily crowded. Sellouts are rare since the Improv runs three shows every night of the week. The \$13.95 admission includes two drinks, and buffet or dining-room packages are (Continued on page 86)

Comedy Circuit

The Just for Laughs Comedy Club at the **Reno Hilton** presents two comedians nightly in the 225-seat room. Admission is \$12.95 plus tax on Saturday and \$9.95 plus tax Sunday through Friday, dark Monday (702-789-2285).

Comedy nights are a big deal in rural Nevada, and audiences can see many of the same comics as the urban comedy clubbers.

Kat Simmons and Kay Frazier perform as well as book fellow comics at Minden's **Carson Valley Inn** and other lounges. CVI's "Comedy Night Live" is September 23. Cover charge is \$10 (800-321-6983 or 702-782-9711 ext. 679).

You can see comedians free every Tuesday night at the **Hotel Nevada** in Ely (702-289-6665). The next night the headliners move to Elko for the Full House of Laughs on Wednesdays at the **Commercial Hotel** (702-738-3181). There's no cover, and women get two-for-one drinks.

Comedians visit the **Saddle West Casino** in Pahrump, the town with the funny name, about once every four months. The casino's next free Night of Comedy is November 11 (702-727-5953 or 800-433-3987).

Two comedians usually perform Wednesday nights in Winnemucca at the **Winners Hotel**. The 90-minute show is free (702-623-2511).

In Yerington, the **Bank Saloon** at 37 North Main occasionally books Reno-area comics like Chris Talbot (call for schedule, 702-463-3330).

Continuing a tradition at Nevada Magazine, we assembled a veritable emporium of treasures. This year you'll find new T-shirt designs from our Great Nevada Design Contest. We have also added "Nevada's Living Ghost Towns" guidebook and "The Great Nevada Cookbook" to our collection of gift ideas from the Real West.

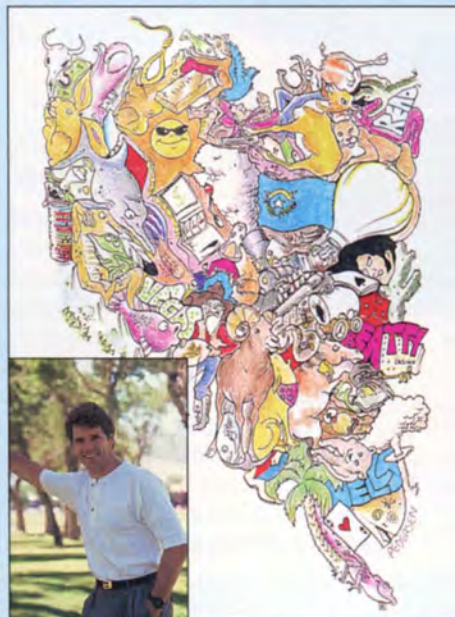
Nevada Gift Shop

Slip into a Nevada shirt and the world will see that you, too, are a part of the Real West.



Wild About Nevada

The Nevada wildflowers design was drawn by Brenda Lockie-Knight, first runnerup in the design contest. Puffed flowers are printed on the front and back of women's scooped neck T-shirts. The shirt is 100% cotton, and comes in white only in sizes S, M, L, and XL. #FLRS, \$19.95; add \$2.00 for XXL

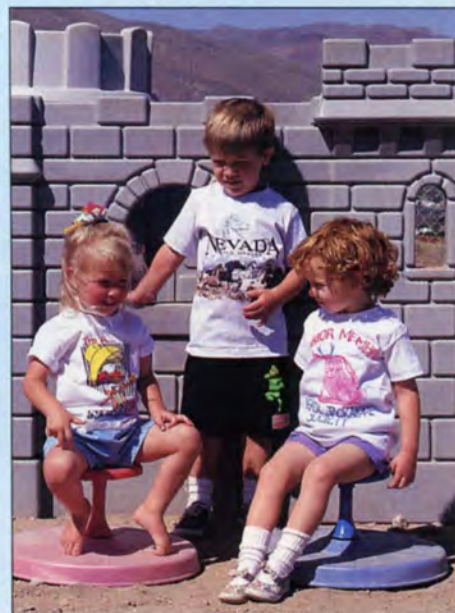


Nevada Extravaganza

The "Nevada Extravaganza" design by April Pederson won first place in this year's Great Nevada Design Contest. The image is printed on the back of a Henley white T-shirt, and "Nevada" is printed on the front right over your heart. The shirt is 100% cotton and comes in sizes S, M, L, and XL. #NVE, \$19.95; add \$2.00 for XXL

Wild Horses

These beautiful animals roam the mountains and deserts of Nevada. They have been captured in this design, which wraps around a peppercorn-colored 100% cotton T-shirt. Comes in M, L, and XL. #HORS, \$17.95; add \$2.00 for XXL. It is also available in children's sizes S, M, and L with printing on the front. #CHORS, \$11.50



Youth T-Shirts

Nevada Kid Cowboy Shirt

Designed specially for Nevada kids, this shirt is extremely popular. It's 50/50 cotton/poly and available in white in sizes XS, S, M, and L. #NKID, \$9.50

Junior Jackalope T-Shirt

The mythical jackalope is a hit with kids. This shirt is 50/50 cotton/poly and available in white in sizes XS, S, M, and L. #JRJK, \$9.50



Symbolic Nevada

The winner in our 1994 Great Nevada Design Contest's youth category was Amanda Burke's illustration of Nevada's diverse attractions. The image is printed on the front of a beige 100% cotton T-shirt, in sizes M, L, and XL. #SYM, \$17.95; add \$2.00 for XXL



Cowboys

Nevada Magazine Classics

A brand-new limited collector's edition contains Nevada Magazine's best cowboy-themed issues of the last 25 years. Order now because only 100 copies of these numbered hard-cover collector volumes will ever be made. #NMC1, ~~\$39.95~~ \$34.95. This issue only! Offer expires Oct. 31, 1994.

Nevada Gift Shop

We are still offering the following designs in 100% cotton T-shirts and 50/50 cotton/poly sweatshirts in sizes S, M, L, and XL.



Jackalope Shirts

White T-shirt: #JAKT, \$14.50
White sweatshirt: #JAKS, \$24.95

Desert Bighorn Sheep

White T-shirt: #RAMT \$15.50
White sweatshirt: #RAMS, \$25.95

Traditional Nevada

White with blue lettering
T-shirt: #NVTW, \$13.50;
sweatshirt: #NVSW, \$23.95
Blue with white lettering
T-shirt: #NVTB, \$14.95;
sweatshirt: #NVSB, \$23.95

A Shady Deal

You can wear this fashionable cap anywhere and be ready to salute the Silver State at a moment's notice. The cap also is a favorite with collectors. Each is true blue and emblazoned with the NEVADA logo. Size is adjustable. #CAP \$6.50

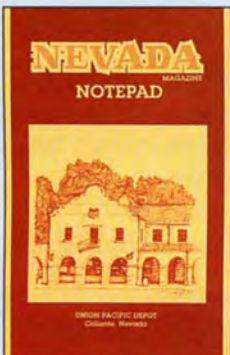


Nevada Logo Neckties

Color choices are navy blue or burgundy red—or get one of each. One tie is \$6.95, two are \$12.00. Red tie, #RTIE; blue tie, #BTIE
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Gaming Issues

NEVADA'S special "50 Years of Gaming (1931-1981)" issue takes you behind the scenes to learn more about the players, the games, and the history of gambling in Nevada. #GIXM, \$5.00

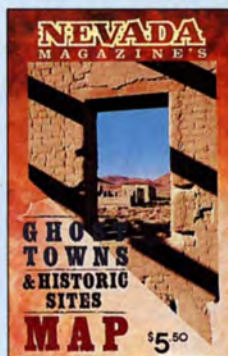


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Use them for short letters or long notes. Each 5-1/2" x 9" tablet contains 24 assorted pages with seven different images such as the Mizpah mine headframe and bristlecone pines. One notepad, \$2.60, #1NPAD; or two for \$5.00, #2NPAD

Ghost Town Map

You can locate long-forgotten towns like Metropolis and Bullfrog with NEVADA's Ghost Towns and Historic Sites Map. It pinpoints mining camps that once were thriving cities and lists parks, museums, and vacation hot lines. #GTM, \$5.50



Flags, Nevada & U.S.

Our Nevada "Battle Born" state flags come in sturdy blue fabric with gold lettering and metal grommets. The U.S. flag is also available. Nevada flag, 3' x 5', #NV35, \$40.00; 4' x 6' #NV46, \$50.00
U.S. flag, 3' x 5' #US35, \$35.00; 4' x 6' #US46, \$45.00



Suspenders

These suspenders, in red or blue, have a white NEVADA logo and sturdy leather crosspatch embossed with "Nevada Magazine, Bet on It!" Both sizes are adjustable.

Regular suspenders:

Blue, #SUSBR; Red, #SUSRR, \$14.00

Extra-long suspenders:

Blue, #SUSBX; Red, #SUSRX, \$14.00



available for \$5 to \$8 more. One caveat: The one-hour running time is the shortest of all the Las Vegas rooms. (Riviera Hotel, second-floor plaza, 702-794-9433.)

Bob Kephart expanded his **Comedy Stop** from Atlantic City to the Tropicana Hotel four years ago. Physically, the retrofit room is the most awkward of the Las Vegas pack: The stage is in the center of a wide, rectangular room, and audience members sit at long show-room-style tables with many too far to the side. However, the club's jovial staff and occasional big-name lineups help create a friendly environment.

Southern Nevadans became so enamored of the Comedy Stop's Thursday night two-for-one offer for state residents that Kephart began offering discounts on other nights: Sunday is for out-of-state visitors, Monday for ladies, Tuesday for casino employees, and

At Sandy Hackett's Comedy Club, the weekly showcase is free in the Golden Nugget Laughlin's Tarzan Lounge.

Wednesday for anyone over 50. Weekend visitors pay the full price of \$12.95, which excludes tax and tip but includes two drinks. (Tropicana Hotel, second floor, 702-739-2714.)

When the Maxim converted its show-room into the elegant **Comedy Max** in the summer of 1993, they came up with a way to be crowded every night: They

cut the room down to 120 seats, so every show seems packed and every patron has a great view from either a booth or cabaret table. The drawback? The lower capacity limits the club's ability to hire the bigger names you see on payable channels.

The Maxim's comedy room is unique in that it is owned and run by the hotel rather than leased to an outside operator. The \$12.95 admission includes not only two drinks but also table service—another departure, since most of the franchise rooms have self-service bars. (Maxim, 702-731-4300.)

Last summer **Catch A Rising Star** pulled up stakes after nearly six years at Bally's and moved to the new MGM Grand Hotel. The former movie theater at Bally's was a favorite of locals, with good sightlines and comfortable sofas in back. Time will tell if the club's rep-

Cow County Comedy

Comics in rural Nevada have the last laugh.
By Guy Richardson

When stand-up comedy peaked a few years ago, the joke was that if you owned an Arco station in Los Angeles with a back room you could book comedy acts and make a fortune. That was when Northern Nevada had four full-time comedy rooms in big casinos. Now the only such venue in suburban Northern Nevada is the Just for Laughs Comedy Club at the Reno Hilton.

But if you own an Arco station in, say, Austin, you might have a chance.

Comedy is alive and well in the boonies. Elko, Ely, Winnemucca, Gardnerville, Pahrump—the town that comedian Pete Barbutti used to get laughs just by saying its name—Fernley, Fallon, all these towns and others have more or less regularly scheduled comedy nights.

Bobbie Shropshire is a comic who lives in Reno. She has world-wide experience. "I've worked Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco, and Fernley," she says. "Give me Fernley."

Rural audiences are heavy on cowboys and miners, but that doesn't mean they're a bunch of rubes. Shropshire says, "I find the outlying audiences to be much quicker than audiences in town. They are interested, they're happy to be there, and I am happy to be standing there."

Kat Simmons graduated from Wooster High in Reno in 1974, went to University of Nevada, was on the rodeo team, and now lives in Gardnerville. She also is a respected comic. "If Kat wanted to be a major player she would be," Shropshire says. "But she says, 'I have bulbs coming up. Where would I go?'" So Simmons often works the Carson Valley Inn in Gardnerville.

"There's not much else to do in Gardnerville, once you've eaten prime rib at Sharkey's and counted the sheep," Simmons says.



Kat Simmons (left) and Bobbie Shropshire
are Nevada comics who prefer the cow-county clubs.

"We've had some really great shows and turnouts at the Carson Valley Inn," she adds. "We've had some sold-out shows, standing-room-only shows. It really blew my mind."

Simmons, a home-town gal, books the CVI with her business partner Kay Frazier. Frazier, says Simmons, has "quite a little dynasty of one-nighter rooms around Nevada. She uses some Bay Area prominent names, including Diane Ford, who we had at the CVI."

Frazier books them into rooms like the Nevada Hotel in Ely, the Commercial in Elko, and the Saddle West in Pahrump. And, she says, audiences out there love comedy. Actually, they like their comedy a little rowdier than

utation for longer shows and, usually, the highest caliber of talent will carry over to the MGM, where it moved into a lounge capable of seating nearly 400 people. The room was fitted with retractable walls, allowing it to revert to its lounge setup late at night.

Even if you don't like every one-liner in **Sandy Hackett's Comedy Club** in Laughlin, you can't complain about the price. The weekly showcase is free in the Golden Nugget Laughlin's Tarzan Lounge (even the name is funny). Comics perform at 8 and 10 p.m. Monday nights during football season, but producer Hackett (the son of Buddy) adds additional nights in the summer. (Golden Nugget Laughlin, 800-237-1739 or 702-298-7111.) □

Mike Weatherford is an entertainment reporter for the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

the big-city people do.

Take, for instance, Tree. Just the one name, Tree. It's all the name the shaven-headed, six-foot-four, 218-pound comic needs. You do not forget Tree.

Frazier says Tree does wonderfully well with rural audiences. "He's very powerful, strong, and on the blue side," she says. "Cowboys, ranchers, and miners dig it."

However, you don't have to tell blue jokes to win cow-county Nevada audiences. "Small-town audiences in Nevada are tolerant," Frazier says. "It might take them a little longer to catch on to someone from San Francisco doing cerebral humor."

Maybe so, but they're quick, insists Shropshire. She and Reno comic Chris Talbot recently did a gig in Yerington, at a night spot called The Bank. Shropshire says, "The place was just cheek-to-jowl—you couldn't move sideways. Talbot was insanely funny, and the crowd was very fast. They're asking us back."

Simmons has a natural appreciation for the rural hangouts. "Having a cowpoke background means those places don't scare me," she says. "I mean, I used to be a cowgirl on a rodeo team. I'd rope and brand and castrate—but I don't go to those bars anymore." □

Guy Richardson is an editor and entertainment writer for the Reno Gazette-Journal and a closet comedian.

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- Statewide Snow Guide
- Nevada Events Section. A Holiday Sampler

The Other Side of COBB

During Ty Cobb's years in Nevada, the famous ball player and I shared more than just a name.

By Ty Cobb

I have not yet seen *Cobb*, the movie about Ty Cobb to be released this fall, but I have no faith in it, from what I have deduced. I have heard that it will depict the worst of the man whom many regard as the greatest baseball player of all time.

I knew Ty Cobb about as well as anyone who met him during his later years, which he spent in Nevada. I never saw the bad side of him, as one book, at least one stage play, and now the movie have depicted.

Ty's surviving children also are dubious of anticipated scenes such as a family fight in the Cobb kitchen in Georgia. "This is baloney," his son, James Cobb of Santa Maria, California, told me. James said Ty never mistreated his family and added, "He was a loving father." James remembered that his father took him to Cooperstown when he became the first player elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame, in 1936, and continued to take him to Cooperstown for 15 straight years.

Ty's daughter, Beverly McLarnen, who spends her summers at the family's Lake Tahoe home, attended the premiere of a Broadway play entitled, "The Dark Side of Cobb." She walked out before the first act was over.

There is no doubt that Cobb, known



Three Ty's—the author, his son Ty Jr., and the hall of famer—gather on Reno's Ty Cobb Night in the early '50s.

as the Georgia Peach, was feared by opposing players. He had the theory that the base paths belonged to the base runners, and woe betide any infielder who got in the way.

I once asked him about the legend

**When I was about eight,
I received a small box
with a baseball
signed, 'To Ty Cobb
from Ty Cobb.'**

that one afternoon he had sat in front of the Detroit Tiger dugout, sharpening his spikes with a file, in full view of the other team. He grinned and said, "That's all wrong. Maybe I was just intimidating them. I never wanted to hurt anyone."

Cobb's fiery personality had roots in his early years in the majors. He went up as an 18-year-old rookie and was brutally treated by a clique of Tiger "good old boys" who feared this brash kid would replace one of them in the lineup. They sawed his bats, nailed his shoes to the floor, snubbed him, bullied him.

Their actions only sharpened his zeal, as Cobb became the game's most dynamic player. He led the American League in

batting 12 times and hit above .400 three times. His lifetime batting average was .367, still the highest in major-league history. In 1915 he stole 96 bases, a record that lasted for decades. He remains fourth on the all-time list for runs batted in, with 1,960, behind only Hank Aaron, Babe Ruth, and Lou Gehrig.

After 24 seasons in the big leagues, Cobb retired. He lived for a while in Atherton, California, near San Francisco. Later he got a divorce and moved to a beach-side lodge near Cave Rock, on the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe.

I had a keen interest in the old war-



Cobb came to Nevada as one of America's most famous sports figures. A speedy outfielder with the Detroit Tigers (1905-26) and Philadelphia Athletics (1927-28), he was a tenacious hitter who tore up the basepaths. Cobb's career record of 892 stolen bases stood for many years, and his lifetime .367 batting average remains the highest in major-league history.

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rior, since I was named for him. I was born on September 21, 1915, in our family home in Virginia City near the Hale and Norcross mine dumps. My father, Will Cobb, was an avid baseball fan, but even casual observers of the game knew about Ty Cobb of the Detroit Tigers. When my father went uptown the day after I was born, all the people said, "How's young Ty?" And that's how I was named.

Later I inflicted the name on my own son, and he in turn labeled his son a Ty Cobb. Even now people ask me, "Are you the real Ty Cobb, the ball player?" And I ask, "Do you mean the guy who died 33 years ago and would be about 108 years old now? No, I'm not him."

My first personal contact with Ty Cobb came when I was about eight years old and I received a small box from the Detroit Tigers. The box contained an American League ball signed, "To Ty Cobb from Ty Cobb." I don't know how he found out about me, but I kept that ball for many years.

Our paths crossed frequently after he moved to Nevada in the 1950s. I met him first at a golf tournament at the Washoe County Golf Course. He was getting ready to tee off when I introduced myself. He seemed very jovial, which went against his reputation for sour behavior.

Cobb came to Reno often to shop, and sometimes he would visit my home. He had my family to his lake house a couple of times, for Southern dinners. After eating, and a few snorts, he would get expansive and talk about his career



The movie Cobb stars Tommy Lee Jones, here with young Reno resident Nick Kosach in a Carson City scene.

in the big leagues. He said he never charged the mound to assault a pitcher who had thrown a bean ball. "No, I never went after them. I just laid down a bunt on the first base line, where the pitcher had to handle it. And then I ran over them."

He had always touched Walter Johnson, the fastest pitcher of his time, for base hits. "Walter had a kind heart. He feared he would kill someone," Ty said. "I just leaned away over the plate. I was taking a chance that he wouldn't hit me. He would ease up and either walk me or throw a slow one."

One night at his home Cobb got out a big ledger. It contained the names of several young men. They were poor Southern youths, both white and black, whom he sponsored through college. He paid all their expenses. "I just told them to send me their grades and keep their noses clean," he said.

Cobb had become a wealthy man not from baseball but through his investments. He got in on the ground floor with General Motors, which was based where he played, in Detroit, and with Coca-Cola, based in his home state of Georgia.

One time he offered to sponsor my son Ty, Jr. in the garbage-can business. The old ball player had obtained the patent on a steel cylinder that used a chemical to melt away garbage. He offered to get my son the franchise for Lake Tahoe and promised, "I'll get him a boxcar full of those cans." He was irked when the 15-year-old lad turned it down, choosing instead to work on a ranch that summer.

Cobb had a habit of losing things and then putting ads in the paper asking for their return. He would tell the finders to bring the items to my house in Reno and get a reward. One day my wife opened the door and was startled to find a man who had two dogs, per Cobb's ad, and wanted the reward.

There was a great tangle concerning the Ty Cobb name. Our mail, telegrams, and phone calls were frequently mixed up. Ty had a phone at Tahoe, but the number was unlisted. Therefore I got calls from Eastern sports writers and baseball figures like Del Webb, Dan Topping, and Casey Stengel who were looking for Ty Cobb the ball player.

