

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Countless were the tears spilled here — both in joy and sadness.

Bottomless were the toppled drinks.

Immeasurable were the scattered ashes of celebratory cigars and bummed cigarettes.

Each was a scar. A scratch on a favorite record. A blemish beneath the feet of millions who walked across this worn pattern of gold leaves and red roses.

On Sept. 27, El Cortez replaced the casino carpeting. It was 13.

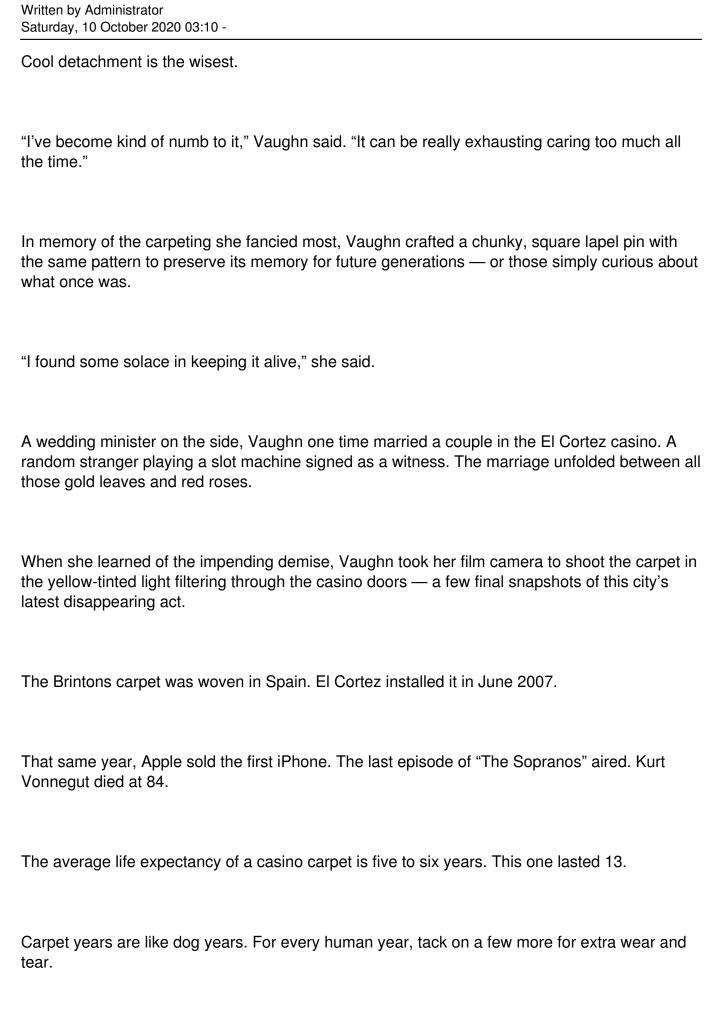
The gaudy, beloved and timeless carpet's end has left Las Vegas locals in mourning, steeped in longing for nights passed in its quiet, comforting presence.

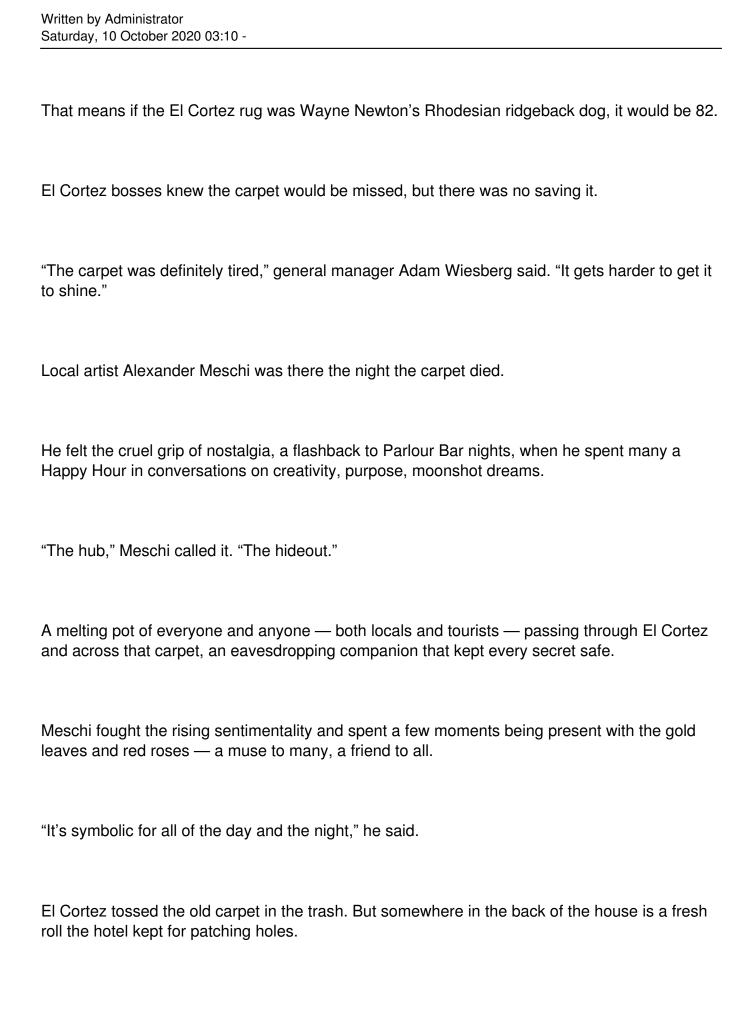
"Every day a sign or some beautiful, amazing element of Old Vegas disappears," said Holly Rae Vaughn, an artist who spent her early twenties at El Cortez, where the rug was a familiar face, a backdrop for many sun-down-to-sun-up adventures.

A hideout for hip, young locals and the retirees who ignore them, the Downtown hotel is a low-key clubhouse far from the opulence of The Strip.

In this town of constant demolition and reinvention, El Cortez is a rare time capsule. Preserved there is a postcard spirit of the 1940s, when gangster Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel and mob accountant Meyer Lansky owned the property.

Las Vegas is a place where people get hurt if they get too attached. Change is the safest bet.





Written by Administrator Saturday, 10 October 2020 03:10 -

With no use now, the carpet roll is a record.

Proof the gold leaves and red roses lived long and well, surrounded by loyal friends and many visitors, before leaving Las Vegas as quietly as it arrived.

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