

NEVADA LEGENDS

HISTORY | NEVADA

The Legends at Sparks Marina is a 365-day destination designed for locals, for tourists and for everyone interested in experiencing an attractive and modern shopping, dining and entertainment environment.

This shopping center model makes a lot of sense for this community. By combining visitor attractions with appealing everyday shopping for locals, Legends is busy and vibrant every day of the year.

Legends offers a wide variety of experiences that include outlet and brand name shopping, big box and value retailers as well as quality restaurants. This property is unusual in that it does appeal to so many people, whether they live in Sparks or are visiting the region. Shoppers will be able to buy a pair of running shoes at Scheels, find a party dress at Banana Republic and accessories at Forever 21, grab a slice of pizza at Grimaldi's and stop for some essentials at Target or Walmart. It's a very modern shopping experience.

Nevada Legends

KATIE CHRISTY FRAZIER

Native American Artist and Educator

Born ca. 1891

Native Land Named "Tizipoona," Katie Christy Frazier grew up following the old ways, speaking Northern Paiute, camping at Pyramid Lake, digging camas on the Madeline Plains, harvesting pine nuts up north and wintering in Honey Lake Valley. At age eight she attended the state-required, military-style boarding school where Indian children learned white ways. Katie spent her life preserving Native traditions and teaching Pyramid Lake children Paiute dances, songs and language.

PHILIPP DEIDESHEIMER

Inventor

Born 1832

Darmstadt, Hesse While working in Virginia City on the Comstock Lode, mining engineer Philipp Deidesheimer devised a method of timbering mines that would shore up the walls so miners could work safely at any width, depth or length.

WOVOKA

Native American Prophet

Born in Smith Valley around 1856

Wovoka ("wood cutter") was the son of a Paiute medicine man. At age 14, he went to live with white rancher David Wilson, learned English and was renamed Jack Wilson. At age 30, a near death experience gave Wovoka a vision that native tribes and ancestors would again live, reign and flourish, without fighting or harming, while the white man would vanish. He revived the Ghost Dance, folded this vision into it, and gave tribes hope.

HANNAH KEZIAH CLAPP

Educator

Born 1824 • near Albany, New York

Education pioneer Hannah Keziah Clapp taught at Union Seminary in Ypsilanti, Michigan and served as principle of Lansing's Female Seminary before moving west. She co-founded the private, coed Sierra Seminary in Carson City, Nevada. Hannah's graduates became important Nevada citizens. In 1887, she became the University of Nevada's first Professor of English and History and its volunteer Librarian. She grew the library to 6000 books and 5,000 pamphlets

THE ECONOMICS OF DIVORCE

Nevada's competitive divorce trade increased state revenues during otherwise bleak economic times. In 1931, the state legislature reduced the residency requirement to a mere six weeks. Grounds for divorce, with the exception of insanity, needed no substantiation. People flocked to Nevada, filling hotels, boarding houses and dude ranches. Even tent cities were erected to house the overflow. Postcards advertised the divorce trade and Reno became known as the Divorce Capital of the World.

JOHN SNOWSHOE THOMPSON

Hero, Explorer and Mail Carrier

April 30, 1827 • Tinn, Norway

John (Snowshoe) Thompson delivered mail between Placerville, California and Genoa, Nevada from 1856 until his death in 1876. In winter, he wore 10-foot skis and used a single long pole that he held in both hands. He traveled Johnson's Cutoff, a trail marked by John Calhoun Johnson, the first man to deliver mail over the Sierra's. Thompson traveled without blanket or gun. Over the years, he saved the lives of seven people.

THE VIRGINIA AND TRUCKEE RAILROAD

After silver and gold were discovered in Virginia City, mine owners needed to transport ore to the refineries along the Carson River, and to bring lumber from Lake Tahoe for timbering the mines. The Virginia and Truckee Railroad Company was incorporated in March, 1868 and soon ran from Virginia City to Reno. In the 1870s, the mines were so productive that 30 to 45 trains ran the rough route daily.

ANN HERBERT SCOTT

Writer

November 19, 1926 • Chestnut Hill, PA

Quaker-educated Ann Herbert (Howe) Scott earned her BA in English at the University of Pennsylvania and her M.A. in Social Ethics at Yale University. In college she volunteered on behalf of inner-city children and later authored award-winning children's books dealing with ethnic, rural and western themes. Ann and her husband William Scott moved to Reno in 1961, where she advocated literacy and developed festivals and workshops promoting it.