When he moved to Lake Tahoe, Cobb drove down to Reno and opened a bank account—not only at my bank but also at the same branch. One day I got a statement showing I had something like \$50,050. I knew the \$50 was mine, but I



Cobb became wealthy through investments, not what he earned on the field.

had trouble convincing the lady at the bank that the \$50,000 must be the other Ty Cobb's. Old Ty and I had the same middle initial. His middle name was Raymond, mine was Richard. Once she understood the mix-up, the woman hastily corrected our bank records.

I got the tax bills for his boat, a beautiful Criss-Craft that he kept in his some-

**"Ty, tell those yokels
I am good for this,"
he wrote regarding
his newspaper
subscription bill.**

what dilapidated boathouse. One day my wife received *his* divorce papers in the mail, which was, to say the least, startling.

In his declining years, Ty suffered from a number of ailments. I think he had diabetes, cancer, and problems related to his numerous baseball injuries, and he drank because of the pain. He liked to gamble and got into furious arguments with the casino dealers. Occasionally friends would tell me,

"I hear you made quite a fuss at the Mapes (or the Riverside, Harrah's, etc.) last night."

Ty always thought we might be distant relatives. When he went back to his home town of Royston, Georgia, he was going to look up his family tree. But there, he entered the hospital he had built in his parents' memory and never came out.

I think I have the last letter he wrote. He was notoriously slow to pay, and the *Nevada State Journal* dunned him to pay his subscription. He sent me an angry note, in his familiar green ink: "Ty, tell those yokels I am good for this."

His favorite story, as I recall, was not about ball games of the past but about a humorous incident. He liked to socialize at functions of the Eagles lodge in Carson. One night an old gent came up and said, "Mr. Cobb, I sure admire you, and I have for years." Thinking this was a compliment on his baseball feats, Cobb thanked him graciously. The old gent continued: "Yes, I sure admire your columns in the *Nevada State Journal*." □

Tyrus Richard Cobb of Reno worked 38 years for the Nevada State Journal, 22 of them as sports editor. This is his 29th year of writing his weekly column, "Cobbwebs."

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Issue	Space	Artwork
Nov/Dec '94	9/8/94	9/15/94
Jan/Feb '95	11/8/94	11/15/94
March/April '95	1/11/95	1/18/94

Spike's Oasis

If you build it,
they will come.

Story and Photos
by Richard Menzies

The first time Spike Volk ever played golf was on his 40th birthday. That's when friends from California dropped by to help him celebrate, and on a wild impulse the party commenced driving golf balls across the sagebrush flats surrounding Volk's Southeastern Nevada homestead near Caliente.

But festivities ground to a halt when, according to Volk, the local DA slapped a red tag on him, claiming his property wasn't zoned for golf.

Determined to finish what he started, Volk went to town and eventually won a conditional use permit from Lincoln County. Then he began turning the 20-acre field outside his door into a golf course. Sagebrush was cleared, and in its place waterholes were dug and drought-resistant grass planted. In no time at all "Spike's Oasis" started drawing crowds of jackrabbits, deer, wild horses, and several head of the neighbor's cattle.

"They chomped it all down," laments Volk, "but that wasn't the worst of it. Last year I bought about 4,000 golf balls for the driving range, and right away all but 500 of them disappeared. Come

He planted grass, and
in no time at all Spike's Oasis
started drawing
crowds of jackrabbits, deer,
wild horses, and cattle.



Spike and his daughter Kara at the oasis, where the crows didn't get all the golf balls.

to find out these big black crows out here stole 3,500 balls!"

A lesser man might have been tempted to call it quits, but not Spike Volk. The way he sees it, there's a serious shortage of links along U.S. 93, and he's determined to fill the gap. When it's finally finished, he figures his oasis will be "somewhere between a mini-course and a driving range" complete with RV hookups. For a clubhouse, he's contemplating using an old school bus he owns. More or less open for business since July 4, Spike charges \$5 per customer, half price for seniors. With the rental of an RV hookup, green fees are waived.

Spike, who works construction when not on his links, and his family have

lived in the Caliente area for seven years. His wife Lorraine, manager of the Knotty Pine Restaurant in Caliente, and daughters Kelsi and Kara all pitch in at the Oasis, from working the RV park to retrieving range balls in a go-cart.

Situated at highway marker 101 exactly seven miles south of Panaca and seven miles north of Caliente, Spike's Oasis is easy to find, and, says Spike, "there's always someone around." ▢



Bowling ball graveyard is another attraction.

Richard Menzies, the Salt Lake City-based writer and photographer, also reports on the Nowhere Cafe near Baker in this issue. He says it's probably not necessary, but should you wish to reserve a tee time at Spike's Oasis, the number is 702-726-3410.

Ghost Stories

Celebrating Halloween with spirits of the past.

By Kim Pryor

Halloween is a good time for ghost stories. Because Nevada's 130th birthday coincides with Halloween, it seems appropriate that the state has been haunted by spirits of the past. Following is a sampling of places that refuse to give up the ghost.

1 Boulder Dam Hotel, Boulder City:

A former manager of this 1930s hotel reported to Dennis McBride, author of *Midnight on Arizona Street: The Secret Life of the Boulder Dam Hotel*, that she regularly saw a spirit attempting to speak as it floated near the front desk. The hotel has several spooks, and McBride believes that one may be Raymond Spilsbury, the hotel's original owner, trying to say that his reported suicide in 1945 was really a murder.

2 The Rhyolite Depot: The late Patrick

Coka, caretaker of the ghost town's depot 20 years ago, one night heard accordion music upstairs. He later told Kari Coughlin, chairwoman of Friends of Rhyolite, that he searched but found no one. "The weird thing is," Coughlin says, "one of the last occupants of the town in the 1950s was Tommy Thompson. He was an accordion player."

3 Warner House, Mountain Springs:

When Paul Etzler moved to this tiny hamlet near Las Vegas earlier this year, locals warned him about the ghost of Paul Warner, the original owner of his house. The spirit missed his booze, locals said, so Etzler set a bottle of Canadian whiskey in a kitchen cabinet. Since then, he says, the whiskey has been slowly disappearing. Etzler believes that Warner, who developed the area in the 1950s, also searches for the Alka Seltzer that he liked to mix with his whiskey to prevent hangovers. "Every time I get up in the morning, the bathroom cupboard doors are open," he says.

4 Mizpah Hotel, Tonopah: Guests of

the hotel have encountered a ghost dressed in a red gown, says general manager Sue Harmon. "The Lady in Red," as locals and staff have christened



The Rhyolite depot (above) may harbor a musical spirit. The Governor's Mansion has been a favorite haunt of former first lady Una Dickerson (right), who lived in the mansion in the early 1900s.



her, may be the spirit of a woman murdered there in the early 1900s. Harmon says when women guests set their red shoes on one side of the room, they often later find the shoes on the opposite side—or missing.

5 Sweetwater/Sheehan House, Lam-

oille: In the 1980s owners Sarah Sweetwater and Pat Sheehan loaned their cabin to a Cincinnati Symphony concert master. The *Elko Free Press* reported that he awoke one night to see his bedroom door open by itself and then felt a hand rest on his shoulder. A guest staying in a different room related the same experience. The men may have met the spirit of Flo Ash, an early 1900s entertainer who frequently visited the cabin.

6 Lone Mountain: In 1887 travelers

near Elko said they saw a woman with dark curly hair wandering in the desert. Then she suddenly vanished, leaving no footprints behind. According to the *Elko Free Press*, her description matched that of a woman named Emily from Iowa, whose lover, George Cowler, had died after discovering gold and silver ore near Lone Mountain in 1864. Heartbroken, Emily had died soon after, uttering her final words: "I shall return in spirit and direct you to George's mine." But so far Emily has led no one to the diggings.

7 Express Car No. 5: In

1893 a Wells, Fargo agent was working alone in a Southern Pacific boxcar. As it passed near Winnemucca, he heard a voice ask, "What was done with the corpse?" According to a report in the November 25, 1893, edition of the *Silver State* newspaper, the agent searched fruitlessly for the stow-away. The company eventually replaced the car because nobody would work in it—especially at night.

8 Gold Hill Hotel: Even after the

guests are gone, employee Viki Miller says she often hears giggling in the hallways of the 1859 hotel near Virginia City. "After locking a door, you can hear the lock undo itself and the door opening," she adds. Colleagues have seen other ghosts, including one named Rosie for her lingering perfume.

9 Edwards House, Carson City: This

1883 residence on North Minnesota Street is a stop on the Kit Carson Trail Ghost Tour. Guides say it is haunted by the ghost of Maria Anderson, a housekeeper in the late 1800s who occasionally returns to clean house. Maria seems especially fond of the grand piano, which is said to never need dusting.

10 Governor's Mansion, Carson

City: Mansion coordinator Helen Wiemer says she often feels a cold wind blowing from an antique grandfather clock. If she shuts the clock door, it swings open again. Several years ago first lady Sandy Miller's brother-in-law, Gene Lawson, saw an apparition whom others have said is Una Dickerson, wife of Governor Denver Dickerson (1908-1910), dressed in the white gown she wore for the mansion's 1909 opening. □

Kim Pryor, a Lake Tahoe writer, recommends the Carson City Kit Carson Trail Ghost Tour October 22 (see Nevada Events).

Laughlin Excitement New Orleans Charm

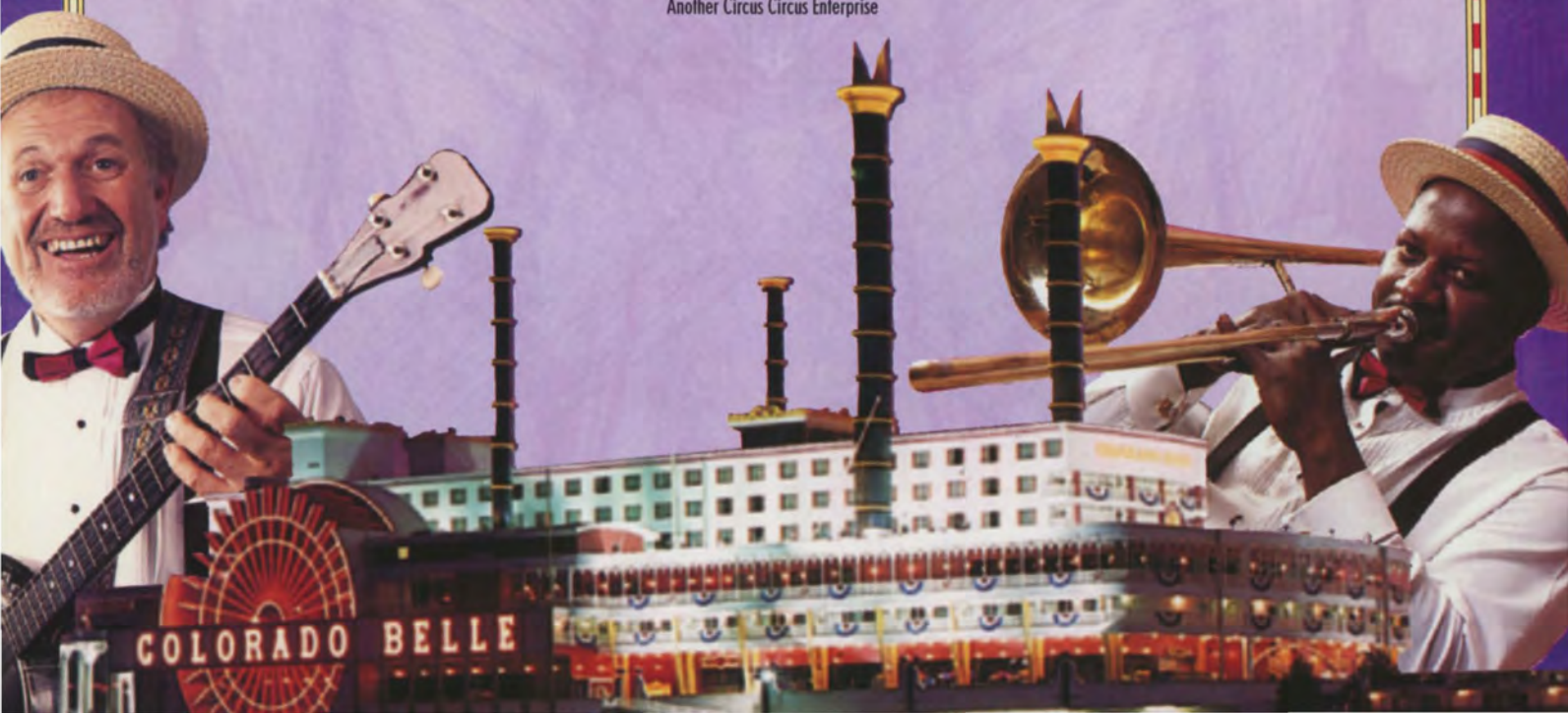
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NEVADA *Events*

Section of Nevada Magazine

September/October 1994

GOLF GREATS

**Pros and fans
at the Las Vegas
Invitational**



**Review: Cooking up
fun in '¡Conga!'**

**World's Championship
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NEVADA Events

Section of Nevada Magazine
September/October 1994 Events

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Payne Stewart at last
year's Las Vegas
Invitational Golf
Tournament. Photo
by J. Rick Martin.
Inset: The stars of
"¡Conga!" at the Rio
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NIGHTLIFE/REVIEW

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Nevada Events is a section of Nevada Magazine. Events Editor: Melissa Cronin Loomis. Editor: David Moore. Associate Editor: Carolyn Graham. Art Director: Paul Allée. Production Editor: Gary Elam. Publisher: Richard Moreno. Advertising Manager: Patty Noll. Circulation Manager: Debi Frame. Commission on Tourism Chair: Lt. Governor Sue Wagner. Executive Director: Thomas G. Tait. Nevada Magazine (ISSN 0199-1248) is published bimonthly by the State of Nevada at 1800 Hwy. 50 East, Suite 200, Carson City, NV 89710-0005; (702) 687-5416. Copyright © 1994 by State of Nevada. All rights reserved. Reproduction of editorial content without written permission is prohibited. Nevada Events is a section in each issue of Nevada Magazine. Subscription rates for the magazine are \$14.95 for one year, U.S.; \$19.95 Foreign. Toll-free number for subscription questions and orders: 1-800-669-1002. Please allow six weeks for delivery. To receive a copy of the Nevada Events section call the Nevada Commission on Tourism, 800-NEVADA-8. Advertisements in this publication do not constitute an offer for sale in states where prohibited by law. Submissions: Color slides and 5x7 or 8x10 color prints are needed for events. Nevada Magazine assumes no responsibility for damage or loss of submitted material. A stamped, self-addressed envelope must accompany submissions.

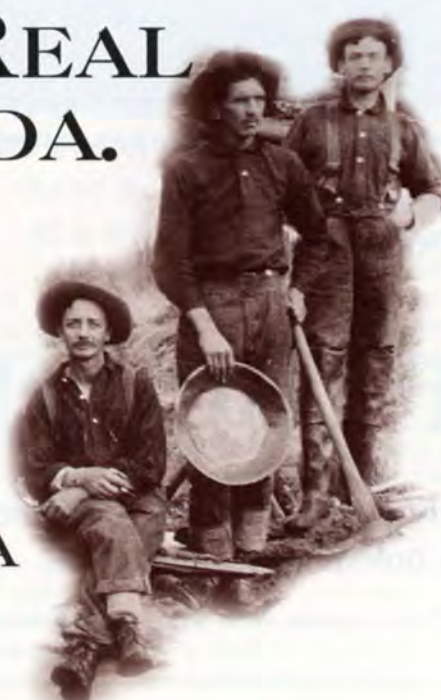
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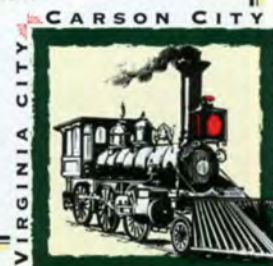
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Davis Love III, last year's Las Vegas Invitational winner, lines up a putt with his caddy.

SPOTLIGHT

Going for the Green

Fans join players at the Las Vegas Invitational Golf Tournament.

BY DON WEINER

When the Las Vegas Invitational comes to town in mid-October, the city rolls out the green carpet with limos, hospitality suites, a \$1.4-million purse, and five

days of golf starring the PGA's top players.

The tournament attracts some upscale elements. After all, an amateur player needs a \$3,750 entry fee, as well

as a low handicap, to play in the three-day pro-am portion of the LVI. On Saturday at least 70 of the 144 pros advance to a fourth-round shoot-out, as do the top amateur players. On Sun-



Fans have the chance to see golf greats at the tourney, October 19-23.

day only the pros compete in the final round.

But you don't need a corporate invitation to enjoy the Las Vegas Invitational. A lawn chair, comfortable shoes, and a \$15 grounds pass will put you on the course. There you can follow players like Fuzzy Zoeller, Davis Love III, John Cook, and Greg Norman—all past winners of the LVI.

Since it began in 1983, the tournament has been played on several area courses. This year's co-hosts are the Las Vegas Country Club, the Sahara Country Club, and the home course for the LVI since 1992, the Tournament Player's Club at Summerlin, located 10 miles northwest of the Strip. Summerlin's TPC is a stadium course, which can accommodate huge galleries on grassy hills and plateaus at key holes.

"This golf course has several main viewing hubs," points out Mitch McClellan, marketing director for TPC at Summerlin. At those strategic locations a spectator can watch up to three holes at a time.

A prime viewing area is just south of the clubhouse. There, golf fans can climb the mound known as Mount TPC and enjoy unobstructed views of the 16th hole, the 17th hole, and the 18th green. Refreshment and souvenir stands are nearby.

At strategic locations a spectator can watch up to three holes at a time.

Because it precedes the Tour Championship by one week, the Las Vegas Invitational attracts the game's best players. The Tour Championship is open only to the tour's top money winners, so those who have already qualified come to Las Vegas for a tune-up. For others, a big payday at the LVI could get them into the Tour Championship. And the paydays are big. Last year Davis Love III won by eight strokes with a five-round score of 331 and pocketed \$252,000. That's a serious addition to a player's winnings. Even second-place finisher Craig Stadler did well, with a \$151,200 payday.

While thousands of tourists will come to Las Vegas October 19-23 for this year's tournament, millions of television viewers will see it on ESPN, which is why the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority is once again sponsoring the LVI.

Passes for each day or the entire tournament can be purchased at the entrance to TPC at Summerlin or in advance by contacting the Las Vegas Invitational office, 702-382-6616.

Don Weiner covers golf for the Las Vegas Review-Journal and is a part-time hacker who has no chance of ever playing as an amateur in the Las Vegas Invitational.

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When calling long distance within Nevada, first dial the state's area code (702).

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Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710; 687-3636 or 800-NEVADA-8 anywhere in U.S. and Canada

Las Vegas Territory

Boulder City C of C: 1497 Nevada

Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; 293-2034

Boulder City Visitor Center: 100 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; 294-1220

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

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

Hoover Dam Visitors Services: Box 60400, Boulder City, NV 89006; 293-8367

Jean Visitor Center: Interstate 15 Rest Area (8 mi. south of Jean), Jean, NV 89019; 874-1566

Las Vegas C of C: 711 E. Desert Inn Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89109; 735-1616

Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority: 3150 Paradise, Las Vegas, NV 89109; 892-0711

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

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

Laughlin Visitor Center: 1555 S. Casino Dr., Laughlin, NV 89029; 298-3321

Mesquite Area C of C: 250 W. Mesquite Blvd., Suite 8, Box 785, Mesquite, NV 89024; 346-2902

Mesquite Visitor Center: Interstate 15 Exit 122, Mesquite, NV 89024; 346-2702

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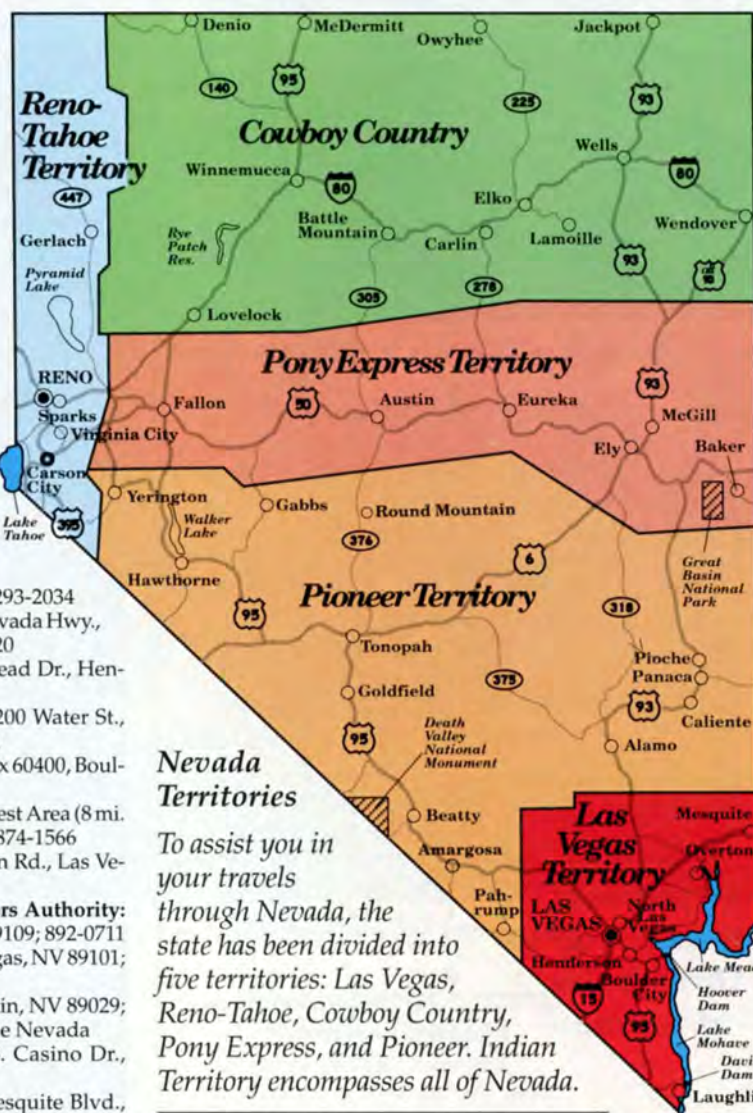
Southern Nevada Arts Hot Line: Local arts and cultural events; on touch-tone phone call 385-4444 and enter code 2172

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Greater Reno-Sparks C of C: 405 Marsh Ave., Reno, NV 89505; 686-3030

Incline Village/Crystal Bay C of C: 969 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village, NV 89451; 831-4440

Incline Village/Crystal Bay Visitor and Convention Bureau: 969 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village, NV 89451; 832-1606 or 800-GO-TAHOE anywhere in U.S.

Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority: 1156 Ski Run Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; 916-544-5050, 800-AT-TAHOE in U.S., or 900-776-5050 for updated visitor info. (\$1/min. charge)

North Lake Tahoe C of C: Box 884, Tahoe City, CA 95730; 916-581-6900

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

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

South Lake Tahoe C of C: 3066 Lake Tahoe Blvd., S. Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; 916-541-5255

Sparks C of C: 831 Victorian Ave., Sparks, NV 89431; 358-1976

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

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

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

Cowboy Country

Battle Mountain C of C: Box 333, Battle Mountain, NV 89820; 635-8245

Elko C of C: 1601 Idaho St., Elko, NV 89801; 738-7135

Elko Convention and Visitors Authority: 700 Moren Way, Elko, NV 89801; 738-4091 or 800-248-ELKO outside Nevada

Jackpot Visitors Information: Box 508, Jackpot, NV 89825; 755-2321, 800-821-3935 in Nevada, 800-821-1103 anywhere in U.S.

Jarbridge Community Assn.: c/o Trading Post, Box 260072, Jarbridge, NV 89826; 488-2315

Lovelock C of C: Box 821, Lovelock, NV 89419; 273-7213

McDermitt Information: Box 278, McDermitt, NV 89421

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

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Fallon Area C of C: 100 Campus Way, Fallon, NV 89406; 423-2544

Fallon Convention and Tourism Authority: 100 Campus Way, Fallon, NV 89406; 423-4556 or 800-874-0903 anywhere in U.S.

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

Gabbs, City of: Box 86, Gabbs, NV 89409; 285-2671

Goldfield C of C: Box 225, Goldfield, NV 89013; 485-9957

Goldfield Historical Society: Box 178, Goldfield, NV 89013; 485-6365

Greater Smoky Valley C of C: Box 2020, State Route 376 at Carver's Station, Round Mountain, NV 89045; 377-2490

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

Mason Valley C of C: 227 S. Main St., Yerington, NV 89447-2536; 463-2245

Mineral County C of C: Box 1635, Hawthorne, NV 89415; 945-5896

Pahrump Valley C of C: Box 42, Pahrump, NV 89041; 727-5800 or 800-633-WEST

Pioche C of C: Box 127 Pioche, NV 89043; 962-5544

Tonopah C of C: Box 869, Tonopah, NV 89049; 482-3859

Tonopah Convention Center: Box 408, Tonopah, NV 89049; 482-3558

Indian Territory

Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada: 806 Holman Way, Sparks, NV 89431; 355-0600

Indian Territory Chair: Stewart Indian Museum, 5366 Snyder, Carson City, NV 89701; 882-1808

State and National Parks

Death Valley National Monument: Death Valley, CA 92328; 619-786-2331

Great Basin National Park: Baker, NV 89311; 234-7331

Lake Mead National Recreation Area: 601 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; 293-8907

Nevada Division of State Parks: Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710; 687-4387

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area: Box 26569, Las Vegas, NV 89126; 363-1921

More Outdoor Activities

Bicycling in Nevada: Nev. Dept. of Transportation; 1263 S. Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89712; 687-4997

Bureau of Land Management: Main: Box 12000, Reno, NV 89520; 785-6402; Box 26569, Las Vegas, NV 89126; 647-5000; Box 831, Elko, NV 89801, 738-4071

Humboldt National Forest: 976 Mountain City Hwy., Elko, NV 89801; 738-5171

Nevada Dept. of Wildlife: Main: Box 10678, Reno, NV 89520, 688-1500; Southern Nevada: State Mail Complex, Las Vegas, NV 89158; 486-5127

Pyramid Lake: Pyramid Lake Fisheries: Star Route, Sutcliffe, NV 89510; 476-0500

Toiyabe National Forest: 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431, 331-6444; 2881 S. Valley View, Suite 16, Las Vegas, NV 89102, 873-8800

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Las Vegas Territory



Joshua Rapacz of West Richland, Washington, had a blast at the carnival during last year's Las Vegas Jaycees State Fair

EVENTS

September

Gator Days, thru Sept. 5, American alligators, pythons, and red-tail boa constrictors on view, Colorado Belle, Laughlin, 298-4000

Las Vegas, USA!, thru Sept. 14, art show at Nevada Institute for Contemporary Art, auction on Sept. 16 at Rio Suites Casino, 434-2666

Minerals of the Great Basin Exhibit, Aug. 27-Oct. 16, Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955

Fall Art Roundup, Aug. 30-Sept. 26, reception on Sept. 4, Las Vegas Art Museum, 647-4300

"Anything Goes," Sept. 1-3, musical, Actors Repertory Theatre, Rainbow Library, 647-7469

Art Show, Sept. 1-30, ceramics and watercolors by Sherry Cornwall of St. George, UT, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

Chuck Jones Animation Art, Sept. 1-Oct. 7 Bar-riek Museum, UNLV 895-3381

Championship Oval Track Racing, Sept. 3, sportsman, sportsman light, hobby stock, and mini stock, Las Vegas Speedway Park, 643-3333

Four Queens Summer Classic Poker Tournament, Sept. 5-20, \$2-million prize pool, Las Vegas, 385-4011

Boukman Eksperyans Concert, Sept. 9, 12-member Haitian band, concert begins at 7:30pm, The Hills Park in Summerlin, 456-6695

Yellow Jackets Concert, Sept. 9, jazz, location TBA, call 477-7703

Boulder City Chautauqua: Trail Blazers, Sept. 9-10, presentations by scholars in character, with John Wesley Powell, Kit Carson, Jesse Benton Fremont (Mrs. John C. Fremont), and Brigham Young, Bicentennial Park, Boulder City, 294-6224

"Jake's Women," Sept. 9-18, New West Theatre, Charleston Heights Art Center, 657-5000

Every Picture Tells a Story Art Exhibit, Sept. 9-Oct. 23, original artwork by leading children's book illustrators, Green Valley Library and

Cultural Center, Green Valley, 458-8855

Age of Chivalry Renaissance Festival, Sept. 10-11, live combat jousting, sword fighting tournaments, games of skill, plays, fine feasting, artisans, \$4 adults, \$1 for children five and under, Sunset Park, 455-8289

Living History Programs, Sept. 10-11, 17, and 25, talks about settling the West, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, Blue Diamond, 875-4141

Jazz Concerts, Sept. 16, the Rippingtons featuring Russ Freeman and Rain-bo Tribe, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, Blue Diamond, 878-8212

Shakespeare in the Park, Sept. 16-18, eighth annual, production of "Merry Wives of Windsor," bring blanket and picnic dinner, Foxridge Park, Green Valley, 458-8855

Fall Home Show, Sept. 16-18, Las Vegas Convention Center, 258-0876

Handmade Porcelain Doll Show, Sept. 17, Lorenzi Park, 229-6601

Mexican Fiesta, Sept. 17, Las Vegas' salute to Mexican Independence Day, family oriented, carnival games, piñatas, swimming, and music, Hadland Park, 229-6729

Las Vegas 200 NASCAR Winston Transcontinental Car Race, Sept. 17 Las Vegas Speedway Park, 643-3333

Concerts on the Lawn, Sept. 17 and 24, Sunset Park, call 455-8200 for times and performers

Food Expo, Sept. 17-18, Cashman Field, 796-4040

BluBlocker Silver State 100, Sept. 18 (tentative), high-speed car race on State Route 318 between Lund and Hiko, tech inspection at Imperial Palace in Las Vegas on Sept. 15, caravan from Las Vegas Speedway to Ely on Sept. 16, cars on display in Ely on Sept. 17, race on Sept. 18, 289-8877 or 805-274-4068

World Championship of Senior Softball, Sept. 20-28, nationally ranked senior softball competition, Lorenzi Park, 228-6250

Country and Western Party, Sept. 21, midday party for seniors, Whitney Center, 455-7576

Old Spanish Trail Celebration, Sept. 22-24, storytelling, costumes dating back to 1800s, recitals, demonstrations, cook-outs, concessions, rodeo arena, Mesquite, 346-2902

Roddin' on the River, Sept. 22-25, gathering of hundreds of antique and classic street rods, Don Laughlin's Riverside Hotel, Laughlin, 298-2535 or 602-754-5112

Rattlin' Rails Handcar Races, Sept. 23-25, four-man teams race in railroad handcars, Boulder City Museum fundraiser, Yucca St. and RR Crossing, Boulder City, 293-4857

Las Vegas Cat Show, Sept. 23-25, Las Vegas Convention Center, 733-2323

By and About Native Americans Art Show, Sept. 23-Oct. 31, Las Vegas Art Museum, 647-4300

KNPR's Artworks, Sept. 24-25, art show and sale, KNPR (public radio) benefit, Green Valley Parkway and Sunset, Green Valley, 456-6695

Music Recital, Sept. 27 Elizabeth Monterra, principal flutist of the Toulon Opera of France, 7:30pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801

National Hot Rod Assn. Drag Races, Sept. 28-Oct. 1, Las Vegas Speedway Park, 643-3333

Boot Scootin' Country Days, Sept. 29-Oct. 1, country music, line dancing, dance instructor Terry Finch, Colorado Belle, Laughlin, 298-4000

"The Mikado", Sept. 29-30, Oct. 1-2 and 5-9, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 895-3801

"Annie", Sept. 29-30, Oct. 1-2 and 6-9, Actors Repertory Theatre, Summerlin Performing Arts Center, 647-7469

Artexpo, Sept. 30-Oct. 3, art fair, Sands, 800-331-5706



The Nevada Dance Theatre sinks its teeth into its own version of the classic tale of "Dracula" October 27-30 in Las Vegas.

Las Vegas Jaycees State Fair, Sept. 30-Oct. 9, midway, livestock, exhibits, live performances, Cashman Field, 457-8832

October

Blues Musical Festival, Oct. 1, B.B. King, Doctor John, and Little Feat, Aladdin Theater for the Performing Arts, 736-0111

Itty Bitty Golf Tournament, Oct. 1, for pre-schoolers, pre-registration required, Sunset, Davis, and Winterwood parks, 455-8200

Art in the Park, Oct. 1-2, arts and crafts, drawings, food, free shuttle buses, Bicentennial Park, Wilbur Square Park, and City Hall Park, Boulder City, 294-1611

Living History Programs, Oct. 1, 8-9, 15-16, 22, and 30, talks about settling the West, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 875-4141

Moapa Valley Art Guild Art Show, Oct. 1-31, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

Art Show, Oct. 3-28, drawings and prints by Michael Sarich, Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery, UNLV 895-3801

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

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

UNLV Concerts: Music and dance, 739-3101

UNLV Football: Sept. 3 v. Eastern Michigan, Sept. 17 v. Idaho, Oct. 8 v. Louisiana Tech, Oct. 29 v. San Jose State, Nov. 19 v. Nevada-Reno, Nov. 26 v. Kansas State, Sam Boyd Stadium, 739-3900

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

Las Vegas Blues and Heritage Festival, Oct. 8, starring John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers, \$8 advance, \$10 at gate, Sunset Park, 455-8200

Sportsman Light Open Car Race, Oct. 8, Las Vegas Speedway Park, 643-3333

Jazz Concerts, Oct. 8, Dave Koz, Kilueau, and After Burner, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, Blue Diamond, 878-8212

Leisure Awareness Fair, Oct. 8-9, for tourists, newcomers, and residents, Las Vegas Dept. of Parks and Leisure Activities, The Meadows Mall, 229-6709

Israel Chamber Orchestra, Oct. 9, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801

University Wind Symphony, Oct. 13, 7:30pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801

Relics and Rods Poker Run, Oct. 13, hot rods gather in Lake Havasu and drive to Don Laughlin's Riverside Hotel on a poker run, 602-855-5494

"The Color of Bruise", Oct. 13-16 and Oct. 19-23, drama, Dept. of Theatre Arts, Black Box Theatre, UNLV 895-3801

Marilyn Horne Concert, Oct. 14, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801

Fantasy '94: Dancing Through the Decades, Oct. 14, Lied Discovery Children's Museum's annual gala dinner, dance, and silent auction, performance by Los Angeles dance troupe Le Masquerade, Caesars Palace, 382-3445

Southern Nevada Bluegrass Festival, Oct. 14-16, Clark County Fairgrounds, Logandale, 397-8088

Las Vegas Indian Days, Oct. 14-16, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Lorenzi Park, 486-5205

Art Show, Oct. 14-Nov. 26, paintings by Michael McCollum and photographs by Patricia McCollum, Barrick Museum, UNLV 895-3381

Motorcycle Race, Oct. 15, Las Vegas Speedway Park, 643-3333

A Country Affair, Oct. 15, dancing, entertainment, food, and drinks, \$100, Catholic Community Services fundraiser, the Grove at the Silk Purse Ranch, 385-2662

Las Vegas Basque Festival, Oct. 15-16, on Sat. from 8pm-midnight dance, \$5, beer, wine, soda, picon punch, and chorizos for sale, on

TERRITORY MAP



HOT LINES

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

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

Las Vegas Posse: Canadian Football League, Sept. 10 v. Shreveport Pirates, Sept. 24 v. Hamilton Tiger-Cats, Oct. 2 v. Calgary Stampeders, Oct. 15 v. Winnipeg Blue Bombers, Nov. 5 v. Edmonton Eskimos, Sam Boyd Stadium, 242-4200

Las Vegas Stars: Triple-A baseball, San Diego Padres farm club playing in the Pacific Coast League, Aug. 29-Sept. 1 v. Salt Lake Buzz, Cashman Field, 386-7200

Sun. noon Mass followed by Basque picnic from 1-5pm with entertainment by Ibar Izarrak Las Vegas Dancers, Chino Klika and Gauden Bat Dancers, entrance fee \$2, St. Viator's Community Center, 256-6219

Gem and Mineral Fair, Oct. 15-16, Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955

Doll Show, Oct. 15-16, Las Vegas Doll Club, Las Vegas Convention Center, 564-2395

Italian Festival, Oct. 16, third annual, food from Las Vegas-area Italian restaurants, grape stomping, spaghetti eating contests, live entertainment, Rio Suites Casino, 252-7777

Las Vegas Invitational Golf Tournament, Oct. 19-23, Las Vegas Country Club, Sahara Country Club, and Tournament Player's Club at Summerlin, 382-6616

Ballet Argentino, Oct. 21, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV

895-3801

Sierra Winds Concert, Oct. 21, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 895-3801

Henderson Expo, Oct. 21-23, home show, food booths, and carnival, Henderson Convention Center, 565-8951

Dance Arts Concert, Oct. 21-22, Dance Arts Studio One, UNLV 895-3801

Las Vegas Balloon Classic, Oct. 21-23, 100 hot-

NIGHTLIFE

The Dancing Policeman

By ANN HENDERSON

By night Anthony Brown dances in Bally's production show, "Jubilee!" By day the 32-year-old Brown patrols the streets as a Las Vegas Metro motorcycle cop.

The cop-dancer says his two careers complement each other. "There are days as a police officer when I come in contact with someone or a situation that messes up my whole day, but I know that will change when I get to Bally's and the show starts," Brown says. "On the other hand, I have more feeling for show business now. It's more fun because I don't have to totally depend upon it for my income. It's more for my peace of mind, and it keeps me in shape."

Brown was introduced to dance as a high school basketball player in Brooklyn. "My coach had us at a stretch class to help prevent injuries," he says. "The instructor said I was very flexible and asked if I had ever tried to dance. I told her I'd been taking karate and could street dance, but when she invited me for a lesson, I told her that guys don't do that."

Hesitantly, Brown accepted her invitation. "At the studio I saw these big muscle-bound guys," he recalls. "So I took one class and was hooked. Dance came naturally to me."

So naturally, in fact, that in 1980 he was offered a scholarship to the Nat Horne Musical Theater in Brooklyn. He also trained at the Dance Theatre of Harlem. In 1983 Brown took a job in Mexico on singer Lila Denekin's nightclub show, and then he joined the TV show *Disco Jackson*.

"I was one of the co-hosts and couldn't speak a word of Spanish," he laughs. "I had to learn to speak the lan-



Anthony Brown is a Las Vegas cop by day and a "Jubilee!" dancer by night.



guage, which was like on-the-job training."

In 1985 Brown visited Nevada on vacation with his wife Dawn, who also is a dancer. He landed a job in Reno with "Hello, Hollywood, Hello" while she found one with "Jubilee!" After a few months he joined Dawn in "Jubilee!" (Today Dawn appears in the Luxor's "Winds of the Gods.")

Three years later, though, Brown grew restless. During a short stint with Siegfried and Roy's show at the Frontier he began looking for something different to do. What appealed to him most was police work.

"I'd seen this commercial that asked, 'Does this look exciting to you? If so, call personnel,'" he recalls. "My older brother is a police officer in New York, and we discussed the commitment. He

asked if I was prepared to do whatever is necessary to stop a threat to myself or another person. It was a sobering thought."

Brown decided to make the commitment, but when it came time to attend the police academy, Siegfried and Roy were about to go on tour. He says, "A decision had to be made. I knew the tour would be about a year, but I did not want to miss the chance to join the police department."

So he gave up dance and became a full-time cop, filling off-duty hours with family activities and martial arts. He is the police department's three-time champion in martial arts, a passion he acquired at age 12 when his mother gave him an ultimatum: summer-school camp or karate.

"Martial arts has become a part of

air balloons, competitions start at sunrise each day, on Sat. 7pm Classic Balloon Glow, craft booths, antique machinery and vintage car shows, food feast, amusement rides, continuous entertainment, free admission and parking, Silver Bowl Park, 434-0848

Creature Feature, Oct. 22, supervised haunted graveyard, costume contest and parade, pumpkin carving, mini carnival, Freedom

my life," he says. "My three-year-old son Ryan thinks it's great fun." He says his daughter Ashley, 5, is more interested in visiting FunTazmic, a local family fun center.

Brown loved his police work, but after a while he started hanging around backstage at "Jubilee!" "I missed it," he says. "I'd hear my wife talking and realized how difficult it is to leave show business. When Fluff LeCoque, the company manager, asked if I could do both jobs, I jumped at the chance."

For the last two years he has juggled the two jobs, and Brown says both of his employers are supportive. He works the day shift Sunday through Wednesday at Metro and dances at Bally's every night except Friday, doing one or two shows.

Brown, one of 14 children, credits his mother with his ambition. His mother, who died nine years ago, worked at the Ideal Toy Company in Manhattan and brought home so many toys that her kids would beg for clothes at Christmas. His father, a postal worker, died when he was 12, the same year his mother pushed him into karate. "She was strict and told us to work hard because no one's going to give us anything," he says. "Consequently, everything I go for, I go for with a passion." As for the future, Brown says he has an agent, Maurice Hines, Sr., Gregory Hines' father, who is trying to push him into an acting career.

Brown's fellow police officers seem to appreciate his gig at Bally's. "Most of the guys ask if I can introduce them to the showgirls," he laughs. "I do, however, get some folks at Bally's who complain about a traffic ticket."

Anthony Brown performs in "Jubilee!" at Bally's in Las Vegas Saturday through Thursday. Depending on your driving habits, you might catch him at his day job Sunday through Wednesday.

Ann Henderson is the Las Vegas representative for Nevada Magazine.

