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JET SETTING MAGAZINE

SPRING ISSUE

USA JET SETTING GUIDE

**Skywalking
Over
4,000 ft. High**

**Our Cover Girl
SANDRA
NILSSON**

**Latina
Eva
Longoria
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Fashion**

**Discovering
New
Death Valley**

**COFFEE'S
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**"Rock Stars"
of Laguna's
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- Michael Ragsdale *photography* Carole Walker *carved gourds*

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Financial News by MILLIONAIRE BEAR!

Welcome to the introductory page of FINANCIAL NEWS OF THE WORLD by MILLIONAIRE BEAR! The Jet Setting Magazine staff are working hard to bring our readers a full measure of important information from around the world. This section will be expanded as time and coverage becomes necessary.

Dubai domain names are gaining in value.

In any imaginable combination. DubaiGolf.net owners are asking \$888.00; DubaiOil.net, \$1088.00; DubaiRenters.com is only \$1888.00; while DubaiShoppingMalls.com is for sale for only \$62,200.00. There's money in them thar domain names.

Large hotels are popping up all over Dubai. However, the rapidly growing megalopolis in the United Arab Emirates, the city that has been attracting so much attention all over the world, is also growing a large group of boutique hotels. They offer personalized service. Check out these interesting boutique hotels. FUSION Bed and Breakfast offers fourteen marvelous designer suites and plenty of personal services. Another is AL MAHA, which lies about 40 miles outside the center of Dubai. It features forty individually designed Bedouin-style tents. Other boutique hotels abound and should be adventurous places to check-out.

More news from Millionaire Bear in a few days. Stay tuned.



Logo by Ken Boyer



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Dubai, UAE; May 14, 2008, Today we are introducing to our readers an exciting new page of Financial News from Dubai and other locations around the world. We will sift through the news and place the stories right here in this section that may be of value to you or your investment interests.

So check the news items right here and you will possibly find news that can change your life forever. News about investing or real estate news relating to your own personal or business interests.

The Editor

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Seals, Sea Birds on the Rocks

Story and photographs
by Mike Russell

Executive
Charter

Our pilot was Travis Taylor



On a clear winter's day in February our Silver State Executive Charter helicopter took off from Redlands Airport, Redlands, Calif. and headed across the hills and valleys toward Laguna Beach, Calif. that is world-famous for its pristine beaches and rocky coastline.

It took just about 40 minutes before we began our scenic flight down the twisting Laguna Canyon Road to the ocean. In minutes we broke out over Main Beach where we could see the volleyball courts below with the players hitting the balls over the nets.

We elected to fly south toward Dana Point with wonderful green water and low waves breaking along the shore. The deep blue water marks the fast fall-off into the depths of the Pacific only a few hundred yards off the beach.

Hey! There is the landmark Hotel Laguna. A bit farther down along the sandy beach we can see the Surf & Sand Resort standing tall at the beach's edge. There were a few surfers lazily riding their boards out into the low tide waves. Some waved at us flying along at around 90 mph some 50 ft. above the water.



destination/laguna beach



We were in search of a large seal-covered rock a little over a thousand yards off the beach. Noting the white, frothy water down the coast, we guessed it would be the seal rock. We headed for it. My camera was at the ready. When we arrived we could see the semi-flat rock was covered with seal lionesses and a few large males. Cormorants stood their ground at the edge of the outcropping. There they were. Seals resting en masse. We circled several times and I took many photographs. The animals hardly noticed our presence.

On the return flight there was the rugged, rocky coastline and countless homes on the cliffs.



destination/laguna beach



ATTENTION CAMPERS!

If you are tired of re-hydrated delicacies and skimpy tents on the trail, it's time for upscale camping with gourmet food, real beds, daily maid service and hot showers. It's all available at the Sequoia High Sierra Camp (SHSC), billed as the last luxury outpost before entering 2 million acres of High Sierra wilderness between Sequoia and Yosemite National Parks.

We parked our car about 1 mile from the trailhead to SHSC in the clear air of 8,200 feet. Our luxury canvas bungalow (more like a small house) had plush-top beds with down comforters, a table and chairs and baskets to carry towels and toiletries to the bathhouse. We relished the peace, the silence and the stunning views.

At mealtime, we enjoyed California-cuisine prepared by a gourmet chef who emphasizes fresh, seasonal ingredients. Four-course dinners ran to filet mignon and grilled lamb shanks with tasty vegetarian alternatives and wine. Guests choose seatings at 30-minute intervals, so each 6-person table is served together with a visit from the chef. Sack lunch orders

Story and Photos by Lynn and Glenn Pribus
Some Photos courtesy of Sequoia High Sierra Camp



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- 1) Sunset from camp
- 2) Campers enjoy the view and a sack lunch atop Mt. Mitchell.
- 3) Wildflowers abound in the wilderness around the Sequoia High Sierra Camp.
- 4) Day hiking



4

are placed during the buffet breakfast for people spending the day hiking or fly-fishing. Coffee, tea and water are always available.

The camp is a mile or so from the Jennie Lakes Wilderness Area where we climbed 10,365-ft. Mitchell Peak on a well-maintained 3-mile trail for an incredible 360-degree view. Longer and shorter hikes are available.

SHSC's owner's philosophy is to develop a "community" type camp in what he calls the "European" style and even during the first abbreviated season in the late summer of 2006, it was obviously working. Everyone was very cordial around camp and on the trail – like old friends. After dinner, most of us migrated to the campfire to watch the sun set across an incredible view.

For more information call: 866-654-2877 or visit the Website which has detailed information, maps and photos: <http://www.sequoiahighsierracamp.com>.

Glenn and Lynn Pribus are members of the Outdoor Writers Association of California.

Sandra Nilsson, Spring Issue Cover Model

Photographs and Story as told to Mike Russell
Make up and Hair by Johny Saade for Cloutier Agency using:
Ren Clean Skincare cosmetics by Cle du Peau
Hair products by kerastase

One of 10 top Hawaiian Tropic World Beauty Contest winners, Sandra Nilsson, 20, is Miss Stockholm, Sweden, 2006 and our cover model of the spring issue of Jet Setting Magazine. She emails to us, "I am hoping that everything is good with you. And that you are happy with the shoot." In fact we were delighted with the cover shoot at French Valley Airport's STA JETS headquarters. We photographed Sandra in front of one of STA's charter jets. And thanks to Silver State Helicopter's, we were very happy to be flown down and back in Robinson R-44 four-seater copters. Like an executive charter, but without the traffic congestion.

Sandra Nilsson tells us that she and her parents and brother are from a rather large tourist city in Sweden called Malmo. "Sweden is a very beautiful country with nice people and beautiful nature," she explains.

After our cover shoot assignment, we next heard she was back in Malmo, then back in New York with a Swedish girlfriend, also a model. Both were calling on the New York model agencies. "I think there are more opportunities here in America," she reports.

"My hobbies are travel, cooking, and being with my friends and family. They are important to me. I like everything that makes life worth living," Sandra says.

Sandra Nilsson is a busy working model, and her career should be taking off soon.

She told us that she watched the Super Bowl from a large yacht instead of getting rained on at the stadium. Back in New York again, and then to Key West. She also has traveled to Las Vegas for work.



FURRARI FURS, PALM DESERT



5



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More Sequoia High Sierra Camp!

- 5) View from Mitchell Peak
- 6) Fine Dining
- 7) Bungalow Interior/Twins
- 8) Bungalow Interior/King
- 9) Dining Pavillion
- 10) Central Bath House
- 11) Evening Campfire
- 12) Bungalow Exterior/Night



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Sandra Nilsson,

The Naked Truth -Update!

As told to Mike Russell and written by Cathy D. Weil.

Photography by James Davis.

How is life for this 22-year-old Swedish beauty? According to Sandra, life is good. She's busy doing interviews, premieres and has even been an invited guest on the famous Red Carpet. Her name is getting out there...everywhere. She's had requests for articles in The STAR and for about 20 different Swedish celebrity gossip magazines as well as cable channel interviews. Yes, she's even had offers to guest-host TV shows and is proud to have appeared in Playboy magazine as centerfold, January, 2008. "Hugh Hefner is a very nice man," says Sandra who boasts that it's been 10 years since Sweden has had a "Playmate" in his magazine.



