

Desert & AlpineTM

LIFESTYLES

An interview
with President
Joe Shirley
**Navajo
Nation's President**

Photo by Evan Loveless
Morning Sun Photography

CLARENE LAW: Jackson's Law of the Land
Scenic Airlines Breathtaking Tours
Rita Coolidge Rocks the House

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From the Publisher

PATTI M. EDDINGTON

Welcome to the Enchanting West

BEHIND EVERY SUCCESS in competitive sports, corporate boardrooms and enduring marriages is teamwork. It takes a committed team with trust in each other to chart and achieve collective goals.

Desert & Alpine Living magazine is no different. It has taken six years of toil to field the players we need to make the magazine successful. As different as these players are, they share a few things in common: commitment, creativity and a passion to see that each successive issue is better than the one before.

In their pursuit of excellence, our team members have shown the moxie to make the magazine happen. They are achievers in their own right, many of them forged in the fiery furnace of life's challenges and more resilient as a result.

Without their talents, nurturing and attention to detail, *Desert & Alpine Living* would still be an idea — a seed yet to sprout. Thanks to them, the magazine has taken root and has an ever-growing crop of readers and advertisers rooting for it and anxiously awaiting each issue.

I am grateful for the old friends and new acquaintances who have accepted the opportunity — and the challenge — to pitch in and become a vital part of this energizing and oftentimes exhausting business.

These are our salespersons, designers, writers, editors, photographers and printing professionals — the team that makes *Desert & Alpine Living* more than a mirage. They're the ones who put out the periodical for readers' perusal throughout the West. I am amazed at our staff's ever-lengthening steps in this grand adventure and eagerly anticipate the time when we really hit stride — a goal that is tantalizingly close.

We trust you'll find the colorful faces and places within the pages of this issue to be near and dear to your heart. You'll meet Wyoming legend Clarene Law, a current hotelier and former state senator whose first-rate service is second to none. Her colorful past and the pull of her childhood stories will tug at your heartstrings.

Navajoland always has been one of my most-cherished destinations. My daughter spent an idyllic summer with Navajo friends when she was 10 and learned to appreciate Diné ways and customs. Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley and his wife, first lady Vikki Shirley, have probably endured more heartache and enjoyed more celebration living among their people than most of us will ever know. They've also worked tirelessly to improve the lives of their people.

There's also Cherokee singer Rita Coolidge, an all-American entertainer and two-time Grammy Award-winner who is the epitome of elegance and grace. Her performance at the American Indian Services' annual celebrity banquet at Utah's Thanksgiving Point was a treat for the ears. Her moving account of the forced-flight of the Cherokee Nation on the infamous Trail of Tears in the 1830s moistened more than a few eyes. The money raised at the gala is funding college scholarships for scores of American Indians.

Desert & Alpine Living's Scenic Airlines tour of the Grand Canyon is this issue's grand finale.

Wow! What a ride. My feet still haven't touched ground. If you find scenic vistas and the American outdoors uplifting, you will want to reserve a seat for a read of this airborne adventure. The photos alone will give you goose bumps.

So welcome aboard. Enjoy!

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Rita Coolidge Rocks the House for American Indian Services

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We Are Growing and it Shows!

DESERT & ALPINE LIVING MAGAZINE was born in Mesquite, Nevada in 1999, and with that birth, we have expanded to cover some of the broadest distribution in the west for a small, regional publication.

We are located in six western states, in some of the most prestigious resort places, and prime distribution points – high quality hotels, resorts, golf courses, banks and credit unions, restaurants, and of course, homes. Our subscribers are from northern and southern climates, across the U.S. from the Pacific to the midwest and eastern states. Many of these people find out about us from friends or family, and others have picked up the magazine while visiting the West.

We pride ourselves on offering the finest in engaging and interesting stories which are unearthed when we travel across this beautiful land, or when others give us a tip about a very unique story waiting to unfold. Our writers and photographers are professionals, and always looking to flex their creativity.

With this growth, we often experience challenges to maintaining our expanding waistlines of offerings. This has been good for us, and it has allowed us to bring onboard additional sales agents who are not only friendly, but professional and knowledgeable, and capable of handling your advertising needs. We offer some terrific opportunities for our clients – and soon will have even broader coverage into some really great communities still in the process of growing themselves!

If you know of friends or associates who need to share their stories, or who would delight in reaching our upscale clientele with their services, product, or offerings, please call our agents. They cover the Rockies and the great Southwest – from Idaho and Wyoming, to Colorado and Arizona, and Utah to Nevada. DESERT & ALPINE LIVING is solely funded by our generous advertisers and subscriptions. We would love to have you become a part of our family.



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CORAL DESERT REHABILITATION



Tony Wrigley, Director
Coral Desert Rehabilitation

"The challenge to the 75 million baby boomers across America as they approach retirement is to institute a different mind-set - that of retaining their good health through the sunset years with an emphasis on diet and exercise, and to have affordable health care options," explains Tony Wrigley, director of Coral Desert Rehabilitation.

A Changing Horizon of Health Care

Life expectancy for the U.S. population reached a record high of 76.9 years in 2000 (U.S. Dept. Health and Human Services), and with the possibility of the baby boom generation now reaching their 80's, people are healthier and actively pursuing a wide range of recreational activities. Unfortunately, this surge in physical activity likely increase the chances of them suffering a physical trauma or debilitating accident.

Fortunately, there's a brand new state-of-the-art facility in St. George that is equipped to offer the finest in rehabilitation services. Coral Desert Rehabilitation employs a full complement of highly trained nurses, therapists and support staff. Therapy services including physical, occupational and speech therapy are offered seven days weekly. Also

included are home cooked meals, activities, social services and discharge planning. Coral Desert Rehabilitation ensures a continuum of care for the patient who may be transferred from nearby hospitals for in-patient care or referred by their doctor for out-patient services.

An Environment Cohesive to Wellness - A Facility Offering Unrivaed Care

Co-created and managed by Wrigley, who holds a Masters of Health Administration (BYU) and is a speaker for the geriatric profession in the health care industry, Coral Desert Rehabilitation has achieved what no other facility offers - an environment cohesive to wellness. "My reward in this work is to see the expressions on the faces of my patients after they've recovered and have new-found strength and mobility," he says. The staff seeks to improve the lives of their patients by encouraging them in a well-rounded program of therapy and hard medical management. When the patients complete their rehabilitation and are ready to return home, the results they have achieved can be very gratifying.

Wrigley also enjoys a very active lifestyle as a husband and father of four, who coaches Little League, relishes traveling (last year he and his family completed a 22-hour ride of adventure to Mazatlan), and boating at Lake Mead and Lake Powell.

Coral Desert Rehabilitation offers the highest nurse to patient ratio in the industry.

The environment is intended to create a hospitable ... not hospital-like experience. Two 12-passenger vans transport patients to medical appointments, doctor follow-up visits or to

activities in the St. George area. With 37,000 square feet of luxurious accommodations, people feel more like guests than patients.

