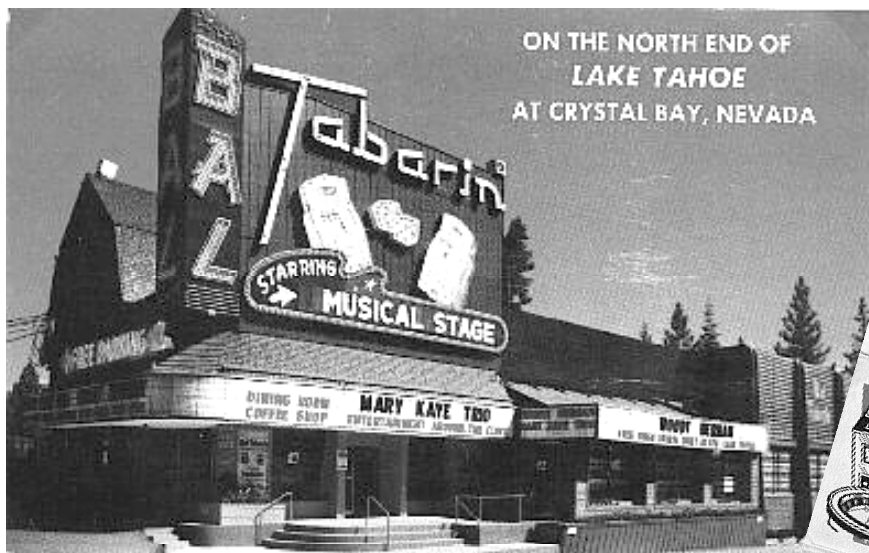


Dean and Jodi's Legendary Casinos

by Dean Richmond and Jodi Sones

Lake Tahoe



Bal Tabarin

The La-Vada Lodge, a speakeasy with gambling, was built on the North shore of Lake Tahoe at Crystal Bay in 1927. When it received a gambling license in 1931, the name was changed to the Cal-Vada Lodge. Joby Lewis purchased the Cal-Vada in 1955, and he resold it the following year to a group that renamed it the Bal-Tabarin, after the San Francisco night club. Lincoln Fitzgerald bought the Bal-Tabarin along with the Tahoe Biltmore in 1959. Fitzgerald closed the Bal one year later when he caught employees stealing.



Nevada Lodge

Lincoln and Meta Fitzgerald bought the Tahoe Biltmore in 1958, renaming it first the Nevada Club and then finally the Nevada Lodge. Lincoln Fitzgerald died in 1981 and the Lodge was sold in 1986. The Fitzgeralds were involved in Nevada gaming for 41 years.



George's Gateway

George Cannon opened the Gateway Club next to Harvey's Wagon Wheel in 1949. Cannon opened his Quonset-hut at the California-Nevada state line when Placer County outlawed his slot machines at his Highway 50 location. In January of 1955, Bill Harrah bought the Gateway Club for \$500,000. Harrah's opened Harrah's Lake Club on the site on June 20, 1955. One Year later Harrah's sold the club to Harvey's for \$5 Million.



Sparks

Shy Clown

Rod's Shy Clown Casino opened at 865 S. Rock Blvd. in Sparks Nevada in 1974. In 1976, "Rod's" was dropped from the name and it continued as the Shy Clown until 1981. It was closed for a period of seven years and in 1988 the property reopened as Baldini's Sports Casino..