Are TV and film in Sandra's future? Yes, when she completes her speaking classes later this year she'll begin acting lessons. "Drama, comedy, I want to try everything," says Sandra. "I want to get out there and be seen." Sandra has recently been seen visiting Miami, Las Vegas, Daytona Beach and San Francisco. In short, she's keeping very busy!

So what does a woman like Sandra do for fun? "I want to learn to water ski, I learned to snow ski a couple years ago (and loved it)." And of course, the question all the men want to ask: is the beauty still available? According to Sandra, she had a boyfriend in Sweden a couple of years ago, but right now she is focusing on her career. Want to know

What do Sandra's parents think of her success? They are very supportive in all that she chooses to undertake. Sandra is **VERY** family oriented and even with her increasingly busy lifestyle, she still makes time to keep in touch with her older brother Stefan, 29, who runs a farm and also juggles family. She still relishes the time she makes to go home and visit her family around the holidays.



more? Sandra's favorite food in NY is a vegetarian salad with lots of beans, tomatoes & carrots. What is her favorite restaurant? The Fig & Olive Restaurants, both the one uptown and the one downtown. Does she like the subway system? No, Sandra is brave enough to get around by car. Does she do much night clubbing? Although Sandra does like to dance & party, she says that she'd rather stay home and relax. It's nice to be home after a long days work. Sandra goes on to say that she occasionally enjoys a glass of wine amongst friends, but never touches drugs. "I need to stay focused on everything," says Sandra.

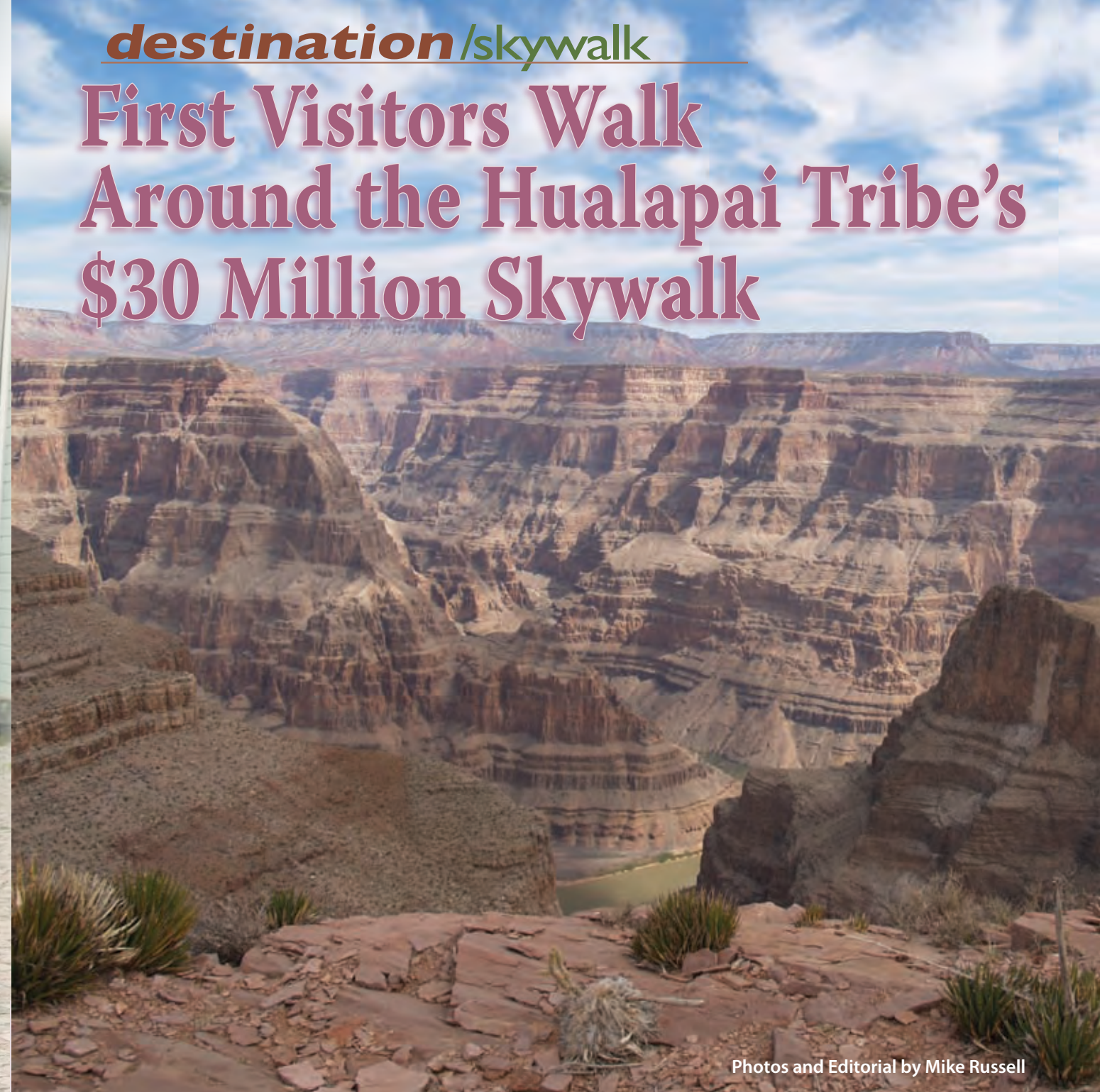
Are people beginning to recognize her? Yes, especially because of all the traveling she does. Does Sandra enjoy flying? "No, it is boring. I usually read a book, or sleep," she says.

As Sandra Nilsson's career takes off, be sure to watch out for this rising star!



destination / **skywalk**

First Visitors Walk Around the Hualapai Tribe's \$30 Million Skywalk



Photos and Editorial by Mike Russell

Hualapai Indian Reservation, Ariz. Stepping lightly, former astronaut Buzz Aldrin, who was the second man to walk on the moon, became the first visitor to tour the Hualapai Indian Tribe's new Skywalk at Grand Canyon West. The surface of the semicircular glass bottom Grand Canyon observation deck juts out 4,000 feet above the Colorado River and 70 feet out over the red rock cliff so visitors can look down through the glass at the greenish colored river below.

"It felt wonderful; but not exactly like floating on air," Aldrin said at a press conference following his historic walk around the glass deck. Aldrin noted he could hear the plates of glass creaking beneath his feet. The Hualapai Tribe invited former astronaut Aldrin and fellow astronaut John Herrington, along with others for the unveiling of the Skywalk, Tuesday, March 22. All in all there were an estimated 1,000 members of the press. The Skywalk is now open to the public.



destination/skywalk



The various tour packages, which will include the trip around the Skywalk, will range from \$49.95 to \$199. You may drive yourself, fly aboard twin engine tour planes, or by helicopters from Las Vegas or Boulder City Airports.

With a limit of 120 visitors at one time on the Skywalk, admittance is first come, first served for walk-up visitors; however, reservations may be made. Guests will exit the walkway via temporary buildings while the adjacent visitor's center is being completed.

According to architect Mark Johnson, the Skywalk can withstand the weight of several hundred people and can withstand winds of up to 100 mph. There are built-in shock absorbers that will keep it from acting like a diving board. It has a 3-inch-thick glass bottom, and at the opening ceremony on March 22, guests wore slippers on their feet.

The horseshoe-shaped walkway has a railing around both inside and outside with a tall glass wall around both the inside and outside. The view out on the platform is awesome and may be just like a walk in the park for some, but gut wrenching for others.

David Jin of Las Vegas was the developer of the Skywalk. It has taken two years to construct and Jin advanced the money for the \$30 million structure and will give it to the Hualapai Tribe in exchange for some of the profits in a 25-year deal. The Grand Canyon Resort Corporation oversees the tourist business of the tribe.

Around the Skywalk located at Grand Canyon West's Eagle Point, will be a 6,000 square-foot visitor's center on three levels. The visitor's center will include an underground level and two above ground floors—which will contain a museum, movie theatre, V.I.P. lounge, gift shop, and several restaurants and bars, including a high-end restaurant called The Skywalk Café that will offer outdoor patio and rooftop seating on the edge of the canyon. The second story will be where visitors can access The



destination/skywalk



Skywalk glass walkway. The visitor's center will also offer private indoor and outdoor facilities for meetings, special events and weddings.

