

# Jim Bango, Optometrist



When Jim Bango left Smallville, Iowa, to seek his fame and fortune, he pledged to his family that he wouldn't return until he had seen his name up in lights. Having graduated in the middle of his class at Eastern Iowa Opticians School, Jim figured his chances of instant notoriety were, well, limited. But he was determined to try.

As he headed west, Jim read aloud to himself the names of the towns he passed through – Suzby, Boise's Mistake, Lumpytown, West Lumpytown, Gulp – and tried to visualize the folks after whom they'd been named. Had *they* ever hoped to see their names up in lights? If it had happened to them, it *could* happen to him!

Two nights later, while cruising down a street in the heart of a famous Nevada city (which, if I mentioned its name, you'd recognize in an instant), Jim was utterly stunned to see ... *his name up in lights!* Initially ecstatic, he later located his eyeglasses, noticed the misspelling and, grief-stricken, hid in a Coke machine for eight long and lonely years. But that's another story.