

via

Your AAA magazine

SUMMER 2016

Nevada

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Poetic sculpture

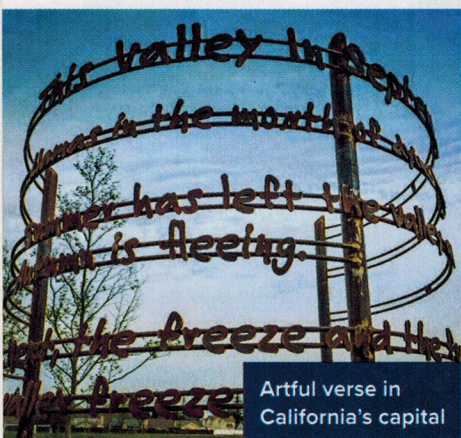
A Sacramento park brings words to life.

In Sacramento's South Natomas neighborhood, six recently completed large-scale steel sculptures lift poetry off the page and into the physical realm. Dubbed **Poet Laureate Park**, the installation lets visitors walk around, step between, and interact with the rhythmic phrases of the capital city's top bards.

Each sculpture is inspired by a single poem, and each is a distinct experience. The words of Bob Stanley—"Carve the smile in stone, shout the song across canyons"—are cut into weathered sheets and stand up like playing cards from a concrete pedestal.

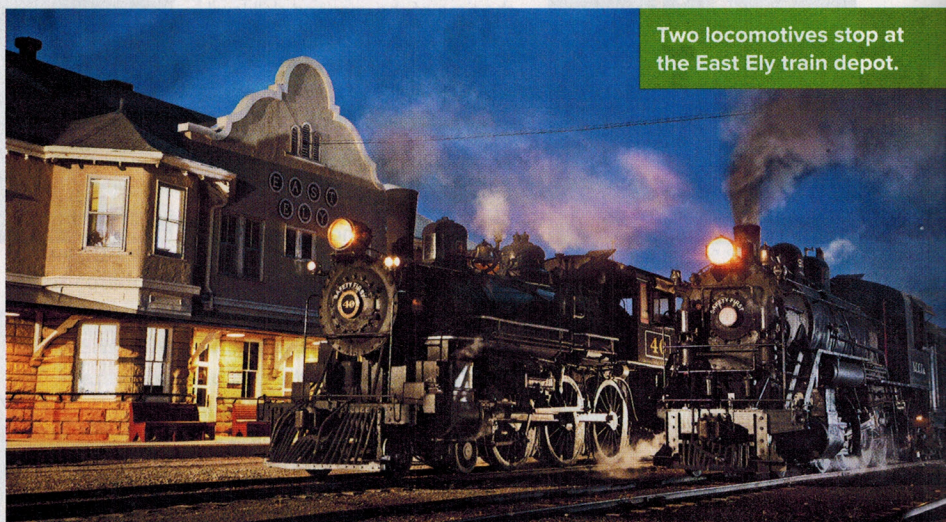
José Montoya's "This Valley in September" wraps around a cylinder that you can step inside, and Julia Connor's "M(other) Tongue" cascades across metal pages.

"There's a beautiful aesthetic quality in the shapes and patterns of the letters," says the artist, Troy Corliss. More than a dozen of his other public works are on display in California, Nevada, Colorado, and Ohio. —LAURA READ



Artful verse in California's capital

Weekender Ely, Nevada



Two locomotives stop at the East Ely train depot.

CALLED ONE OF THE REMOTEST places in the lower 48—"We're 250 miles from anywhere," says local publisher Lorraine Clark—this eastern Nevada outpost delivers starry skies, old-fashioned trains, and a glimpse of a rambunctious past.

■ Prowl the yard and ride a 1909 or 1910 steam locomotive at the **Nevada Northern Railway Museum**. Some trips have themes, such as Rockin' & Rollin' Geology or Wild West Limited. Enthusiasts can sleep overnight in a caboose.

■ **Renaissance Village** is a restored cluster of century-old "kit homes" that reflects Ely's slogan: WHERE THE WORLD MET AND BECAME ONE. These tiny houses sheltered workers who came from around the world to build railroads and work in the mines.

■ **All Aboard Cafe & Inn** serves a Railroad Workers Special with French toast, pancakes, eggs, bacon or sausage, and home fries—a dish fit for railway crews who once gathered here.

■ Throwback charm gleams inside the **Economy Drug Old-Fashioned Soda Fountain**, where virgin lime rickys are freshly squeezed and ice cream sodas come in old-timey glasses.

■ At the **McGill Historical Drugstore Museum**, Project Director Dan Braddock takes visitors down aisles of shelves stocked with vintage hair spray for wigs, Doan's Arthritis Formula, and Ipana toothpaste, just as they were when the store closed in 1976. Call for an appointment: (775) 235-7082.

■ You can view 30-foot-high, cone-shaped ovens built in the 1870s by Italian stonemasons at **Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park**, 17 miles south of Ely off U.S. 93, then explore mountain bike and hiking trails.

■ **Great Basin National Park**, 67 miles to the southeast, showcases stands of bristlecone pine—one of the longest-lived life-forms on earth—and ancient Lehman Caves. Enjoy tours of the underground wonders; at night check out the stargazing programs and take advantage of the area's dark skies to view the Andromeda Galaxy, 2.5 million light-years away. —LAURA READ