Park, 229-6729

Las Vegas Fall Cup Car Race and World Championship of Train Racing, Oct. 22, Las Vegas Speedway Park, 643-3333

Pro Bull Rider Championships, Oct. 22-23, tickets \$18, \$22, and \$27, 2pm, MGM Grand, 891-7777

Nostalgia Drag Racing Assn. Races, Oct. 22-23, pre-1974 dragsters, Las Vegas Speedway Park, 643-3333

Entrepreneur Expo, Oct. 22-23, Las Vegas Convention Center, 733-2323

West Coast Artists Fall Fine Art Show, Oct. 22-23, Green Valley Library and Cultural Center, 458-8855

UNLV Orchestra, Oct. 23, 2pm, Ham Hall, UNLV

895-3801

St. Jude's Day Open House, Oct. 23, celebration of the feast day of St. Jude and to thank people who have supported the ranch, Mass at 10am, luau at noon, free, open to public, St. Jude's Ranch for Children, Boulder City, 293-3131

Circle of Life, Oct. 23, multimedia program presented by Native American musician and storyteller Jack Gladstone, Clark County Flamingo Library, 455-8200

Madrigal Choral Festival, Oct. 25, 7:30pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801

Beaux Arts Trio Concert, Oct. 26, piano trio, 7:30pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3377

Fall One-Act Play Festival, Oct. 26-30, Paul C.

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PREVIEW

Nevada Cruise

BY MITCH FOX

As three horn blasts reverberate through Lake Mead Marina, the *Desert Princess* pulls away from the pier. Passengers have already sauntered up the gangplank and are busy exploring this three-story Mississippi paddlewheeler.

The *Princess* makes several daily forays into Lake Mead's metallic-blue waters, but this voyage is unique. Today, 122 passengers are celebrating Nevada's statehood during a special Nevada Day cruise. An archaeologist, geologist, and political historian have been enlisted to provide commentary during the two-hour breakfast tour to Hoover Dam.

The ship navigates past Saddle Island, Sentinel Island, and Fortification Hill, which looms in the distance off the port side. The geologist points out the copper-red sandstone on the south face of basaltic Fortification Hill. The archaeologist describes the region's early inhabitants, such as the Pueblo people who lived in the Lost City area near Overton.

As the vessel slides into Black Canyon, the wind and water grow still, and the dam's towers come into view. Passengers stroll the *Princess'* port and starboard decks to see its red paddles slap Lake Mead's white caps, releasing an invigorating mist. Captain Jeff Smith shows guests the wheelhouse and explains the gauges used to navigate the vessel.

Volcanic formations crawl by while the political historian reviews key moments in Nevada's history since 1864. For instance, the lure of Comstock silver and gold was not the reason for statehood. Rather, President Lincoln believed he might need another three electoral votes to win the White House and that new votes in Con-



The Desert Princess makes a special Nevada Day cruise on October 29.

gress would help pass the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery.

The historian describes the building of Hoover Dam in the 1930s and jokes about the dispute over the name. (Democrats tend to call the massive slab Boulder Dam, he says, while Republicans are partial to Hoover.)

As the vessel chugs back into the marina, the seafaring history buffs notice that the dining rooms are festooned with Halloween decorations. As always, Nevada Day shares the spotlight with witches and goblins, even on a nostalgic paddlewheeler commissioned to celebrate the state's birthday.

Mitch Fox is a writer-producer for KLVX-TV in Las Vegas. To join this year's Nevada Day cruise on October 29, call the Clark County Heritage Museum, 702-455-7955. Tickets are \$30 per person. The cruise is sponsored by Clark County Parks and Recreation.



Princess captain Jeff Smith.

- Harris Theatre, UNLV 895-3801
"Dracula, the Ballet," Oct. 27-30, Las Vegas premiere, Nevada Dance Theatre, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 732-3838
Country Fair and Craft Festival, Oct. 27-30, Colorado Belle, Laughlin, 298-4000
Halloween Costume Party, Oct. 28, Doolittle Community Center, 229-6374
Hot-Air Balloon Meet, Oct. 28-30, Laughlin, 298-2214
The Auction '94: Classic and Collector Car Auction and Exposition, Oct. 29-30, Imperial Palace, 794-3114 or 510-736-0695
Nevada Day Cruise, Oct. 29, on the *Desert Princess*, \$30, Lake Mead, 455-7955
Colorado Belle Dam River Run, Oct. 29, eight-mile run, Colorado Belle, Laughlin, 383-2326
Mesquite Arts Festival, Oct. 29-30, 100 regional artists, fine arts and crafts, performing arts, Michael McLean concert Sat. night, children's activities, rides, concessions, \$1 admission fee, Virgin Valley High School, Mesquite, 346-2787
London Chamber Orchestra, Oct. 30, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801
Halloween Celebration, Oct. 31, costume contest and free cake on Oct. 31, Jokers Wild Casino, Henderson, 564-8100

COMING EVENTS

- Mesquite Sky Festival and Hot-Air Balloon Classic,** Nov. 18-20, 346-2902
National Finals Rodeo, Dec. 2-11, Las Vegas, 731-2115
North Las Vegas Holiday Parade of Many Cultures, Dec. 3, 642-9595
Las Vegas Rugby Challenge, Dec. 3-4, 731-2115
Cowboy Poetry, Dec. 9, Las Vegas, 386-7110
U.S. National Table Tennis Championships, Dec. 14-18, Las Vegas, 731-2215
Las Vegas Bowl III, Dec. 15, football, 731-2115
Las Vegas Mini Marathon, Dec. 17 731-2115
Las Vegas Holiday Prep Classic Basketball Tournament, Dec. 19-22, 731-2115

SHOWGUIDE

Jean

- Gold Strike Hotel,** 477-5000 or 800-634-1359: Rick Johnson, Aug. 31-Sept. 19; The Wright Stuff, Sept. 21-Oct. 10; Metro, Oct. 12-31
Nevada Landing, 387-5000 or 800-628-6682: Stolen Faces, Sept. 1-20; Rick Johnson, Sept. 22-Oct. 11; GERALYN LEE/The Wright Stuff, Oct. 13-Nov. 1

Las Vegas

- Aladdin,** 736-0240: "Country Tonite," revue, indf. (dark Tues.); *Theatre for the Performing Arts:* Lola Beltran, Sept. 15-16; Weird Al Yankovic, Sept. 24; Crosby, Stills, and Nash, Oct. 12
Arizona Charlie's, 258-5200: Showroom after remodeling reopens in mid-Sept. with "Naughty Lady Revue," indf.
Bally's, 739-4567 or 800-237-SHOW: *Jubilee Theatre:* "Jubilee!" indf. (dark Fri.); *Celebrity Room:* Englebert Humperdinck, Sept. 1-7; Louie Anderson/Gordie Brown, Sept. 8-21; Mijares, Sept. 15-21; Paul Anka, Sept. 22-Oct. 5; Frankie Valli, Oct. 6-19; George Carlin, Oct. 20-26; Penn and Teller, Oct. 27-Nov. 3; Barbara Mandrell, Nov. 4-5; George Carlin, Nov. 10-16; *Lounge:* Deena Charles/Dreamscape, thru Sept. 25
Boomtown, 875-4040: *Opera House Theatre:* "Direct From Opryland: Nashville U.S.A.," mu-



The Las Vegas Balloon Classic takes off October 21-23. Laughlin's first hot-air balloon meet arises October 28-30.

sical production, indf. (dark Tues.); *Rattlesnake Ricky's Lounge*: Mark O'Toole, thru Sept. 5; Don Holiman, thru Sept. 20; Randy Anderson, Sept. 7-18; John Wills, Sept. 20-Oct. 9; The Paxtons, Sept. 21-Oct. 3; Gypsy Sky, Oct. 5-Oct. 31; Don Holiman, Oct. 20-Nov. 1; John Wills, Nov. 1-20; Randy Anderson, Nov. 2-20

Boulder Station, 432-7777 or 800-683-7777: Entertainment TBA

Bourbon Street, 737-7200: Entertainment TBA

Caesars Palace, 731-7333 or 800-445-4544: Chicago, Sept. 1-4 and 8-11; Luis Miguel, Sept. 16-17; Paris by Night Vietnamese Celebration, Sept. 24; Nana Mouskouri, Sept. 30-Oct. 1

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

Continental, 737-5555: Kevin Baker, Sept. 1-10 and 27-30; Cook E. Jarr, Sept. 28-30; Kevin Baker, Oct. 1-22 (dark Sun.-Mon.); Cook E. Jarr, Oct. 1-22 (dark Sun.-Tues.)

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

Eldorado, Henderson, 564-1811: Stolen Faces, thru Sept. 4; Launi Kristopher, Sept. 7-11 and 14-18; Pam Nickels, Sept. 21-25 and Sept. 28-Oct. 2; Dave Coody, Oct. 5-9 and 12-16; Real Class, Oct. 19-12 and 26-30; Launi Kristopher, Nov. 2-6; Stolen Faces, Nov. 9-13 and 16-20

Excalibur, 597-7600: "King Arthur's Tournament," indf.; "Sooper Dogs," indf., 2 p.m. Mon.-Fri., noon and 2 p.m. Sat.-Sun. (dark Wed.); *Wild Bills Saloon and Steakhouse*: Stevie Lee Woods thru Sept. 18; Jason Lugo-Blue Roan, Sept. 19-Oct. 16 (dark Mon.); Country Knights, indf. (dark Tues.); Jumpin' Boots, indf. (dark Tues.-Sun.); *Minstrel's Theatre Lounge*: The Next Movement, thru Sept. 4; Tony Tillman, Sept. 6-Oct. 12 (dark Mon.); Zippers, thru Sept. 3; Far East, Sept. 5-Oct. 1 (dark Sun.)

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

Flamingo Hilton, 733-3333 or 800-732-5111: *Flamingo Showroom*: "City Lites," stage show, indf. (dark Sun.); *Bugsy's Celebrity Theatre*: "American Superstars," indf., two shows nightly, three on Sun. (dark Thurs.)

Four Queens, 385-4011 or 800-634-6045: Monday Night Jazz, indf.; Kingston Trio thru Sept. 4; Donna Fargo, Sept. 6-18; Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles, Sept. 20-25; Four Aces/Four Lads, Oct.

4-16; The Platters, Oct. 18-30; The Original Drifters, Nov. 1-13

Gold Coast, 367-7111: *East Lounge*: Sorta Dixie Jazz Band, indf. (dark Mon.); Angelstar, thru Sept. 4; Soundchaser, Sept. 6-18; Gary Hohman, Sept. 20-Oct. 2; *West Lounge* (dark Tues.): Gary Hohman, thru Sept. 5; Gayle Rose, Sept. 7-19; *Dance Hall*: Shake, Rattle, and Roll, thru Sept. 5; Gypsy Sky, Sept. 7-19; Gold Coast Orchestra, Sept. 21-Oct. 3; Randy Anderson, Oct. 5-17; Dummkopf's, Oct. 19-24; Wood Brothers, Oct. 26-Nov. 14

Golden Nugget, 386-8100: "Country Fever," look-alike musical revue, thru mid-Sept.

Gold Strike Inn, between Boulder City and Hoover Dam, 293-5000 or 800-245-6380: Metro,

Sept. 2-18; Soundchaser, Sept. 22-25; Tease, Sept. 29-Oct. 10; K.C.B., Oct. 13-30; Sound Splash, Nov. 3-20; Metro, Nov. 24-27

Hacienda, 739-8911: Lance Burton: World Champion Magician, indf. (dark Mon.); *Bolero Lounge*: Gary Hohman, Sept. 6-18; Sonny Charles' Checkmates, Sept. 20-Oct. 16; Gary Hohman, Oct. 18-30; David St. David, Nov. 1-13

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

Imperial Palace, 794-3261 or 800-351-7400: "Legends in Concert," indf. (dark Sun.); Hawaiian Hot Luau, buffet and "Drums of the Island" revue poolside on Tuesdays

Jackie Gaughan's Plaza, 386-2464 or 800-634-

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PREVIEW

The Blues at Sunset

Music lovers will find a hot lineup of blues and jazz artists at the third annual Las Vegas Blues and Heritage Festival on Saturday, October 8, at Sunset Park. Performers will include 1993 Grammy nominee John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers, Saffire the Uppity Blueswomen, Jimmy Johnson, the Hank Crawford-Jimmy McGriff Quartet, the Vegas Kings, and other groups.

The festival will have carnival rides and activities for children. Food, beer, and wine will be sold, and a portion of the proceeds will benefit the nonprofit Las Vegas Blues Society. Festival-goers may bring picnics and factory-sealed soft drinks but no alcohol, open containers, or glass bottles. Dogs are not allowed.

Tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the gate; children under 12 can enter free with an adult. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster or at the Clark County Parks and Recreation office at 2601 East Sunset Road. For details on the Las Vegas Blues and Heritage Festival call 702-455-8242.



Blues artist John Mayall.

6575 (U.S. outside Nevada): "Hot Rock 'N' Country," adult revue, indf.; *Lounge*: Sunspots/Melody Lane/Bob Kelly, indf.

Joker's Wild, Henderson, 564-8100: Melody Lane, thru Sept. 4; Desert Wind, Sept. 7-11; Stolen Faces, Sept. 14-18 and 21-25; Pam Nickels, Oct. 5-9 and 12-16

King 8 Hotel, 736-8988: Fast Company, thru Sept. 11; The Smith Brothers, Sept. 13-Oct. 2; Gary, Paul and Legacy, Oct. 4-16; Real Surreal, Oct. 18-23; Phlash, Oct. 25-Nov. 6

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

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

Luxor, 262-4000 or 800-288-1000: "Winds of the Gods," musical production, indf. (dark Sun.)

Maxim, 731-4300 or 800-634-6987: "Comedy Max," comedy nightclub; "Calendar Girls," late night adult revue; "Country Music All-stars," afternoon revue, 1 and 3pm; indf.

MGM Grand, 891-7777 or 800-929-1111: *Hollywood Theatre*: Randy Travis, Sept. 1-4; *MGM Garden*: Bette Midler, Sept. 3-4; *Catch a Rising Star*: comedy/variety club, indf.; *Rio Grande Cantina inside MGM Theme Park*: Kristine and the Sting, Sept. 1-4

The Mirage, 792-7777: Siegfried and Roy, magic spectacular, indf. (dark Wed. and also Sept. 22-27 and Oct. 27-Nov. 1); Bill Cosby/Clint Holmes, Oct. 27-Nov. 1

Palace Station, 367-2411 or 800-634-3101: "Roby Turner's All Star Variety Show," Mon. nights; Braxton/Sergio Alberti, thru Sept. 4; Jerry Tiffe/Melissa Spangler, Sept. 6-18; Zen and

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Some of Chuck Jones' animation art for MGM in the 1960s will be on display at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, September 1-October 7

Now, Sept. 20-Oct. 2; Glen Williams/Sneak Preview, Oct. 4-16; Dick Contino/Far East, Oct. 18-30

Rio Suites Casino, 252-7776 or 800-888-0400 (continental U.S. outside Nevada): *Copacabana Super Club Theater*: "Conga!," musical, indf.

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

Sahara, 737-2515: "Boylesque," starring Kenny Kerr, indf. (dark Thurs.)

Sam's Town, 456-7777: *Roxy's Saloon*: Live entertainment daily beginning at noon; *Western Dance Hall*: Live country music and free dance lessons nightly

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

Sands, 733-5453 or 800-446-4678: *Grand Ballroom*: Wayne Newton, indf. (dark Sun.); Elayne Boosler, Sept. 1-10; *Winners Circle Lounge*: "Viva Las Vegas!" indf. (dark Sun.)

Santa Fe, 658-4900: *Ice Lounge*: Nightly live entertainment

Sheraton Desert Inn, 733-4566 or 800-634-6909 (U.S. outside Nevada): *Crystal Room*: Tony Bennett, thru Sept. 4; *Starlight Theatre* (dark Mon.): Keely Smith, Sam Butera and the Wildest, thru Sept. 4 and Oct. 18-Dec. 11

Showboat, 385-9123 or 800-634-3484 (U.S. outside Nevada): Dusty Barron, Sept. 12-Oct. 9; My Brother 'N Me, Sept. 13-22; Bo Diddley, Sept. 23-25; My Brother 'N Me, Sept. 27-Oct. 2; Melissa Spangler, Oct. 4-30; Pam Nickels, Oct. 10-Nov. 6; T.G. Sheppard, Oct. 21-23; Gigo-lo, Nov. 1-13

Stardust, 732-6111 or 800-824-6033 (U.S. and Mexico): "Enter the Night," stage show, indf. (dark Tues.)

Treasure Island, 894-7111: "Mystère," circus theater, indf. (dark Mon. and Sept. 6-19, Oct. 11-17, and Nov. 8-14)

Tropicana, 739-2411: "Folies Bergere," indf. (dark Thurs.); "Comedy Stop," comedians, indf., Mike Saccone, Louis Ramey, Rick Natole, Aug. 29-Sept. 3

Vacation Village, 897-1700: Entertainment TBA

Vegas World, 383-5264: Bob Anderson, singing impressionist, indf. (dark Thurs.); "Memories of Elvis," indf. (dark Thurs.)

Westward Ho, 731-2900: "Hurray, America," va-

riety revue starring Robbie Howard and Red Hot Mama and the Goodtime Jazz Band, indf. (dark Sat.)

Laughlin

Colorado Belle, 298-4000: Will Kiefer, thru Sept. 4; Patriot Band, Sept. 6-11; Big Tiny Little, Sept. 13-Oct. 23; Mickey Finn, Oct. 25-Dec. 4 (dark Mon.)

Edgewater, 298-2453: Patriot Band, Sept. 26-Nov. 26

Flamingo Hilton Laughlin, 298-5028 or 800-435-8469: *Club Flamingo*: "American Superstars," tribute by celebrity look-alikes, indf. (dark Thurs.)

Gold River, 298-2242 or 800-835-7904: "Bottom's

Up '94," adult comedy revue, indf. (dark Tues.)

Golden Nugget Laughlin, 298-7175 or 800-237-1739 (U.S. outside Nevada): Sandy Hackett's Comedy Club, every Mon., indf.; Unity, thru Sept. 11; Stinger, Sept. 27-Oct. 9; Wildlife, Oct. 11-23; Steel Breeze, Oct. 25-30

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

Ramada Express, 298-4200: Live entertainment Tues.-Sun.; karaoke Mon.

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

Riverside Resort, 298-2535 or 800-227-3849 ext. 616 (U.S. outside Nevada): "Legends in Concert," thru Sept. 26 (dark Tues.); Ronnie Mil-

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sap, Sept. 30-Oct. 1; Merle Haggard, Oct. 20-22; Ray Price, Nov. 2-6

Mesquite

Si Redd's Peppermill Oasis Resort, 346-5232: Entertainment TBA

Virgin River, 346-7777 or 800-346-7721: Chris Krienke and Straw Dog, thru Sept. 4; Blue River, Sept. 6-18; Randy Anderson, Sept. 20-Oct. 2

State Line

Buffalo Bill's, 382-1111: Entertainment TBA
Primadonna, 382-1212 or 800-826-4471: Entertainment TBA

Whiskey Pete's, 382-1212 or 800-367-7383: Freddy Fender, Sept. 16-17; Blood, Sweat and Tears, Sept. 30-Oct. 1

ATTRACTIONS, TOURS & MUSEUMS

Boulder City

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

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

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

Hoover Dam: Tours, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. 93, 293-8367

Lake Mead Cruises/Desert Princess: 293-6180

Lake Mead National Recreation Area: 601 Nevada Hwy., 293-8907

HOTELS

Casino Notes

Give 'Em a Hand: Caesars Palace has brought back hand-dealt, single-deck blackjack. The traditional style, replaced by the shoe about 15 years ago, has returned to the Olympic Casino at Caesars.

Show Time: The Omnimax at Caesars Palace has added a noon show on Friday and Saturday. Theater hours are 2 to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and noon to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Happy 10th Anniversary: "Legends in Concert" at the Imperial Palace is celebrating its 10th anniversary. The show stars celebrity look- and sound-alike performers.

After Hours: Debbie Reynolds Hotel-Casino plays host Friday and Saturday nights in the Hollywood Cafe with late-night jokes and jazz between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m. The after-hours sessions are presided over by Debbie Reynolds, who welcomes other entertainers appearing in Vegas.

Hello, Hollywood: Celebrities also host "Monday at the Movies" at the Debbie Reynolds Hotel-Casino. Film stars meet the audience and tell anecdotes about making the movie, which shows at 2 and 6 p.m. Seating is first-come, first-served in the Star Theatre. Admission is \$5. *The Student Prince*

is playing September 12 with actress Ann Blythe hosting.

Under Construction: ITT Sheraton begins construction on the **Desert Kingdom**, a 3,500-room resort next to the Sheraton Desert Inn. The \$750-million project is scheduled to be completed in 1997.

Partners: Mirage Resorts and Gold Strike

Resorts plan a joint venture, \$250-million, 3,000-room complex on the site of the old Dunes Hotel across from the MGM. Mirage Resorts has yet to announce plans for the remainder of the real estate located across from Caesars Palace.

