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24TH YEAR LAS VEGAS, CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA, TUESDAY

HOUSE OKES BOLDER DAM

REVIEW OF THE LONG FIGHT FOR PASSAGE OF BOULDER DAM BILL

A BRIEF SKETCH OF YEARS OF EFFORT LEADING UP TO PASSAGE OF BOULDER DAM BILL BY CONGRESS.

(By C. P. Squires)

The Boulder Dam project was inspired many years ago by those who passed through the canyon and were immediately impressed by the perfect provision nature had made for the erection of a great dam. The narrow gorge and the mighty rock walls suggested to those of an engineering turn of mind the possibility of erecting there a structure greater than any dam ever before attempted. As early as 1903 or 1904 an engineer of the old school told the writer of the wonderful site for a dam at Boulder Canyon and said that some day it would be of great value for its power.

But the site itself without some human necessity for its use is of little value. It required some of men toward it in a constructive way.

In the year 1905 the need for the Boulder Dam was demonstrated by the great river which had carved the canyon. The Colorado, which had for centuries been building its bed higher and higher each year by the deposit of silt, broke through its sandy banks in time of flood and poured its mighty torrent into Imperial Valley and the Salton Sea. It cost two years of effort and the expenditure of more than \$3,500,000 to turn the flow from the valley and send it again on its way to the Gulf of California.

The great cry of the rich Imperial Valley that it be protected from further destruction set on foot the investigations by the United States Geological Survey and the U. S. Reclamation Service which sought a means of controlling the Colorado River floods. And today, with all the features in the way of benefits which the growth of the southwest has made possible from the project, flood control for the preservation of the Imperial Valley with its hundreds of millions of dollars worth of property and its 70,000 prosperous people is the real necessity which compels the creation of this great work. Other benefits are merely incidental. So, out of the distress of one region comes the impulse which will within a few years result in completion of the Boulder Dam project with its untold riches to be showered upon millions yet unborn through centuries to come.

Arthur Powell Davis, for many years Director of the U. S. Reclamation Service, is really the father of the project. For many years he directed the investigations made into every nook and cranny of the river valley. He established gauging stations; he measured its waters; he surveyed its areas of irrigable lands; he examined its canyons for feasible dam sites; and the information which he was instrumental in bringing together and classifying covers hundreds of printed pages.

His task, to the ordinary man, would have seemed so vast and uncertain as to be hopeless. Yet he was working with two powerful incentives urging him on. He had seen the vast destructive power of the River venting its anger against a fertile valley filled with peaceful and happy people. And he had in his veins the same kind of blood which gave strength and courage to his uncle, John Wesley Powell, that intrepid adventurer who was the first to pass down through the Grand Canyon of the Colorado and whose observations and comments on the nature of the river are still authoritative. No wonder that the spirit and accomplishments of the great explorer should live on to inspire his distinguished nephew in the great work before him. To the writer it is a sad disappointment that Arthur Powell Davis should not have been permitted to carry to the finish the great work for which he so well laid the groundwork of knowledge.

The writer recalls other efforts toward the development of the Boulder Canyon project. There was for instance a man of our own state, Henry Schmidt of Tonopah, who spent much time and money in investigations and surveys. He applied for a permit to develop power there and in the spring of 1914 had complied with all the requirements except some few weeks work connecting up surveys. But in the summer of 1914 the World War put its pall over all civilization. Capitalism had been offered freely before, it was impossible now to secure and the effort died.

Senator Cameron, Setson and Fred Hesse made earnest efforts extending over several years to begin development of the project,

but the rights of the government stood in the way. The Editor of the Age, with other Las Vegas people, had long had an appreciation of the tremendous benefits the building of Boulder Dam would bring to our city and had been desirous of encouraging the movement. Early in 1920 it was announced that a convention would be held in Los Angeles to discuss the development of the Colorado River. Unable to accept an invitation to attend, the late Emmett D. Boyle, then governor of Nevada, kindly appointed the writer as his personal representative at the convention.