Each patient room is well-appointed with an electric adjustable bed, recliner, cable TV, and private phone. A nurse call system allows patients to speak directly to the nurse's station. Fifty-seven beautiful private patient rooms are well lighted and have large windows to let in the warm Dixie sun. Two rehabilitation gyms with the latest in equipment and an indoor heated therapy pool provide a setting for the ultimate therapy experience. Patients who complete their in-and out-patient therapy can return to participate in the Open Gym Program. This allows for continued use of the gym for a \$30/month fee.



Coral Desert Rehabilitation's staff love their work, and the relationships they develop with their patients. The beauty of rehabilitation can be experienced when patients return for a visit to show off their newly found health and independence.

- by Caprice McCallister
Photos by Mark Breinholt and Patti Eddington

Coral Desert Rehabilitation employs a full complement of highly-trained nurses, therapists and support staff.





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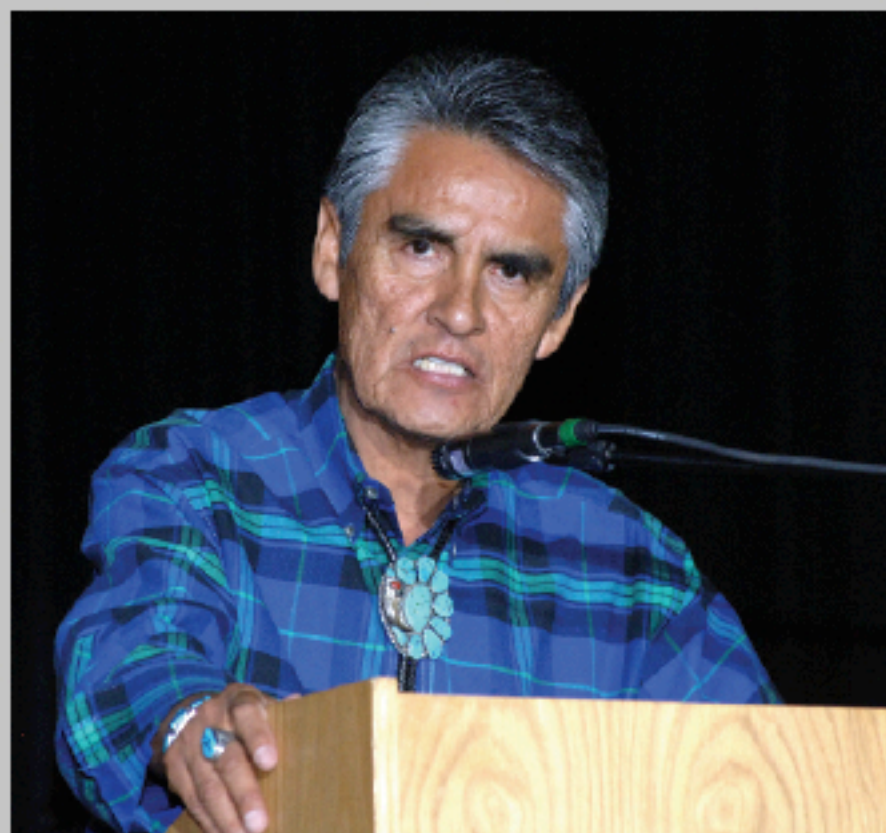
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Navajo Nation's President

Exclusive Interview with Joseph Shirley

by James Davis

JOE SHIRLEY HAS COME A LONG WAY FOR SOMEONE WHO NEVER TRAVELED VERY FAR.

In fact, it is just 45 miles from his boyhood home of Chinle, Ariz., to Window Rock, where he now resides.

From his humble beginnings in Chinle – where he was raised by his grandmother in a one-room hogan that lacked electricity and running water – Shirley has gone on to become president of the 300,000-member Navajo Nation.

And it is perhaps not surprising that those early days in Chinle have had a profound effect on both Shirley the man, and on Shirley the president.



"My late grandmother had a lot of love in her heart," he recalls. "That was back in the Fifties and Sixties. She's the one who raised me. She taught me a lot of things. A lot of her teaching made me a leader."

As a young man, Shirley invested his time and energy in and around Chinle, first as the equivalent of a township supervisor, then as an Apache County supervisor for 18 years. He also served 12 years as a member of the Navajo Nation Council.

The holder of a master's degree in social work, Shirley says he had good job opportunities elsewhere, but chose not to leave his Navajo roots.

"I was offered good money (to leave). But no, I don't think so. I want to be here. As long as my people are in need, I'm going to be in there helping."

Shirley's wife, Vikki, also advocates on behalf of the disadvantaged, perhaps remembering her youth when she traveled 90 minutes one way to go to school in Chinle each day. She now conducts toy drives and back-to-school drives, and delivers turkeys to people on Thanksgiving.

But the needs of the Navajo people are extensive.

In fact, many still live without running water or electricity.

Providing those modern-day conveniences to everyone is a daunting challenge for Shirley and his government. Part of the problem is the vastness of the Navajo Nation. It covers 17 million acres, or 27,000 square miles, much of the land in very remote regions.

"It's really hard to get power out there to some of them," Shirley says, noting that some homes are 10 to 15 miles from the nearest power pole. "The way

we live, we don't congregate in one place. We're scattered all over. That's the way they found us, that's the way we've always been."

The federal government would like to see Navajos congregate in one area – like big-city projects, Shirley says. But the Navajos resist that suggestion.

"Grandma and Grandpa love to live where they are," the president says.

The federal government would like to see Navajos congregate in one area – like big-city projects, Shirley says. But the Navajos resist that suggestion.

"Grandma and Grandpa love to live where they are," the president says.

Yet at the same time, "A lot of people still live in a one-room hogan with a dirt floor, no running water. No one is really comfortable with that any more."



© Mark Edgington



“We’re

working on it, but it’s a very slow process. The government could do more. I think it’s calibrated. I think it’s intentional. They have all kinds of money. What a billion dollars put into Native Americans would mean!”

But the money is not forthcoming.

“In the meantime, they spend \$6 billion a day to fight wars across the big waters,” he says.

he is doing everything he can to remedy the problems that exist within the Navajo Nation, but believes it will be 15 to 20 years before everyone in Navajoland has those basic utilities.

Generating the considerable sum of money that would be required

Yet at the same time, “A lot of people still live in a one-room hogan with a dirt floor, no running water. No one is really comfortable with that any more.

“If they could have it, they want the power, they want the running water, they want the wastewater disposal. A lot of kids go to school, then have to study by kerosene lantern or flashlight. We want to get away from that.”

Shirley says



to build the infrastructure up to modern-day levels is difficult. For one thing, the very lack of infrastructure keeps businesses from moving in – businesses that would provide much-needed jobs and revenue.

For another, the federal government isn’t as generous as President Shirley would like. He has frequently knocked on doors in Washington to talk “about the plight of the children, grandma and grandpa,” but hasn’t gained a great deal of ground.

“The shocking thing about it is that this is a very sovereign, very powerful nation, and [this is happening] right in their back yard.”

