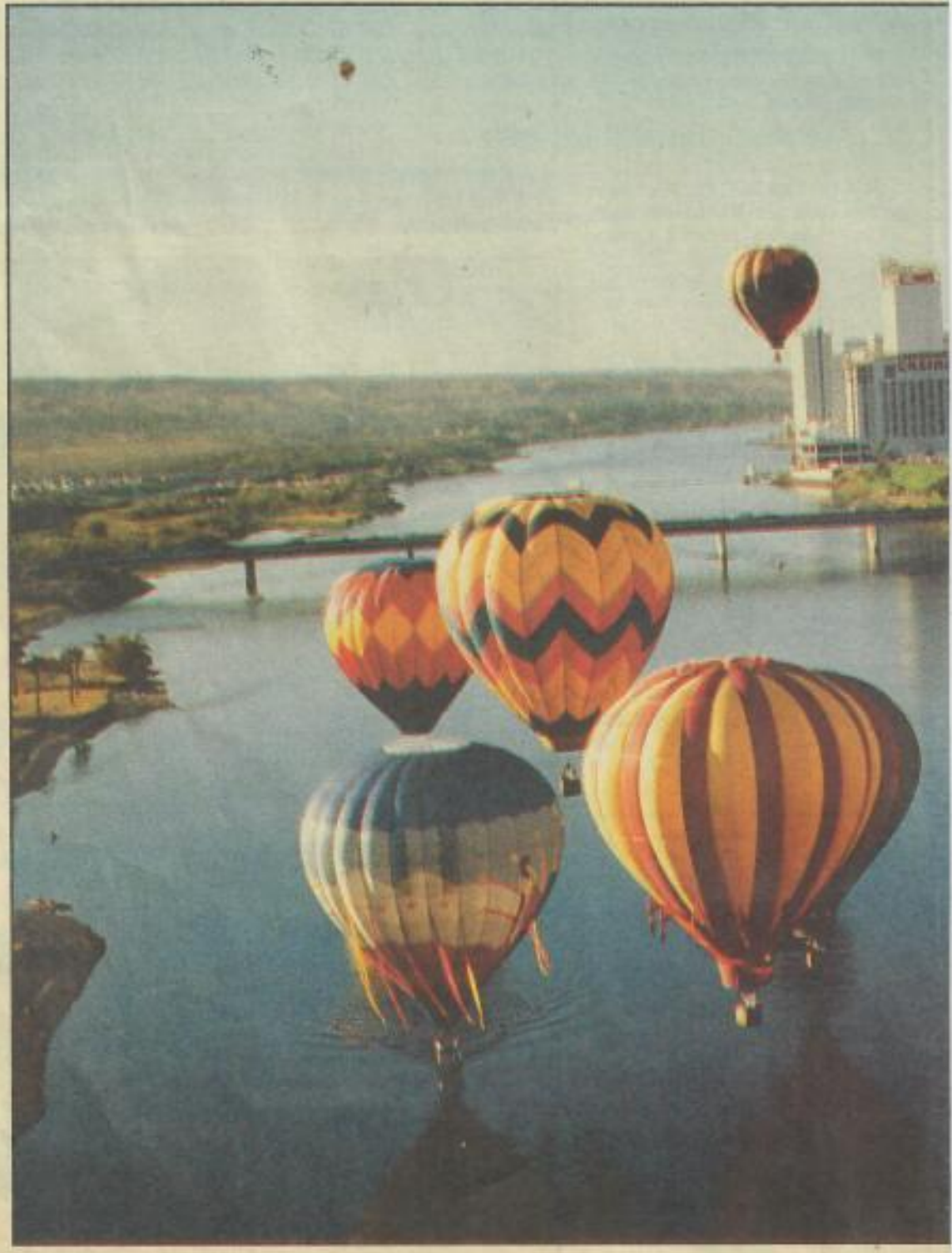


Travel

On Line Traveler **G-5**

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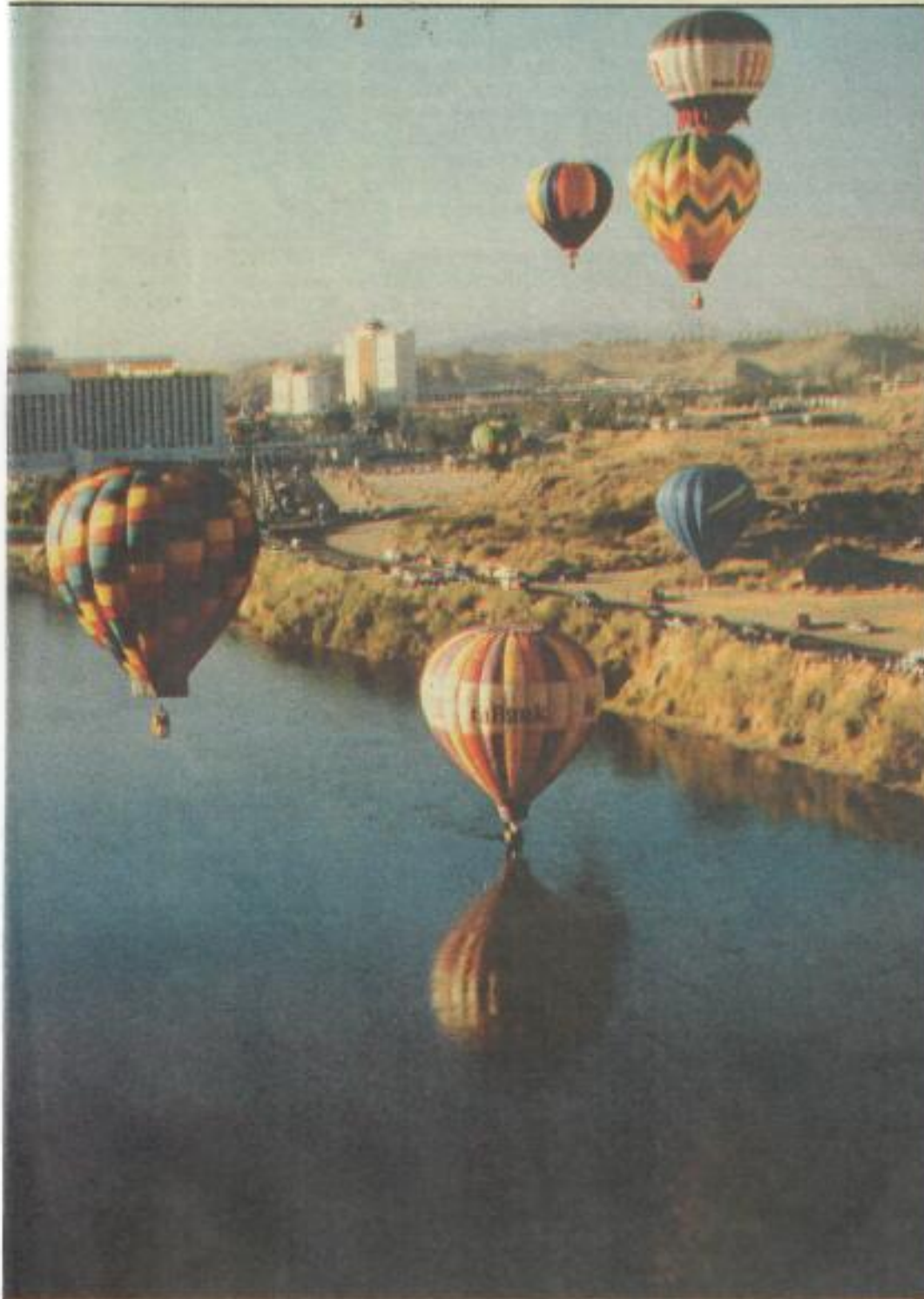


More than 100 balloons will participate in Riverflight 96 which will be held Friday th

Travel

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SECTION



Las Vegas News Bureau

through Sunday this week at Laughlin, Nev.

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Laughlin

The alternative to



Davis Dam offers visitors free self-guided tours on weekdays.

Dining is cheap and getting around is easy

By Alan Solomon
Chicago Tribune

Hints about Laughlin and Bullhead City:

DINING: Every hotel-casino in town has cheap — and therefore popular — breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets; prices vary. In addition, there are special deals (all-you-can-eat spaghetti and prime rib dinners — that sort of thing), plus scattered coffee shops, snack bars, steak houses, Italian restaurants and gourmet rooms — but not much outside the hotels. Bullhead City, on the Arizona side of the Colorado River, has all the franchises (including two Taco Bells), lots of Denny's-style family restaurants and at least three Chinese places.

GETTING AROUND: The hotel-casinos are spread over 1½ miles of Casino Drive — some of it uphill — but if you choose to focus on the casino action, a car is unnecessary. There are land taxis and water taxis, which are frequent and kind of fun. Rental cars are available at the airport from the usual chains. Free parking is plentiful; but to avoid long hikes, consider the

Please see **ACTIVITIES, G-2**

By Scott McCaffrey
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

LAUGHLIN, Nev.