So, April 1, 2, and 3, 1920, the great convention of the League of the Southwest was held in Trinity Auditorium, Los Angeles. In addition to the writer, there were several Clark county people in attendance as delegates, among them Dr. and Mrs. Roy W. Martin, Hon. Sam Arentz, now Nevada's congressman, and Mrs. Arentz, Mr. E. W. Griffith, and perhaps others whom it is at the moment impossible to recall.

At that meeting Boulder Dam was given its first wide publicity. It had hitherto been known to comparatively few who for one reason or another had interests in its construction. The writer, as representative of Governor Boyle, was made a member of the committee on resolutions and on the evening of April 2 was requested by Governor D. W. Davis of Idaho, chairman of the committee, to write a set of resolutions embodying the views of members of the committee and present them to the committee next morning.

The writer was not slow in accepting the opportunity offered. The discussion in the convention and in the committee had been along many general lines of policy affecting the development of the River in various states but it seemed to the writer that Boulder Dam should be the first and most important matter for the convention to endorse. Therefore the next morning copies of proposed resolutions were presented to the members of the committee and approved by them with only light changes in one paragraph. Former Governor Sloan of Arizona was designated to present the resolutions to the convention and they were adopted by unanimous vote.

By the resolutions the thought of the convention and of the country was centered on Boulder Dam as the first great development which should be undertaken by making that the recommendation of the first and most important section of the resolutions. Newspapers seized on that feature as the outstanding thought of the convention and from that time Boulder Dam began to assume form in the minds of the general public. In accordance with the resolution Congress appropriated funds, which were matched by the Imperial Valley, for investigating the Boulder Dam site and making the necessary borings. It seemed then that the great project was to be accomplished in the near future.

But trouble quickly developed. At a meeting in Denver in May 1920, shortly after the League of the Southwest convention, the writer again represented Governor Boyle. It was made apparent

(Continued on page six.)

LETTER CLUB DANCE AT H. S.

A dance will be given by the Letter Club of the Las Vegas High School Friday evening, at eight o'clock in the gymnasium. The public is invited and a pleasant time is promised all.

LAS VEGAS WILL CELEBRATE WHEN PRESIDENT SIGNS

GALA CELEBRATION PLANNED FOR VEGAS WHEN PRESIDENT SIGNS BOULDER DAM BILL — FIRE SIREN AND SHOPS WHISTLE WILL GIVE THE SIGNAL.

It was unanimously decided today at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon that Las Vegas shall celebrate the signing of the Boulder Dam bill by President Coolidge.

The celebration will be heralded by the fire siren, the shops whistle and fire bells.

Arrangements are being made to have all stores close and Fremont street will be roped off from Main to Third to allow for dancing.

All citizens are requested to join in the celebration which will last as long as there is any one on the street.

WHAT WILL THE BOULDER DAM DO FOR YOU?

HERE SITS LAS VEGAS on the threshold of an era which will bring great prosperity and a great increase in population. For those who expect to participate in this prosperity the fight has just begun. No business man can hope to prosper during the next few years by merely standing by and watching the stream flow past. He must get into action and be prepared to do many times the business he does now. If he cannot satisfy the demands of a greater population someone who can will enter the field. Business men of Las Vegas will have to be definitely in the swim if they expect to reap any of the benefits. Citizens who are neither in business nor property holders will be the ones who will see the stream of prosperity flow by them.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LAS VEGAS AND THE BOOM CAMPS OF NEVADA

SENATOR THE PITTMAN, in an address at Ely some time ago, called attention to the fact that \$80,000,000 was taken from the ground at Goldfield and \$135,000,000 at Tonopah. The great mining camps, while prosperous enough during the boom, were not destined to be the forerunners of real permanent cities. The mining men were robbing nature. Practically every dollar of the profits went to build up great fortunes in the east and all Nevada got was the revenue from several thousand plates of ham and eggs.

In Las Vegas more than twice the valuation of the fortunes taken from Goldfield is going to be put back into the ground where we may benefit from it. The Boulder Dam will not rob nature but will be of a constructive nature. It will furnish an abundance of cheap power which will enable farmers not in the artesian belt to pump plenty of water for irrigation purposes. Vast deposits of low grade minerals will be profitably worked. Las Vegas will be in a position to offer ideal sites for manufacturing and refining plants due to the fact that we have the cheapest power in the world and great deposits of minerals which are needed in these processes.