EVA BERTRAND ADAMS

Director of U.S. Mint

September 10, 1908 • Wonder Mining Camp

Eva Bertrand Adams graduated from Reno High at age 14. Despite having a scholarship to Vassar, she attended the University of Nevada and later taught English there. Eva joined Senator Pat McCarran's administrative staff in Washington, D.C. While working in Washington, she earned a Master's degree in law from George Washington University. President John F. Kennedy appointed her to be Director of the U.S. Mint, a position she held for eight years.

WILD HORSE ANNIE

Animal Rights Activist

March 5, 1912 • Reno, Nevada

Velma Bronn Johnston's compassion for children and animals grew out of her traumatic childhood with disfiguring polio. Velma and husband Charlie ran a dude ranch for troubled children. One morning in 1950, Velma saw an accident involving a truck carrying wild horses removed from public land to slaughter. She established special wild horse refuges, the International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros and the Wild Horses Organized Assistance.

EMMA WIXOM NEVADA

Lyric Soprano Opera Singer

February 7, 1859 • Alpha Mining Camp

As a youngster, Emma Wixom sang in town events like Austin's Gridley Sack of Flour Parade. At age 12, she studied music and languages at Mills Seminary in Oakland, California. She perfected her voice in Vienna under Mathilde Marchesi and debuted as Emma Nevada (in honor of her state) on May 17, 1880 at Her Majesty's Theatre in London. A favorite of Queen Victoria's, Emma sang in Europe, lived in Paris, and retired in 1910.

DAT SO LA LEE

Native American Artist

Born ca.1829 • Carson Valley

Washoe Indian artist Dat So La Lee made her living as a laundress and cook for miners and their families. Her birth name, Dabuda, means Young Willow. At age 45, Dat So La Lee began weaving baskets out of willow, a several thousand year old tradition she learned as a girl. Merchandisers Abe and Amy Cohn recognized the artistry of Dat So La Lee's work. In exchange for her baskets, they provided a comfortable life for the artist and her husband.

JENNIFER HARMAN

Professional Poker Player

November 29, 1964 • Reno, Nevada

A poker player since age eight, Jennifer Harman graduated from the University of Nevada at Reno and began playing professionally. In 2000, she won her first World Series Poker bracelet in a game she had never played before. She won her second bracelet in 2002. In 2004 she took a year off to have a second kidney transplant. She founded the not-for-profit CODA, Creating Organ Donation Awareness, to highlight a disease that also took her mother and her sister.

MARK TWAIN

Journalist, Novelist, Essayist and Humorist

November 30, 1835 • Florida, Missouri

In August of 1861, Samuel Clemens traveled to Carson City with his older brother Orion. Clemens tried mining, but instead earned a solid \$25 a week reporting for Virginia City's Territorial Enterprise. Signing his stories 'Josh,' Clemens wrote teasing and colorful news accounts, which shaped him as a storyteller and humorist. He eventually became known as Mark Twain. In 1864, he left Virginia City after almost engaging in a duel.

JOSIE REED PEARL

Prospector and Miner

December 19, 1873 • Evening Shade, Arkansas

At age nine, Josie Reed began prospecting. At 13, she filed a gold claim in New Mexico, and sold it later for \$5,000. In 1904, Josie married mining engineer Lane Pearl. They migrated to mining camps in Goldfield and Ward, Nevada. Josie continued prospecting while working in restaurants and boarding houses. After Lane died in 1918, rugged Josie staked and guarded mining claims in Pine Forest Range. She built her cabin in Cove Canyon, and lived there 40 years.

MOLLY FLAGG KNUDTSEN

Cattle Rancher, Poet and University Regent

September 15, 1915 • New York, New York

Born into New York high society, Thyrza Benson Flagg (Molly) attended London's King's College, married three times, and settled in Nevada where she pursued ranching, writing, and archaeology. Interested in rural education, she joined the University of Nevada Board of Regents. Molly helped establish the University of Nevada Press, the Department of Anthropology UNR, the community college system, the College of Agriculture and the University of Nevada

WUZZIE GEORGE

Native American Artist

Born ca. 1880 • Dixie Valley, Nevada

A Northern Paiute whose ancestors were 'Cattail-Eaters,' Wuzzie George practiced her native survival arts. While her parents worked, Wuzzie spent her childhood days with Grandmother Mattie fishing, gathering berries, tules and medicinal plants, making baskets and rabbit skin blankets and hearing stories of her culture. Later in life, Wuzzie worked with anthropologist Margaret Wheat to record Paiute customs, and appeared in a Smithsonian documentary.