Let the travel in-crowd sneer if they want. Let 'em call Laughlin, Nev., a "poor man's Las Vegas." Doesn't matter to me — Laughlin's my kind of people. Not quite as glitzy, but Laughlin offers a pleasant alternative to the carnival-like, go-go atmosphere of Vegas. The crowds still come to gamble, but it's an more sedate group. When the urge to gamble has ebbed — or the money has run out — the Colorado River offers plenty of alternatives for visitors.

Located about 90 miles south of Las Vegas, Laughlin is mirroring its growth. The region, which didn't even exist as a tourist spot until the late 1960s, now boasts almost 13,000 hotel rooms in both Laughlin and nearby Bullhead City, Ariz. More than five million visitors came last year.

What now is arid desert once was quite different. A hundred thousand years ago, there was plenty of moisture. But climate changes eventually made their mark. Creatures that could survive the hostile environment — lizards, tortoises, coyote, rattlesnakes — flourished.

Archaeologists know that ancient peoples lived in the region 3,000 years ago, but they're not sure how much further back inhabitation goes. Patayan Indians arrived a thousand years ago, living off the land. Mojave Indians followed. The tribe's name means "people who live near the water," and many Mojave continue to live around the Colorado.

Europeans visited the region in 1540 and again in 1776, but didn't stick around. In the mid-1850s, the area became the starting point for stern-wheel steamboats headed to the Gulf of California. For \$44, a passenger could board the boat in what is now Bullhead City and travel on to San Francisco.

In 1857, a federal fort was established to protect the travelers and cargo. Fort Mojave became one of the few U.S. military installations to rely on camels — a total of 28 arrived for use by the War Department of Post Office.

In 1864, the town of Hardyville was established and mining for gold began. The Katherine Gold Mine, operated from the turn of the century through World War II, produced about \$12 million in ore.

The Colorado River remained untamed until the 1930s, when construction began on Davis Dam. World War II interrupted, delaying completion until 1953. Davis Dam and its northern sibling Hoover Dam regulate the flow of the Colorado and provide needed water and electricity to surrounding states and Mexico. Lake Mohave, which was created by Davis Dam, provides a shoreline of 150 miles and numerous recreational opportunities. Construction workers went home when Davis Dam was finished. A small town of South Pointe had flourished during construction, but eventually its lone motel closed.

Enter Don Laughlin.

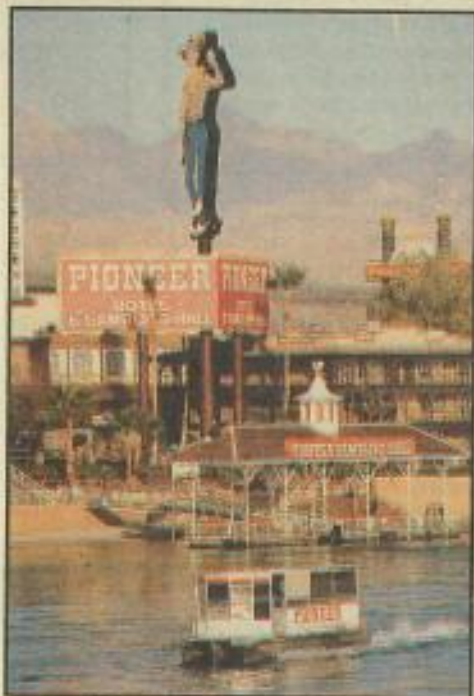
The Las Vegas developer was flying over the region in his private plane in the early 1960s and spotted the potential of the area. He purchased the boarded-up motel, moved his family into half the rooms and began a revolution.

Laughlin became the first and one of the largest developers in the region. His Riverside Hotel and Casino now has 1,405 rooms. The Postal Service renamed

Please see **LAUGHLIN, G-2**

lin

glitzy Vegas



Two of the older hotels and casinos that face the Colorado River at Laughlin.

Laughin' in Laughlin: Buggy, old fella, you really would've loved this outpost

By Steve Wiegand
McClatchy News Service

Benjamin H. Siegel
c/o Mephistopheles, Inc.
Hades

Dear Buggy:
Let's talk Laughlin.
I know, I know. You're much more interested in Vegas. After all, you got the whole thing started there back in '46. And you were terminally ventilated by some of your business associates before you could enjoy the fruits of your labors.

Hear me out, Bugs. You really wouldn't like what they've done to Vegas. Y'know, it used to be a place where adults went to gamble, soak up some sun, see comedians tell jokes they couldn't tell on television, and engage in, uh, adult activities.