KING CONTINUES TO IMPROVE

LONDON, Dec. 18, (AP) — After slightly unsatisfactory night bulletins on the King's condition it was stated an improvement had been noted this morning and maintained during the afternoon.

NATIONS AGREE TO MEDIATION

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, (AP) — With the offer of mediation accepted by both countries the way was clear for the Pan-American conference on arbitration to take affirmative steps to reconcile Bolivia and Paraguay.

MANY CASES OF FLU REPORTED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, (AP) — Public officials estimated 400,000 new cases of influenza had developed in 20 states and New York City during the past week, basing the estimate on actual reports of 80,637 cases. Reports are unavailable from other states but officials said the outbreak was traveling eastward along the lines of traffic, at "an expected" speed. Kansas showed the greatest total number of cases with 60,843. Arizona reported 2,615.

The Governor of Rome has forbidden the entry of donkeys into the city. Well, some may get in disguised as men!

LAS VEGAS GET FEELING BUILDING

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, Special to the Age—A great federal building for Las Vegas is a certain improvement of the near future.

Following the activities of Senator Oddie, the Age representative in an interview today with Assistant Postmaster General Bartlett was given assurance that a federal building sufficient for a city of twenty thousand will be provided without delay.

The Editor of the Age had heretofore conferred with Secretary of the Interior West and Director of the Reclamation Service Meade as to the feasibility of combining with the postoffice and federal courts and the two departments have promised to confer.

Both Senator Oddie and Congressman Arentz will continue to press the building matter to an early conclusion.

The following is a telegram received by the Age this morning from Senator Tasker L. Oddie: "Postoffice officials have just informed me this morning that my request for an ample federal building for Las Vegas will be granted and that they will get to work on the matter promptly."

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Boulder Dam legislation has been passed by both houses of Congress and the bill has been transmitted to the President of the United States for his approval, and it is hourly expected that news will be received here of the signing of the Boulder Dam bill by the Chief Executive of this nation, and

WHEREAS, the date upon which such bill becomes a law will be memorable in the history of the City of Las Vegas, marking the culmination of years of breathless endeavor, and the Act opening up a brilliant future for the State of Nevada and Clark County in particular, and it is fitting that such event be appropriately celebrated,

NOW I, J. F. Hesse, Mayor of the City of Las Vegas, do hereby proclaim the remainder of the day on which the news is received of the signing of such Act by the President, a municipal holiday, wherein all business and professional activities shall be suspended, and do hereby urge all of our people to join in fittingly celebrating the splendid achievement, not forgetting to give thanks to those who have so earnestly, bravely and efficiently carried on the struggle to such magnificent fruition.

Done under my hand this 18th day of December, A. D., 1928.

J. F. HESSE, Mayor.

SERVICE

On Saturday we called the attention of our readers to the fact that the Age was "first on the streets with authentic news of the Senate vote on the Boulder Dam bill."

Although our competitor seems disposed to argue the matter we reiterate the statement as the truth, and since the matter has been left up to the public to judge, call to mind the following facts:

Shortly after three o'clock Friday our competitor appeared on the streets with dodgers, bearing a dispatch dated December 13, which stated that the Senate had passed the bill "without a record vote." Along with this appeared other news of action taken on the 13th, all of which was correct excepting the statement that "the Senate passed the bill without a record vote," as the bill was not passed until Dec. 14th, and the vote was recorded, most decisively.

In coming to our readers with a real newspaper giving the day's action correctly and in detail, we felt we were giving a first class service in which we were entitled to some personal pride, and that is still our opinion.

We do not wish to resort to the tactics of belittling our competitor's achievements, but as long as it is their wish to put the facts before the public we have stated them.

Now it will be possible to buy airplanes on the installment basis. Just imagine being chased through mid-air by an installment collector!

TWO HOUR DEBATE

LEATHERWOOD OF UTAH AND DOUGLAS OF ARIZONA PUT UP STRUGGLE AGAINST MEASURE—SMITH HOPEFUL FOR PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL AFTER CONFERENCE WITH COOLIDGE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, (AP)—The House today accepted the Senate changes in the Boulder Dam bill by a vote of 166 to 122, sending the measure to the White House. Douglas of Arizona opposed the bill declaring that he was no less opposed to the Senate's amendments than to the original bill. Leatherwood of Utah also opposed the bill as "glorified Muscle Shoals."