GEORGE WASHINGTON GALE FERRIS, JR.

Inventor

February 14, 1859 • Galesburg, Illinois

At age five, George Ferris, Jr. moved to Carson City, Nevada with his family. In 1881, he graduated in Civil Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and founded G.W.G. Ferris & Co. in Pittsburgh. When Exposition directors challenged American engineers to conceive a grand monument, Ferris proposed a giant wheel and was initially rejected. At Chicago's 1893 World Exposition, one million people rode his Ferris Wheel.

NICHOLAS BENTON ALEXANDER IV

Actor

May 26, 1911 • Goldfield, Nevada

Ben Alexander grew up in California and began his film career at age five in Every Pearl a Tear. In the World War I epic Hearts of the World, Alexander portrayed the brother of Lillian Gish's character. In 1930, he played an amputee in All Quiet on the Western Front. In the 1940s he worked in radio, and returned to 'on-camera' work from 1953-1959, starring opposite Jack Webb in the television crime series Dragnet.

HELEN DELICH BENTLEY

Newspaperwoman and Politician

November 28, 1923 • Ruth, Nevada

Maryland republican Helen Delich Bentley served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1985 until 1995. She graduated from the University of Missouri, worked as a maritime reporter, was editor of The Baltimore Sun and became a television producer. She served as chair of the Federal Maritime Commission from 1969 until 1975. Bentley is an active businesswoman, CEO of her own company, and an international trade, business and government consultant.

A.E. CAHLAN

Newspaper Tycoon

April 8, 1899 • Reno, Nevada

Albert Cahlan majored in electrical engineering at the University of Nevada. He came to Las Vegas as a teacher, and became a newspaper editor. Cahlan transformed a weekly journal into Nevada's largest newspaper. He used his media clout to influence community development and helped streamline the counting of voter returns so that election results could be shared quickly. He wrote his editorial column From Where I Sit for 40 years.

ROBERT COLE CAPLES

Artist

November 26, 1908 • New York, New York

Robert Cole Caples studied art in New York with Frederic Taubes. He moved to Reno in 1924, attended the Community Arts School in Santa Barbara California, and drew Native Americans for the Federal Arts Project during the Depression. His art distills landscapes to their geographic shapes and atmospheric essence, creating haunting and masterful works. He was known for his portfolio People of the Silent Land: A Portfolio of Nevada Indians.

CHRIS CARR

Professional Football Player

April 30, 1983 • Reno, Nevada

A two-sport athlete in football and basketball at Robert McQueen High in Reno, Nevada, Chris Carr distinguished himself in his senior year as Northern Nevada Player of the Year and Offensive Player of the Year. In college, Carr was a four-year letter winner at Boise State. He excelled in the classroom as well, and won the Pat Fuller Memorial Award for academic achievement. Carr signed with the Oakland Raiders as a free agent in 2005 and in 2006 was their all-time leader in kickoff returns.

JAMES E. CASEY

Industry Leader

March 29, 1888 • Pick Handle Gultch, Nevada

James Casey grew up in Seattle during the Klondike gold rush. In 1907, he borrowed \$100 and at age 19 founded the American Messenger Company. With the motto Best Service and Lowest Rates, the company delivered by foot, bicycle or motorcycle. Casey employed his brother George and other teenagers. In 1913, his company merged with Evert McCabe's Motorcycle Messengers, to form Merchants Parcel Delivery. In 1919, the company expanded and became United Parcel Service.

WALTER VAN TILBURG CLARK

Writer

August 3, 1909 • East Orland, Maine

Walter Van Tilburg Clark grew up and attended college in Reno, where his father was University of Nevada president. In 1933, he married and taught high school English in Cazenovia, New York, and began writing fiction. Although known for his novel *The Oxbow Incident*, which eventually was made into a movie starring Henry Fonda, Clark spent most of his life teaching English at the University of Nevada, Reno. The success of his novels gained him literary acclaim and notoriety as a western writer.