The problems are far from limited to infrastructure development, however.

“Alcoholism is prevalent, pervasive. We have it. Not only that, we have a drug problem. Meth. Marijuana,” Shirley says. There also is a serious shortage of adequate housing.

Perhaps the most shocking statistic is the unemployment rate, which drifts between 45 and 50 percent.

“When people are not working ... they need



There *also is a serious shortage of adequate housing.*

Perhaps the most shocking statistic is the unemployment rate, which drifts between 45 and 50 percent.

food on the table. When they don't have it, they start turning to alcohol, they start turning to drugs," the president says.

And once alcoholism and drug abuse take hold,

domestic abuse isn't far behind, he adds.

"We're working on it, but it's a very slow process. The government could do more. I think it's calibrated. I think it's intentional. They have all kinds of money. What a billion dollars put into Native Americans would mean!"

But the money is not forthcoming.

"In the meantime, they spend \$6 billion a day to fight wars across the big waters," he says.

Shirley says he isn't looking for a handout, and says he has expressed his views to the Department of the Interior many times.

"We want to do it for ourselves. At least lend us the \$500 million. You know the Navajo Nation is good for paying that back.

"We need help big-time, and we needed it

yesterday."

The lack of infrastructure and jobs has resulted in roughly one-third of the 300,000 members of the Navajo Nation living elsewhere. Many are those who have gone on to college to better themselves.

"It's a brain drain is what it is," Shirley says. "But I see some of them wanting to come back. If we can create these jobs, I think you will see these Navajos come back.

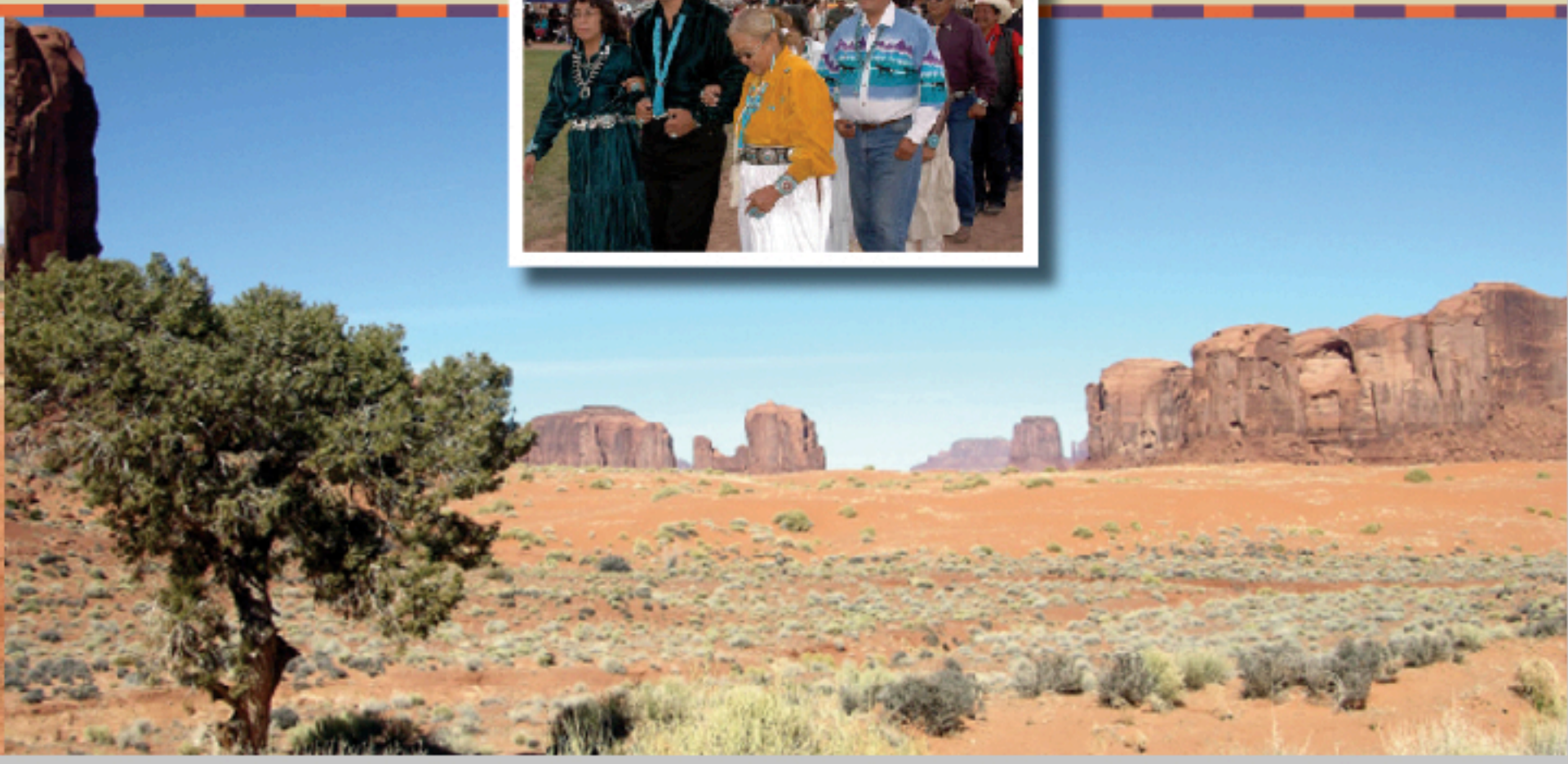
Much of what they will come back for transcends the job market. The language, colors, land, sacred stories and sacred ceremonies continue to be very important to most Navajos. Medicine people and herbalists are still prevalent.

"The sacred stories are still being told. We still pray the way we prayed when they found us," Shirley says, "But it's really hard to contend with the mainstream. It's very hard to contend with the boob tube, all kinds of commercials coming at our young ones to look at."

Shirley says he continues to hammer home the need to preserve the culture, the Navajo way of life.

"We're losing. We've lost a lot, and we're continuing to lose. But it's still very much with us. We work real hard to save as much as we can. Once our medicine people go, our elderly go, our culture goes, and I sure would hate to see that."

Shirley is up for re-election in November. Provided he wins, he and Vikki will return to Chinle, where it all began, in four years.





Located on the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula and bordered by the Sea of Cortez and the Pacific Ocean, Cabo is prime real estate.

All photos © James Williams, 2006.



LESSONS ^{IN} ARCHITECTURE ^{FROM} CABO SAN LUCAS

By James M. Williams

THE ANCIENT ASIAN PRACTICE OF FENG SHUI (pronounced fung schway) combines the principles of design, environment, nature, emotion, energy, health and well-being. Feng Shui recognizes and embraces a balance of opposition and contrast. (This is also true in describing the practice of architecture.) One of the five elements of Feng Shui is fire. The direction associated with fire is south, the emblem is the sun or rays of light, the associated season is summer, and the life aspiration of fire is fame and recognition. All of the above are indicative of Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, where I recently enjoyed a week basking in all it has to offer.