Dance Fever: The Rio Suites Casino's Club Rio, located in the show-room, becomes a music-video dance club at 11 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Videos are played on 12 giant screens that surround

the room and the dancers who boogie in theatrical fog.

Hail to the Chef: Michael Ty, executive chef at the Sheraton Desert Inn, was selected as the first honoree for an achievement award in the field of hospitality and tourism given by the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.



June Allyson, pictured here with Peter Lawford, has guest hosted at the Debbie Reynolds Hotel.

Henderson

Clark County Heritage Museum: 1830 S. Boulder Hwy., 455-7955
Ethel M Chocolate Factory and Cactus Garden: Tours, 2 Cactus Garden Dr., 458-8864
Green Valley Outdoor Sculpture Museum Information Center: Self-guided driving tour, Sunset Rd. and Green Valley Pkwy., 458-8855
Kidd Marshmallow Factory: Tours, 8203 Gibson Rd., 564-3878

Las Vegas

American Museum of Historical Documents: 3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., private, 731-0785
Bonnie Springs Old Nevada: Red Rock Canyon, 875-4191
Desert Demonstration Gardens: Tours, 3701 W. Alta, 258-3205
Floyd Lamb State Park: Ponds, 9200 Tule Springs Rd., 486-5413
FunTazmic: 4975 Polaris, 795-4FUN
Grand Slam Canyon: Adventure park, next to Circus Circus, 800-444-CIRCUS
Guinness World of Records Museum: 2780 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 792-0640 or 792-3766 (bus.)
Hard Rock Cafe: 4475 Paradise Rd., 733-8400
Imperial Palace Auto Collection: 731-3311
King Tut's Tomb and Museum: Luxor, 795-8118
Las Vegas Art Museum: Lorenzi Park, 3333 W. Washington Ave., 647-4300
Las Vegas Mini Gran Prix: 1401 N. Rainbow Blvd., 259-7000
Las Vegas Natural History Museum: Includes the Wildlife World Art Museum, 900 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 384-DINO
Liberace Museum: 1775 E. Tropicana, 798-5595
Lied Discovery Children's Museum: 833 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 382-KIDS
MGM Grand Adventures: Theme park, 891-7979
Magic and Movie Hall of Fame: Located on second floor of O'Sheas, exhibits, "That's Magic" revue plays nightly, 792-0788
Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History: UNLV 739-3381
Mirage Dolphin Environment: 791-7111
Mount Charleston: Recreation information, 222-1597
Nevada State Museum and Historical Society: Lorenzi Park, 486-5205
Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort: Las Vegas Blvd. N. at Washington, state historic park, 486-3511
Red Rock Canyon Recreation Area: 363-1921
Scandia Family Fun Center: 2900 Sirius Ave., 364-0071
Southern Nevada Zoological Park: 1775 N. Rancho Dr., 648-5955
Spring Mountain Ranch State Park: Red Rock Canyon, 875-4141
Wet 'n Wild: 2601 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 737-3819

Laughlin

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

Mesquite

Desert Valley Museum: 346-5705
Peppermill Gun Club: 346-5232 ext. 3729

North Las Vegas

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

Overton

Lost City Museum: 397-2193
Valley of Fire State Park: 397-2088

Searchlight

Searchlight Historic Museum: 455-7955

GAMING TOURNAMENTS

September

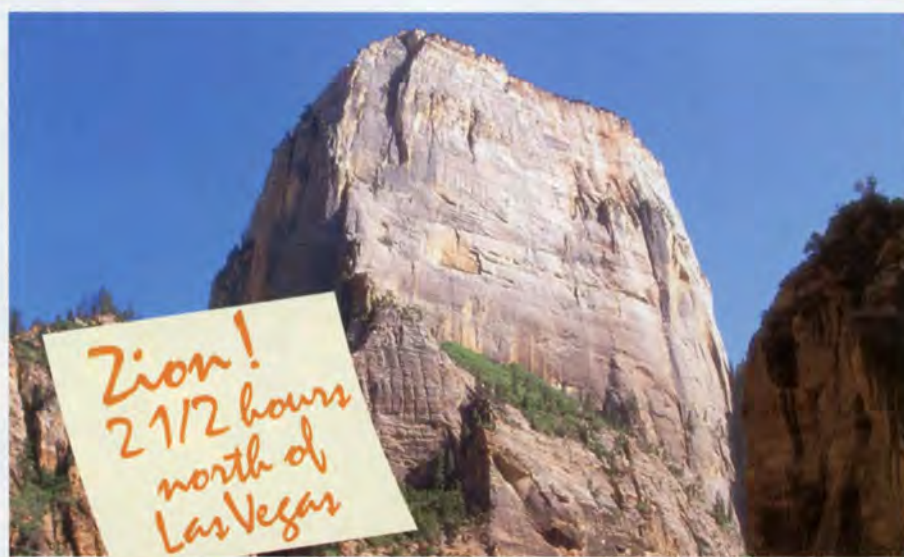
Slots, Blackjack, Craps, and Video Poker, Sept. 5-8, Ramada Express, Laughlin, 298-4200
Four Queens \$2-Million Summer Classic Poker Tournament, Sept. 5-20, Four Queens, 385-4011
Slots, Sept. 7-8 and 19-20, Flamingo Hilton, 733-3117
Dice, Sept. 8-11, Maxim, 731-4514
Slots, Sept. 15-18, Fitzgeralds, 388-2148
Slots, Sept. 18-21 and 21-24, Bally's, 739-4441

Slots, Sept. 29-Oct. 1, Maxim, 731-4551
Slots, Sept. 30-Oct. 3, Caesars Palace, 731-7485

October

Slots, Oct. 9-12 and 16-19, Flamingo Hilton, 733-3117
Slots, Oct. 16-19, Imperial Palace, 794-3160
Video Poker, Oct. 16-19, Tropicana, 739-2614
Slots, Oct. 23-26, Caesars Palace, 731-7485
Blackjack, Oct. 23-26, Fitzgeralds, 388-2148
Slots, Oct. 24-27 Sands, 733-5121
Slots, Oct. 27-30, Golden Nugget, 386-8277

A Reminder: To confirm dates and times, please use the phone number listed with each event. The area code is 702 throughout Nevada.



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Rising to the occasion: Hot-air balloons dot the sky during the Great Reno Balloon Race, September 9-11, at Rancho San Rafael Park.

EVENTS

September

Richard Guy Walton: Virginia City Photographs, thru Sept. 5, Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

1994 Biennial Nevada Artist Competition, thru Sept. 5, Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Rainforest: An Amazon Adventure, thru Sept. 15, re-created waterfall, live Amazonian animals, Wilbur May Museum, Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-5961

Valhalla Summer Arts Music Festival, thru Sept. 15, Tues. night concerts, Thurs. night jazz, microbrew fest, Native American festival, South Lake Tahoe, call for schedule, 916-541-4975

Art Show, thru Sept. 28, sculptures by Southern Nevada artist Ben Parks, Sierra Arts Center, 329-1324

Celebrate the River, thru Sept. 30, concerts at Wingfield Park Amphitheater Thurs. and Sun., concerts at Raymond I. Smith Truckee River Walk Fri. and Sat., 334-2077

Wheels in the Wildland Exhibit, thru Sept. 30,

motor vehicles on public lands, Smokey Bear memorabilia, Sierra Front Wildfire Cooperators, National Automobile Museum, 333-9300

Photography Show, thru Oct. 14, black-and-white prints of Nevada by photographer Brigitta Wolman, Nevada Historical Society, 688-1190

The Forgotten Art of Redwork, thru Oct. 22, turn-of-the-century embroidery, Nevada Historical Society, 688-1190

Beyond Gum San: The Chinese in Nevada, thru April 30, 1995, exhibit details the importance of Chinese immigrants in the development of Nevada, Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 687-4810

"Sound of Music," Aug. 24-27 and Sept. 2-3, Tahoe Mountain Musicals, North Tahoe Regional Park, Tahoe Vista, 916-581-4323

Pro-Am Golf Tournament, Aug. 30-Sept. 1, Reno location TBA, host hotel is Eldorado, 789-0490

"The King and I," Aug. 30-Sept. 4, Tahoe Players' Assn., theater under a tent, Ponderosa Ranch, Incline Village, 831-0379

Robin and Linda Williams Concert, Sept. 1, acoustic music, singer-songwriter team fre-

quently featured on Garison Keillor's "Prairie Home Companion" public radio program, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

WCEF Reining Horse Spectacular, Sept. 1-5, Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751

Numaga Indian Days Celebration Powwow, Sept. 2-4, 10th annual, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, 329-2936

Carson Valley Bocce Tournament, Sept. 2-5, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off, Sept. 2-5, 30 rib restaurateurs from across the country compete for the bragging rights and \$14,000 prize pool, free continuous entertainment including Cajun-Zydeco band Mumbo Gumbo on Fri. and Bad Company on Sun., 100-booth arts and crafts show, rib sampling, Bertha and Angel the elephants, Victorian Square outside John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300 or 353-2284

Kit Carson Trail Walk, Sept. 3, guided tours around historic Carson City, first tour starts at 10am at the Nevada State Museum, 687-7410



Rib cookers will have plenty of finger-licking samples for sale at the Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off. The tasty event takes place September 2-5 at John Ascuaga's Nugget and Victorian Square in Sparks.

Contra Dance, Sept. 3, New England-style line and circle dancing, no partner needed, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Tahoe Criterion Outrigger Regatta, Sept. 3-4, North Tahoe Beach Center, 916-546-7248

Splendor of the Sierra Fine Arts Show, Sept. 3-4, Northstar, 916-562-2280

Steam-Up, Sept. 3-5, steam-up and operation of historic steam locomotive on one-mile loop of track, 10am-4pm, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 687-6953

Arts and Crafts Fair, Sept. 3-5, Kings Beach, Lake Tahoe, 916-546-724

Peddler's Faire, Sept. 3-5, arts and crafts, Donner Ski Ranch, 916-426-3635

Nevada Landmarks Society Yard Sales, Sept. 3-5, Oct. 1-2, and 29-31, 8am-5pm, Roberts House Museum, Carson City, 747-3684

Art Show, Sept. 3-30, oil paintings by Mary Ann Spence, Artists' Co-Op Gallery, 322-8896

Bird Show and Sale, Sept. 4, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-5287

Ski Sale and Beer Tasting, Sept. 4, microbrew-

ery beers, pre-season ski sale, Kirkwood, 209-258-6000

Tri-Holiday Sweepstakes, Sept. 5, 100-lap sportsman stock car race, 7:30pm, Silver State Raceway, Carson City, 885-2079

Northern Nevada Industrial Expo, Sept. 7-8, open to public, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 851-0423

Chris Proctor Concert, Sept. 8, acoustic guitarist, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Comstock Arabian Horse Show, Sept. 8-11, Reno Livestock Events Center, 322-2366

Kayak Demo Days, Sept. 9, free, Kayak Tahoe, Anchorage Marina, Camp Richardson Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 916-544-2011

"Arsenic and Old Lace", Sept. 9-10, 17-18, and 23-24, comedy, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Virginia City International Camel Races, Sept. 9-11, Camel Hump Ball on Fri., parade on Sat., races at 1 and 3pm Sat. and Sun., race tickets \$7 with two- and three-day passes at discounted rate, camel race arena, Virginia City, 847-0311

Great Reno Balloon Race, Sept. 9-11, 13th annual, free, 140 balloons, on Fri. 6:45am balloon mass ascension, hare and hound race, 7am community launch, on Sat. and Sun. 5:15am Dawn Patrol (choreographed to music), 6:45am mass ascension, hare and hound race, 7am community launch, on Fri.-Sun. food, concessions, and souvenirs, Rancho San Rafael Park, 826-1181

Tahoe Classic Cruise Show, Sept. 9-11, classic car display, craft booths, entertainment, Horizon Resort, Stateline, 588-6211

Annual Carson Valley Inn Mixed Scramble Golf Tournament, Sept. 9-11, Minden, 782-9711

Concert Under the Arch, Sept. 10, Reno Philharmonic salutes the Great Reno Balloon Race, bring a picnic dinner, 7:30pm, 826-1181

Balloon Race Breakfast, Sept. 10-11, view of the Great Reno Balloon Race from the 14th floor of the Holiday Inn on Sixth St., 5:30am, \$15, fundraiser for CARE Chest of Nevada, 829-CARE

Biggest Little Quilt Show in the West, Sept. 10-11, vendors, demonstrations, door prizes, Reno Livestock Events Center, 355-1637

Tournament of Wishes, Sept. 11, golf tournament, lunch, music by the Motiff's, and award ceremony, Make-A-Wish Foundation fund-

raiser, Genoa Lakes and Inn Cognito Restaurant, Genoa, 882-2111 ext. 269

Kayak Tahoe Blue Water Classic, Sept. 11, six-mile or nine-mile course for paddlers of all abilities, Kayak Tahoe, Camp Richardson Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 916-544-2011

Mexican Rodeo, Sept. 11, Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751

Kirkwood 10K, Sept. 11, foot race, benefits the Kirkwood volunteer fire department, Kirkwood, 209-258-6000

Squaw Valley Century, Sept. 11, 40-, 75-, and 100-mile bike rides around Squaw and Truckee area, Squaw Valley Ski Area, 916-583-8900

Attic Fashion Show, Sept. 12, Harveys, Stateline, 588-2411

Reno National Championship Air Races and Air Show, Sept. 15-18, four classes of racing aircraft including Unlimited, Formula One, AT-6, and Biplanes, air show with aerobatics and skywriters, military jets, Reno Stead Airport, 10 miles north of Reno, 972-6663 or 800-225-BASS

Cool September Days, Sept. 16-18, ninth annual, car show, crafts, dance contest, radio-controlled off-road car race, Corvette giveaway, Horizon Resort, Stateline, 588-6211

TERRITORY MAP



HOT LINES

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

Reno Diamonds: Semi-pro baseball: Sept. 3-4 v. Sacramento Brewers, Moana Stadium, 829-0116

University of Nevada Football: Sept. 3 v. Northern Arizona, Sept. 10 v. Arkansas State, Sept. 24 v. Northeast Louisiana, Oct. 8 v. Pacific, Oct. 15 v. New Mexico State (homecoming), Nov. 12 v. Utah State, Mackay Stadium, U of N, 348-PACK

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

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

Cruze-Ins, Sept. 17, classic cars, '50s hop with DJ, costume contest, hula-hoop and yo-yo contests, look-alike contests, Plantation Station, Sparks, 359-9440

Tahoe Rim Trail Hike-A-Thon, Sept. 17, fundraiser for the trail, Armstrong Pass to Star Lake, 916-577-8783

Bijou Community Faire and Mariachi Music, Sept. 17, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 916-542-4166

Silver Sire Breeders Show, Sept. 17, Reno Livestock Events Center, 885-1518

Creative Expressions Dance Company, Sept. 17, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

100-Mile Horseback Endurance Ride, Sept. 17-18, Virginia City, 847-0523

Hispanic Heritage Day, Sept. 18, 11am-5pm, University Quadrangle, U of N, 345-2347

Emigrant Trail Tour, Sept. 19-20, historian Frank Tortorich leads participants across parts of the Mormon-Emigrant trail and the early Pony Express Route, includes campfire, slide show, Sorensen's Resort, Hope Valley, 916-694-2203

Master National Retriever Trials, Sept. 19-25, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 826-0108

Reno Philharmonic Concert, Sept. 20, Pioneer Theatre for the Performing Arts, 825-5905

Comedy Night Live, Sept. 23, \$10 cover, Carson



The Reno Air Races, September 15-18, bring classic war birds to town.

Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711
High Sierra Regional Chili Cook-Off, Sept. 23-25, chili sampling, craft booths, live bands, Horizon Resort, Stateline, 588-6211

Street Vibrations, Sept. 23-25, celebration of Harley-Davidson motorcycles and blues music, features B.B. King, Little Feat, and Doctor John at the Reno Hilton Amphitheater, parade and cruising through downtown Reno and Sparks, 329-7469

Kids' Day in the Park, Sept. 24, pony rides, bounce house, clowns, face painting, zoo with baby animals, live entertainment, Wingfield Park, 334-2077

Silver State Classic, Sept. 24, late model stock car race, Nor-Cal Tour, 7:30pm, Silver State Raceway, Carson City, 885-2079

Alpine Classic Double Metric Century, Sept. 24, Tour of the California Alps II, bicycling event from Kirkwood to Bear Valley and back, 916-694-2475

Fall Family Festival, Sept. 24-25, March of Dimes fundraiser, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-4107

Genoa Candy Dance Fair, Sept. 24-25, 74th annual, homemade candy sale, arts and crafts, Sat. night street dance and buffet, egg toss, white elephant sales, shuttle buses, Mormon Station

State Park, Genoa, 782-TOWN or 782-8696
California Antique Collectors Gun Show, Sept. 24-25, Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751

Rage'n at the Ranch Mountain Bike Series, Sept. 24-25, 10-mile loop cross-country bike race on Sat., downhill race on Sun., Donner Ski Ranch, 916-426-3635

Sports Car Club Autocross, Sept. 25, Reno Livestock Events Center, 626-9013

TNT-Tahoe City to Truckee, Sept. 25, mountain bike race, Tahoe Nordic Center, 916-583-8900

One Awesome Tour: Bike Ride Across Nevada (OATBRAN), Sept. 25-Oct. 1, 425-mile cycling tour across U.S. 50, starts in South Lake Tahoe,

NIGHTLIFE

Call Her Lacy J.

By GUY RICHARDSON

You and I know her as Lacy J. Dalton. Her mother knows her as Jill Crosston. Most people just call her Lacy J.

The former Jill didn't give up her name easily. She was a 32-year-old folk singer whom Nashville producer Billy Sherill thought had potential. "But," he told her, "the name has to go."

No, she said.

"You'll never sell any records as Jill Crosston," Sherill said.

A wee-bit of a thing, Lacy/Jill was as stubborn then as she can be now. "I said, 'Look, I came to Nashville, I got blond hair, pretty soon I'll have another name and a boob job, and I'm gonna be 40 years down the road and not know who I am. I'm not changing my name. If I can't sell records as Jill Crosston, forget it.'"

Then Jill started thinking: "The guy

who's probably sold more records in Nashville than anybody and written more hit songs than God is telling you that your name isn't going to work, and you are not listening. Are you crazy? You can have a record contract!"

So Jill went back to Sherill with the name Lacy B. Walker. "That was after my bass player's first wife," Lacy J. said. "She was a Southern belle. But Sherill said there were too many Walkers. He said he was billing me as something outlaw. Well, back in the New York scene I'd listened to a great folk singer named Karen Dalton."

And there was the Dalton Gang, too. Thus was born Lacy J. Dalton.

She immediately became a big star and lived happily ever after.

Well, no. That only happens in fairy tales and '30s movies. In real life, you record and then hit the road to promote the record.



Lacy J. Dalton will perform at Harrah's.

You go to the radio stations that report their airplay to *Billboard Magazine* because that's where the best-seller lists come from. Lacy J. and her mother hit the road in a Winnebago. "It was a scream," Lacy J. said. "We would carry this little record, 'Crazy Blue Eyes,' into the station. Sometimes they'd al-

588-9658

Art of the Children's Book Festival, Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 13th annual, featured will be Eric Kimmel, Betsy Lewin, and Caldecott Honor Medalist Ted Lewin, U of N, 784-4046

Theater Production, Sept. 30-Oct. 1, Oct. 7-8, and 14-15, play TBA, Proscenium Players, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

World's Championship Chili Cook-Off and Americana Food Festival, Sept. 30-Oct. 2, more than 100 chili cooks vie for a \$35,000 purse, chili sampling, arts and crafts fair, downtown Reno, 829-2810

BMX Bicycle Motocross Racing, Sept. 30-Oct. 2, Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751

Conclave '94, Sept. 31-Oct. 2, flyfishing demonstrations, fly-tying, casting contests, trade show, reception, dinner, raffle, and auction, Kings Beach, Lake Tahoe, 209-824-2346

October

Native American Snow Dance Festival, Oct. 1, traditional dances performed by four tribes, includes Paiute fancy dancers, Washo jingle dances, Shoshone drum and singers, Miwok Tribe from Northern California performs the Snow Dance, Village Green, Incline Village (on Sept. 30 the Tahoe Biltmore in Crystal Bay will have a Pray For Snow Party featuring food, entertainment, and raffle), 468-2463

Reno Chamber Orchestra Concert, Oct. 1, 8pm, Nightingale Hall, U of N, 348-9413

Save the Rainforest Flume Trail Ride, Oct. 1, Rainforest Coalition fundraiser, Incline Village, 916-583-8900

American Heart Walk, Oct. 1, fundraiser for

ready heard the record and liked it. But then there were places like Chicago," she winced. "They gave us the worst cold shoulder, and it was so embarrassing. We didn't have any money, so we were taking showers in these KOA campgrounds—horrible cold showers at six in the morning, and if there's anything I hate it's having to get my head wet at six in the morning in a cold shower.