ELIZA COOK

Self-declared First Woman Doctor of Nevada, Suffragist and Temperance Activist

February 5, 1856 • Salt Lake City, Utah

The daughter of English immigrants, Eliza grew up in Carson Valley, where there were no schools. She read a home doctor book, which sparked her interest in medicine. Eliza entered Cooper Medical College (now Stanford University) in 1880, received her degree in 1884, and did graduate work in New York. She practiced medicine in Carson Valley, helped form the Nevada Equal Suffrage League, and tirelessly campaigned for equal rights and temperance.

DAN DE QUILLE

Writer and Humorist

May 9, 1829 • Knox County, Ohio

In 1857, William Wright left his family in Iowa and ventured west to prospect for gold. He wrote articles on mining for California newspapers. After hearing about the Comstock Lode, Wright moved to Virginia City. He worked at the Enterprise newspaper, writing under the pen name Dan DeQuille. His articles, stories and books captured the grit and spirit of western mining. In 1863, Mark Twain worked under DeQuille's editorial supervision.

FREDERIC J. DeLONGCHAMPS

Architect

June 2, 1882 • Reno, Nevada

Educated as a mining engineer at the University of Nevada, Frederic DeLongchamps began his brilliant career in 1907 as an architect in partnership with Ira W. Tesch. Though he had no formal training, he became Nevada's most prolific architect, designing nine courthouses, many state buildings and the Nevada Buildings for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in 1915. He was the only person to serve officially as Nevada State Architect.

EILLEY ORRUM BOWERS

Entrepreneur

September 6, 1826 • Scottish Lowlands

Eilley Orrum Bowers helped settle the Washoe Valley. When her Mormon husband was called to Salt Lake City, she moved to Johntown and ran boarding houses for miners. Eilley became known as the Queen of the Comstock and owned property on the Lode. She remarried to Lemuel S. 'Sandy' Bowers. They became two of the region's first millionaires, and built the famous Bowers Mansion, considered the ultimate resort.

FREMONT CANNON

The University of Nevada, Reno's Wolf Pack and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas's Rebels have been rivals since 1970 in the Battle for Nevada. The winner of this intrastate football competition paints the wooden carriage of a replica howitzer, the 545-pound Fremont Cannon, their school colors, and displays it until the next annual game. The cannon is the largest and most expensive college football trophy. Built by the Nevada Mines Division of Kennecott Copper Corporation, it resembles one that explorer John C. Fremont hauled west.

JOHN C. FRÈMONT

Explorer and Politician

January 21, 1813 ĩ Savannah, Georgia

In 1888, Second Lieutenant John C. Fremont of the Corp of Topographical Engineers began surveying the West. Married to Jessie Benton, daughter of Thomas Hart Benton, he led expeditions through the Oregon Territory, the Great Basin and the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The first European American to see Lake Tahoe, Fremont saved Kit Carson's life and became an American Civil War general, California senator, Southwest Pacific Railroad owner and Arizona Territory governor.

WILLIAM F. HARRAH

Businessman and Casino Owner

September 2, 1911 JOHN C. FRÈMONT South Pasadena, CA

During the Depression, mechanical engineering student William Harrah left UCLA to work several family businesses, including a hot dog stand, a pool hall and a bingo-style, Reno (or Circle) Game, which he turned into a \$50,000-a-year business at age 23. In 1937 he opened Harrah's Casino in Reno, ran honest games and treated customers and employees fairly. Harrah helped create the Nevada Gaming Control Board and the Gambling Commission.

JAMES HULSE

Writer

June 4, 1930 • Pioche, Nevada

A writer of philosophical and historical breadth, James Hulse's historical works appeal to multiple audiences. Hulse has been a news journalist, teacher, scholar and social activist. He graduated with a Ph.D. in history from Stanford, University and taught at the University of Nevada, Reno. His longstanding and popular book titles include The Nevada Adventure (which has seen six editions), and Forty Years in the Wilderness: Impressions of Nevada 1940 - 1980.