Cabo is a port city that survives on tourism, including its many restaurants, shopping and various activities. My wife went to the marketplace and discovered handcrafted silver and glass. I discovered lessons in architecture and design that could only be experienced there.

Located on the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula and bordered by the Sea of Cortez and the Pacific Ocean, Cabo is prime real estate. The area is classified as a tropical thorn forest (referring to the plethora of cactus). Temperatures are similar to most desert regions ranging from a low of 60°F to a high of 95°F. The humidity can cause it to feel much hotter and shade seems scarce.



Dryscape incorporates strategically placed vegetation that requires very little water.

Upon our arrival, we learned there hadn't been rain for 10 months, yet the next day a fierce tropical storm struck causing minor flooding. After only a few days, any signs of rain and flooding had dissipated. Landscaping is sparse yet well-planned, requires little water and some newer subdivisions have even perfected the use of dryscape. Dryscape incorporates strategically placed vegetation that requires very little water. Many of the plants are actually in pots or planters with sculpture, rockscapes, stone fencing, and other decorative surfacing.

Hurricanes occur every two or three years in Cabo and wood is scarce; therefore, homes are constructed of reinforced concrete. All homes have cisterns to store water. Windows and doors are strategically placed to take advantage of not only the view, but of the natural ocean breeze used to economically cool the house. Covered patios provide much needed shade and help reduce cooling costs. Here, sustainable construction occurs almost naturally.

Architectural styles in Cabo San Lucas vary and include; Mediterranean, Spanish Eclectic, Greek Isle with white plaster and brick-domed ceilings, and an array of Contemporary. No two homes appear the same as they cling to the steep hillsides, fighting for an ocean view (and if lucky, a view of the actual beach as well).

Each subdivision has a quaint village ambience. Atop the higher elevations, the narrow cobblestone streets resemble coiled snakes, twisting and winding their way through the surrounding hills, and most one-way roads eliminate any traffic issues.

A CITY OF CONTRASTS

Cabo is full of contrasts which add to its beauty and interest: desert and ocean, new high-end estates and old village homes, traditional taco carts and nontraditional resort dining, a quiet peaceful afternoon for a siesta and a busy event-filled evening are just a few.

All of this combines to provide a rich human experience. What is better than great food, friends and architecture?

James M Williams is president of JM Williams and Associates Inc and cofounder of AE OPUS LC. Call 801.575.6455 or visit the JMWA website at jmwa.com



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Clarene Law

LAW OF THE LAND



IN JACKSON, WYO., THERE'S ONLY ONE LAW IN THE LAND.

No, not the law at the courthouse or the police station. Not even famed legal eagle Gerry Spence, who nests an office downtown.

It's the modest 73-year-old bespectacled grandmother behind the desk at the Antler Inn on Pearl Street.

"Can I help you?" Clarene Law asks a guest while Wyoming Sen. Craig Thomas waits in the wings.

Law loves to help out — she can't help it. Service is second nature to her, and her service to state and community is second to none.

"Mom is universally

loved in Jackson," says son Steve Meadows, who runs the 49'er Inn for the family. "She's given so much to so many. There's not a volunteer board she hasn't served on at one time. She's given of herself left, right and center."

Indeed, Law is legendary. Nearly everything in Teton County bears her imprint. She's twice been named Jackson's citizen of the year and once as Wyoming's businessperson of the year. She's on a first-name basis with Vice President Dick Cheney and his wife, Lynne Cheney, and former Wyoming Sen. Alan Simpson. Ditto with Harrison Ford and scores of other celebs and power brokers. She's equally at home with the everyday people she calls the "good folk of Wyoming."

Law was elected to seven terms — she ran unopposed four times — in the Wyoming Legislature before retiring in 2004.

"Though she never had a chance to be head of the House, she was its heart, soul and conscience," Wyoming House Speaker Randall Luthi remarked at her retirement party.

Law, though, is not the retiring type. She still serves on boards for the National Museum of Wildlife Art, Jackson State Bank and the Jackson Hole Land Trust. She's also a charter member of the Wyoming Business Council.

Add to that her church responsibilities and the Teton Steakhouse she and husband Creed lease out. Of course, there also are her CEO duties overseeing the family's Elk

Country Motels Inc. and its four hotels that, by 2004, accounted for 15 percent of Jackson's tourist lodging. The couple also run a 3,000-acre dry farm in Idaho, among other real-estate holdings.

"I'm trying to slow down," Clarene Law says before rushing off to judge an art exhibition.

Problem is, Law's too much on the go to ever stop or slow much.

It's been that way ever since her birth in Thornton, Idaho, to Clarence and Alta Webb. Her father built highways for Duffy Reed Construction, a job that kept the family on the go.

"I moved about 25 times by the time I was in junior high," Law recalls.

"The only furniture I knew until high school [was made by] Atlas and Hercules," Law says.

ON THE ROAD

Among his other tasks, Law's father was a "powder man" whose blasting job paved the way for building roads.

"The only furniture I knew until high school [was made by] Atlas and Hercules," Law says. "Mother would set up little desks made from the powder boxes and we would practice our reading, spelling and times tables."

On construction sites, the Webb family — Clarene, her parents, two brothers and a younger sister — slept in an 8-by-20-foot trailer that Clarence had crafted.

"Mom and dad had to cut the legs off their bed so it would fit" inside, Law remembers. "They slept in a bed up [top] and there was another little bed underneath . . . for some of the kids. A third bed on the other side of the wall swung down for my brother and me."

Law's favorite childhood memories are of hiking the hills in knee-high boots to ward off rattlesnake bites, swimming the treacherous Salmon River, sipping nickel Nesbitt's sodas on rides with pop and snagging baseballs sans a mitt.

"See these broken fingers?" Law asks, holding up misshapen little fingers on both hands. "Well, that's what's wrong with them."

Law also recalls sliding down Spud Hill (Mount Idaho), catching trout with willow branches, combing caves for

American Indian petroglyphs, holding off an angry cattle herd with a BB gun and attending classes, sometimes in one-room schoolhouses.

She waxes less winsome about other reminiscences. When Law was 10, for example, her 5-year-old sister, Doris, died from measles.

"I still remember the way [Doris] looked in her blue dress in that casket," Law says. "I couldn't understand then why you would want to bury someone who looked so beautiful."

When Law returned to class after the funeral, she found the teacher had taken away her desk.

"I had to sit at the window [and without a desk] the rest of the school year," Law says.

"Road construction people were often viewed as trash."

Some may have poor-mouthed road workers, but Law never considered her family poor. She learned how to be self-reliant and competitive. And her mother taught her the value of service.

"She'd tell us, 'Go split [this widow's or new mom's] kindling or paint her house.' And she didn't ask for me to get paid, either. That's how I was raised."

MOVING ON AND MOVING UP

Armed with a diploma from Twin Falls High School, Law tried her hand at pharmacy school but decided, after a small dose, it wasn't for her.