"We visited all 125 *Billboard* stations across the country" she said.

The song was a hit, and then she became a big star overnight.

Not so fast. The song was a hit, and she hit the road singing one-nighters for 300 days a year. "When you're on the road that much, you get so damn tired," she said. "And then a wonderful thing happens if you stay out on the road. You just get great at it."

And that's when you get to be a big star.

Lacy J. Dalton appears at Harrah's Reno October 18-30.

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



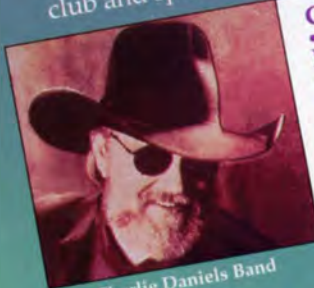
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PREVIEW

Chili Champs Compete

An event of immense proportions—and portions—revisits Reno when the 28th annual World's Championship Chili Cook-Off and Americana Food Festival takes place September 30-October 2.

About 100 winners of International Chili Society-sanctioned cook-offs from around the world will meet under the Reno Arch where they will work their black-kettle magic for a share of the \$35,000 purse. Chefs will serve authentic Texas-style chili—a combination of meats and spices with no beans or other extenders—which they have four hours to prepare.

There's more to the weekend than sampling great chili. The Americana Food Festival will have foods from

- American Heart Assn., Juniper Ridge, Reno, 322-7064
- Ferrari Club of America Hill Climb, Oct. 1-2, Virginia City, 510-820-1664
- All-Breed Championship and Household Cat Show, Oct. 1-2, Silver Cats Cat Club, Reno Livestock Events Center, 747-3317
- Art and Photography Show, Oct. 1-Nov. 13, watercolors by Joyce Burke and photos by Sonia Gore, Artists' Co-Op Gallery, 322-8896
- Autumn Food and Wine Jubilee, Oct. 2, food from North Lake Tahoe restaurants paired with wine from Northern California wineries, art auction, Squaw Valley, 916-581-6900
- Million Dollar Barrel Races, Oct. 3-9, Reno Livestock Events Center, 358-0116
- Art Show, Oct. 3-11, mixed media by William Fox and Walter MacNamara, opening reception from 5-7pm on Oct. 3, Sierra Arts Foundation, 329-1324
- Great Italian Festival, Oct. 5-9, 13th annual, grape stomping contest, Italian food sampling, spaghetti sauce cook-off featuring chefs such as Sylvia Sebastiani, European designers fashion show, gelato-eating contest, bocci ball tournament, performing artists, and dishes from the Garlic Growers Assn. of Gilroy, Artichoke Growers Assn. of Castroville, and Columbo Bakeries of San Francisco, Columbus Day Parade on Oct. 8, Eldorado Hotel, 786-5700
- Wynton Marsalis Septet, Oct. 7, Nightingale Hall, U of N, 784-4046
- Antique Show and Sale, Oct. 7-10, Reno Live-



Save room for the World's Championship Chili Cook-Off and Americana Food Festival September 30-October 2.

all over the United States. There'll be crafts, bands, and Miss Chile Pepper and Mr. Hot Sauce contests.

For more information on the ICS World's Championship Chili Cook-Off and Americana Food Festival call 702-827-7366 or 800-FOR-RENO (800-367-7366).—Matt Bonaudi

- stock Events Center, 688-5751
- RV Show and Sale**, Oct. 7-10, Reno Livestock Events Center, 882-3223
- Concerts in the Atrium**, Oct. 7-Nov. 25, Fri. only, free, live classical music concerts, noon-1pm, Airport Gardens Office Bldg., 329-1324
- Columbus Day Parade**, Oct. 8, multi-ethnic celebration and parade, route follows Fifth St. to the Truckee River, downtown Reno, 329-7469
- Octoberfest**, Oct. 8, 6pm, Old Gym, Virginia City, 847-0311
- Kokanee Salmon Festival**, Oct. 8-9, celebration of kokanee spawning season, viewing tunnel, environmental exhibits, children's fishing booth, Oriental fish painting, 5K and 10K fun run, salmon feed, Taylor Creek, USFS Visitor Center, South Lake Tahoe, 916-573-2600
- Fiesta Latina with Leo Buscaglia**, Oct. 9, Valhalla, South Lake Tahoe, 916-541-5227
- Mexican Rodeo**, Oct. 9, Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751
- Bill Staines Concert**, Oct. 10 (tentative), singer-songwriter, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976
- Reno Philharmonic Concert**, Oct. 11, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 825-5905
- Carson Valley Inn Fall Stag Golf Outing**, Oct. 13-16, Minden, 782-9711
- "110 in the Shade"**, Oct. 14-15 and 19-23, 8pm, Redfield Proscenium Theatre, U of N, 784-6847
- Will James Society Convention**, Oct. 14-16, open to public, original art on display, Western art



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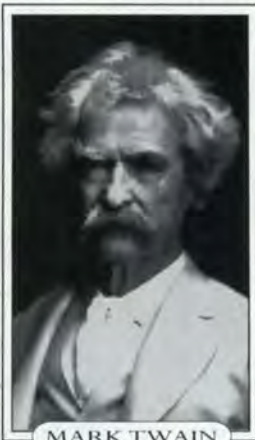
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show and sale, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks,
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Western States Celebration Horse Show, Oct.

14-16, Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751

Octoberfest, Oct. 15, food, drink, entertainment,
Kirkwood, 209-258-6000

Virginia City's World Champion Outhouse
Races, Oct. 15-16, privy parade down C St. at

noon on Sat., outhouse races down E St., toi-
let paper plunge, Virginia City, 847-0311

Baby and Kids Faire, Oct. 16, a show of products
and services for young families, 11am-4pm,
Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 322-7064

Sports Car Club Autocross, Oct. 16, Reno Live-
stock Events Center, 626-9013

American Heat, Oct. 17 celebration of Hispanic
food, entertainment, and craftsmanship, fea-
tures customized lowriders, Mexican food,
Latin music, dance and concert in evening,
Pony Express Pavilion, Mills Park, Carson
City, 329-7469 or 687-7410

Sierra Band Crusade, Oct. 19, high school march-
ing bands from Nevada, California, Utah, Ida-
ho, and Oregon compete, \$3, children 11 and
under free, Mackay Stadium, U of N, 784-6525

Anonymous Four Concert, Oct. 20, 13th- and
14th-century love songs, 8pm, Nightingale
Hall, U of N, 784-4046 or 784-6847

ACTRA Team Roping, Oct. 20-23, Reno Live-
stock Events Center, 688-5751

"The Cat and the Canary," Oct. 21-22, 28-30, and
Nov. 4-5, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Bowers Mansion Living History, Oct. 22, Neva-
da Civil War Volunteers reenact life as it might
have been in the Bowers Mansion in 1862,
Washoe Valley, 857-3559

Kit Carson Trail Ghost Tour, Oct. 22, guided
tours of haunted houses in historic Carson
City, 687-7410

V & T Railroad History Symposium, Oct. 22-23,
celebrates the 125th anniversary of the Vir-
ginia and Truckee Railroad and completion
of the transcontinental railroad in 1869, Neva-
da State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 687-
6953

California Antique Collectors Gun Show, Oct.
22-23, Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751

Steam-Up, Oct. 22-23, steam-up and operation of
historic steam locomotive on one-mile loop of
track, 10am-4pm, Nevada State Railroad Mu-
seum, Carson City, 687-6953

Taste for Travel Dessert Taste and Travel Auc-
tion, Oct. 27 sample desserts prepared by
Reno-area chefs, auction of travel packages,
\$15, fundraiser, Reno Hilton, 329-CARE

"Carmen," Oct. 27 and 29, performed in French
with English projected translation, Nevada
Opera, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts,
786-4046

RSVP Annual Nevada Day Celebration, Oct. 27-
31, carnival, arts and crafts, commercial ex-
hibits, and food concessions, Mills Park,
687-4680

BAC Beertasting Fundraiser, Oct. 28, celebrates
the history of the Carson Brewing Company,
national and international beers, Brewery Arts
Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Wa She Shu Powwow, Oct. 28-30, Carson Indi-
an Colony, Carson City, 883-6431

Western States Open Chess Tournament, Oct.
28-30, open to all players from beginner to ex-
pert, more than \$40,000 prize money, lectures,
book sales, Sands Regency, 348-2200

Contra Dance, Oct. 29, New England line and cir-
cle country dancing, Brewery Arts Center,
Carson City, 883-9766

Trick or Treat in the Streets, Oct. 29, 4:30-7:30pm,

PREVIEW

Purple Feet and Pasta

BY GREG FINE

Fortunately, some historians still credit Columbus with being the first European to find North America. But one gets the impression that even if Queen Isabella's sailing savior was erased from the history books, the pasta maniacs at the Eldorado Hotel would still find reason to celebrate their Italian heritage.

For 13 years many Renoites and visitors have spent the rest of October scrubbing grape juice from their feet after helping the Eldorado celebrate its carnival of an event, known as Reno's Great Italian Festival. This year's festival is October 5-9. Faithful paisanos and pasta lovers take to the street in recognition of Columbus' discovery with a parade through the heart of Reno, Saturday, October 8.

The Great Italian Festival is big. The Caranos, the owners of the Eldorado, take their Italian lineage seriously.

"I got to meet one of the Caranos," said David Smith, a past Reno resident now living in Fair Oaks, California. "He told me how to make

the most of my grape stomping."

The grape stomp. There are few wineries that still employ the pedestrian method of extracting grape juice, but at the Italian Festival the command is "Jump in!" The stomp is one of the weekend highlights, allowing some revelers to discover their true calling when it comes to crushing the purple fruit.



Grape stomping at Reno's Great Italian Festival.

"I figured it would be like jogging in place," Smith said. "But it was more like trying to stand up—that was the tough part. Stomp a little, readjust. Stomp a little, get your balance. It was fun, but I probably should have washed my feet first."

Like their brethren back on The Boot (Italy), the Caranos pull no punches when it comes to a party. Previous festivals have seen the likes of screen and stage actress Anna Maria Alberghetti playing among a chorus of stilt walkers, mimes, jugglers, cloggers, and accordionists.

This year will prove no different. The jugglers, mimes, caricaturists, puppeteers, and comedians will be joined by a bevy of foodies such as the Garlic Growers Association of Gilroy (try to imagine anything Italian without the appropriate garlic representative), the Artichoke Growers Association of Castroville, and Columbo Bakeries of San Francisco.

The festival includes a European designers' fashion show, a gelato-eating contest, a spaghetti sauce cook-off featuring the skills of saucy artiste Sylvia Sebastiani, and, of course, the prevalence of many, many Italian buffets.

"We ate well," Smith remembers. "I ate too well."

Forget where you came from. Forget your ancestors for a few days (unless you're Italian) and join the Caranos, the Eldorado, and the rest of Reno for five days of play and pasta. Call the Eldorado at 702-786-5700 or 800-777-5325 for more information and the entertainment lineup.

In preparation for the festival, Greg Fine of Reno is eating 17 garlic cloves a day.

National Automobile Museum, 333-9300
Vintage Nevada Wine Tasting and Auction, Oct. 29, 3-8pm, Lawlor Events Center, U of N, 784-4659

Pyramid Lake Open Rodeo, Oct. 29-30, bareback, saddle bronc, bull riding, team roping, barrel racing, wild horse roping, calf roping, and junior events, also wild horse race and women's cow riding, rodeo grounds, Nixon, 574-1000

Nevada Day Celebration, Oct. 29-31, on Thurs.-Mon. carnival at Mills Park, on Sat. the 1864 Grand Ball at Carson Nugget, on Mon. the Admission Day parade takes place at 10am on Carson St., rock drilling, art shows, and run-walk races, Carson City, 882-2600

Llama Show and Sale, Oct. 29-31, Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751

Nevada Day Parade, Oct. 31, 10am parade, rock

drilling, art shows, and run-walk races, Carson City, 882-2600

COMING EVENTS

Celtic New Year Celebration, Nov. 4-6, Reno, 786-3030

National Senior Pro Rodeo Finals, Nov. 7-13, Reno, 688-5751

Veteran's Parade, Nov. 11, Virginia City, 847-0311

Rhymer's Rodeer Cowboy Poetry, Nov. 11-13, Minden, 782-9711

Christmas on the River, Nov. 26, Reno, 334-2077

Christmas on the Comstock Parade and Tree Lighting, Nov. 26, Virginia City, 847-0311

Silver and Snowflakes Tree Lighting, Dec. 1,

Carson City, 885-0411

Christmas on the Comstock, Dec. 1-24, Virginia City, 847-0311

Sparks Hometowne Christmas, Dec. 3, 353-2338

Native American Christmas Arts and Crafts Market and Powwow, Dec. 9-10, Reno, 786-7029

Buck 'n Ball '94, Dec. 31, rodeo and dance, Reno, 800-FOR-RENO

SHOWGUIDE

Reno/Sparks

Bob Cashell's Horseshoe Club, 323-7900: *Boots Bar Grill, and Dance Hall*: DJs nightly, free dance lessons Tues.-Sat.

Circus Circus, 329-0711 or 800-648-5010: Free cir-

PREVIEW

Happy Birthday!

Nevada will celebrate Nevada Day—and the 130th anniversary of statehood—with a big parade and other activities on the weekend of October 29-31 in Carson City.

This year's Nevada Day theme is "A Tribute to Nevada Railroads," which also recognizes the 125th anniversaries of the completion of the transcontinental railroad and the start of the Virginia and Truckee Railroad.

The 1864 Grand Ball, where attendees are encouraged to wear period costumes, is at the Carson City Nugget on Saturday night, October 29.

The big day is Monday, October 31—130 years after President Lincoln proclaimed Nevada the 36th state. The parade, a highlight since Carson's Nevada Day festivities began in 1938, will start at 10 a.m. Other events include an RSVP Midway of Fun, 20th annual World Championship Single Jack Rock Drilling Contest, fire department waterfights, beard contest, and art show.

For more information call 702-882-2600 or write the Nevada Day Committee, Box 999, Carson City, NV 89702.



Carson City's Nevada Day parade is on Monday, October 31.



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Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Authority
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cus acts, 11am-midnight

Clarion, 825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Bands play nightly

Eldorado, 786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside Nevada), or 800-648-3024 (Canada): Danny Marona, Sept. 13-25; Lil' Elmo and the Cosmos, Oct. 18-23

Fitzgeralds, 785-3300 or 800-648-5022 (U.S. outside Nevada): David Proud/Whiskey Ridge, Sept. 12-25; Garfin Gathering, Oct. 24-30

Flamingo Hilton Reno, 785-7080: *Flamingo Showroom*: "American Superstars," indf. (dark Tues.); *Showspot Lounge* (dark Mon.): Martha's Children, thru Sept. 11; Laura St. Romain, Sept. 13-26

Harolds Club, 329-0881 or 800-648-5022: Ricky Santos, thru Sept. 11; Mark Donovan, Aug. 29-Sept. 18; Steve Lord, Aug. 29-Oct. 2; Gary Xavier, Sept. 12-25; Kathy Lee, Sept. 19-Oct. 2; Bruce Fargo, Sept. 26-Oct. 9; Mark Donovan, Oct. 3-16 and Oct. 24-Nov. 6; George Pickard, Oct. 10-23; Steve Lord, Oct. 10-Nov. 6; Ricky Santos, Oct. 17-30; *Dick Clark's American Bandstand Club*: DJ and live bands alternate, Tues.-Sat.

Harrah's Reno, 788-3773 or 800-HARRAHS: *Sammy's Showroom*: "Hit City!" and "High Voltage Ilxs," indf. (dark Tues.); Jack Jones, Aug. 30-Sept. 4; The Fifth Dimension, Sept. 6-18; Patty Page, Sept. 20-Oct. 2; Lacy J. Dalton, Oct. 18-30

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3304 or 800-648-1177 (U.S. and West Canada): *Celebrity Showroom*: Marilyn McCoo/Michael Marlin, Sept. 1-14; Gloria Loring, Sept. 15-28; Herb Reed and the Platters/Burt Leigh, Sept. 29-Oct. 12; Rich Little/Mark Merchant, Oct. 13-26; *Casino Cabaret*: Flashback, indf.

Peppermill, 826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Cameron/David Proud, thru Sept. 4; Lelands, Aug. 29-Sept. 11

Reno Hilton, 789-2285 or 800-648-3568 (U.S. outside Nevada): *Hilton Theatre*: Jeff Kutash's "Splash," indf.; *Summer Outdoor Concert Series*: Vince Gill, Sept. 21; Blues Festival '94 featuring B.B. King, Dr. John, and Little Feat, Sept. 24; *Just for Laughs Comedy Club*: comedians perform nightly, indf. (dark Mon.)

Reno Hotel, 788-2000

Silver Club, Sparks, 358-4771 or 800-648-1137 (U.S. outside Nevada): Slick Gypsy, Sept. 1-5; Cheryl Cotten, Sept. 1-12; St. Romain, Sept. 6-12; Tammy Allen and RSVP/Silk, Sept. 13-18; Silk/Edy Gainer and Dezire, Sept. 19-25; David Proud/George Pickard, Sept. 26-30; Inside Out/George Pickard, Oct. 3-9; Paradise, Oct. 10-17; George Pickard, Oct. 24-30

Western Village, Sparks, 331-1069 or 800-648-1170: Eddie Dunbar, Sept. 12-25; Surprise Package, Sept. 12-25; Lelands, Sept. 26-Oct. 2; Speedy Garfin, Sept. 31-Oct. 13

Carson City/Carson Valley

Carson City Nugget, 882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (continental U.S. outside Nevada): Blind Date, Sept. 6-18; Speedy Garfin, Sept. 20-Oct. 9; Get Ready Show, Oct. 11-30

Carson Station, Carson City, 883-0900: Entertainment Committee, Sept. 6-18

Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711 or 800-321-6983 (continental U.S. outside Nevada): Southern Reign, Aug. 29-Sept. 10; The Act, Sept. 12-24; Sonny Turner, Sept. 26-Oct. 1; Carmon and Duchane, Oct. 3-8; Edy Gainer and Dezire, Oct. 10-15; Whiskey Ridge, Oct. 17-29; Steve Walker Band, Oct. 31-Nov. 12



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5030 PARADISE ROAD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

Sharkey's Nugget, Gardnerville, 782-3133
Topaz Lodge, Topaz Lake, 266-3339

Lake Tahoe

Bill's Lake Tahoe, Stateline, 588-2455
Caesars Tahoe, Stateline, 586-2044 or 800-648-3353: *Circus Maximus*: Chuck Berry, Sept. 2-4; Waylon Jennings, Sept. 23-24; Tanya Tucker, Oct. 7-8
Cal-Neva Lodge, Crystal Bay, 832-4000
Crystal Bay Club, Crystal Bay, 831-0512: Live entertainment Tues.-Sun.
Harrah's Lake Tahoe, Stateline, 588-6606 or 800-HARRAHS: *South Shore Room*: "Sugar Babies Act II," starring Juliet Prowse and Rip Taylor, thru Sept. 5; "Spellbound," Sept. 24-Dec. 5; *Casino Center Stage*: Ken Bartimoli Trio, indf.; Inside Out, thru Sept. 4; The Entertainment Committee, Oct. 3-16
Harveys, Stateline, 588-2411 or 800-553-1022: *Emerald Theater*: "A Blast From the Past," '50s and '60s revue, indf.; Danny Marona, Sept. 2-5; *Outdoor Amphitheater*: Rock and Roll Reunion, Sept. 11; Billy Ray Cyrus, Sept. 18; *Emerald Party Lounge*: Mirage/Stinger, thru Sept. 4; Madison Avenue/Tommy Bell, Sept. 5-25; The Zippers/Unity, Sept. 26-Oct. 9; Steel Breeze/Inside Out, Oct. 10-23; Madison Ave./Touch of Silk, Oct. 24-30; Madison Ave./Art Vargas and Two Sweet, Oct. 31-Nov. 13; *Llewellyn's*: Ron Rose Sound, indf.
Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe, Incline Village, 832-1234: Tommy Bell, Aug. 30-Sept. 4; Surprise Package, Sept. 6-11; Paradise, Sept. 14-18; Herb McQuay Trio, Sept. 21-25; Whitewing, Sept.



The wild and wacky Virginia City Camel Races are September 9-11.