Grand Canyon West is located approximately 120 miles east of Las Vegas, NV, and 72 miles northwest of Kingman, Ariz. Other attractions will include The Indian Village with authentic dwellings, The Hualapai Market, and the Hualapai Ranch, a western town with horseback and wagon rides. Grand Canyon West is the only location throughout the entire Grand Canyon where visitors can access the river and water recreation activities at the bottom of the canyon via helicopter tours. Boat and Hummer tours are available along the rim of the canyon and through private areas that are otherwise inaccessible to the public.

Maps, photographs and directions are available from www.destinationgrandcanyon.com or call 1(877)716-WEST (9378).

The Hualapai Tribe, consisting of approximately 2,000 Hualapai members, owns nearly one million acres of land throughout the Grand Canyon's western rim. The capital of the Hualapai Reservation is Peach Springs, AZ.

destination/cal neva resort

Cal Neva Resort & Spa

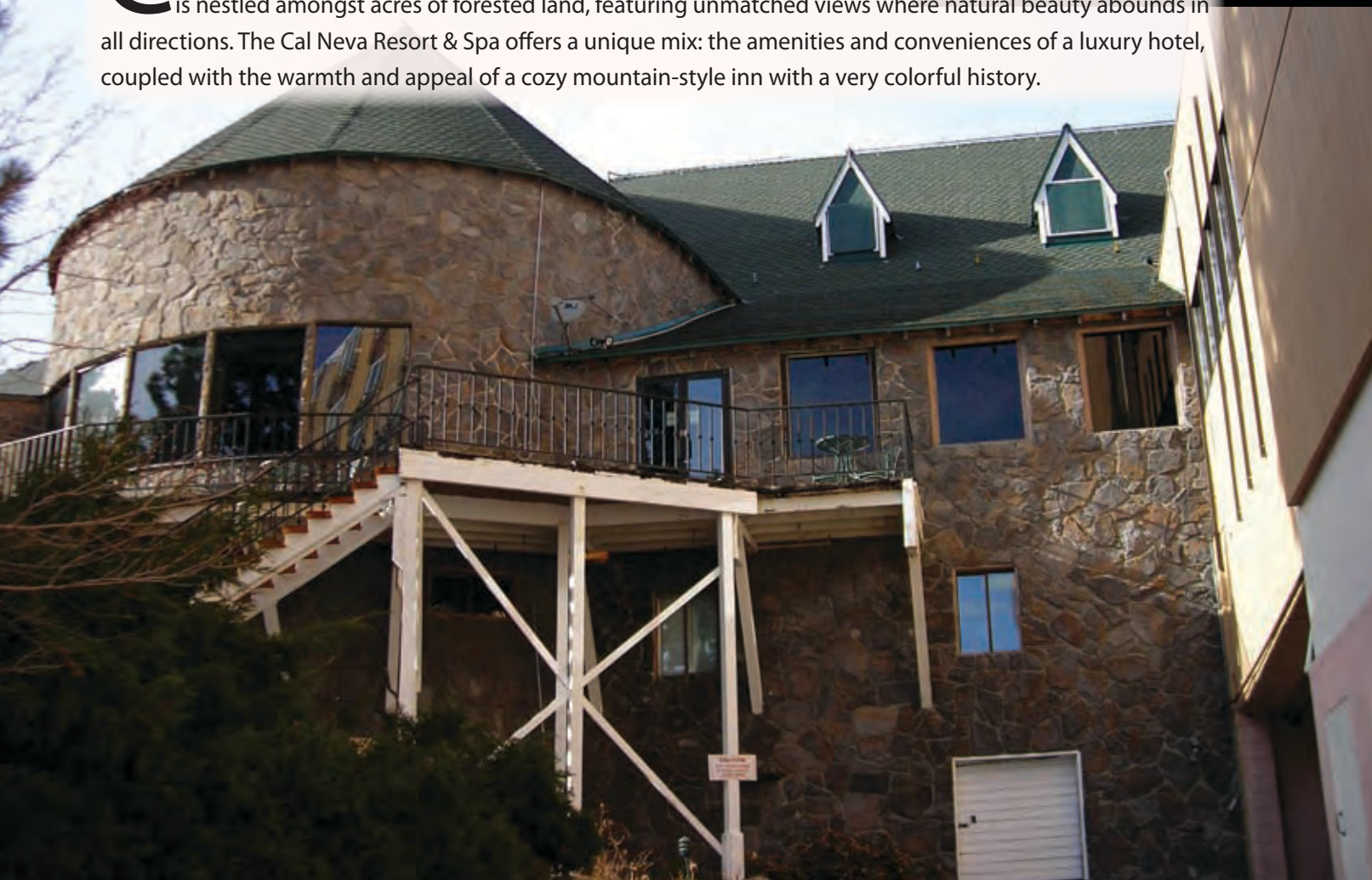
North Lake Tahoe's
Hide-A-Way Heaven

Story by Cathy D. Weil
Photos by Kurt Olson

Creating a tranquil atmosphere seemingly far from busy everyday life, the Cal Neva Resort and Spa is situated on the picturesque North Shore coastline community of Crystal Bay in Lake Tahoe. This resort is nestled amongst acres of forested land, featuring unmatched views where natural beauty abounds in all directions. The Cal Neva Resort & Spa offers a unique mix: the amenities and conveniences of a luxury hotel, coupled with the warmth and appeal of a cozy mountain-style inn with a very colorful history.

Crystal Bay's roots date back to the early 1900's when a group of artists, inspired by the area's natural beauty, settled here. The original lodge was built in 1926 by wealthy San Francisco businessman, Robert P. Sherman. The Cal Neva then tragically burned to the ground in 1937, but was miraculously rebuilt in a mere 30 days by Norman Blitz who took over the lodge in 1928. This amazing resort has earned the nickname, "Lady of the Lake" weathering heavy winters and a succession of owners and makeovers. Frank Sinatra owned the Cal Neva from 1960 – 1963 when he built the now famous Celebrity Showroom. The world was enamored with Sinatra and the "Rat Pack," an unforgettable fraternity including Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr. They, along with many stars including Marilyn Monroe, "sang for their suppers" in the Celebrity Showroom while other notables played at the tables and in the private cottages overlooking Lake Tahoe.

The Lady of the Lake suffered tremendously from neglect for 20 years before being brought back to life in 1985 by Charles P. Bluth. It was purchased again in 2005 by Namwest, LLC who is now in the process of a complete renovation and restoration.





This all-inclusive resort offers versatile lodging, lake view dining, an outdoor heated pool, Euro Spa, tennis courts, fitness facility, gaming, Circle Bar Lounge and the famous Indian Room. The property is also dotted with historic novelties like the largest bronze sculpture in Nevada, Chief Joseph. Hopi Kachina dolls are encased in the Indian Room where a dedicated Washoe tribe museum is on permanent exhibit.

From the pristine coastline views, to a multitude of services and amenities, to its strategic location near a plethora of outdoor activities in the Tahoe basin, The Cal Neva Resort offers an unforgettable getaway option. The lake is within walking distance of the resort and many beach and lake activities are available on the north shore. For a quiet, memory-making retreat, contact the Cal Neva resort at 1-800-Cal-Neva.



White Tea – An Emperor’s Delight

By Mike Russell

Chinese Song Dynasty Emperor Hui Zhong (1101-1125) hailed White Tea as the culmination of all that is elegant, and developed a variety of tea with a mellow taste of unmatched flavor. The hand-plucked tea is still one of the rarest in the world. It comes from the high mountains of Fujian Province. The tender leaves are harvested only two days each year, right before the leaves open. White Tea was made in a number of forms during the reign of the Song Dynasty (960-1279) due to the discerning tastes of the court society. “Palace Jade Sprout” and “Silver Silk Water Sprout” are two types Hui Zhong developed.