WILLIAM P. LEAR

Inventor

June 26, 1902 • Hannibal, Missouri

Prolific inventor William Lear owned more than 100 patents for electronics across three industries. At age 20 he founded Quincy Radio Laboratory, and designed car radios and amplifiers. His radio compass, autopilot and automatic landing systems for aircraft aided Allied victory in WWII. In the 1960s, he formed Learjet, and also invented the eight-track tape player. In 1967, Lear bought land in Reno near a deserted airbase, hoping to produce a pollution-free automotive engine.

LEGENDS RENO-TAHOE OPEN

Since 1999, the world's best golfers have competed in northern Nevada's only PGA TOUR stop: The Legends Reno-Tahoe Open. This event draws 132 PGA TOUR professionals together in competition for a \$3 million purse. The tournament is operated and managed by the Reno-Tahoe Open Foundation, whose members include RED Development, the Eldorado Hotel Casino, Montrílux Development Group, Reno-Sparks Convention & Visitors Authority, NV Energy and EMPLOYERS Insurance Group.

GREG LeMOND

Professional Cyclist

June 26, 1961 • Reno, Nevada

Cycling and the name Greg LeMond are synonymous. In 1982 he won a silver medal at the World Cycling Championship. In 1983 he became the first American to win a road cycling World Championship. In 1986, he became the first American to win the Tour de France. LeMond missed the race in 1987 and 1988, as he was recovering from being shot in a hunting accident. His passion for cycling triumphed when he again won the Tour de France in 1989 and 1990.

JOHN WILLIAM MACKAY

Capitalist and Entrepreneur

November 28, 1831 • Dublin, Ireland

After immigrating to New York City in 1840, John William Mackay later began mining the Sierra Nevada foothills. In 1852, he partnered with three fellow Irishmen in Virginia City. They reworked the Comstock Lode, and in 1873 struck the 'big bonanza,' an ore body worth \$100,000,000. Mackay opened the Bank of Nevada in San Francisco, became a railroad director, dismantled the Jay Gould/Western Union communications monopoly and founded the Postal Telegraph Company

MAURICE McLOUGHLIN

Professional Tennis Player

January 7, 1890 • Carson City, Nevada

Nicknamed The California Comet, Maurice McLoughlin was the American West's first male champion tennis player. In 1913, he became the first American singles finalist at Wimbledon. McLoughlin blasted opponents with his powerful serve and controlled the court with his overhead volley. He won the singles at the U.S. Championships in 1912 and 1913. From 1912 to 1914, he and partner Thomas Bundy claimed the doubles title as well. In 1914, he earned the title World No. 1 Player.

ALBERT A. MICHELSON

Scientist and Nobel Prize Winner

December 19, 1852 • Strelno, Prussia

In 1854, Albert A. Michelson's family came to America, lived in New York and San Francisco, and eventually opened a dry goods business on the Comstock. Michelson finished high school in 1870, and lobbied for an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. He graduated there on May 31, 1873 and afterwards taught at several universities. Recognized for his work in physics, in 1907 he became the first American to win the Nobel Prize.

MINING THE COMSTOCK

At the Comstock mine, the treasured ore lay deep below unstable ground. Mining it challenged engineers and technology. Flooding, heat, poison gasses and ore transport were troubling issues. Entrepreneur Adolph Sutro built a tunnel running from Virginia City six miles southeast to Dayton, Nevada which drained and ventilated the Comstock so miners could bring out the ore. Timber to shore the mine was rafted either across Lake Tahoe or down the Carson River to nearby lumberyards.

NEWTON H. CRUMLEY

State Senator, University Regent and Businessman

February 3, 1911 • Tonapah, Nevada

A University of Nevada graduate and U.S. Army Air Corp pilot/colonel, Newton Crumley owned the Commercial Hotel in Elko. In 1941, he initiated the idea of drawing casino crowds with big name performers. He hired greats such as bandleader Ted Lewis, Jimmy Dorsey, Lawrence Welk and the Andrews Sisters. Crumley owned hotels in Elko and Reno, and served as state senator from 1954 - 1958 and on the University of Nevada Board of Regents.

LUTE PEASE

Cartoonist

March 27, 1869 • Winnemucca, Nevada

News editorial cartoonist Lute Pease joined the Newark Evening News in 1914. His distinguished 40-year career there earned him the 1949 Pulitzer Prize. His winning cartoon (titled 'Who, Me?') dealt with Union issues. It showed United Mine Workers of America President John L. Lewis standing with a pickaxe behind his back in front of a broken window marked 'Coal Strike.' A blackrobed figure named 'Court Order' points blame at the labor leader.