28-Oct. 2; Garfin Gathering, Oct. 13-16 and 20-23; Herb McQuay Trio, Oct. 26-30
Lake Tahoe Horizon, Stateline, 588-6211 or 800-648-3322: "Hot, Hot, Hot," adult revue, indf.; "High Country Rock," family show, thru Sept. 30; Flim Flam and Chicago Jam, Sept. 10-11
Lakeside Inn, Stateline, 588-7777
Tahoe Biltmore, Crystal Bay, 831-0660 or 800-BILTMOR: Bands play Tues.-Sun.; nightly dancing

GAMING TOURNAMENTS

September

Keno, Sept. 2-5, Riverboat, 323-8877
Slots/Video Poker, Sept. 11, Clarion, 825-4700
Slots, Sept. 11-14, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300
Keno, Sept. 16, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711
Slots and Keno, Sept. 17, Tahoe Biltmore Lodge, Crystal Bay, 831-0660
Slots, Sept. 23-25, Peppermill, 689-7282
Slots, Sept. 25-26, Clarion, 825-4700
Blackjack, Sept. 27, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

October

Slots, Oct. 2-4, Riverboat, 323-8877
Blackjack, Oct. 7-8 and 25, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711
Blackjack, Oct. 13-15, Fitzgeralds, 785-3381
Slots and Keno, Oct. 14-16, Sands Regency, 348-2247
Keno, Oct. 15-16, Clarion, 825-4700
Slots, Oct. 16-17, Clarion, 825-4700
Keno, Oct. 21, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711
Slots, Oct. 21-22, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711
Slots and Blackjack, Oct. 21-23, Riverboat, 323-8877
Blackjack, Oct. 24-25, Clarion, 825-4700

HOTELS

Casino Notes

Cool Cash: Boomtown has introduced the Boomtown Players Club, a new slot club designed by and for slot and video players. The club will reward players with cash, not merchandise. Jerry Day vice president of gaming operations, says, "You don't have to earn a billion points to reap the rewards." Each player is issued a card that he or she inserts in a slot or video machine while playing. Points are automatically added to the player's account. Boomtown is located on I-80, seven miles west of Reno.

That's the Ticket: Now when you buy tickets to **Caesars Tahoe** shows over the phone, the tickets will be mailed to you within 24 hours.



Tanya Tucker performs at Caesars Tahoe October 7-8.

The new service requires a \$2 fee and is available up to two weeks prior to the show date. After that time, patrons must pick up their show tickets at Caesars Activity Center.

Smoke Won't Get in Your Eyes: Fiona's, one of the **Carson Valley Inn's** three restaurants, has been designated nonsmoking due to popular request of the CVI's customers. The restaurant is located on U.S. 395 in Minden near the Carson Valley Inn's main entrance.

Suites and Suds: Reno's **Eldorado Hotel** has started construction of its 30,000-square-foot expansion, which is set for completion in July 1995. The Eldorado is adding a 12-story hotel tower

with 32 suites on six floors, including two penthouse suites of 2,200 square feet each. A 9,500-square-foot health spa and full-service beauty salon will be located on two floors. New restaurants with the latest in culinary trends will be added, and there are plans for a microbrewery. The cost of the project is \$45 million.

New Look for the Flamingo: The **Flamingo Hilton Reno** has completely remodeled two of its restaurants. The Flamingo Room, formerly the Sierra Crossing, has a new menu to complement its new look. It features fresh grilled chicken Caesar salad, babyback ribs, and "fitness first" items like the Garden Sandwich and Vegetarian Burger. The Food Fantasy Buffet now has garden windows that let in natural light to the restaurant.

Center of Attention: **Harrah's Lake Tahoe** has reopened the former Stateline Cabaret and renamed it the Casino Center Stage. The open stage area presents live entertainment for the entire casino and will serve as an activity center for special promotions. It has a contemporary high-tech design and will host such entertainers as Sweet Louie

Slots, Oct. 27-30 (tentative), Silver Club, Sparks,
358-4771
Slots, Oct. 30-Nov. 1, Eldorado, 786-5700

ATTRACTIONS, TOURS & MUSEUMS

Carson City

AMUSEUM: 813 N. Carson St., 884-2226
Great Basin Wildlife Center: 3770 Butti Way,
887-2172
Kit Carson Trail: Self-guided walking tour, 882-
1565 or 800-638-2321
Nevada State Capitol: 687-5030
Nevada State Library and Archives: State Con-
stitution exhibit, 100 Stewart St., 687-5210
Nevada State Museum: 600 N. Carson, 687-4810
Nevada State Railroad Museum: S. Carson St. at
Fairview Dr., 687-6953
Roberts House Museum: 1207 Carson, 882-1805
Stewart Indian Museum: 5366 Snyder, 882-1808
Warren Engine Co. No. 1 Museum: 777 S. Stew-
art, 887-2210

Genoa

Genoa Courthouse Museum: 782-4325
Mormon Station State Historic Park: 782-4325
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: lake cruises, located

and the Checkmates, Johnny Baron and the Bel Aires, and Louie Fontaine and the Rockets. The remodeling includes the redesign of the casino's east entrance.

What's Up, Doc?: The new Warner Bros. store at **Harrah's Lake Tahoe**, that's what. The store features exclusive Warner Bros. products in a setting reminiscent of a studio back lot. Bugs Bunny, Tweety, Sylvester, Porky Pig, the Tasmanian Devil, Pepe Le Pew, and his girlfriend Penelope are all there in the form of clothing, toys, golf and ski gear, and animation clips.

Theme With a Silver Lining: The two partners in the **Project C** venture, Circus Circus Enterprises and the Eldorado, have announced the theme for the soon-to-be-named 1,720-room resort in downtown Reno. Project C will revolve around an 1880s silver mining motif. An automated 120-foot mining rig will rise from the casino floor beneath a 180-foot-diameter dome. Donald Carano, the Eldorado's CEO, says, "The concept behind Project C will showcase the splendor and grandeur in the manner of which yesteryear's silver barons lived."

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at Zephyr Cove, 588-3508
Ponderosa Ranch: Seasonal, Incline Village, 831-0691
Tahoe Gal Paddlewheeler: Tahoe City, 916-583-0141
Tahoe Queen Sternwheeler: South Lake Tahoe, CA, 800-23-TAHOE
Tahoe Rim Trail: 916-577-0676
U. S. Forest Service Visitors Center: Tours, 916-573-2600
Vikingsholm: Tours, 916-525-7232

Reno

Bull Creek Ranch: Verdi, 345-7600
Fleischmann Planetarium: U of N, 784-4811
Liberty Belle Slot Collection: 4250 S. Virginia St., in Liberty Belle Saloon, 825-1776
Mackay School of Mines Minerals Museum: U of N, 784-6052
Nevada Historical Society Museum: 1650 N. Virginia St., 688-1190
Nevada Museum of Art, E. L. Wiegand Gallery: 160 W. Liberty St., 329-3333
Numana Hatchery Visitors Center: Pyramid Lake, 574-0290
Raymond I. Smith Truckee River Walk and Wingfield Park Amphitheater: 334-2077
Reno Tahoe Gaming Academy: Tours, 300 E. First St., Suite 103, 329-5665
U of N Anthropology Dept. Research Museum: U of N, 784-6704
Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden: Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-4153
Wilbur D. May Great Basin Adventure: Seasonal, Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-4064
Wilbur D. May Museum: Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-5961
William F. Harrah Foundation National Automobile Museum: 10 Lake St., 333-9300

Sparks

Sparks Heritage Foundation and Museum: 820 Victorian Ave., 355-1144
Wild Island: Wild Island, Adventure Golf and Raceway, 250 Wild Island Ct., 359-2927

Virginia City

Chollar Mine: Tours, seasonal, 847-0155
1869 Territorial Prison Museum: Tours, 847-0500
Fourth Ward School Museum: Seasonal, 847-0975
Julia C. Bulette Red Light Museum: 847-9394
Liberty Engine Co. No. 1 Comstock Firemen's Museum: Seasonal, 847-0177
Mackay Mansion: 847-0173
Mark Twain Museum of Memories: 847-0454
Nevada Gambling Museum: 847-9022
Piper's Opera House: Seasonal, 847-0433
Ponderosa Mine: Tours, 847-0757
Territorial Enterprise Mark Twain Museum: 847-0525
The Castle: Seasonal, 847-0275
The Way It Was Museum: 847-0766
Virginia and Truckee Railroad: Seasonal, 847-0380
Wild West Museum: 847-0400

Washoe Valley

Bowers Mansion Park: Pool, 849-1825
Davis Creek Park: 849-0684
Washoe Lake State Park: E. Lake Blvd., 687-4319

A Reminder: To confirm dates and times, please use the phone number listed with each event. Remember, when calling long distance within the state, you must dial "1" followed by Nevada's area code (702) and then the seven-digit number. For hotels' toll-free phone numbers, call 800-555-1212.



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1994 EVENTS

LABOR DAY WEEKEND EVENTS

Elko: County Fair & Livestock Show & Pari-Mutuel Racing, Western Art Show & Auction
Winnemucca: Buckaroo Heritage Western Art Roundup, Tri-County Fair & Winnemucca Rodeo

SEPTEMBER

Wells: Race to the Angel
Wendover: World of Speed Finals, Bonneville Kite Buggy Race
Winnemucca: Thoroughbred, Quarterhorse & Mule Pari-Mutuel Racing, Ranch Hand Rodeo, Nevada Open Horse Show,

ACTRA Team Roping
Elko: Morroder's Car Show

OCTOBER

Wendover: World Finals Speed Racing,
 National Hare and Hound Motorcycle Race,
 Wendover Air Show & Races
Elko: Te-Moak Youth Pow Wow

NOVEMBER

Winnemucca: Inaugural Pony Express 100 Classic Car Race

DECEMBER

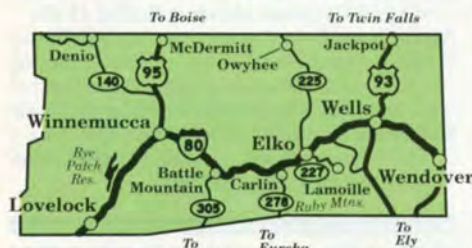
Elko: Festival of Trees

Write or Call: Nevada's Cowboy Country, 50 West Winnemucca Blvd.
 Winnemucca, Nevada 89445 1-800-WMCA-NEV (1-800-962-2638)



The Rural Territories

COWBOY COUNTRY



September

Art Show, thru Sept. 13, oils and watercolors of Nevada by Mildred Byers, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Bingo, Sept. 2-3, Town Hall, Jarbidge, 488-2311

Labor Day Weekend Dances, Sept. 2-4, music by the Bermuda Cowboys, Outdoor Inn, Jarbidge, 488-2311

Elko County Fair and Livestock Show, Sept. 2-5, home arts exhibits, 4-H livestock show and sale, parimutuel thoroughbred and quarter horse racing, fairgrounds, Elko, 738-3616

Art Show, Sept. 2-Oct. 18, inks, oils, and pastels of wildlife by Arlene Middaugh, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Ceramicarama, Sept. 3-5, pottery show and sale, Planet X Pottery, eight miles northwest of



Highlights of Dayton Valley Days, September 17-18, include Civil War and Pony Express encampments, a pet parade, children's games, and cowboy poetry.



A showdown of the world's fastest cars takes place on the Bonneville Salt Flats this fall.

Gerlach, 557-2500

Winnemucca Labor Day Rodeo and Tri-County Fair, Sept. 3-5, PRCA rodeo, Western Art Roundup and buckaroo poetry, Winnemucca, 623-2225

Corn Feed, Sept. 4, pit-roasted corn, meat dishes, salads, and more, community fundraiser, Outdoor Inn picnic area, Jarbidge, 488-2311

Fall Mixed Ball Golf Tournament, Sept. 8-9, Toana Vista Golf Course, Wendover, 664-4300

Firefighters and Police Demolition Derby, Sept. 10, fairgrounds, Elko, 738-3636

Nevada Open Horse Show and Futurity, Sept. 10-11, fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-2225

Parimutuel Thoroughbred, Quarter Horse, and Mule Racing, Sept. 10-11 and 17-18, fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-2225

Slot Tournament, Sept. 13-14, Red Garter Casino, Wendover, 664-2111

Carnival, Sept. 15-19, fairgrounds, Elko, 738-8449

Art Show, Sept. 16-Nov. 8, Western art by Lowell Swenseid, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Morrodors Gamblers Run, Sept. 17-18, car show featuring rods, classics, muscle cars, trucks, and motorcycles, outdoor show 'n' shine, poker run, and picnic, Elko City Park, 738-2543

Ranch Hand Rodeo, Sept. 17-18, fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-2225

Quarter Horse and Mule Racing, Sept. 17-18, fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-2225

Slot Tournament, Sept. 19-20, Peppermill, Wendover, 664-2255

Nevada 4-H Expo, Sept. 20-25, Winnemucca Convention Center and fairgrounds, 784-6206

World of Speed, Sept. 21-25, eighth annual, vehicles attempt to set land-speed records on a 12-mile course, cars and motorcycles race at over 250 mph, 8am-sundown, Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 664-3414 or 801-785-5364

Gold Rush Motocross Racing, Sept. 24-25, 10am, Gold Rush Moto Park, Carlin, 754-6248

Blackjack and Dice Tournament, Sept. 26-27, Peppermill, Wendover, 664-2255

Keno Tournament, Sept. 30-Oct. 1, State Line Casino, Wendover, 664-2221

October

Utah Desert Foxes' Wendover 100 National Hare and Hound Motorcycle Race, Oct. 1-2, Wendover, 664-3414

Gold Rush Motocross Racing, Oct. 1-2 and 22-23, 10am, Gold Rush Moto Park, Carlin, Exit 280 on Poplar St., 754-6248

Ladies Classic Golf Tournament, Oct. 6-7 Toana Vista Golf Course, Wendover, 664-4300

Oktoberfest, Oct. 8, German food and beer, Outdoor Inn, Jarbidge, 488-2311

Bonneville World Finals, Oct. 14-16, land-speed trials, includes roadsters, coupes, streamliners, motorcycles, and electric vehicles, 7am-sundown, Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 664-3414 or 619-274-1993

Deer Widows' Weekend, Oct. 21-22, State Line, Silver Smith, Mac's, Peppermill, and Red Garter casinos welcome deer hunters' widows with special entertainment, Wendover, 664-3414

HOT LINES

Nevada Division of State Parks: District III office in Fallon: 867-3001; District IV office in Elko County: Northfork 6493; District V office in Panaca: 728-4467

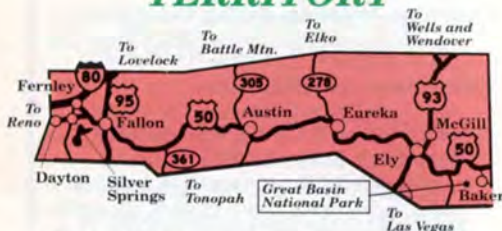
For chamber of commerce and convention center phone numbers, please see page E-6



Competitions born out of ranching life are still alive and kicking in Winnemucca, where there will be two rodeos and several horse and mule racing events in September

Te-Moak Powwow, Oct. 21-23, Elko Convention Center, 738-9251 or 738-7047
Elko County Art Club Fall Festival, Oct. 21-Dec. 13, Northeastern Nevada Museum, 738-3418
Pig Roast and Halloween Party, Oct. 29, Outdoor Inn, Jarbidge, 488-2311
Trick or Treat Street, Oct. 30-31, Elko Convention Center, 738-4091
Nevada Day Parade, Oct. 31, seventh annual, 11am, downtown Elko, 738-7991 or 738-7001

PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY



September

Annual Labor Day Barbecue and Dance, Sept. 3, lot next to Austin Library, Austin, 964-2627
Rail Days, Sept. 3-4, train rides, craft and food booths, games, Battle of the Rails, barbecue, dance, Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 289-2085
Lion's Club Junior Rodeo and Parade, Sept. 3-5, fairgrounds, Fallon, 423-7733
Fort Churchill Ruins Tours, Sept. 3 and 17, learn about the fort's 1860 construction, operation, and 1869 abandonment, walk led by park ranger, Fort Churchill State Historic Park, eight miles south of Silver Springs, 577-2345
Car Races, Sept. 3 and 17, gates open 4pm, racing at 7pm, Rattlesnake Speedway, Fallon, 423-2544
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament, Sept. 10, second annual, Dayton Valley

Country Club, Dayton, 246-7681
Nevada Reined Cow and Cutting Horses Spectacular, Sept. 10-18, fairgrounds, Fallon, 423-7733
Hidden Cave Tours, Sept. 10 and 24, 9:30am, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677
Dayton Valley Days, Sept. 17-18, sixth annual, Civil War encampment, cowboy poetry, Pony Express reenactments, pet parade, craft and food booths, horseshoe tournament, model railroad display, art show and sale, children's games, pancake breakfast, and barbecue, Dayton, 246-0188 or 246-3788
BluBlocker Silver State 100, Sept. 18 (tentative), high-speed car race on State Route 318 between Lund and Hiko, tech inspection at Imperial Palace in Las Vegas on Sept. 15, caravan from Las Vegas Speedway to Ely on Sept. 16, cars on display in Ely on Sept. 17, race on Sept. 18, 289-8877 or 805-274-4068
Nevada Quarter Horse Assn. Horse Show, Sept. 23-25, fairgrounds, Fallon, 423-7733
One Awesome Tour: Bike Ride Across Nevada (OATBRAN), Sept. 25-Oct. 1, 425-mile cycling tour across U.S. 50, 588-9658
Bobbie Cryner Concert, Sept. 30, country music, Fallon Convention Center, 423-1440

October
Great Northern Nevada Stew-Doo, Oct. 1, stew cook-off, stew-tasting, booths, Silver Springs, 577-2333
Car Races, Oct. 1, gates open 4pm, racing at 7pm, Rattlesnake Speedway, Fallon, 423-2544
Fernley Frontier Days Rodeo and Fair, Oct. 1-2, pro rodeo, kiddie rodeo, arts and crafts fair, Frontier Village and Trader's Row, Nevada Gunslings Old West Show, Natchez Dancers from Pyramid Lake, Wind Spirit Dancers from Yerington, horseshoes, Sat. night barbecue and dance, Out-of-Town Park, Fernley, 575-4459 or 575-6835
Fort Churchill Fall Encampment, Oct. 1-2, Nevada Civil War Volunteers perform living-his-

tory presentations, battle reenactments, children's activities and games, 1860s fashion show, Fort Churchill State Historic Park, eight miles south of Silver Springs, 577-2345

Churchill County Gala Horse Event, Oct. 2-3, fairgrounds, Fallon, 423-7733
Nevada Dirt Track Championship, Oct. 8-9, includes bombers, foreign mini stock, street stock, sprint 100s, open competition, and sportsmen, on Sat. gates open 2pm, racing 4pm, on Sun. gates open noon, racing 2pm, Rattlesnake Speedway, Fallon, 423-2544
Hidden Cave Tours, Oct. 8 and 22, 9:30am, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677
Anonymous Four Concert, Oct. 21, all-woman quartet from New York performs a program of 13th- and 14th-century love songs, Churchill County High School Theater, Fallon, 423-1440
Halloween Train, Oct. 29, ride the *Ghost Train of Old Ely* in costume, Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 289-2085

PIONEER TERRITORY



September

Berlin-Ichthyosaur Fossil House and Berlin Ghost Town Tours, ranger leads tours of 225-million-year-old ichthyosaur fossils and the Berlin ghost town site, call for times and days, Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, near Gabbs, 964-2440
Pioche Labor Day Celebration, Sept. 2-5, parade, mining events, street dance, Pioche Desert Golf Classic, 10K run, horseshoes, softball, barbecue, live music, fireworks, 962-5544
Concerts in the Vineyard, Sept. 3, free, 7:30-9pm, Pahrump Valley Vineyards, Pahrump, 727-6900
IMCA Fall Classic, Sept. 3, Pahrump Valley Speedway, 727-7070
Saturday Night Park Program, Sept. 3, slide show on Eastern Nevada, free, Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles north of Panaca via U.S. 93, 728-4467
Beatty Days, Sept. 3-5, Nevada State Horseshoe Championships, street dance, barbecue in park, Beatty, 553-2424
VORRA Off-Road Race, Sept. 3-5, Yerington, 463-2245
Jazz in the Vineyard, Sept. 10, jazz concert, barbecue, 3-9:30pm, Pahrump Valley Vineyards, Pahrump, 727-6900
Saturday Night Park Program, Sept. 10, slide show on pinenut gathering, free, Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles north of Panaca via U.S. 93, 728-4467
Harvest Festival Classic, Sept. 16-17, fifth annual, stock car races, Pahrump Valley Speedway, 727-7070
Pahrump Valley Harvest Festival and PRCA Rodeo, Sept. 16-18, 9am parade on Sat., car-

nival, dances, live music, contests, booths, deep-pit barbecue, Community Park, Pahrump, 727-8195

Pine Nut Festival, All-Indian Rodeo, and Honoring Our Elders Powwow, Sept. 16-18, Schurz, 773-2048 (powwow) or 773-2306 (festival)

Fall UFO Friendship Campout, Sept. 16-18, UFO enthusiasts gather for fun and to exchange information, \$50 registration fee includes speakers and five meals, Little A 'Le' Inn, Rachel, 729-2515

Concerts in the Vineyard, Sept. 17 free, 7:30-9pm, Pahrump Valley Vineyards, Pahrump, 727-6900