Harvesting White Tea was very labor-intensive. It was picked from selected varieties of cultivated bushes in early spring. The tea was immediately steamed, and the buds were then selected and stripped of their outer, unopened leaves. The delicate interior of the buds were then rinsed with spring water and dried. Once the careful process was completed, the tea was distributed to important members of the Song court in loose form. It was then ground to a fine, silvery-white powder that was whisked in wide ceramic bowls used only in the Song Tea Ceremony.

In 1391, the Ming Court decreed that only loose tea would be accepted as a “tribute.” Loose tea production swelled, and later full-leaf distribution resulted. Japanese Monks traveling to China learned of Song Dynasty White Tea and incorporated it into their own tea ceremonies.

Recent studies using cancer-susceptible rats indicated that White Tea removes or prevents even more tumors from their stomachs than Green Tea or caffeine alone. Another study indicated that White Tea can destroy certain pathogenic microorganisms.

Refs. www.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_tea; www.therepublicoftea.com.



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SWING INTO

At Seven Canyons in Sedona, AZ

Story and
Photographs
by Grace Ertel

Imagine a golf course set in the middle of the “Most Beautiful Place in America,” according to USA Weekend magazine. The Seven Canyons’ Golf Course, surrounded by the high, red rock mountains of the Coconino National Forest, lies just minutes from downtown Sedona, Arizona. We experienced a stay in one of the villas (three-bedroom, tastefully furnished luxury houses designed to blend with the environment) set around this private golf course.

Yes, we’d call this as near to paradise as one can get for a vacation home. Seven Canyons, a fractional ownership destination, includes golf club privileges and the amenities most commonly found at five-star resorts-- with no maintenance costs. This fully-deeded real estate guarantees owners 28 days of pre-reserved time per year which may be taken all at once or spread throughout the year. It also may be passed on to heirs or sold.

Rated by GOLF WEEK as one of “America’s best residential golf courses,” (6,746 yards par 70), the course winds around the canyon, cliffs and forests while a practice park features a huge tee-ing area, 25 hitting stations, putting green, four target greens and a chipping area with bunker.

PARADISE



A view of the Practice Park at Seven Canyons mountains
All villas have three bedrooms, living and dining rooms with kitchen, and outdoor patio with hot tub and BBQ



A scene of the golf course and red mountains
The Villa Chef prepares a dinner for us in our villa

After an invigorating day of golf (or hiking, sightseeing, etc.), you may retire to soak in your villa’s hot tub, you may dine at the clubhouse, or perhaps you may request a dinner with family and friends prepared in your own villa by the Villa Chef.

Plans for the near future include a Club Village with golf shop, fine and casual dining, a Wellness Center, Spa and 12 luxury “Casitas” for shorter overnight stays for both golf club members and villa owners.

For more information, visit www.sevencanyons.com
or call 866-367-8844



Shopper's Paradise

CEDROS DESIGN DISTRICT

IN SOLANA BEACH

Story and Photographs By Courtney Best

Solana Beach, a spectacular seaside town north of San Diego, California, is home to one of the most unique shopping meccas on the west coast. The Cedros Design District is famous for its artistic, cultural bazaar of upscale boutiques, galleries, restaurants, and even a hot nightclub.

Enjoy an afternoon spent browsing through the over 85 stores located in the span of a few blocks. The chic studios and quaint wooden home-like shops that line Cedros Avenue offer a myriad of choices for customers of all types and tastes from cutting edge contemporary to country and ethnic pieces from around the world.

True to its name, the District's theme is represented in a flair for design regardless of whether you are shopping for fine art, home furnishings, apparel,

jewelry, antiques, or artisan wares.

Marvelous female apparel can be found at Carizma Goddess Wear, a boutique that appeals to the "goddess" in every woman. Out of the Blue specializes in ocean related treasures from beach accents and artwork to jewelry and gift items. Don't miss Hands on Cedros, the gallery of functional art, where items designed from ceramics, wood, glass, and metal are all meant to be used and enjoyed.

Another popular spot is the Leaping Lotus, an expansive, two-story, loft-style store with over 50 vendors selling original artwork, furnishings, accessories, jewelry, clothing and home décor from many countries.

After hitting the numerous shops, a great way to complete your day is to dine at the Wild Note Café, an ambiance-filled, bistro-style restaurant with great food and a large wine selection. Adjacent to the Wild Note Café is the renowned Belly Up Tavern nightclub, one of the best live music venues in San Diego.

Cedros Design District
Solana Beach, CA 92075
www.cedrosdesigndistrict.com



By Tina M. Courtney

The Latest Coffee Trends

The National Coffee Association has determined that 54% of Americans drink at least one cup of “joe” every day. Coffee is a national



obsession, and with dozens of different preparations and possibilities, the joy of java shows no signs of fading. But can the industry improve on the

perfection of a simple espresso? Judging from the overwhelming amount of new trends, there just might be a better brew.

Across the board, the hot theme in almost every avenue of consumerism is luxury, and coffee isn’t immune. Connoisseurs are paying big bucks for carefully grown crops prepared in small quantities. All beans are not created equal, and sophisticated sippers are starting to view coffee in the same manner as wine. Single estate varietals are now coveted -- small batch brews are setting the new gourmet standards, and true coffee aficionados can sniff out the difference between a mass produced bean and an elegantly roasted gem.

While organic coffees aren’t a new trend, they are seeing new life through the magnificent Fair Trade program. This system ensures that the farmers growing the beans are paid a fair price for their product, and it aims to sustain their artisan efforts. It’s good for the farmers, the communities, and those delicious crops.

Back on the home front, single-serve machines are all the rage. Offerings like Senseo, Mukka, and Tassimo have taken the lead in sales, and some even steam and froth the milk for latte and cappuccino creations. Look for Turkish-style coffees made in an Ibrik, along with Greek “Frappe” brews to enter a typical coffee drinker’s vernacular soon as well.

Java fans are becoming well-traveled and coffee-educated, quick to adopt new ethnic methodologies and flavors. It’s a world full of steaming brews and gifted baristas, so whether you’re into a simple drip or a complex macchiato, there’s no end to the creativity you’ll find in your next beloved cup.



Biba

Italian Cuisine

At Its Best In Sacramento

1

By Glenn and Lynn Pribus

BIBA, a Sacramento institution with charm, fine food and impeccable service, has been named the capital city's Best Restaurant by the Sacramento Bee and voted "Best of the Best" by Sacramento Magazine readers for the past several years.

Back in 1969, when Italian-born Biba Caggiano moved to Sacramento with her physician husband, no restaurants offered quality Italian food and she had to make it herself. She was soon invited to teach at a local cooking school and suddenly found herself with a career.

She launched her restaurant in 1986 and has been garnering rave reviews in gourmet and travel magazines ever since. In 1998 she was chosen as one of only six national recipients of the prestigious Robert Mondavi Culinary Award of Excellence.

A measure of the affection the locals feel for Biba is that everyone in town calls the place not BIBA, but "Biba's," as if she were a personal friend. The restaurant's décor is open, elegant and bright with mirrors, white shutters and contemporary art on the walls.

- 1) One of the authors shoots her own reflection in the sign at BIBA -- known locally as "Biba's."
- 2) Impeccable service, outstanding Northern Italian cuisine and fine art make BIBA a showcase in Sacramento.
- 3) BIBA is located in the historic Old Tavern Building in Sacramento and the menu is posted at the door.



The Sacramento Bee declares that Biba's food, "authoritatively and respectfully represents Italian cooking [and] is at once comforting and inspiring. Priority is given to fresh ingredients at their prime, inviting presentations and careful crafting."

Biba herself is the author of 7 best-selling cookbooks and has hosted 100 episodes of her internationally syndicated TV cooking show "Biba's Italian Kitchen" seen on the Discovery Home and Leisure Channels.

BIBA is situated in the Old Tavern Building at 28th and Capitol Avenue and reservations are recommended, especially when the Legislature is in session. Biba herself is usually there during the day and from about 7:30 in the

evening until closing. She's often available to meet patrons and inscribe her books.

