

# 'Pawn' addiction

## Invest in Vegas' wheelers and dealers

**LINDA STASI**  
TV Critic



### "Pawn Stars" Season 3 Premiere

Tonight at 10 on History

★★★★

**H**OW happy am I that a new season of "Pawn Stars," the most inexplicably watchable show on TV, starts tonight? Make me an offer.

In case you've never seen the show, let me urge you to watch it just once. You'll be hooked.

"Pawn Stars" is sort of an "Antiques Road Show" — with tattoos. Think of it as "Antiques Road House."

For those who've never spent a night in the desert with the Harrison clan, they are a family of smart, funny, weird desert rats who own the only pawnshop in Las Vegas. They wheel, they deal, they steal. Well, not literally, but I swear some of the deals they make

should be classified as felonies.

There's "Old Man" Richard, who's owned the place so long he must have cheated Moses out of the original stone tablets. His second in command is his son Rick, who is every Hollywood casting agent's dream guy: A tough, rough, take-no-crap-from-nobody kind of guy who happens to be funny and smart.

That much can't be said for his son Corey, who spends more on Big Macs than the gym, but is nonetheless the shop's trained appraiser. Bringing up the rear, literally, is Corey's idiotic, obese childhood friend, Chumley, who is the brunt of much-deserved abuse.

They all jell about as

well as a couple in a Vegas wedding chapel. Two weeks after the wedding, that is.

Old man Harrison, a big crank with a giant shock of gray hair and black clothes, knows who to insult and who to praise. Rick, his totally bald son, is seemingly an expert on, well, everything. Do I believe it when he picks up a 18th century gold coin and he's able to immediately know not only that it was minted in Peru, but the terrible conditions of the mines during that era?

Hell no, as Old Man might say, but he's such a surprising character. I choose to buy into the whole thing anyway. For the right price.

Chumley, too, makes for great TV with his in-

sane inappropriateness, especially when he becomes the clueless brunt of Old Man's hilarious abuse.

But what really keeps me watching are the wheels and deals. The Harrisons beat everyone down to prices that are just shameful.

Not that the customers don't deserve it. I mean, really, why in hell would someone sell his father's original plans for the invasion of Iwo Jima to a pawn shop — for \$2,500 yet?

I want to scream, "Hey mister! Call Christie's! Call Sotheby's! Call the cops! You just got robbed!"





**GOLD STARS:** Richard (right) and his sons Rick (center) and Corey (left) star in History's reality series "Pawn Stars."