



the **logbook**

'Nevada's Teamsters' a friendly conversation

By COURTNEY CESAR-DERY

The importance of the motor truck industry is evident in our daily lives. Virtually everything we have today, and looking back over the last 100 years, has been hauled by a truck.

The history of the development of the motorized, over-the-road trucking industry in America is rich with geographic regional distinctions and stages of evolution in response to the demands brought on by the broader industrial revolution of the 20th century, technological advancement of equipment, and changes in government regulations. Jerry Aaron's book, "Nevada's Teamsters, Truckers, and Truck Stops: A Chronicle," consists of 196 pages of enigmatic paragraphs and exquisite photos that bring Nevada's 150 years of trucking history to life.

The book is written in such a way as to evoke memories in former truckers of their time behind the wheel and the camaraderie they shared with other drivers. The book's main three parts—The Teamsters, The Truckers, and The Truck Stops—each begin with an introductory history lesson to put the (modern, non-trucking) reader into

the mindset of the trucker of "yesteryear."

Aaron begins his literary adventure with a pictorial history of Nevada trucking over the past 100 years, with minor commentary on the usage of each type of truck or item they hauled, so readers get a very striking sense of the changes brought on in each decade. This beginning segues nicely into the first section of the book.

"The Teamsters" covers the evolution of the transportation of materials into and across the state. The most significant factor to this, as Aaron points out, is the changing topography of the landscape in Nevada, as "terrain has always been a major factor in how transportation has developed over the centuries" (pg 34).

"The Truckers" is an insight into the development of Nevada trucking companies and the strong-willed people who worked hard to make their living over the roads and highways of the Nevada desert, chronicling the expansion of some and disappearance of others along the way.

"The Truck Stops" covers truckers' favorite haunts along Nevada highways, when truckers were respected for their service and their trucks were given the full-service treatment. Aaron covers that alluring and enthralling time period of "greasy