For more information, visit www.biba-restaurant.com



Death Valley National Park

NOW'S THE TIME TO VISIT

Photographs and story by Mike Russell

Nestled in a deep valley that lies between the Panamint Range to the west and the Amargosa Range to the east, is Death Valley National Park, roughly 130 miles long and 12 miles wide. The valley stretches northwest to southeast. Visitors who look west can see 14,491 foot, Mount Whitney, the highest point in the 48 states.

Clockwise from top left: Brittlebush; Desert Globemallow; Desert Dandelion

Historically Death Valley has been the site for borax mining (sodium borate). It was brought from the mines by 20 mules in huge wagons.

Visitors worldwide flock to see the extraordinary natural and cultural landscape of this driest, hottest, and lowest national park. The park covers more than 5,000 square miles and is the lowest point in the Western Hemisphere –282-feet below sea level. Some wildflowers can be seen at varying elevations as you read this. April is a good time to see a variety of flowers with the help of winter rains. We had little rain this season however, there will be some colorful displays in regions of the valley.

Scotty's Castle Museum is a two-story Spanish-style compound covering 32,000-square-feet and dates back to 1927. Scotty said he built the castle from gold he mined, when in actuality the real owner maintained he was Scotty's banker. The castle is located at the north end of the park on Highway 267. Take Highway 190 north from Furnace Creek Visitors Center to reach Scotty's Castle Museum.

Top right: Beavertail Cactus (Prickly pear);
Bottom: Mount Whitney as seen from the
eastside of the valley looking west.

Tim Conway and Harvey Korman

“Swan Song” their famed “Together Again.”

By Mike Russell

Photographs by Richard Beland

Tim Conway and Harvey Korman drew huge applause and long standing ovations as they played their final two shows after 8 years on the road. Morrison Center in Boise, Idaho was where they ended their packed-to-the-rafters two shows. “They played to two full houses and the guys got a very long standing ovation after each of the shows,” recalled Roger Beatty, Production Manager for the 8-year run.

stage manager for the final 3 years and substituted for 27 shows straight while Roger was away. Not an easy task, Roger noted.

You all remember the Dorf series that sent audiences into hysterics watching the Carole Burnett Show for 11 years. And the Dorf series continued with the on-the-road productions too. “Tim wrote all the Dorf tapes, but I directed three of them,” recalls Roger. “Dorf on Golf” was the first in 1987, followed by



Left to Right: Gina Wagner, Harvey Korman, “Dorf” Tim , Roger Beatty, Production Manager.

Photo by Mike Russell

At the “swan” show they were filled with sadness to see an end come to “Together Again,” but as Roger said, “After 497 shows it was about time to wrap it up.”

Actually there were more shows than that. Roger notes that, “When Harvey couldn’t join us on the road, (famed TV star) Don Knotts filled in for him for 27 shows. And when we couldn’t use either Harvey or Don, Chuck McCann did the show with Tim.” Roger totaled it up by commenting, “McCann did a total of 13 shows...so, altogether, I guess we did a total of 537 shows.”

“We did 40 shows with Tim and Harvey at the Stardust in Las Vegas, and almost every show was sold-out,” Roger recalls. Although Roger Beatty was Production Manager for 8 years, Jackie Beatty, Roger’s daughter, was assigned the duties as

“Dorf’s Golf Bible” in 1989, and the last one was in 1996, which was “Dorf on the Diamond.” “Dorf on Golf” was the biggest seller, eventually selling over a million copies and going “platinum.”

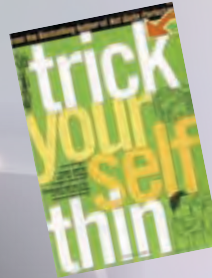
Now that the Stardust has been taken down, it will soon be replaced by Echelon Place which will be even larger when built on 83 acres of Las Vegas Strip land. And just maybe they will have a theatre where Tim and Harvey can perform once again.

Clear thinking Tim Conway ordered the show to be video taped at Casino Rama, in Rama, Ontario, Canada on October 21 and 22, 2006. And, as luck will have it, the hilarious and “oh, so memorable” DVD is available right now at: www.timconwaylive.com.



TRICK YOURSELF THIN

Review by Andrea Portes



Recently, a dear friend of mine bamboozled me into going to some party for a diet book. If you're anything like me, i.e.; lazy and irreverent, such a thing would fill you with disdain or, at best, indifference. Images of a girl in Juicy couture sweatpants with an overenthusiastic world-view and highlights would dance in your head and you might have to resort to that ever-successful food poisoning excuse.

Yet, bamboozled I was, drawn to the lure of the free wine and fancy cheese.

We walked in and there she was in all her glory: Jane King. Guess what. She wasn't anything that I'd expected. She was less, well...tan.

She was, in fact, much like many of my friends back at Bryn Mawr; poised, intelligent, droll and with just the right amount of irreverence for all hierarchical structures, consumer fetishism and social decorum.

I immediately liked her.

I, also, made a point to try to get in her

good graces by drinking just enough wine to hit the balance between brilliantly witty and drunk.

The thing that I took with me, other than the free wine and snooty cheese (which I don't really count as taking with me, seeing that these things were in my stomach. However, this is a matter up for debate and I'd be interested to hear your thoughts on the issue.) Okay, so, the thing that I took with me was a signed green diet book entitled TRICK YOURSELF THIN.

To be honest, I was dreading reading it. I liked Jane King so much, an unusual phenomenon for naturally misanthropic me, that I was fearful the spell would be broken if I hated her book.

Alas! Alack! I had nothing to fear! Upon reading this book I felt a sense of relief I still cannot quite put words to...something between "Wow, I guess maybe I'm not the only inexplicably odd weirdo in the uni-

verse who still likes to wear weird clothes, go out and socialize," and "Oh my god! Amen! Praise the lord! I am not alone!"

Here's the thing: This book isn't just about dieting. It's kind of about existing in the universe. There are helpful hints about dieting, which, by the by, work like a charm, but it's more of a handbook about how to not hate yourself and be mean to yourself.

If you're anything like me, i.e., a spiraling vortex of destruction and narcissism, you may have possibly mayhap potentially picked up some bad habits, including eating weird, horrible food as a way to quench your inner demons and forget about the path of devastation you seem to have left behind you. Well, never fear, womankind, this book is actually a smart, witty guide to checking in on yourself and thwarting any and all of those bad, dumpy food habits that we all secretly have when no one is looking.

Now comes the proof is in the pudding part:

I know this book works because I have always fluctuated ten pounds either way from, say, super-hot-sexy to um-yeah-maybe-I-should-get-a-cat. Ever since reading this book, I have completely avoided the cat-potential state. That's the honest to Betsy truth.

There's something about TRICK YOURSELF THIN that works because you don't get the feeling that the writer is wearing coral. It's as if a voice rings out of the darkness, saying, "The entire world hasn't

gone to hell in a hand-basket. You are not alone!"

Do yourself, your body and your mind a favor and get this book, I guarantee it will make a difference. And by guarantee, I mean that I am in no way to be held accountable for your actions. Are you kidding me? I can barely afford sushi!

© Photographer: Steven Pepple

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Andrea Portes grew up between South America, North Carolina and Nebraska before attending Bryn Mawr College on full scholarship and graduating with honors. She writes a THINGS TO DO IN LA column for survivingLA.com and an ASK THE SEXPERT column for sexgunsandmotorcycles.com, as well as writing freelance for numerous other online and paper publications. Her short

story MOPED has just been selected for the Mostad Media short fiction anthology. Her poem, AUGUST, has just been selected for the International Library of Poetry Anthology.

HICK is her first novel. It will be published this spring by Unbridled Books, under the editorial guidance of Fred Ramey. Andrea resides in the hills of Echo Park, where she is currently writing her second novel, MENAGERIE OF NUTJOBS, a darkly humorous, semi-autobiographical novel about her failed relationships with indy-film stars, has-beens, comics and drunks.



George Gershwin: His Life and Work

Review by Vanessa Finney

Howard Pollack

909 Pages / 51 B&W Photograph

January 2007

University of California Press

As one of America's finest musical exports, George Gershwin has had many previous biographers, but with 15,000 items now archived at the Library of Congress, there is room for one more. Much has come to light since the first attempt in 1929, and Howard Pollack draws upon a wealth of recordings, manuscripts and publications – some of which revise history – to offer the most deeply informed study yet.