Next, she was a reporter for *The Twin Times* in Twin Falls, Idaho. After marrying schoolteacher Frank Meadows, the couple moved to Utah, where Law wrote for the *Universal Press Syndicate* and for the *Grand Junction Sentinel* and *Moab Times-Independent*. She complemented her copy writing with stints as a court clerk and a police matron.

Meadows then landed a job in Jackson, and his then-wife wound up as the executive auditor at the historic Wort Hotel, where she learned double-entry bookkeeping and something even more important: a career.

When motel owner Roy Nethercott announced he was putting the nearby Antler — then only a lodge and 12 cabins — on the market, Law took a big gulp and gasped, "Let me try to buy it." With help from her parents, she put enough down — \$20,000 on the \$125,000 price — to close the deal and open up a new world.

Through the years, Law's business has grown right along with her family. Her three children — Teresa, Charisse and



Above: Creed and Clarene are a team — and an influential couple in Wyoming political and social circles.

Right: The Antler Inn. One of Jackson's oldest and most loved tourist lodging properties.



Steve Meadows — were raised in Jackson. After divorcing their father, she married Creed Law in 1973 and the two have been an item ever since.

Law's children fondly recall many misadventures with their adventuresome mother.

One time "we went to Dubois for the day and the gas tank fell off the Plymouth Barracuda," laughs daughter Teresa Meadows, a university professor in Colorado who teaches French, film and literature. "While hunting for a Christmas tree when I was 10, the International Scout [mom was driving] conked out in the middle of nowhere. Grandpa came out and found us on his snow machine."

Steve Meadows recalls his first trip to Yellowstone at age 5 with mom.

"Several bear cubs had wandered into the road, and tourists were . . . putting their small children on their backs or setting them next to the cubs," he recalls. "Mother went tearing out of the vehicle, grabbing children and handing them to their parents, telling them to get back in their cars, that they and their children were in grave danger. She had no idea when the cubs' mother might show up. She put herself in danger to warn and help others."

Years later, Law has taken to warning her children.

"She's always worried and telling us to be careful," Teresa Meadows says. "We laugh because we remember all the things she did with us."

REACHING OUT

Law is a giver by nature. Yes, she's given money. But, more important, she's given gobs of time. She helped Jackson-Wilson High School get its first national accreditation. She also juggled the motel business with service on the town's first planning council and the Teton County School and Chamber of Commerce boards. She played an instrumental role in founding

She and a friend organized the Singing Jackson Mothers to sing in "Spencer's Mountain," a movie being filmed in the Jackson area starring Henry Fonda and Maureen O'Hara.



Photos courtesy Clarene Law.

the Grand Teton Music Festival — and the chorus of giving hums on and on.

"She always was doing three or four things at a time," Teresa Meadows says.

Indeed, Law is a doer — and whatever she does, she does right.

To raise money for a new Mormon chapel in the early '60s, for instance, then-project engineer Law engineered a fundraiser. She and a friend organized the Singing Jackson Mothers to sing in "Spencer's Mountain," a movie being filmed in the Jackson area starring Henry Fonda and Maureen O'Hara.

"They paid us \$15,000 for that," says Law, who did not sing with the group.

Other stars she's rubbed shoulders with include Michael Landon and Harrison Ford. The latter wanted to see Law's vintage 1941 Cadillac.

"He had me bring it out one day to see if he wanted to use it in the Indiana Jones" movies, she says.

Every Christmas, then-Sen. Alan Simpson would stay at the Antler.

"He'd come over . . . to the steakhouse for

Other stars she's rubbed shoulders with include Michael Landon and Harrison Ford. The latter wanted to see Law's vintage 1941 Cadillac.

breakfast, come behind the grill and ask, 'What can I do to help?' He'd then flip a few flapjacks," Steve Meadows remembers. "Dick and Lynne Cheney, before he was vice president, stayed with us many times."

Law's workers have logged entries in keepsake books about some of the motels' most-memorable guests. Here's one, Law says, reading an entry.

A guest "begged for a rollaway [bed], saying his sister was staying with him. He sure treated his sister nice — hugs and kisses, dinner out and shows as well.

"Months later," she continues, "he bounded into the office and shouts, 'I've just got married. Come meet my wife.' We look out and say, 'My heck, you're the first guy I ever know who married his sister.'"

Law loves to laugh, even at herself.



"Finally, in exasperation, I said, 'No port-a-pots. Our lodging tax absolutely cannot pay for hard assets.'"

A woman on a food and lodging committee, for instance, advised spending lodging tax revenues for a summer gala on portable toilets. Law patiently explained the law earmarked the proceeds for advertising, but the woman persisted.

"Finally, in exasperation, I said, 'No port-a-pots. Our lodging tax absolutely cannot pay for hard assets.'"

Another mirth-filled memory is of a good friend who struggled with malapropisms. Law remembers her friend helping in the hotel office one day when a man from Standard Textile dropped in.

"'Clarene,'" Law recalls her saying, "'the standard testicle man is here.' Another time she was reading an article about problems with revelers. She says, 'Just look at what these darn revealers have done now.' I told some of those stories at her funeral."

Funerals — avoiding them — were very much on Law's mind during a brutal winter night in 1978 when the mercury dipped to 63 below zero. A pipe broke and flooded one hotel, putting a high school ski team's plans on ice. Creed fixed the pipe, and the team's coach and his

young skiers removed and replaced the sodden carpet.

"It was so cold I had trouble starting the Chrysler wagon," Law says, "so I kept it running all day to take people to the hospital. Some people were lighting fires underneath their cars to thaw the pans. We even had one guest who burned some hotel furniture in the fireplace. The cold brought out the best and worst in people."

LEGISLATOR LAW

Politics brought out the best in Law, who quickly brushed up on the issues and deftly pushed her constituents' agenda at the Statehouse in Cheyenne.

"She was extremely persuasive," says Luthi, who served 10 years with Law in the Legislature. "She was always very prepared and thorough."

Further endearing Law to colleagues was her quick wit and stories, which seldom ran dry. Neither did microbreweries, thanks to her 1992 bill that scotched a law banning makers of malt beverages from selling brew at the point of production. That change, hotly contested by beer distributors, made brew pubs possible in Wyoming.

"She used to joke, 'Leave it to a teetotaling Mormon lady to push through brew pubs in Wyoming,'" Luthi laughs, adding the change has proved an economic boon.

As land values in western Wyoming skyrocketed, so did property taxes. That prodded Law to push for tax relief for ranchers.

"When you see a parade of people, they are normally going to a celebration," Luthi recalls her telling lawmakers. "But this

will be a parade of people leaving Wyoming unless something is done."

Law also gets high marks for promoting economic development and cultural arts, among many other things. In fact, Luthi adds, many have urged her to run for governor. Her standard reply:

"I'm too dumb to be governor and too smart to run."

That's Clarene, Luthi says, "she's so self-effacing, and yet she's a mover and a shaker and has been in Teton County for more than 20 years . . . There's few politicians in Wyoming who haven't spent time at Clarene's motel."