RAILROAD LABORERS

Chinese laborers built America's first transcontinental railroad line across Nevada and over the Sierras. They came from California gold rush country and Canton Province. Using picks, shovels, black powder, and steady labor, they lay seven to 10 miles of track a day. When the Central Pacific Railroad finally linked with the Union Pacific in 1869, 12,000 Chinese were suddenly out of work. Thousands walked 800 miles back to San Francisco, but four thousand became miners in Tuscarora, Nevada, making it the state's largest Chinese community.

BASQUE SHEEPHERDERS

Nomadic Folk Artists

Sheepherding once played a key role in the state's development. In 1900, 2.5 million head of sheep grazed Nevada land, mostly tended by Basque immigrants. The historical record of these sheepherders is etched in groves across northern Nevada high country, and on Reno's Peavine Mountain. As the sheep grazed, they carved their names, dates, images, messages, symbols, and thoughts into the Aspen trees. They also left behind cabins, ovens, cellars, and stone cairns marking boundaries.

RAYMOND I. 'PAPPY' SMITH

Casino Owner

April 30, 1887 • Addison, Vermont

Raymond Smith made his way in the world at age 14 working odd jobs. He began operating a roulette wheel at country fairs. His reputation for running a fair game earned him a fair profit. In 1936, he sent son Harold to Reno, and Harolds Club opened for business. Smith and his two sons finally had a permanent home for their traveling 'carny' show. In 1952, Harolds was the nation's largest gambling house. Smith rewarded his community's support with generous donations to organizations and causes.

JOHN SPARKS

Rancher and Governor

August 30, 1843 • Winston County, Mississippi

John Sparks joined the Texas Rangers in 1861, and protected settlers from the Comanche. His passion for cattle ranching and opportunity led him to establish a series of ranches in the west. Sparks invested in a Georgetown, Texas bank, and by 1883 controlled 6% of Nevada's land. His huge open-range cattle operation suffered catastrophic losses during the harsh winter of 1889-1890. Sparks turned to politics and was elected Governor of Nevada in 1902.

TY COBB

Journalist

September 21, 1915 • Virginia City, Nevada

Although named after baseball great Ty Cobb, Tyrus R. Cobb approached sports from another angle - - a typewriter keyboard. Ty's career in journalism began at age 13 as assistant to the editor for his Reno Boy Scout troop's newspaper. He graduated from the University of Nevada in 1937 and worked for the Nevada State Journal as a sports writer and sports editor. His popular sports column Inside Stuff ran 20 years. He also wrote more than 2000 articles for his column Cobbwebs.

SESSIONS S. WHEELER

Writer

April 27, 1911 • Fernley, Nevada

Sessions Samuel 'Buck' Wheeler earned his bachelors and masters degrees from the University of Nevada, Reno. He taught at Reno High School for 30 years and served as Nevada's first State Fish and Game Commission director. Wheeler wrote books about Nevada's great natural beauty, exploring topics such as the Black Rock Desert, Pyramid Lake, and Nevada outdoorsmen. In 1963, the University of Nevada awarded Wheeler the Distinguished Nevadan Award.

BIRD MAY WILSON

Attorney, Suffragist, Rancher and Stockbroker

May 20, 1865 • Sandoval, Illinois

The first woman to practice law in California federal courts, Bird Wilson moved to Manhattan, Nevada in 1906. She became the seventh woman admitted to the Nevada Bar, and helped found the Goldfield chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Nevada's first female stockbroker, Wilson tirelessly campaigned for women's rights, wrote and published 20,000 copies of the pamphlet Women Under Nevada Law, and lobbied to protect women and children

SARAH WINNEMUCCA

Native American Rights Advocate and Author

Born ca. 1844 • Humbolt Sink, Nevada

Paiute Princess Sarah Winnemucca, whose Indian name Thocmetony means 'Shell Flower,' was a translator for the U.S. Army during the Bannock War and for her people when they were forced onto the reservation. She became the first Native American to hold a copyright and publish a book in English. Her story Life Among the Piutes chronicles her people's first 40 years in contact with the white race. She traveled the U.S. lecturing about the Paiute culture.