Meadow Valley Day, Sept. 24, poker run, barbecue at Rose Park, Caliente, 726-3129

Concerts in the Vineyard, Sept. 24, free, 7:30-9pm, Pahrump Valley Vineyards, Pahrump, 727-6900

October

Concerts in the Vineyard, Oct. 1, free, 7:30-9pm, Pahrump Valley Vineyards, Pahrump, 727-6900

Railroad Valley Days, Oct. 1, turkey shoot, horseshoe pitching contests, giant pumpkin and sunflower contest, old-fashioned barbecue set on an early Nevada ranch and historic station, Currant, 52 miles south of Ely and 118 miles north of Tonopah on U.S. 6, 863-0271

Rotary Fun Day, Oct. 2, gymkhana, third annual Country Cruise with show 'n' shine, trap shoot, scooter races, crafts booths, horseshoes, 7am breakfast, 11:30am barbecue, sponsored by Smith Valley Rotary Club, Dressler Field,



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Wellington, 465-2354 or 465-2552

Grape Stomp '94, Oct. 8, live music, grape stompin' competitions, food, wine tours and tastings, noon-9:30pm, Pahrump Valley Vineyards, Pahrump, 727-6900

Rally the Valley, Oct. 8-9, poker run, barbecue, Beatty, 553-2424

High Desert Chili Cook-Off, Oct. 14-16, Miss Chile Pepper Contest, motorcycle rally, Saddle West Hotel, Pahrump, 727-1111

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RURAL EVENTS

Harvest Sale and Auction, Oct. 16, 22nd annual, crafts booths, flea market, homemade baked goods, jams, and jellies, produce booths with onions, garlic, potatoes, and pumpkins, doors open at 10am, auction begins at noon, Smith Valley Community Hall, Wellington, 465-2304

Great Beatty Burro Races, Oct. 28-30, second annual, burro races, beauty pageant, trail rides on horseback, horseshoe tournament, Beatty, 553-2424

Pitch and Witch, Oct. 29-30, horseshoe tournament, Halloween costume party, Burro Inn Casino, Beatty, 553-2445

COMING EVENTS

Elko All-Breed Bull Sale and Dance, Nov. 4-5, Elko, 738-3616

Moapa Valley Holiday Craft Fair, Nov. 5, Logandale, 397-8088

Nevada State Seniors Bowling Tournament, Nov. 5-6 and 12-13, Pahrump, 727-6776

Veterans Powwow, Nov. 11-13, Duck Valley Reservation, Owyhee, 757-3161

Walker Lake Fishing Derby, Nov. 25-27, Hawthorne, 945-5896

Festival of Trees, Dec. 2, Elko, 738-4091

Stagecoach Shoot, Jan. 20-22, Beatty, 553-2424

Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Jan. 24-28, Elko, 738-7508

SHOWGUIDE

Cowboy Country

Battle Mountain: Owl Club, 635-5155

Elko: Commercial Hotel, 738-3181: Comedy on Wed. Red Lion, 738-2111 or 800-545-0044 (Western U.S. outside Nevada). Stockmen's Hotel, 738-5141

Jackpot: Barton's Club 93, 755-2341. Cactus Pates, 755-2321: Highway 101, Sept. 9-10; Juice Newton, Sept. 13-18; Janie Fricke, Sept. 20-25; Danny Marona, Sept. 27-Oct. 9; T.G. Sheppard, Oct. 25-30; Buck Ram's Platters, Nov. 1-6 and 8-9. Horseshu Casino, 755-2331

Mill City (on I-80): Burns Bros. Casino, Mr. B's Lounge, 538-7306

Wendover: Nevada Crossing, 664-4000. Peppermill, 664-2255 or 800-648-9660 (U.S. outside Nevada): Area Code 402, thru Sept. 4; Touch of Silk, Aug. 30-Sept. 11. Red Garter, 664-2111 or 800-982-2111 (continental U.S. outside Nevada): Lewis and Clark, Sept. 6-18; The Look, Sept. 27-Oct. 9; Living Daylights, Oct. 18-23; Alan Redstone, Oct. 19-29. Silver Smith, 664-2231 or 800-354-3671: Nightly entertainment. State Line, 664-2221 or 800-648-9668: Nightly entertainment

Winnemucca: Winners Hotel, 623-2511: Karaoke on Mon.; comedy on Wed.; live entertainment Tues.-Sun.

Pony Express Territory

Ely: Hotel Nevada, 289-6665: Comedy on Tues.; Marshal Law, thru Sept. 30

Fallon: Bonanza Inn, 423-3111 ext. 47 Fallon Nugget, 423-3111

Pioneer Territory

Beatty: Stagecoach, 553-2419

Hawthorne: El Capitan, 945-3321

Pahrump: Saddle West Casino, 727-5953 or 800-433-3987: Ink Spots, Oct. 28-29; A Night of Comedy, Nov. 11



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Country singer Bobbie Cryner performs September 30 in Fallon.

Tonopah: Mizpah Hotel, 482-6202. Station House, 482-9777

Yerington: Casino West, 463-2481: Karaoke, indf. Dini's Lucky Club, 463-2868: Entertainment TBA

ATTRACTIONS TOURS & MUSEUMS

Cowboy Country

Bonneville Salt Flats: Wendover, 801-977-4300
Buckaroo Hall of Fame: 50 Winnemucca Blvd. W., Winnemucca, 623-2225

Giant Tufa Park: West of Lovelock, 273-7213
Humboldt Museum: Jungo Rd. and Maple Ave., Winnemucca, 623-2912

Jarbridge Wilderness Area: 208-543-4129
Marzen House Museum: Marzen Ln., Lovelock, 273-7213

Northeastern Nevada Museum: 1515 Idaho St., Elko, 738-3418

Western Folklife Center: 501 Railroad St., Elko, 738-7508

Wild Horse State Recreation Area: 65 miles north of Elko, 758-6493

Pioneer Territory

Belmont Courthouse Historic Site: 867-3001
Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park: 22 miles east of Gabbs, 964-2440 or 867-3001

Cathedral Gorge State Park: Panaca, 728-4467
Central Nevada Museum: Tonopah, 482-9676
Death Valley National Monument: Via Beatty, 619-786-2331

Lincoln County Museum: Pioche, 962-5207
Lyon County Museum: 215 S. Main St., Yerington, 463-3341 ext. 255 or 463-3721

Million Dollar Courthouse: Pioche, 962-5182
Mineral County Historical Museum: 400 10th St., Hawthorne, 945-5142

Pahrump Valley Vineyards: Winery tours, 3810 Winery Rd., 727-6900

Rhyolite Bottle House, Historic Site: 553-2424
Spring Valley State Park: Pioche, 962-5102

Walker Lake State Recreation Area: Hawthorne, 945-5896

Pony Express Territory

Cave Lake State Recreation Area: 15 miles south of Ely, 728-4467

Churchill County Museum and Hidden Cave: Tours, 1050 S. Maine St., Fallon, 885-6100

Dayton State Park: 687-5678

East Ely Railroad Depot Museum: 289-1663

Eureka Opera House: Open Mon.-Fri. or by appointment, tours available, 10201 Main St., Eureka, 237-6006

Eureka Sentinel Museum: Eureka, 237-5010 or 237-5484

Fort Churchill State Historic Park: Silver Springs, 577-2345

Great Basin National Park: Baker, 234-7331

Hickison Petroglyph Recreation Site: 24 miles

east of Austin on U.S. 50

Nevada Northern Railway Museum: Seasonal, East Ely, 289-2085

Sand Mountain: 20 miles east of Fallon, U.S. 50, 885-6000

Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Site: 16 miles (11 dirt) south of Ely

White Pine Public Museum: 2000 Aultman St., Ely, 289-4710

A Reminder: To confirm dates and times, please use the phone number listed with each event. Remember, when calling long distance within the state, you must dial "1" followed by Nevada's area code (702) and then the seven-digit number. For hotels' toll-free phone numbers, call 800-555-1212.

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DINING DIRECTORY

The following Nevada dining directory includes current magazine advertisers. Each listing gives sample dishes, whether breakfast, lunch, or dinner (B, L, D) are served, and accepted credit cards. Price ranges refer to typical entree price per person: up to \$10 (\$), \$11 to \$20 (\$\$), \$21 to \$30 (\$\$\$), and more than \$30 (\$\$\$\$). To phone from out of state or long distance in-state, the area code is 702 throughout Nevada.

LAS VEGAS

AMERICAN

Riviera Hotel/Kady's Coffee Shop—794-9318. Deli-style restaurant open 24 hours with daily specials, deli, and kosher items. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

Sam's Town/Mary's Diner—5111 Boulder Hwy., 454-8073. A '50s flair. Blue plate specials served 24 hours. B, L, D. \$, major.

Sam's Town/Smokey Joe's 24 Hour Cafe & Market—5111 Boulder Hwy., 456-7777. Barbecue specialties served 24 hours. B, L, D. \$, major.

Sam's Town/Uptown Buffet—5111 Boulder Hwy., 454-8048. B, L, D. \$, major.

FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

Las Vegas Hilton/Le Montrachet—732-5111. Gourmet French cuisine, jackets required, reservations suggested. D. \$\$\$\$.

INTERNATIONAL

Riviera Hotel/Mardi Gras Food Court—Nine quick-service restaurants serving food from around the world. B, L, D. \$, no CC.

Riviera Hotel/World's Fare Buffet—794-9400. Features a different international cuisine every day. B, L, D. \$, major.

ITALIAN

Imperial Palace/Pizza Palace—794-3261. Pizza, pasta, and salads. L, D. \$, major.

Las Vegas Hilton/Andiamo—732-5111. Northern Italian cuisine prepared in an exhibit kitchen, fish and poultry specialties. D. \$\$, major.

Riviera Hotel/Ristorante Italiano—794-9363. Vermicelli salsa bella vista, lobster Francaise, and fresh seafood. D. \$-\$\$\$\$, major.

MEXICAN

Las Vegas Hilton/Margaritagrille—732-5111. Fajitas, burritos, chimichangas, and tostadas. D. \$\$, major.

Sam's Town/Willy and Jose's Mexican Cantina—5111 Boulder Hwy., 454-8044. Authentic Mexican dishes in Old Mexico setting. D. \$, major.

ORIENTAL

Imperial Palace/Ming Terrace—794-3261. Mandarin and Cantonese cuisine, abalone, kung pao shrimp, roast duck. D. \$\$, major.

Las Vegas Hilton/Benihana Village—732-5111. Two traditional-style Japanese restaurants: hibachi and robata. D. \$-\$\$\$.

Riviera Hotel/Rik'Shaw—794-9537. Pineapple duck, orange roughly with black pepper sauce. Beef, shrimp, chicken, and pork sautéed with Chinese vegetables in oyster sauce. D. \$-\$\$, major.

STEAK AND SEAFOOD

Imperial Palace/Seahouse—794-3261. Alaskan King crab legs, hot and cold appetizers, seafood salads. D. \$\$, major.

Las Vegas Hilton/Hilton Steak House—732-5111. Steaks and fresh seafood prepared over mesquite wood. D. \$\$\$, major.

Riviera Hotel/Kristofer's—794-9233. Steak, seafood, and chicken. Complete dinners include glass of house wine, vegetable tray, breads, salad, entree, and dessert bonbons. D. \$\$, major.

Sam's Town/Diamond Lil's—5111 Boulder Hwy., 454-8009. Fresh fish and seafood daily. D, Sun. brunch. \$-\$\$, major.



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LAUGHLIN

Colorado Belle/Orleans Room—298-4000. Sunset supper menu. D. \$, major.

Edgewater/Bountiful Buffet—298-2453. B, L, D. \$, no CC.

Edgewater/The Hickory Pit Steak House—298-2453. Steak, seafood, prime rib, barbecue ribs, and chicken. D. \$\$, major.

Gold River Resort/Cafe Victoria Coffee Shop—298-2242. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. \$, AE, MC, V.

Gold River Resort/Opera House—298-2242. Buffet. B, L, D. \$, AE, MC, V.

Gold River Resort/Pasta Cucina—298-2242. Italian dinners. \$\$, AE, MC, V.

Gold River Resort/The Lodge—298-2242. Steakhouse. D. \$-\$\$\$.

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/Buffer—882-1626. Sun. champagne brunch, Sat. breakfast buffet, Fri. seafood buffet. B, L, D. \$, major.

Carson Nugget/Coffee Shop—882-1626. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. \$, major.

Carson Valley Inn/Fiona's—Minden, 782-4347. Steaks, seafood, veal, soup and salad bar. L, D, Sun. brunch. \$-\$\$, major.

Carson Valley Inn/Katie's—Minden, 782-9711. Four-course prime rib dinner, steak and lobster, half-pound burgers. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

Carson Valley Inn/Michael's—Minden, 782-9711. Rack of lamb and fresh seafood creations. D. Closed Tuesdays. \$-\$\$, major.

Fitzgeralds Reno/Molly's Garden—785-3300. Omelets, prime rib, sandwiches, salads. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. \$, major.

Fitzgeralds Reno/Starlight Buffet—785-3300. Open daily. B, L, D. \$, major.

Holiday Hotel Casino/The Shore Room—Reno, 329-0411. Fresh salmon in chive sauce, chicken, prime rib. Steamed vegetable basket. B, L, D. \$, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/General Store—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, giant apple pancake, seafood Louis. B, L, D. \$, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Rotisserie—Sparks, 356-3300. Buffet. L, D, Sun. brunch. \$-\$\$, major.

Riverboat Restaurant and Coffeeshop—323-8877.



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Sharkey's Nugget—Gardnerville, 782-3133. Prime rib is house specialty. B, L, D. \$, no CC.

BASQUE

Louis' Basque Corner—301 E. 4th St., Reno, 323-7203. Sweetbreads, tripe, paella, other seafood dishes. L, D. \$\$, major.

FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

Eldorado/The Vintage—786-5700. Continental cuisine, daily specials, choice dry-aged beef, mesquite-grilled. Complimentary wine tasting from award-winning wine list. D. \$\$, major.

INTERNATIONAL

Eldorado/Choices—786-5700. An express cafe with hofbrau, deli, bakery, ice cream. B, L, D. \$, major.

Eldorado/Tivoli Gardens—786-5700. Multi-ethnic, 24-hour restaurant. Italian, South American, Caribbean, Thai, Szechwan, Vietnamese, Cantonese, and American cuisine. B, L, D. \$, major.

ITALIAN

Eldorado/La Strada—786-5700. Northern Italian cuisine with veal, chicken, and seafood entrees plus homemade pasta, sauces, and desserts. Award-winning wine list. D. \$\$, major.

ORIENTAL

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Trader Dick's—Sparks, 356-3300. Cashew chicken, Szechwan specialties, flaming dagger brochette. L, D. \$\$, major.

STEAK AND SEAFOOD

Carson Nugget/Oyster Bar—882-1626. L, D. \$, major.
Carson Nugget/Steak House—882-1626. Veal scaloppini, scampi in dill sauce, chicken piccata, escargot. D. \$\$, major.

Eldorado/Grill and Rotisserie—786-5700. Mahogany-

fueled rotisserie and grill, fresh fish, fowl, lamb, and USDA choice dry-aged beef, soup and salad bar. D. \$\$, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/John's Oyster Bar—Sparks, 356-3300. Lazyman's cioppino, seafood stews. L, D. \$\$, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Steak House—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, steak and lobster, snapper, shrimp Louis. L, D. \$\$, major.

Riverboat/Oyster Bar—323-8877. Riverboat cioppino,

L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

Fernley: Sturgeon's—575-2222. Coffee shop, family dining room. Steaks, seafood. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

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, breakfasts, hamburgers, steak, and seafood. B, L, D. \$, AE, MC, V.

bay shrimp cocktail. L, D. \$, major.

LAKE TAHOE AMERICAN

Caesars Tahoe/Cafe Roma—Stateline, 588-3515. Lamb chops, prime rib. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

ITALIAN

Caesars Tahoe/Primavera—Stateline, 588-3515. Linguini carbonara, tenderloin pizzaiola, pollo allo spumante. D. \$\$, major.

ORIENTAL

Caesars Tahoe/Empress Court—Stateline, 588-3515. Szechwan, Mandarin. D. \$\$, major.

STEAK AND SEAFOOD

Caesars Tahoe/Broiler Room—Stateline, 588-3515. Prime rib, seafood, Cajun specialties. Reservations for large parties. D. \$\$, major.

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,



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Pari-Mutuel Thoroughbred, Quarter Horse & Mule Racing
Nevada Open Horse Show & Futurity

Sept. 17 & 18
Pari-Mutuel Thoroughbred, Quarter Horse & Mule Racing
5th Ranch Hand Rodeo

November 3, 4, & 5
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Cookin' With '¡Conga!'

BY ANN HENDERSON

"¡Conga!" at the Rio Suite Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas is a noisy, colorful celebration that is both tasty and tasteful. Audience participation is a major ingredient, especially during the conga-line finale in which showgirls and showgoers snake their way through the casino. Even your dinner is a production number.

Just as "¡Conga!" is a fresh concept for a Nevada dinner show, so is its setting. The 430-seat Copacabana Theatre has 12 video walls that project scenes of beaches, sunsets, and the performers. The circular room with individual tables and tiered seating resembles an elegant dinner theater of the 1930s, and the chairs swivel so you don't miss any of the action.

The stars of "¡Conga!" are Mary Jo Coyle, who plays a fruit-topped Rio Rita with an exceptional voice, and Dick Franco, who mixes culinary metaphors as Chef Rico. Coyle is particularly stunning in the torchy "Astrud," which she sings atop a piano that rises from the center of the room. She also offers a tribute to Carmen Miranda with the tongue-numbing "Tico, Tico, Tico," one of Miranda's signature songs.

Franco, in Chef Rico's glittering kitchen attire, is the show's comic element. He displays his juggling talents while lamenting his predicament as an Italian caught up in Latin rhythms.

The dancers are limber, leggy, and flat where they ought and not where they ought not. The costumes by Daniel Storey present a rainbow of colors with elaborate Miranda-style headpieces. The costumes aren't entirely fruit—some dancers are dressed as carrots and corn.



Kooky cooks: "¡Conga!" stars Chef Rico (Dick Franco) and Rio Rita (Mary Jo Coyle).

Indeed, food is the prevailing theme of "¡Conga!" Singers croon about adding spice to your life. There are glimpses on the video walls of chefs working back in the kitchen, and each course of your dinner is served on cue. When Chef Rico yells, "Are you ready to conga?" near the beginning of the show, tray-toting servers bring your spinach salad followed by a choice of salmon, prime rib,

or chicken entrees. Later your dessert comes on cue, too.

In the grand finale, the audience is invited to dance with the waiters and the show's performers. As for the conga line that leads into the casino at the end, just follow the showgirls in the feathers.

Ann Henderson is the Las Vegas representative for Nevada Magazine.

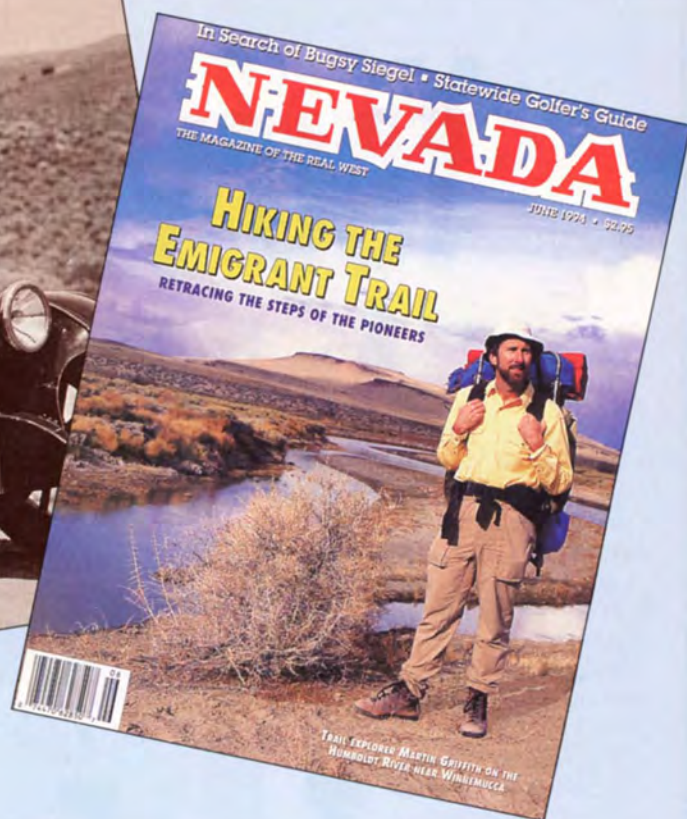
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"¡Conga!" plays in the Rio's Copacabana Theatre in Las Vegas at 6 and 8:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Showgoers can choose from three dinner entrees: champagne salmon, prime rib, or roasted chicken. Tickets are \$29.95 per person, which includes dinner but not taxes and tip.

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