"I'm too dumb to be governor and too smart to run."

MAKING TIME AND TAKING STOCK

Of course, no one has logged more hotel time than Law. She's trying, with some success, to cut back.

"I'm questing for some stillness, calmness and quietness in my life," she says. "It's a very difficult transition for me. My regret is not that I didn't make more money. My regrets are that I didn't have more time to be with my children. I hope to cure that with my grandkids."

There may be no remedy, however, for her bad back, the result of a nasty spill while snowmobiling with a grandson. Not that she lets that keep her down. She's too busy serving on boards and hopping on tour buses. Law often regales tourists with tales about American Indians, mountain men, early settlers, colonizer David Jackson and other characters from the promenade of history through Jackson Hole's past.

Of course, she never forgets to put in a good word about philanthropist and conservationist John D. Rockefeller, who bought up ranch land and weathered withering criticism to preserve for future generations what is now Grand Teton National Park.

"We would have a Ferris wheel on the Grand [Teton] if it weren't for him," Law tells tourists. "We certainly would have had settlements right up under the peaks . . . But John D. made one brag he couldn't keep. He said he would see green grass grow in the streets of Jackson. But he didn't, and I'm glad because your [tourist money] is the only green I've ever seen. You're the last cash crop."

So are her offspring, who she hopes will carry on with the family business and with building a better Jackson. As for her own legacy?

"I'm an innkeeper," Law says. "I suspect I don't know how to do much of anything except [say] 'May I help you?' at the desk."



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On a Wing and a Rainbow... SCENIC AIRLINES SPECTACULAR STAGE

by Patti Eddington

Photos by Mark Breinholt, Colorland Photo



SURE,
GAZING AT THE
COLORADO PLATEAU
FROM THE GROUND
IS UPLIFTING. BUT IT
FALLS FAR SHORT OF
SURVEYING IT FROM
THE AIR.

Especially aboard a famed De Havilland Twin Otter airplane.

That's what I'll take from the whirlwind trip I took this summer with Las Vegas-based Scenic Airlines.

On a wing and a rainbow, under gathering purple thunderheads, our passenger-laden plane skyed to 9,500 feet and skimmed over the Mojave Desert. We watched in wonder as the grand tableau of Canyon Country unfolded below us.



As we skirted the pleated mountains east of Las Vegas, Hoover Dam loomed before us looking like a folded linen dinner napkin. The Colorado River waters it bridled sparkled like sapphires and Lake Mead's sun-dappled surface was a sea of tranquility.

Not to be outdone, Lake Las Vegas was dressed in its glitziest Ritz Carlton- and Hyatt Regency-best. The resort's verdant green fairways resembled velvet down and were accented with red rock and an azure lake.



As much as I longed to touch down, what I hoped to see buoyed me up.

After all, we were being spirited away to the one of The Seven Natural Wonders of the World — the Grand Canyon. Ever since explorer John Wesley Powell made it known, the canyon's fame has grown. So have the visitors, who now come each year by the millions.

Every trip has a fall, and ours was no exception. We fell hard — the passengers, not the plane — for this giant chasm carved over eons by wind and water. Time seemingly stood still as we were treated to freeze-frame snapshots of millions of years' worth of geologic uplift and the razor-like down-cutting of the mighty Colorado.

A kaleidoscope of color — red, coral, purple and white rocks, dotted with periodic green patches of ponderosa, pinion and juniper — vied for our attention. Inside our Twin Otter, approving clucks accompanied the constant clicks of digital cameras.

It was a scene to die for. Fortunately, no one aboard Scenic Airlines has ever paid the ultimate price. The tour operator has compiled an unblemished safety record since it began 40 years ago ferrying folk the world over from Las Vegas to the Grand Canyon's South Rim, Monument Valley, Bryce Canyon National Park and California's Yosemite National Park.

In fact, Scenic Airlines' clientele is so international that English might as well be Greek to 95 percent of them, most of whom don't speak either language. Wherever the visitors are from, Scenic's vice president of marketing, Richard Nielson, likely speaks their lingo.

"My job is to get information to tour operators worldwide," says Nielson, who has lived in Europe, Asia and Mexico and speaks fluent Spanish, German, Chinese, French and Japanese. "We do these tours in 16 languages and have brochures in eight languages. We [fly] 170,000 passengers a year, and I deal with a lot of questions and issues in all languages."

TIME SEEMINGLY
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AS WE WERE
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RAZOR-LIKE
DOWN-CUTTING
OF THE MIGHTY
COLORADO.





Whatever the language spoken, whatever trade show Nielson is at, the *lingua franca* of conversation is the Grand Canyon. At the World Travel Market he attended several years ago, people were asked about the top 10 places they wanted to see before they died.

"The Grand Canyon was number one," Nielson recalls.

Once the canyon lures tourists there, Scenic's unrivaled commitment to excellence keeps them coming back. The firm's staff strives to make every guest's airborne jaunt the trip of a lifetime. They put the "grand" in the Grand Canyon.

Topping Scenic Airlines' chart is the Grand Canyon Deluxe, a daylong excursion which combines a captivating narrated-air tour with a sightseeing ground tour of the South Rim aboard a motor coach.

Patrons of this popular tour also enjoy a light lunch before returning to Las Vegas.

The Grand Voyager Tour, a fast riser at No. 2 on the charts, takes tourists to the West Rim's Hualapai Indian Reservation and includes a plane, helicopter

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GRAND CANYON.



and boat ride. When the Voyager Tour unveils its Sky Walk in 2007, visitors will be able to walk a mile-high, horseshoe-shaped bridge overhanging the canyon floor and gape at the nonpareil vistas below.

That's the future, I'm told before we lifted off from Las Vegas.

Perched cozily inside the Twin Otter, though, I couldn't fathom the Sky Walk topping the here and now. British tourists Chris and Pauline O'Hanlon — frequent fliers to the Big Apple but first-timers to the American West — had trouble believing anything could surpass the East Coast.