But they've Disney-ized it, Buggy. Now it's a place where families with little kids and people attending library conventions go to gawk at faux volcanoes and mock pirate ships and castles and glass-and-stucco pyramids. Sure, you can still gamble and do the other adult stuff, but it's just not the same when you're surrounded by people wearing caps with flapping moose antlers. It's expensive and crowded and, geez, they even turned the Glitter Gulch area in downtown Vegas into something that looks like a video arcade.

Naw, you wouldn't like the place much. Now, Laughlin, there's a place with real potential.

For one thing, it's kind of new. This guy named Don Laughlin — he owned a casi-

Please see **BUGSY, G-2**

More than 100 balloons



On Line Traveler G-5

BUGSY: Laughlin is different than Las Vegas

Continued from G-1
no in Vegas for 10 years — was flying over the area in 1964 and he liked what he saw. The place is about 90 miles south of Vegas, down where the tip of Nevada pokes in between California and Arizona. Except for the sometimes-blue, sometimes-brown ribbon of the Colorado River that cuts through it, the area has the same dusty ambience the rest of the Mojave Desert has, which is to say not much ambience at all.

I talked with Laughlin a few years ago, Bugs, and he told me at the time he just thought being on the river would be a good place to start. He also said he originally was going to name the place Casino, but a U.S. postal inspector named O'Reilly convinced him to give it a good Irish name.

There's a bridge connecting Laughlin and Bullhead City across the river in Arizona, donated by Don Laughlin at a cost of \$3.5 million. Bullhead City has an airport big enough to accommodate 737s. They even have traffic lights on the casino strip, which hugs several miles of the river's west bank.

And except for the Colorado Belle, a 700-foot-long building shaped like a riverboat, the casinos and hotels pretty much look like casinos and hotels: tall buildings with lots of rooms upstairs and lots of gambling stuff downstairs. No roller coasters. No boat rides through the lobby. No talking statues dressed in Roman togas.

There are other differences too, Bugsy. For one, it's — you should excuse the expression, given your current address — a hell of a lot cheaper than Vegas. I paid 21 bucks a night on a recent stay at the Harrah's Del Rio for a spacious room with a great view of the river. During the off-season, especially in the summer when it gets almost as hot as you-know-where, rates can drop to an absurd \$10 or \$12.

LAUGHLIN: Big gaming profits

Continued from G-1
South Pointe after this developer, reportedly over his objections, in the late 1960s.

Other hotel/casinos followed. Today, nine major hotels line the banks of the Colorado River on the Nevada side of the border (in nearby Arizona, there are hotels and motels but no casinos). About 14,000 local residents work in tour-

Cheap buffets — the under-\$6 kind that have all but disappeared in Vegas — are everywhere in Laughlin.

Ah, and the gambling. This is small-budget heaven for the waging working couple: dozens of nickel and quarter slots, and low-rent blackjack and craps tables.

Like this guy who said his name was George Moran and he was a retired Los Angeles aerospace worker. He was busy splitting eights at a \$2, single-deck blackjack table at the Golden Nugget and we got to talking. "You can have a lot more fun here for a lot longer," he said. "In Vegas you have to play at a \$5 table or even higher. I might lose the same amount here, but it takes me a lot longer."

In fact, that's another great element to Laughlin: the pace. Everything is more casual, more low-key. I know this will surprise you, Bugsy, but some of the casinos have windows in them, that actually look out over the Colorado.

Terry, who was dealing seven-stud in the Harrah's poker room, pointed to the room's big windows. "It's really beautiful in here at sunrise," he said. "You look out and the desert turns colors and the water is dead still and it's a beautiful sight." To tell the truth, Bugs, I went over and took a look after my ace-high flush came in second to a full boat. He was right.

Now, how many poker rooms have you been in where dealers gush like that about their workplace environment?

Or how many craps tables have you stood at where one of the crew stops the action to gently explain to a confused patron that he's betting against himself — and no one else at the table gets huffy because of the delay? That's what happened in Laughlin when I was there.

The stickman, a fella named Bob Trentor, said they get a lot of people who haven't rolled the

bones before, "so we try to make sure they have a good time and aren't intimidated by us or the game or the other players. We try to be a little more relaxed than Vegas or Reno."

Which brings us to the river. All but one or two of the casinos back up to it, and Harrah's even imported sand and made its own ocean-style beach. A mile or two upriver is Davis Dam, and behind it Lake Mojave, a 44-square-mile body that stretches north to Hoover Dam. You can rent fishing and ski boats both at the lake and on the river. Jet-skis can also be rented.