Born in Brooklyn to Russian Jews in 1898, Gershwin spent most of his adolescence living on the Lower East Side and in Harlem. He recorded piano rolls and plugged songs for Remick Music before he first tasted fame at the age of 21, when he

wrote an international hit for Al Jolson called "Swanee." That same year he wrote his first Broadway show, La-La-Lucille!, marking the beginning of a prolific and varied career that would only end with his death in 1937 from a brain tumor.

The man who said he wanted his work "to represent the life and spirit of this country" was uniquely molded by it, and his biographer traces how the influence of both serious and lighter music from home and abroad equipped him to reflect our lives back to us in such a compelling way. Whether writing concert pieces or musical comedies, Gershwin's compositions reflected an appreciation that spanned from Italian opera to Irving Berlin. In fact, it was his "extraordinary ability to absorb a wide spectrum of seemingly incongruous styles and materials" that distinguished him from contemporaries like Cole Porter and Richard Rodgers.

Still, he encouraged his peers' efforts and was enthusiastic about their contributions. He held what amounted to musical salons at his home, where fellow songwriters could critique each other's work (as a radio host in 1934, he told his first audience to imagine, "you had simply dropped in at my house or I at yours, to run over a few tunes..."). One of the most satisfying aspects of this book is its exploration of this kind of camaraderie with the likes of Cole Porter, Duke Ellington and Harold Arlen.

Music history lovers will especially appreciate Part II of the book, which is devoted to the reception of his work, show synopses and production notes – from his earliest composition at age 14 to blockbusters like Funny Face and Porgy and Bess. We also learn that, despite the composer's downplaying of his formal learning, he was in fact a meticulous student of music, studying classical

scores and striving throughout his career to improve his technical skills.

While working within the confines of American theater, Gershwin raised the genre to a higher level while keeping it accessible to the average listener. In his private life, he was an energetic athlete, a serious art collector and an artist himself, focusing on portraiture that endeavored to capture the complexity of his subjects. Pollack, too, has painted a perceptive portrait, illustrating the development of a talent that still makes our hearts soar to "Summertime" and our feet tap to "S Wonderful."



Howard Pollack

GEORGE GERSHWIN

His Life and Work

Who Dares to Bare? Segue Body Wraps

By Susan Lane Leonard

Photographs by Steven Pepple, Robert Balazik,
and Joachi Angeltun, Agency: Dreamstime.com



Gone are the days of bikini modeling for me, but I would recommend a Segue body wrap to anyone baring a 21st century swimsuit to the beach, pool or Ski Haas Jacuzzi. So, before you get away to your next resort vacation, pop in for a wrap. "Tight" is the word that sounds so good to hear and feel when bearing less than a winter coat.

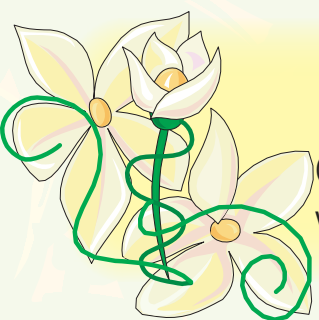
It was quite a unique experience to be coddled in soft wrappings and basted in warm minerals while relaxing and working out. All the while the wrap is performing its miracle.



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Music Review—

Bill Evans Alone—1929-1980

By Mike Russell

One of my favorite artists on solo piano, or with his jazz group, is still the amazing Bill Evans. Innovative, sublime, upbeat, trills and thrills. Bill recorded more than fifty albums as the leader of his group or solo; won five Grammy awards, and best of all, he really gave birth to the "Bill Evans style" of jazz.

Evans truly established a style of playing that lives on today. He had a great appreciation of tonal expressiveness.

The album reviewed here is the reissue of Bill Evans Alone which was waxed back in 1968 as a solo jazz creation.

Evans was born in 1929 in Plainfield, New Jersey to a devout Russian Orthodox mother and an alcoholic father of Welsh beginnings, who managed a golf course.

He had unique qualities that resulted in overdubbing of himself that pioneered his



piano sounds. This was somewhat like Les Paul and Mary Ford began in the early 1960's.

Tragedy struck when Evans first wife committed suicide in 1970, driving him to a heroine addiction.

He finally got into a methadone treatment program and stayed clean for nearly the last ten years of his life. His second marriage bore him one son named Evan.

It was apparently cocaine that caused his untimely death on September, 15, 1980.

In 1983 anyone who had been close to Evans, or was touched by his music style, collaborated to put together a double album. It was a final salute to Bill Evans, one of the greatest jazz pianists whose style is still recognized as most influential.

Bill Evans "Alone" features, to name a few, *Here's That Rainy Day*, *A Time for Love*, *On a Clear Day*, *Never Let Me Go*, and others.

A Tasting of Single Malt Whisky

By Alan Boehmer



Official Scotch Whisky
Blending Glass,
Laphroaig 10 year old.

Scotch whisky, and in particular, the unblended single malt whiskies from the Highlands, are certainly one of the great libations of the world of alcoholic beverages. They hail from five discrete regions north and west of Glasgow and Edinburgh. The Southern Highlands, north and east of the capital city, produce light to medium bodied whiskies that seem to encompass characteristics of both highland and lowland whiskies. The outstanding example is Edradour.

The Central Highlands, sometimes called Western Highlands, is the region south and west of Inverness. The great whiskies of this region include Dalwhinnie, Ben Nevis, and Glengoyne.

“Big, sweet, and malty” describes the whiskies of the Northern Highlands and many of the popular imports originate here: Dalmore, Glenmorangie, and Tomatin, to name a few. Dalwhinnie is a light, perfumy spirit with great complexity and class.

Those seeking intense and smoky-peaty whiskies will look to the Western Islands, and Islay, in particular. These whiskies are not for the faint-hearted, although Bruichladdich makes lightly-peated single malt. More typical are the whiskies from Laphroig, Lagavulin, Bowmore, and Ardbeg. Ardbeg has been singled out as “Scotland’s greatest whisky” by more than one writer. It has remarkable balance in a very full-bodied spirit and well worth seeking out.

Speaking of balance, just what characteristics does a whisky taster/blender evaluate? Professional tasters judge single malts according to eight aroma categories:

- CEREAL (cooked corn, potato skins, malted milk, boiled meat)
- ESTERY (citrus, air freshener, grass, heather, hay)
- FLORAL (rose, carnation, perfume, lavender, violets)
- PEATY (smoke, burned wood, iodine, medicinal, creosote, menthol, marine)
- FEINTY (honey, beeswax, leather, tobacco, furniture polish, sweaty)
- SULPHURY (turnips, hydrogen sulphide, rubber, pencil eraser)
- WOODY (pine, resin, cigar box, cedar, spice, cinnamon, clove, vanilla, anise)
- WINEY (sherry, almonds, roasted nuts, marzipan, chocolate)

To these eight aroma categories professional evaluators add COMPLEXITY and INTENSITY to round out the aroma/flavor description.

“NOSING” SINGLE MALTS

Whisky blenders use a standard nosing glass, pictured here. The spirits are diluted down to 20% alcohol and blended by smell alone. Whisky lovers find that a few drops of water added to the straight spirit will open up the whisky and reveal additional layers of aroma. Enjoyed in this way, a dram of single malt provides much more sensory pleasure than whisky-on-the-rocks or whisky and soda.

Alan Boehmer is editor of Suite 101.com’s New World Wine topic.



Viva Zinfandel!

The World's LARGEST SINGLE VARIETAL Wine Tasting Event

© Photographer: Elena Elisseeva Agency: Dreamstime.com

By Alan Boehmer

Each January the Zinfandel Advocates & Producers (ZAP) presents its annual public tasting of California Zinfandel wines at the Herbst and Festival Pavilions on the piers of Fort Mason, San Francisco. This event is the world's largest single varietal wine tasting event. Over 9,000 people attended the 2007 festival and 273 wineries presented their latest wines. An estimated 550 Zinfandel wines were available to taste. More than 1,500 pounds of international cheeses and 8,000 half-loaves of French baguettes were consumed in the course of the three hour public tasting.