THE JACKASS EXPRESS

The first U.S. mail service between California and Salt Lake City began in 1851. For \$14,000 per year, Absalom Woodward and George Chorpennig contracted with the government to deliver monthly. The firm's mail-carrying mule train was known as the 'Jackass Express,' or 'Jackass Mail.' The first trip left Sacramento May 1, 1851, and struggled over the Sierras to reach Carson Valley. Here a mail station was established, around which the town of Genoa, Nevada grew.

BEN PALMER

Horse and Cattle Rancher

Born ca. 1826

Ben Palmer was an entrepreneurial black man who arrived in 1853 from Missouri, where he had been a slave. Palmer settled in Carson Valley and laid claim to 320 acres. His sister Charlotte's white husband David Barber claimed 400 acres. Together they sold grazing rights to emigrants, cut grass for winter feed, and became respected horse breeders and cattle ranchers. Although he was one of the largest taxpayers in Douglas County in 1867, Palmer was not allowed to vote until after 1870

ROBERT HASLAM

Pony Express Rider, 'Pony Bob'

Born January 1840 • London England

Pony Express rider Pony Bob held records in speed, stamina and courage. In March, 1871 he carried Abraham Lincoln's inaugural address to California in just seven days and 17 hours. Lincoln's words sealed California's loyalty to the Union. He also made the longest ride - 380 miles roundtrip - forced by Indian attacks on stations and reluctant riders. Pony Bob once rode headlong into a party of Native warriors, who let him pass because of his bravery.

THE PONY EXPRESS

St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California

April 3, 1860 to October 28, 1861

In 1859, Senator Gwin of California expressed to W.H. Russell of Russell, Majors and Waddell (a firm operating the Overland Stage Line from the Missouri River to Salt Lake City) his desire for a speedier delivery of letters. Thus began the semi-weekly Pony Express delivery, whose operation included 500 mostly half-breed California mustang horses, 190 relay stations (29 in Nevada) and 80 riders. Riders faced immense danger for \$120 in pay per month.

PROGRESS AND THE PONY EXPRESS

Pony Express mail, from Missouri to California, arrived in 10 days, cutting overland stage delivery time by more than half. Postage rates began at \$5 in gold per half-ounce, which was reduced to \$2.50 and then to \$1.00. Letters needed to be sealed in envelopes bearing 10-cent postage per half-ounce. On October 24, 1861, the Pacific Telegraph (strung along the Pony Express route), began sending messages by wire, and put the Pony Express out of business.

ROBERT LAXALT

Writer

September 24, 1923 • Alturas, California

Growing up in a Carson City hotel run by his mother, Robert Laxalt led a storied life. He studied his Basque heritage in France and Spain and worked as a journalist for the Nevada Appeal, Nevada State Journal, United Press International, and the Wall Street Journal. Laxalt helped found the University of Nevada Press and UNR's Center for Basque Studies. His numerous writings on Basque life in America make him a voice for Basque immigrants

JEDEDIAH SMITH

Explorer and Mountain Man

January 6, 1799 • Bainbridge, New York

Teenager Jedediah Smith joined a fur-trading expedition to the Rocky Mountains led by William Ashley. Thus began a series of adventures that made Smith a celebrated leader in forging Western Expansion. He was the first American to cross west over the Continental Divide, to journey through the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and to open the coastal trade route from California to Fort Vancouver. Smith was also the first white man to cross the future state of Nevada. In 1831 he perished in an Indian attack. (corrected to 1831 because of a call telling us 1871 was incorrect – we need to get a new plaque made – outside IMAX)

BRISTLECONE PINE

Pinus Longaeva

Bristlecone Pines may be the hardiest and longest living of all trees. In 1964, a tree name Prometheus was found to be at least 4,900 years old. The Bristlecone grows just below the tree line in the high elevations of places like Great Basin National Park. Harsh weather and a short warm season can twist it into amazing shapes and cause it to grow slowly, which makes its wood dense and able to resist pests and disease.

LAHONTAN CUTTHROAT TROUT

A dietary staple of the Paiute, the predatory Lahontan cutthroat trout once flourished in Pyramid, Walker and Tahoe lakes. A record catch in 1925 of this large fish was a 39-inch-long, 41-pound cutthroat. The mining camps consumed one million pounds of the trout annually between 1860 and 1920. Overfishing, inbreeding and the damming of spawning runs brought the species to near extinction. Pyramid and Walker Lakes were restocked with a smaller strain from Summit Lake.