I was talking to this family from Escondido, in north San Diego County, the Nordens. There was a couple, two kids, a set of in-laws and a sleek 18-foot inboard ski boat they had just parked in one of the hotel lots set aside for boats and trailers. The mother, Betty, said the thing about Laughlin is "we can stay in a nice place, gamble when we want to and have something to do all day, like fishing or skiing or just cruising the river."

Of course, Vegas does have a few things Laughlin doesn't. But unlike Vegas, it's tough to spend \$200 to see two guys jump around with white tigers in Laughlin.

But, Bugsy, take a look what Laughlin does have: cheap rooms, cheap grub, cheap gambling, relaxed pace, good service, nice people.

So call me a low-roller, Bugs. I'll take all those things that over indoor jousting and volcanic eruptions anytime.

Cheers,
Wiegy

large can be rented throughout the region.

● **Golfing:** The Laughlin area boasts five golf courses.

● **Wildlife:** Migrating birds seek out Lake Mohave, and both bald eagles and peregrine falcons can occasionally be spotted. A vast array of desert animals can be found by those who know what

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ACTIVITIES

Continued from G-1

hotels' free (yeah, they expect a tip) valet parking.

ACCESS: Terrific. Ramps are everywhere, though the ones to the boats are a little steep. Many of the casinos have low-rise blackjack tables to accommodate wheelchair (as well as non-disabled) gamblers; the Golden Nugget has a ramp into its pool.

ENTERTAINMENT: No Vegas extravaganzas — or Vegas sleaze. Lounge shows, some quite good, can be enjoyed for the price of a drink.

FUN ON THE WATER: Boat tours of the Colorado River, with commentary on the region's history, run about \$10 (sometimes discounted) for about 1½ hours. Waverunners and Jet Skis (two and three-passenger crafts) can be rented through multiple outlets along shore. Harrah's has a large private beach on the river, the Pioneer has a smaller one, and free public beaches dot the Arizona side (the river water is goose-bump cold year 'round). All the hotels have pools, but most are kid-size.

GOLF: Emerald River is the only course in town, and it's nice. Bullhead City and Needles have municipal and par-3 courses.

SHOPPING: Not much, aside from mugs and T-shirts. Locals go to Bullhead City for basics and make the 90-minute drive to Las Vegas for serious shopping.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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ism-related industries.

As in Las Vegas, casinos are big business. There are nearly 14,000 slot machines, 370 table games and 44 poker/pan tables locally. Casinos reported a gross gaming win (the rest of us call it a profit) of \$515 million in Laughlin last year.

Those casino profits have kept hotel rooms reasonable. A room can be had for \$25-\$50 most nights, although advance reservations are advisable. Buffets offer plenty of food at rock-bottom prices.

Several casinos offer Las Vegas-style entertainment. Country singers and comics like Phyllis Diller and Foster Brooks are among the acts. Some acts, like George Carlin, come down from Vegas for a day or two.

A year ago, the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe opened its first hotel/casino, the 302-room Avi. The complex is located south of Laughlin/Bullhead City. Tribal officials plan to open a second casino, and develop a mixed-use residential community on their land.

Even if you never step inside a casino, there is plenty to do in the Laughlin area:

● **Fishing:** Anglers can fish Lake Mohave and the Colorado River all year, searching for bass, catfish, trout and crappie. Reminder: A license from both Nevada and Arizona is necessary if you plan to fish both sides of the Colorado.

● **Swimming:** Its 150 miles of shoreline, Lake Mohave has plenty of private coves to seek out. Both Avi Casino and Harrah's have beaches along the Colorado River.

● **Boating:** Boats small and

they're looking for.

● **Touring the dam:** David Dam offers free tours weekdays, explaining the importance of the dam to the whole region.

● **RVing:** There are 21 RV parks in the vicinity, plus nine mobile home parks.

● **Reved up:** More than 20,000 Harley Davidson riders descend on the area each spring for the annual Laughlin River Run. Book early: Hotels report 100 percent occupancy during Nevada's version of Biker Week.

● **Getting hitched:** The Regional Government Center is located not far from the casinos, and is opened weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. As in Las Vegas, there is no waiting period and no blood test. Bring \$35 (cash) and proof of age. There are about 25 churches in the region, plus wedding chapels. Hotel/casinos also offer wedding packages.

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Top 10 travel list: Not in my car!