The Festival demonstrates the uniqueness of the Zinfandel grape. It thrives in so many different California growing regions and is used to make wines of many different styles: white, red, dry, sweet, low alcohol, high alcohol. While most of the wines offered for tasting represented the mainstream part of the spectrum, averaging around 15% alcohol, lighter, elegantly styled examples were found as well. At the extreme end of the spectrum, dry Zinfandels topping 17% alcohol could be found. And a dizzying array of Late Harvest Zinfandels and Zinfandel Ports.

Lovers of Zinfandel come to the Festival each year to follow the evolution of style in this remarkable varietal.

In recent years we've seen a notable trend towards letting the grapes ripen beyond their sugar maturity, allowing flavors to continue to develop. This is the main reason for the steady rise in alcohol level that we've observed.

The ZAP Festival is the only place where wine lovers can taste wines made from ZAP's Heritage Vineyard, located at the UC Davis Oakville Research Station in Napa Valley, California. The Heritage Vineyard brings together scientists, farmers, and winemakers with a purpose of uncovering some of the mysteries surrounding the Zinfandel varietal and preserving the special qualities of old Zinfandel vines for future generations. Each year a leading Zinfandel winemaker is chosen to produce a wine from this vineyard. Past Heritage winemakers have included Kent Rosenblum (Rosenblum), Paul Draper (Ridge), Ehren Jordan (Turley), Joel Peterson (Ravenswood), and Rod Bergland (Joseph Swan).

This past year four examples of the Heritage Zinfandels were available for tasting. We found a remarkable difference in style, despite the fact that all the wines were made from fruit of the same vineyard. The Heritage Zinfandels showcase the individual styles of the selected winemakers. A 15 liter bottle of this year's Heritage Zinfandel was auctioned off.

The annual ZAP Festival public tasting is thought to be the largest single day wine event in the world and one we heartily recommend. And San Francisco makes a wonderful January destination for those not blessed to live there.



© Photographer: Thomas Perkins
Agency: Dreamstime.com



Wildlife Images Rehabilitation and Education Center

In 1981 J. David Siddon established Wildlife Images Rehabilitation and Education Center to provide care for sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife, while giving the public an opportunity to experience wild birds and animals first-hand. Siddon passed away in 1998, a victim of cancer. But his legacy lives on.

"We're carrying on Dad's work. We strive to educate, inspire and involve as many people as possible in the stewardship of wildlife for the benefit of all living things," said Dave Siddon, Executive Director of the facility and son of the founder. "One half of our namesake is devoted to rehabilitation, while the other half is given to education. We're not only dedicated to rehabilitating wildlife, but also educating the public at large about how to become better guardians of wildlife."

Story by Chip Weinert, Marketing/Fundraising Coordinator,
Wildlife Images In Association with Susan Leonard

All photos courtesy of Wildlife Images

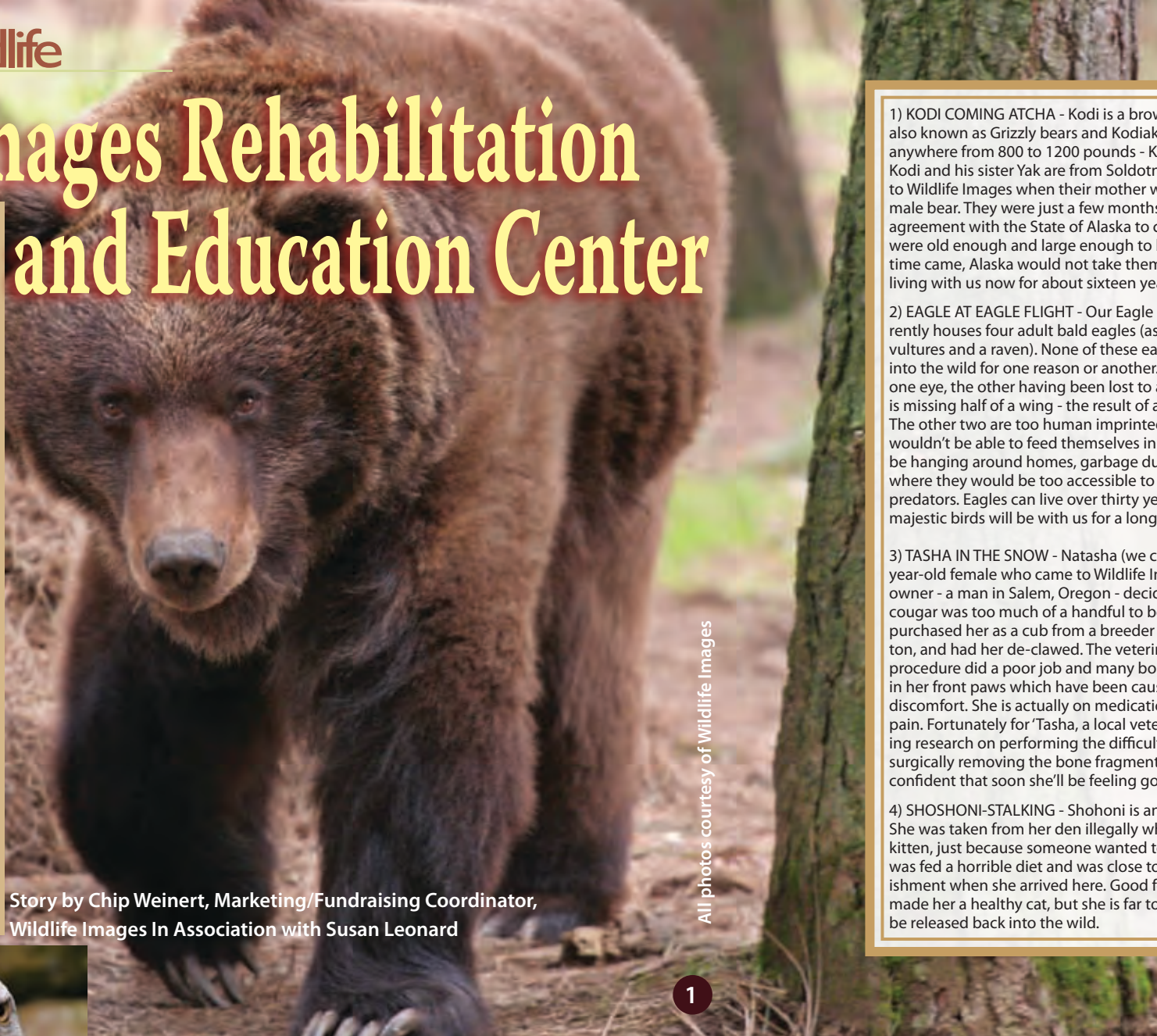


2

Located on 24 acres adjacent to the Wild and Scenic Rogue River, 12 miles from Grants Pass, Oregon, they receive and care for over 2,000 animals every year. Approximately 90% of the animals that survive their initial injuries are then released back into the wild. Animals that are permanently injured and could not survive in the wild are given a chance to be educational ambassadors at Wildlife Images.

They offer many educational opportunities for the public both on-site and through outreach programs. Wildlife Images visits schools, clubs, and special events of all types with their "Animal Ambassadors." Free tours of their facility are provided year-round, seven days a week. Approximately 32,000 people per year tour the grounds.

With a small staff of fourteen people, they depend heavily on a legion of close to 100 volunteers. They are of all ages, come from the complete strata of society giving generously to provide animal care, as well as ensure a safe, entertaining, and educational experience for each and every visitor – human or nonhuman – who pass through their gates.



1

1) KODI COMING ATCHA - Kodi is a brown bear. Brown bears are also known as Grizzly bears and Kodiak bears. Grizzlies weigh anywhere from 800 to 1200 pounds - Kodi weighs about 1200. Kodi and his sister Yak are from Soldotna, Alaska. They came to Wildlife Images when their mother was killed by a territorial male bear. They were just a few months old, and we had an agreement with the State of Alaska to care for them until they were old enough and large enough to be released. When that time came, Alaska would not take them back. They've been living with us now for about sixteen years.

