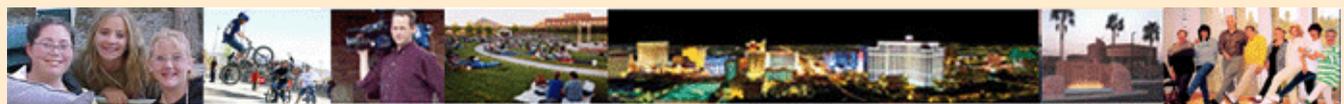




Public Communications

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NEWS RELEASE

Public Communications • 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, 6th floor • Las Vegas, Nevada 89155

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Early History of the Las Vegas Strip Subject of Free History Discussion June 5

A comedian/musician, dancer, historian and Las Vegas's first topless showgirl will come together **Friday, June 5 at 6 p.m.** to discuss the history of the early years of the world-famous Las Vegas Strip.

The fifth in a series of 90-minute roundtable discussions called "Centennial Stories: Examining Our Past" is free and includes an opportunity for those who attend the event to ask questions of the panelists.

The roundtable takes place in the County Government Center Commission Chambers, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, and is aired live and later replayed on Clark County Television (CCTV) Channel 4 and viewers are able to call in with questions. All Channel 4 programming also may be viewed live on the county Web site at www.accessclarkcounty.com.

The event features comedian and musician Peter Anthony; dancer Betty Bunch; Las Vegas's first topless showgirl, Lisa Medford; and George Stamos, a historian and author. It is moderated by Mark Hall-Patton, director of the Clark County Museum.

The history of the Las Vegas Strip, also known as U.S. Highway 91 or the Los Angeles Highway, dates back to 1930 or even earlier with a few roadhouses located out beyond the city limits to catch the travelers from California. The Pair-O-Dice Club and the Red Rooster were two early night spots, receiving the first two county gaming licenses in 1931. The 1941 El Rancho Vegas and the 1942 Last Frontier were the first true casino-resorts. The post war boom saw The Flamingo, the Thunderbird, the Desert Inn, Sahara and the Sands in rapid succession. The Strip, with only minor slowdowns, has continued to grow ever since.

“One of the goals of the county’s year-long commemoration of our centennial is to engage the community and celebrate our common heritage,” said Commission Chairman Rory Reid. “These monthly roundtables are a great way to do that.” 2009 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Clark County, and the county is commemorating the event with a year of activities.

Discussions about Clark County’s history are set for every First Friday in 2009, except in July when the event will be held Wednesday, July 1. Roundtable discussions slated for later in the year are July 1, a Wednesday, “The History of the Strip: Howard Hughes and Beyond”; August 7, “The Mob and Las Vegas”; Sept. 4, “Hispanics in Clark County”; Oct. 2, “Entertainers on the Las Vegas Strip”; Nov. 6, “Military History in Clark County”; and Dec. 4, “Marketing Las Vegas.” The discussions kicked off in February with a discussion of the history of segregation in Las Vegas. In March and April, the subjects were the history of women in Clark County and mining, respectively. In June, the discussion covered Las Vegas Strip architecture and neon.

“I would hope that listeners will leave with a better understanding and greater appreciation of their community, by learning from those who were there,” said Hall-Patton. “Hearing people tell their own stories, in their own words, is a wonderful and fun way to learn, and affirm, our history.”

Other centennial celebrations will include a touring history exhibit about rural Clark County, the grand opening of the Candlelight Wedding Chapel and a 1910 railroad cottage at the Clark County Museum, the release of “Asphalt Memories: A Dictionary of Clark County Street Names,” a book-length publication; the placement of historical markers, a Web-based history of Clark County commissioners, brochures, a mural at the Winchester Cultural Center, additional historical programming on Channel 4, and partnerships with the Clark County School District and the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District.

Clark County also has nominated the famous “Welcome to Las Vegas” sign to the National Historic Register. The Strip is located in unincorporated Clark County and is not part of any city. The Centennial Web site also features historical information, events listing, trivia contest, link to a geocaching project and a section where residents can share their historical stories.

Clark County was officially formed on July 1, 1909, out of what had been Lincoln County and is named for railroad baron William Andrews Clark. The city of Las Vegas, which includes downtown and the area north of the Strip, was incorporated two years later in 1911. Those interested in additional information on Clark County’s Centennial celebrations can visit the Web site at www.accessclarkcounty.com/100 or call 455-8200.

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respect and accountability. With jurisdiction over the world-famous Las Vegas Strip and covering an area the size of New Jersey, Clark is the nation's 15th-largest county and provides extensive regional services to more than 2 million citizens and 44 million visitors a year. Included are the nation's 7th-busiest airport, air quality compliance, social services and the state's largest public hospital, University Medical Center. The county also provides municipal services that are traditionally provided by cities to almost 900,000 residents in the unincorporated area. Those include fire protection, roads and other public works, parks and recreation, and planning and development. In 2009, Clark County celebrates a "century of service."

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