Chicago Tribune

Who would you least like as company on a cross-country drive? The answers, based on a survey by Travel Holiday magazine and the PLUS ATM Network of frequent travelers (with percentage naming each):

1. Rush Limbaugh: 35.9 percent
2. O.J. Simpson: 26.7 percent
3. Bill & Hillary Clinton: 17.9 percent
4. Regis Philbin & Kathie Lee Gifford: 5.7 percent
5. Oprah Winfrey: 3.1 percent
6. David Letterman: 2.9 percent
7. Bill Gates: 1.3 percent
8. Newt Gingrich: 0.5 percent
9. Other entertainers: 0.4 percent
10. Other politicians: 0.3 percent

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Comi

Laughlin area

LODGING

Laughlin: Nine hotels — 11,072 rooms; two motels — 122 rooms
 Indian reservation: One hotel — 302 rooms
 Bullhead City: 25 hotels/motels 1,489 rooms
 Total: 12,985

AIRPORT

The \$23 million Laughlin/Bullhead City Airport is located in Arizona minutes from casinos on the Nevada side of the Colorado River. A 10,500-square-foot terminal houses ticket counters, a baggage claim area, air charter companies, car rental agencies, a lounge area and a conference room. The runway accommodates Boeing 737s DC-10s and MD-80s.

HEALTH CARE

Laughlin Medical Center, Bullhead Community Hospital, Mohave Medical Center and Hospital, and one extended care facility.

TRANSPORTATION

Citizen Area Transit (CAT) operates one 24-hour bus route, 7-days-a-week, year round in the Laughlin area. The route covers the business district and residential area of Laughlin. General fare (over 18) \$1.50; seniors 65 and older and children 5-17, 75 cents; Children under 5 ride free. Water taxis transport riders on the Colorado River to the casino of their choice. Cabs are also available in Bullhead City.

CLIMATE

Average high mean temperature is 87°F; average mean low temperature is 45°F.

POPULATION

Laughlin — 8,000 permanent residents.
 Bullhead City — Approximately 28,535 permanent residents

inside the city limits with an additional 15,000 in the unincorporated area that stretches to the California state line. The city also counts an estimated 10,000 to 15,000 non-permanent residents including "snowbirds" in the winter.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARKS

21 RV parks in the Laughlin/Bullhead City area with 2,463 total sites, 2,263 with hookups; 9 mobile home parks with 240 spaces.

GAMING

There are about 13,265 slot machines in Laughlin, 370 table games and 44 poker and pen tables. Fort Mojave Indian Casino in Nevada has more than 700 slot machines, 20 table games, a keno lounge and a sports book.

CASINOS

RIVERSIDE RESORT HOTEL & CASINO — Purchased and opened in 1966 by Don Laughlin who still owns the property, 1,405 rooms.

GOLDEN NUGGET — LAUGHLIN — Originally opened in 1967; currently owned by Mirage Resorts Inc.; 304 rooms.

PIONEER HOTEL & GAMBLING HALL — Opened in 1979; now owned by the Santa Fe Corp.; 414 rooms.

REGENCY CASINO — Owned by Bud Soper who opened the property in 1980; no hotel.

EDGEWATER HOTEL & CASINO — Originally opened in 1981; owned by Circus Circus Enterprises since 1983; 1,450 rooms.

GOLD RIVER GAMBLING HALL & RESORT — Owned by John Midby and Associates since it opened in 1984; 1,003 rooms.

COLORADO BELLE HOTEL & CASINO — Constructed by Circus Circus Enterprises which still owns and operates the property; 1,238 rooms.

RAMADA EXPRESS — Opened in 1988 by Ramada which still

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Laughlin

Ramada Express

From Nov. 9 to Feb. 28, it's yesterday once more when Ramada Express goes "Back to the 1940s" and pays tribute to an era with four months of big band music, concerts by swing-era stars, old radio programs, vintage Hollywood movies, '40s fashions and collections of '40s memorabilia.

The Pavilion Theater will feature starlight ballroom dancing with swing music from big bands like Lezlie Anders, Teddy Phillips, Stan Mark and Stan Golden. The Swing Sisters will perform tributes to the Andrews and McGuire Sisters.

For reservations, call Ramada Express at (800) 343-4533.

Edgewater

This year, the Edgewater Hotel is featuring Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Day the Buffet will offer seven entrees — roast turkey, ham with raisin sauce, roast pork loin, fried chicken, lemon pepper cod, roast baron of beef and Virginia baked ham — plus all the trimmings.

The Garden Room is offering a dinner of roast turkey or ham with raisin sauce with all the traditional trimmings.

After dinner, guests can enjoy free live entertainment with country music by Billy Erickson and the Bandits in KopPELL's lounge.