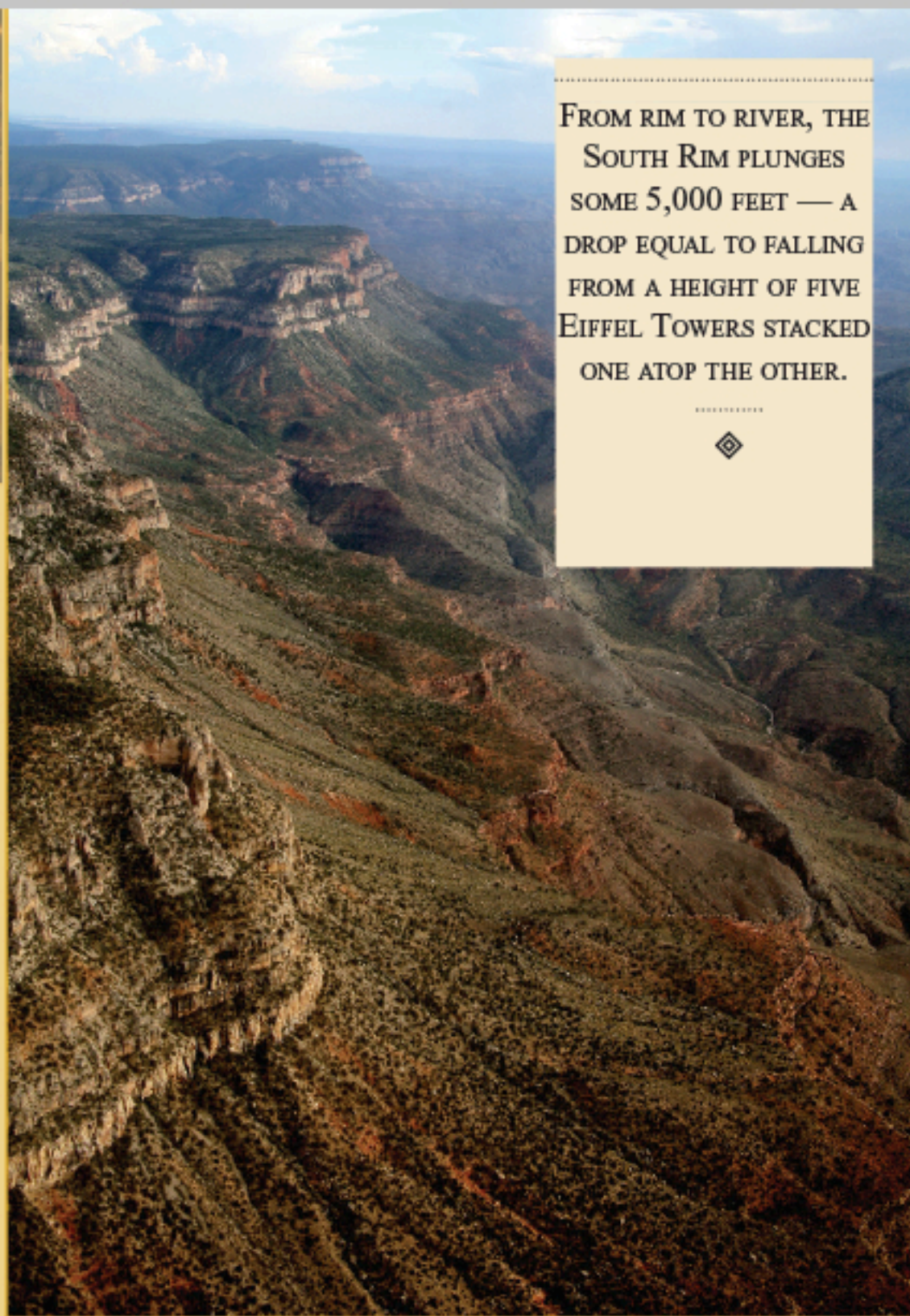
"Our preferred destination is New England, with its sights and history," says Chris O'Hanlon, a retired doctor from Liverpool. "My favorite place is New York City. But we're willing to see how this Grand Canyon experience fares in the lineup."

Turns out, New York City is no longer the only apple in the couple's eyes. After their "Scenic" adventure, they say the Grand Canyon measures up just fine.

No wonder. The canyon the Colorado River has crafted measures 277 miles long and varies in width

Above: The Grand Hotel and its inviting lobby. Bottom Left: Curbside service from guests' hotels to Scenic Airlines' terminal, and at South Rim, as well as back to hotel at completion of tour is very efficient. Center: A hearty buffet meal is served to Scenic's guests at The Grand Hotel in Tusayan. Right: A bird's-eye perspective of the vintage lobby interior at El Tovar Lodge.





FROM RIM TO RIVER, THE
SOUTH RIM PLUNGES
SOME 5,000 FEET — A
DROP EQUAL TO FALLING
FROM A HEIGHT OF FIVE
EIFFEL TOWERS STACKED
ONE ATOP THE OTHER.



from four to 18 miles. Embedded in the exposed strata of its sedimentary rock is a geologic calendar spanning nearly 2,000 million years.

From rim to river, the South Rim plunges some 5,000 feet — a drop equal to falling from a height of five Eiffel Towers stacked one atop the other. The South Rim ascends about 7,000 feet above sea level and is open year-round; the North Rim rises 8,803 feet and closes during the winter.

Leaving Las Vegas' scorching heat for the canyon's cooler clime is a welcome respite for Scenic Airlines' guests. Tusayan Village, tucked amid fragrant pines a few miles south of the South Rim, also was inviting. That's where we boarded our plush air-conditioned motor coach and were conveyed to The Grand Hotel for a sumptuous buffet before setting out for the ride to Mather Point and other canyon overlooks.

All told, there's no overlooking Scenic Airlines. Its pilots' professionalism, planes' comfort and staff's warmth, combined with the canyon's wonder, add up to an experience sure to enchant even the most jaded of tourists.

Think you've been there, done that?

I thought I had. After all, I've floated Venice's canals, soaked in Cozumel's sun and fun and loved the bit of Brit I took home from Harrods of London. But my top-flight adventure with Scenic was second to none, and the Grand Canyon never disappoints.

But don't take my word for it. Follow the O'Hanlons' example and give it a go.

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Coyote Willows

Cottontails high-tail it across the greens, and evasive coyotes occasionally begin their twilight serenade amidst the cattails and willows at dusk. Even if you miss seeing them during your round of golf, chances are you'll hear their mournful symphony in the evening while you sip your beverage and enjoy the starry night on your patio at Coyote Willows. It's easy to figure out how this new golf course community got its name.

From sunrise to sunset, the quiet interlude of nature and man coexist peacefully in this charming setting. Patio homes, courtyard and custom homes abound on this pristine pasture acreage which was once the site of the Hafen Dairy in Mesquite, Nevada.

Floorplans are well-thought out, with spacious, vaulted ceilings and beautiful vistas, many featuring waterfront views. The views of the Virgin Mountains and Virgin River alone are well worth the price. Coyote Willows residents come from across the U.S. and Canada. They appreciate the clean air, lifestyles and amenities which are available and quickly expanding in the Virgin Valley.

Mesquite is known for its wonderful weather, and emerald-green fairways offering outstanding golf year-round, in addition

to its nightlife and recreational opportunities for active individuals who delight in a wide offering of entertainment for families and retirees.

The floods of early spring 2005 ravaged many areas of southern Utah and Nevada. Luckily, Coyote Willows escaped with only some damage to the 3300 yard golf course, and repair is underway. All the homes were safe, but the back four holes closest to the Virgin River were affected. During restoration and improvement of the golf course, the green fees are set based on a 10-hole round. The golf course is still beautifully maintained and playable, and one can still find the pursuit of a challenging round very invigorating.



By Randy Whittaker
Photos by Mark Breinholt,
Colorland Photography.



A permanent clubhouse, featuring carts and accessories, and a full-service snack bar along with the four renovated holes will be completed shortly.