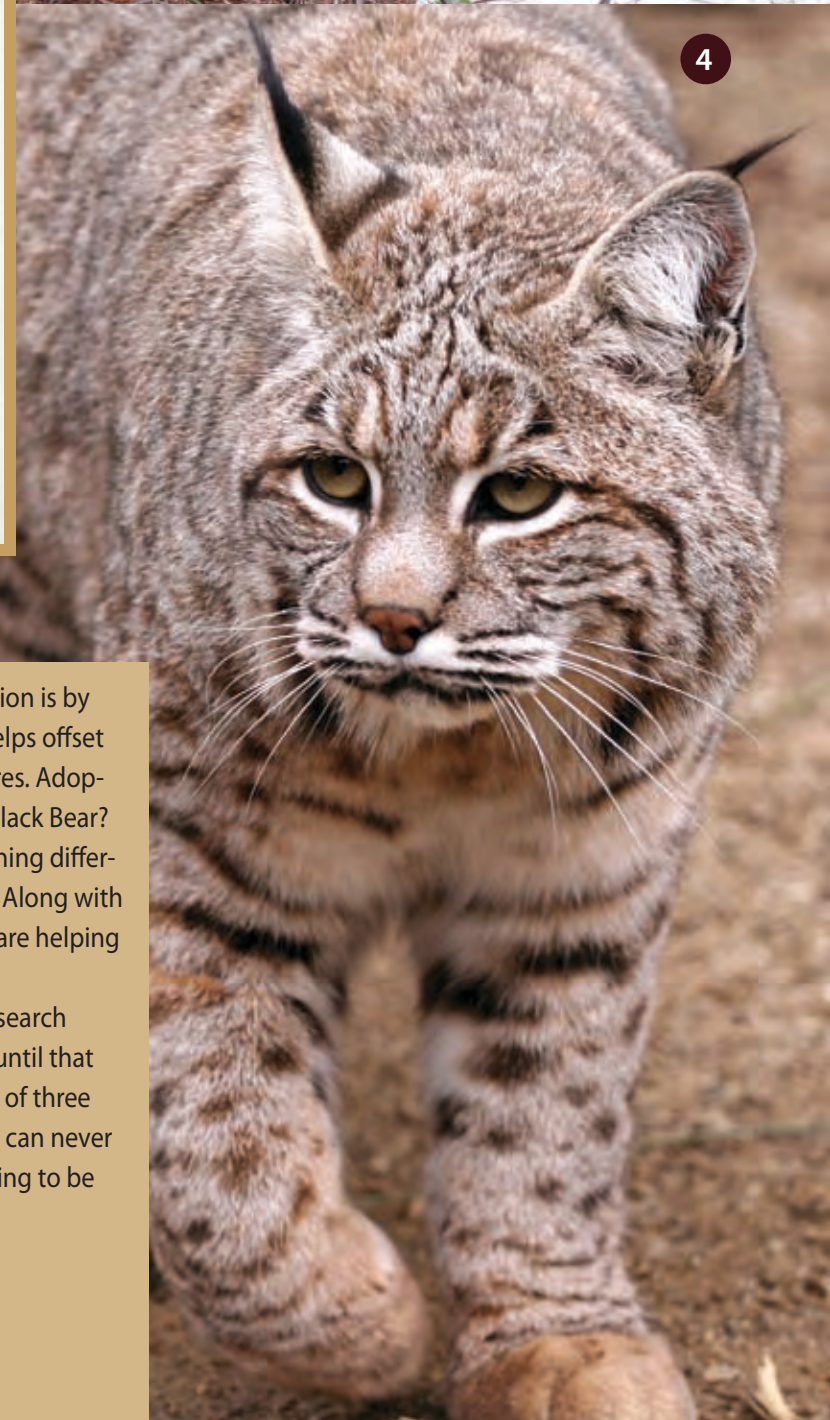
2) EAGLE AT EAGLE FLIGHT - Our Eagle Flight enclosure currently houses four adult bald eagles (as well as two turkey vultures and a raven). None of these eagles can be released into the wild for one reason or another. One of them has only one eye, the other having been lost to a shotgun shot. Another is missing half of a wing - the result of a collision with a car. The other two are too human imprinted to be released - they wouldn't be able to feed themselves in the wild and would just be hanging around homes, garbage dumps, or other places where they would be too accessible to dogs, coyotes, or other predators. Eagles can live over thirty years in captivity, so these majestic birds will be with us for a long, long time.

3) TASHA IN THE SNOW - Natasha (we call her 'Tasha') is a 12-year-old female who came to Wildlife Images in 2001 after her owner - a man in Salem, Oregon - decided that a full-grown cougar was too much of a handful to be a good pet. He had purchased her as a cub from a breeder in Spokane, Washington, and had her de-clawed. The veterinarian who did the procedure did a poor job and many bone fragments remain in her front paws which have been causing her increasing discomfort. She is actually on medication to help relieve the pain. Fortunately for 'Tasha', a local veterinarian has been doing research on performing the difficult and delicate task of surgically removing the bone fragments from her paws. We're confident that soon she'll be feeling good enough to dance.

4) SHOSHONI-STALKING - Shohoni is an adult female bobcat. She was taken from her den illegally when she was a little kitten, just because someone wanted to have her as a pet. She was fed a horrible diet and was close to death from malnourishment when she arrived here. Good food and exercise has made her a healthy cat, but she is far too human imprinted to be released back into the wild.



3



4

A fun way that the public can help them in their mission is by "Adopting" an animal. Their "Care for a Critter" program helps offset the costs associated with tending to thousands of creatures. Adoptions make great gifts. What better for a birthday than a Black Bear? Not everyone gets one of those! When looking for something different for Mother's Day, why not a cute fuzzy baby squirrel? Along with a neat gift, you and your loved one get to know that you are helping give wildlife a second chance.

Defiance, one of our bald eagles, was hatched at a research facility and used by that facility in educational programs until that program was abandoned. He has lived here since the age of three and will continue to do so for the remainder of his life. He can never be returned to the wild. As I write this, Defiance is in training to be featured in an upcoming beer commercial.

Paul Tibbets

by Dick Clark

12/7/02

A case can be made that of the most significant personalities of the 20th Century, Paul Tibbets would rank among the top ten. Although not necessarily by choice, Tibbets received the assignment to plan and perform in one of the most dramatic events in world history. This assignment was to prepare an organization to deliver the atomic bomb on targets to be determined. Few in World War II carried out their mission more effectively than Colonel Tibbets. This mission resulted in the ending of World War II and the saving of millions of lives, both American and Japanese.

On Friday, December 6, 2002 now retired General Tibbets spoke to a standing-room only crowd of air museum members and guests recalling those days fifty-seven years ago and the events that led up to the end of the war. Speaking easily about his experience, he augmented the historical part of the Enola Gay flight with anecdotes never before revealed. This was a rare opportunity to hear first hand from someone who has written his own page in history.

On the subject of opportunity, this writer had the fortune to speak exclusively with General Tibbets for a half-hour. It was not an interview but more of a conversation of the times. Tibbets talked about his friend, Joe Foss and of his clever plan to enlist the help of two WASPS to motivate Air Corps pilots to embrace the B-29. He mentioned his time in those early and noisy B25s that resulted in his hearing loss. The subject finally came around to one for which he is most proud, his grandson, an Air Force B1 pilot, currently assigned to the Navy War College in Washington D.C.

In that short half-hour, one begins to formulate an impression of the man himself. Knowledgeable, self-assured, poised; assertive and a leader. A man intolerant of stupidity; a man impatient with underachievement. It becomes clear that if you were on Tibbets' team, you performed to the best of your ability or suffered his wrath. Clearly a man you could follow with confidence--but dare not get in his way.

They say during times of crisis, men rise to the occasion, Paul Tibbets was one such man.

Additional information on Tibbets may be found on his excellent Website at
<http://www.theenolagay.com/index.html>

Dick Clark, writer of the story, is also a Member, Board of Directors, Palm Springs Air Museum.



This tree, and many others like it, was grown in Santa Cruz, CA. The man who grew them never told how he did it. Around 1999 the owner of Nob Hill Foods in Gilroy, California moved them to his park in Gilroy and they are doing well.



Photo courtesy of
<http://microlab.berkeley.edu/~leullier/Amazing-trees.html>

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