Riverside Resort

The Riverside Resort's semi-annual "Garage Sale" will soon be the site of "lots of steals and deals," said sale organizer, Fred Dettmer.

This sales event will take place at a special booth in the

Flamingo Hilton

The 1996 Laughlin River-flight (Oct. 18-20) at the Flamingo Hilton is expected to be bigger and better than ever.

The Flamingo Hilton features more than 1,800 slot and video poker machines, 57 table games and Laughlin's largest race and sports book. It's also home to Laughlin's largest slot payouts.

Recently voted as having the best live entertainment on the

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Local facts

owns the property; 1,501 rooms.
HARRAH'S LAUGHLIN — Built and operated by Promus Co. (Harrah's) since 1988; 1,857 rooms.
LAMINGO HILTON — LAUGHLIN — Built and operated by Hilton Corp. since 1990; 2,000 rooms.
WVI HOTEL & CASINO — Built and operated by the Fort Mojave Indian tribe, the casino/hotel opened Feb. 17, 1995 with 102 rooms.

MOTELS

BAY SHORE INN — Opened in 1992; 100 rooms, no casino.
CRYSTAL PALACE — Opened in 1968 as Monte Carlo. Renamed Crystal Palace motel/casino in 1985; purchased by Don Laughlin in 1993 who closed the casino but still operates the motel.

TOURISM

In 1995 more than 4.7 million tourists visited Laughlin. The hotel occupancy rate in 1995 was 86.4 percent. A total of 2,439,208 tourists were recorded in the first six months of 1996. The occupancy rate for the first six months of 1996 was 90.2 percent.

WEDDINGS

Wedding licenses can be obtained in Laughlin Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Justice Court in the Regional Government Center on Laughlin Civic Drive. There is no waiting period and no blood test is required. All that is necessary to purchase a license is \$35 in cash and proof of age. Weddings can be arranged at most Laughlin hotel/casinos.

ATTRACTIONS

DAVIS DAM — Free self-guided tour available weekdays from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Photos and diagrams explain how the dam's five turbines generate electricity.

COLORADO RIVER MUSEUM — Operated by the Colorado River Historical Society, a tri-state organization. Free admission. Displays include ancient fossils and artifacts pertaining to the mining history of Bullhead City, Laughlin and the surrounding area. The museum has a model of the motel Don Laughlin purchased in 1966.

GRAPEVINE CANYON — Located 7 miles from Davis Dam. Visitors travel west on Highway 163 in Nevada, turn at Christmas Tree Pass. A short hike is required on a clearly marked trail to discover Indian petroglyphs and a running stream.

KATHERINE LANDING — Lake Mohave resort and marina on the Arizona side with boat slips, boat rentals including houseboats and personal watercraft, launch ramp, sandy beaches with barbecues and picnic areas, campgrounds with and without RV hookups, motel, boat storage, boat repair shop, store, restaurant and lounge.

OATMAN — About 30 miles southeast of Laughlin in Arizona off U.S. 95. Authentic western ghost town and historic gold mining area with museums, shops and eateries. Gunfighters stage shows on the town's main street at 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday. Oatman sits on historic Route 66.

LONDON BRIDGE, ENGLISH VILLAGE AND LAKE HAVASU — The same bridge that spanned the river Thames in England for nearly 145 years, was moved, piece by piece, and reassembled at Lake Havasu City, AZ, 67 miles southeast of Laughlin, on U.S. 95.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

GOLF — Five courses including Emerald River Golf Course in Laughlin; Chaparral Country Club and Riverview Golf Club in

Please see RIVER, G-4

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Colorado River, the Flamingo is home to the annual Spring and Fall Outdoor Concert Series.

Call (800) 435-8469 for more information. To make reservations, call (800) FLAMINGO.

Colorado Belle

"Yakety Yak" with The Coasters and Krazy Radio on Friday, Oct. 18, during the

Colorado Belle Hotel Casino's hot air balloon "Moonglow."

The Coasters — famous for the doo-wop harmonies in such hits as "Poison Ivy," "Charlie Brown," "Young Blood" and "Yakety Yak." — will be on hand to meet fans during the balloon moonglow from 6-6:30 p.m. in the Colorado Belle's parking lot.

Balloonists will begin preparations for the glow at around 5 p.m. in the parking lot near

Casino Drive, with the "moonglow."

The Laughlin Riverflight '96 hot air balloon festival runs Friday through Sunday, Oct. 18-20.

The Colorado Belle is offering a package for \$79 per person that includes a hotel room for two nights, tickets to the concert and River flight souvenir T-shirts.

Call (800) 47-RIVER for information or reservations.