Golf professional, Garrett Mitchell, is also a newcomer. A Sooner fan from Oklahoma, he moved his family to Mesquite without hesitation. Known for its friendly and outgoing residents, Mesquite was a natural fit for the Mitchells, who feel right at home here and enjoy the Nevada desert and its close proximity to Lake Mead and Lake Powell.

Competitive prices and available golf course properties are unique strengths and added value of Coyote Willows, with the reassurance of fine quality workmanship featured in each home, and backed by over 20 years' experience by ZMH Development in the custom home construction industry.



Ultimately, Coyote Willows will have a total of 465 units, including two, three, and four bedroom homes ranging in size from 1352 sq ft to 1990 sq ft – all beautifully integrated into the surrounding environment. Prices range from the mid-\$200's to the mid-\$300's. Expansion plans feature 287 attached homes, 152 courtyard homes (two-story homes with eight homes per building), and 26 quarter-acre lots for single-family custom homes.

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Singer Rita Coolidge and her band rocked out and American Indian Services raked in.

Donations, that is. Tens of thousands of dollars' worth.

In late June, some 580 donors turned out for the Thanksgiving Point fundraiser to pitch in college scholarship money for American Indian students — and they weren't disappointed.

Coolidge, winner of two Grammy Awards and the 2006 Native American Music Award, regaled listeners with songs from her new Jazz album, "And So Is Love," and charted more-familiar territory with "(Your Love Has Lifted Me) Higher and Higher" and other signature classics.

Lovely

Rita Rocks the House!

**She puts the "fun" in Fundraising
for Young Native Americans**

Coolidge may have been the headliner, but she wasn't the only star at the gala in Lehi, Utah. Pianist James O'Neil Miner played as the guests arrived for a sumptuous supper, setting the tone for the terrific event. Impressionist and comedian Jason Hewlett's levity lightened the evening.

Meanwhile, auctioneer Rob Brasher lightened donors' wallets with his persistence and enthusiasm. At his bidding, the bidders at the benefit anted up thousands of dollars for American Indian art, a famous war bonnet, Western bronzes of Indians and cowboys — and even a new Mini Cooper car.

It was a terrific evening," said Dr. Dale T. Tingey, director of American Indian Services. We "had hundreds come to help out our scholarship students and enjoy the auction and entertainment."

Indian flutist Gary Tom welcomed the audience with his repertoire of hauntingly beautiful sounds as the barn lights dimmed and fog machines roiled a romantic mist across the floor. Special guests in attendance included Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley and his wife, Vikki.

Tingey lauded Joe Shirley for his efforts to encourage Navajo youth to get an education. Navajo medicine man Julius Chavez performed an "honor song" and presented the president with a ceremonial spear in recognition of his leadership.

Continued on next page.

Above right: Pianist James O'Neil Miner gets the crowd warmed up. Concert-goers arrived for the Celebrity Banquet auction, entertainment, and a fine catered dinner.

Dr. Dale T. Tingey, first lady Vikki Shirley and Pres. Joe Shirley with Glen Overton and Jim Morse. Gary Tom opening the Celebrity Banquet with beautiful flute music.

Below: Thanksgiving Point Barn set the stage for a memorable evening.



History of American Indian Services organization

Since 1958, American Indian Services has been providing scholarships and other needed services to Native Americans. IRS status as a private non-profit foundation was obtained in 1981. Dr. Dale Tingey has provided leadership and continuity as the Executive Director for more than thirty years. His dedication and integrity have inspired tribal leaders and donors to work together and participate in the AIS cause.

Headquartered in Provo, Utah, AIS is governed by a volunteer executive board which includes educators, business people, and community leaders from across the country. Additionally, satellite boards have been established in Arizona, California, New Mexico, Nevada, Idaho, and Southern Utah. These boards oversee the operation of AIS in their geographical areas, provide community projects and educational seminars, assist students with scholarship applications, and organize various fundraising events.

All money received from donors goes directly to our programs for Native Americans. Administrative costs are minimal and are completely covered by donations from board members.



Shirley has made education priority one during his presidency — something which prompted Vikki to ask AIS for help in earning a bachelor's degree, which she successfully achieved. The Navajo Nation's First Lady told the packed crowd how proud she was to earn a college education.

Two AIS graduates also were feted, and a special video presentation highlighted the results of donors' efforts. Thanks to the half-tuition scholarships offered by the nonprofit charity, scores of American Indians graduate from college and go on to become donors to AIS — to continue the effort to help their fellow Native Americans. Whatever the scholarships don't pay, the students raise themselves.

One of the evening's most interesting events was a competition between groups seated at different dinner tables over which could raise the most money. The winners — who forked over more than \$40,000 during the contest — received a framed "arrow rug," a two-night stay at Marriott hotels, a free round of golf at Thanksgiving Point and Café Rio gift certificates. More important, though, was the knowledge they had helped fund more scholarships for American Indians.

Once again, Glen Overton and Dana Robinson were the prime movers behind the meal and entertainment. The duo also ensured everything ran smoothly and that the guests had a great experience.

Following the evening auction, the action resumed in the morning for the annual Great American Indian Shootout golf tournament. Famed golfer Johnny Miller, winner of the 1973 U.S. Open and 1976 British Open, launched the links competition with a fun instructional clinic. Associated Foods provided the food for contestants and sponsored the majority of the teams playing in the tournament.

Richard Parkinson, CEO of Associated Food Stores, has supported the tournament for years, and continued his unflagging effort to bolster Miller's efforts to help fulfill American Indian students' higher-education dreams.

"The general public seems to think that these students get government money to go to college, but they don't," Miller said. "They need our help."

Bill Child, chairman of R.C. Willey, and Spencer Eccles, president of the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation, also contributed to the success of





this year's tournament. Topping the tourney's contest was the team of Mike DeSimoni, Kim Anderson, Steve & Andy Gregwa, and Todd Miller, who combined to shoot 19 under par and win by one stroke.

Miller's sons, John Jr., Todd and Scott, pitched in to help with the golf tournament and enlist 180 golfers to join the philanthropic effort to aid AIS. Chad Lewis, tight end for the Philadelphia Eagles, also showed up to add support, as did Brigham Young University golf coaches Bruce Brockbank and Sue Nyhus. Former BYU golf coach Karl Tucker also was in attendance. So was former BYU quarterback Robbie Bosco, signal caller for that school's famed 1984 national championship team.





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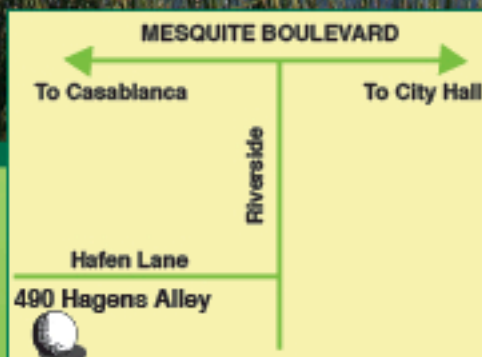
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