THOMAS K. DYE

Web Comic

April 18, 1969 • Reno, Nevada

Thomas Dye began creating cartoons in 1984. The current resident of Seattle, Washington has brought characters and comedy to life with strips such as Pet Sounds, Newshounds, Something Happens, and the online graphic novel Manifestations. His work is influenced by such classics as Hanna-Barbera's Tom and Jerry and Charles Schulz's Peanuts. Dye also admires D.C. Simpson, Bloom County, and Monty Python. Honoring his muses, Dye has been an actor, musician and novelist.

LAKE TAHOE

22 miles long, 12 miles wide, 72 miles of shoreline, 1645 feet deep, fed by 63 tributaries, daily evaporation = 330 million gallons

For centuries, the Washoe people spent their summers fishing, hunting and holding sacred ceremony a 'Da-ow-a-ga,' or 'edge of the lake,' which explorers heard as 'Tahoe.' The discovery of the Comstock Lode in 1859 brought masses of people who cleared Tahoe's forests to timber the mines. Gambling arrived in 1944, along with the need for hotel accommodations. Today development is balanced with Native wisdom for preserving one of the world's cleanest lakes.

JOE MARVEL

ProRodeo Hall of Fame Champion

June 26, 1955 • Battle Mountain, Nevada

Joe Marvel loves ranching, riding and rodeos. His father Tom taught Joe and brothers Mike and Pete how to break colts on the family ranch. As a high school senior in 1973, he won state and national saddle bronc riding titles. In 1974, Marvel won the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo average title. He became a world champion in 1978 at age 23 and in 1979 qualified for the Wrangler NFR for the fifth and final time.

SCOTT MENDES

Professional Bull Rider

July 4, 1969 • Visalia, California

Scott Mendes began riding steers at age five. Raised in Reno, he qualified for the Nevada High School Rodeo Association finals at age 15. In 1988, he got his PRCA permit and reached rookie status the same year. In 1992, Mendes started the Professional Bull Riders association with 19 other pro riders. He won the NFR world championship in 1997 and soon founded a not-for-profit ministry to help young rodeo riders make sound life choices.

PYRAMID LAKE

188 square miles, 29.8 miles long, 8.7 miles wide, 356 feet deep, 99.5 miles of shoreline

Once the deepest point of ancient Lake Lahontan, Pyramid Lake in Washoe County is fed by the Truckee River. Water leaves the lake only by evaporation. With no outlet, this endorheic lake accumulates minerals and has a salinity of 1/6th that of seawater. Explorer John C. Fremont named the lake for the large tufa formations, such as Anaho Island and Needles. Fish species include the Cui-ui lakesucker, the Tui chub and the Lahontan cutthroat trout.

RENO AIR RACES

The Reno Air Races were first organized and held in 1964 by Bill Stead at Sky Ranch, between Sparks and Pyramid Lake. Today, the world's fastest motor sport occurs over five days in September at the Reno Stead Airport. From high performance aircraft to World War II fighters, all compete in multi-aircraft, multi-lap races. Courses range between three and eight miles, and planes exceed speeds of 500 miles per hour.

PATTY SHEEHAN

Professional Golfer

October 27, 1956 • Middlebury, Vermont

At age 13, athlete Patty Sheehan was among the country's top junior snow skiers. Focusing her passion for golf, she won Nevada State Amateur (1975 ñ 78) and the California Women's Amateur (1977 ñ 78). As a pro, Sheehan swept the green with three LPGA victories (1983 ñ 84, 1993), two U.S. Opens (1992, 1994) and one Dinah Shore (1996), her 35th career victory. She also won the 1986 Samaritan Award and the 1988 Charles Bartlett Award for unselfish contributions to society.

SPARKS NEVADA

Once home to Native Washoe, the region was settled by European Americans in the early 1850s. They promoted western expansion by swapping out the tired livestock of California-bound emigrants with fresh stock to carry them over the challenging Sierra Nevada Mountains. Named after state Governor John Sparks, the city grew in 1904 with the building of a new Southern Pacific Railroad switchyard and with Reno's 1950s housing boom. A local joke tells that Reno is so close to hell one can see Sparks.