FALL PREVIEW

Riverflight Romp

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The Hickory Pit Steakhouse's Thanksgiving Dinner entrees include the choice of roast turkey breast, honey-glazed Virginia baked ham or a combination of ham and turkey breast.

A Laughlin favorite, the Edgewater buffet features three 60-foot serving lines and more than 55 items. On

resort's south tower, from Friday through Sunday, Oct. 18-20.

Among the items featured at the Garage Sale will be hundreds of overstocked new satin jackets, T-shirts, hats, Polo shirts, assorted Christmas ornaments, watches, 30th anniversary commemorative items and more.

For more information, call the Riverside at (702) 298-2535.

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3 Days / 2 Nights
Prime Rib & Lobster Dinner
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(SUN.-THUR.)

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Flamingo Getaway

Country Dreamin'), Great Price

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\$27

Per room per night. Includes 2 tickets to Laughlin's favorite show, Country Dreamin'!

something of a seagoing tobacco trend: cigar-friendly ships.

At least two cruise lines have tapped into the cigar-appreciation revival, devoting whole rooms to cigar smoking and to the rituals associated with it.

As it stands now on most ships, stogie-toting passengers must either smoke on deck or forgo their puffing altogether. In consideration of the majority of passengers, virtually every ship afloat bans cigar smoking in public rooms and corridors, particularly on those lines that cater to North American passengers. Some ships, though, are sending up smoke signals that indicate a change. These days, a ship's funnel isn't the only thing blowing smoke.

"Cigar smoking is a time-hon-

Century cigars all are hand-rolled on board by Miami-based Havana Ray's. The most expensive is only about \$8. Nevertheless, Century's cigar selections are ceremoniously proffered from antique humidors. To round out the customs associated with retiring to a drawing room, the small bar in Michael's Club offers after-dinner liqueurs.

This specialty salon for cigar-smoking is one of Century's most intimate spaces and is, perhaps, its loveliest. Decorated as a traditional gentlemen's club, the room's warm palette of amber, navy and deep claret tones is accented with wood-paneled walls of cherry, bookcases that hold rare volumes, antique globes, loads of lovely objets d'art and a marble fireplace with glowing faux logs (on Caribbe-

smoke a cigar. The observation lounge seemed perfect. Each evening the lounge is devoted to cigar-smoking only, with superior selections proffered in humidors. It's even possible to enjoy once-forbid-

RIVER: Rereational activities

Continued from G-3

Bullhead City: Desert Lakes Golf Course 15 miles from Laughlin in Fort Mojave, AZ; Needles Municipal Golf Course 25 miles southwest of Laughlin in Needles, CA.

FISHING — Anglers can fish Lake Mohave and the Colorado River year round. Game fish include largemouth bass, catfish, crappie, rainbow trout and striped bass. A state license from Arizona or Nevada is necessary in order to fish in the Colorado River or Lake Mohave. Other restrictions may apply.

SWIMMING — The Lake Mohave and Colorado River area is a paradise for swimmers and scuba divers. With more than 150 miles of shore around the lake, there are many secluded coves that can be enjoyed for all kinds of water activities. Additionally, there are four swimming beaches in the Laughlin/Bullhead City area.

BOATING — Personal watercraft can be rented in Laughlin at Harrah's Laughlin, New Horizons in the Pioneer Hotel, Avi Casino, or in several locations in Bullhead City. Prices start at about \$45 an hour for a single-seater up to \$55 and \$65 for two- and three-seaters. Larger boats can be rented at the marinas on Lake Mohave including Willow Beach and Katherine Landing in Arizona and Cottonwood Cove in Nevada.

TENNIS — The Flamingo Hilton Laughlin has courts on the third floor of the hotel that are free to hotel guests. There are also courts at all of the high schools in the Laughlin and Bullhead City area.

INDIANS — The Fort Mojave Indian Tribe owns and operates the only Native American-owned casino in Nevada. The casino, called Avi, which means money or loose change, is

about 8 miles south of Laughlin. It is the only Indian casino in the U.S. governed by state gaming regulators.

CHURCHES — There are approximately 25 multi-denominational choices at which to worship.

SHOPPING — Two shopping centers in Laughlin house more than 20 businesses. With 225,000 square feet, Horizon Outlet Center features 50 food and retail outlets, a cinema complex and a basement garage with 1,220 parking spaces.

Source: Las Vegas News Bureau

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women" indulge.

Thomas Carlson, a Seabourn hotel manager, is convinced that as the stogie revival continues to gain popularity, this concept will be adapted by more cruise lines.

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