The final congressional action came after more than two hours of debate. A roll call vote was found necessary after a standing vote had shown them in the minority. Representative Hoch of Kansas inquired if the bill carried adequate protection for the consumer from excessive charge for power. Swing replied that the California consumers were willing to take chances. The standing vote showed seventy-seven opposed to the Senate amendments. Seventy-one were in favor of a roll call vote following the demand made by Swing.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, (AP)—President Coolidge believes that the Boulder Dam bill soon will reach the White House after the routine visit to the Interior Department and the Budget Bureau. He understands that the interior department already has suggested minor changes which will be adopted.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, (AP)—Chairman Smith of the House Irrigation committee and Congressman Swing of California conferred with President Coolidge and later declared that they were "hopeful" that the Boulder Dam bill will be signed by the Chief Executive. Smith said that the President had not expressed dissatisfaction with any amendments of the Senate and for that reason he was hopeful that Coolidge would sign.

BALL FUNERAL HELD SUNDAY

A large crowd of oldtime friends gathered at the Palm Funeral Home Sunday afternoon to pay their last respects to Charles P. Ball. The floral pieces were many, and exceptionally beautiful.

The short but impressive funeral service of the Christian Science church were used. Mrs. Ida Miller filling the position of reader. The music was especially touching, and consisted of two vocal solos, the "Four Square City," by Mrs. A. J. Hanna, and "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere," by Mr. J. F. Corey. Mrs. Roy W. Martin acted as accompanist.

Services were completed at Woodlawn cemetery, and the fact that so large a crowd followed the body to the grave, in spite of the bitter cold day, speaks well for the respect and esteem in which the deceased was held.

All the children were able to be present for the services, as were also one sister, and two brothers. Mrs. Lon Filkey and Mr. T. F. Ball, of Denver, and Mr. Robert B. Ball of Sterling, Colorado, arrived Saturday.

VEGAS TO BE BASE FOR HYDE SEARCH PLANES

RIVERSIDE, Cal., Dec. 18, (AP)—Two observation planes took off from March Field today for an aerial search of the Colorado River in an effort to find Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Hyde who are missing after an attempt to shoot the rapids of the Grand Canyon on a home made raft.

The searching party will center their operations from Las Vegas.

CROALS TO MAKE TRIP TO TEXAS

T. B. Croal, wife and son, Andrew expect to leave for Los Angeles Wednesday where they will meet their son, Tom, who is attending school at Santa Clara College, California.

From there they go to spend the holidays in their old home at Del Rio, Texas, visiting relatives and friends.

B.R.T. LADIES ELECT OFFICERS

Desert Holly Lodge No. 538, L. A. to B. R. T. held its annual election of officers with the following chosen to act for 1929: Mrs. Mayme Stocker, Past President; Mrs. Elizabeth Downing, President; Mrs. May Deverell, Vice President; Mrs. Mamie Croal, Secretary; Mrs. Veronica Harmon, Treasurer; Mrs. Jennie Lee, Conductress; Mrs. Orpha Higbie, Chaplain; Mrs. Bernice Dixon, Warden; Mrs. Jessie Kay, Inner Guard; Mrs. Mary Gronberg, Outer Guard; Mrs. Emily R. Ball, Legislative Representative; Mrs. Jennie Lee, Alternate Representative; Mrs. Mary Hewetson, Musician; Dr. Hal L. Hewetson, Medical Examiner.

LAND COMMITTEE POSTPONE SESSION

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, (AP)—Resumption of the hearings by the Senate Lands Committee on the renewal and subsequent cancellation of the Sinclair contract for Salt Creek royalty oil were postponed until tomorrow when several members of the committee were unable to attend.

CHRISTMAS ADVERTISERS

We are pleased to call the attention of our readers to the two full pages of advertising appearing in this and other issues of the Age. These pages reflect the Christmas spirit and offer a variety of choice for the holiday shopper.