

LAS VEGAS AGE

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THE FIRST STEP!

TODAY SEES THE first actual step taken toward the Boulder Dam development.

The Union Pacific engineers have arrived!

The construction of a railroad line to Black Canyon is a feat of modern science expressed in terms of engineering of which this nation may well be proud. This construction of trackage across desert wasteland, tunneled through mountains of shifting sands, trestled above washes of questionable stability is comparable in engineering skill only to the erection of the mighty dam itself.

These engineers who begin today to feel out an adequate rail-bed will have earned an enviable place in the hall of engineering fame. Their problem is not the same problem which faced the plucky surveyor who laid out the main line of the railroad thirty years ago.

In this project they have no alternative of objective. They cannot be optional in the choice of direction. They must forge Eastward as straightaway as if the line were marked by Providence.

And Divine Providence, which has so perfectly builded the two giant nature walls which will support the eighth wonder of mankind, will as surely guide these workmen to the successful means of linking His handiwork with the tools of mankind.

AIN'T IT THE TRUTH?

TO ONE WHO HAS LIVED in Las Vegas for a score of years or more and has been used to seeing the same folks day in and day out—with an occasional visitor or a drummer here for the day—the streets of Las Vegas offer a deluding spectacle. The old familiar "Hello, Charley," or the wave of the hand across the street in friendly recognition seems to have hidden itself in the alley of precaution.

Strange faces stare in at us through the windows of our shops. And we turn away in almost brazen reticence. A nod from a stranger brings a "What the ——— does he want?" to our thought.

I have even counted three strange dogs lolling in the sun on Fremont street.

But I guess we are just human after all. It sort of gets us to see the old home town taken over by a lot of people who wouldn't have cared a tinker's dam about the place if it wasn't for Boulder.

ATTENTION BUILDERS!

THERE IS MUCH active trading in real estate in and around Las Vegas. The prices, while nowhere near what the real value of the property is worth—or will be worth two years from now—are very promising. And that, in most instances, the transactions have been on a cash basis bespeaks the solidity of the money condition in the city.

But if you want to see us do a clog dance on the corner of Fremont and Second streets some moonlight night, let us learn that a well financed building contractor has begun to erect his first series of twenty residences.

There is an immediate demand in Las Vegas today for two hundred new homes of substantial size and construction. We dare to say that this number of residences would be sold long before they were completed.

Now THERE is some food to put in the nose-bag of some energetic and thoroughly capable builder.

THE MOST EXPENSIVE load of fire wood ever cut in the history of the United States was cut Thursday in Las Vegas. Seven of the most precious trees in the country were whacked into oblivion in front of the Overland Hotel. And incidently we saw a tear or two in the eyes of a few of the old-timers. Another instance of the tragedy of success!

Widow Of Manager Of Ford's Theater Seeks Lincoln Chair



The chair above in which President Abraham Lincoln sat that tragic night at Ford's Theater in Washington is sought from the government by Mrs. Blanche Chapman Ford (right), 73, widow of the manager of the theater at the time. She lives in Rutherford, N. J., and has received an offer for the chair which will provide for her declining years.

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
(Associated Press Staff Writer)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5. (AP)—Extensive search of old government records has failed thus far to show just how the war department came into possession of the rocking chair with satin cushions in which President Lincoln was seated at Ford's theater when he was shot and fatally wounded by J. Wilkes Booth on the night of April 14, 1865. Stirring of the dust on the old files of two government departments and the Smithsonian Institution was prompted by an appeal from the 73-year-old widow of Harry Clay Ford, who as manager of his brother's theater placed the chair in the box that day for the comfort of the President, bringing it from his own bedroom nearby. The widow, Mrs. Blanche Chapman Ford, once a member of the Chapman sisters team which charmed old Washingtonians with singing and dancing appearances on the stage, now is living in Rutherford, N. J., dependent on her sons for support. She has asked return of the chair to her as the property of her late husband. She has received for it from a private collector of Lincoln relics an offer that spells independence and comfort

throughout her brief remaining years. The chair itself has been stored for decades in the basement of the Smithsonian Institution. It has never been placed on exhibition because it is a reminder of a great tragic event as is Ford's theater itself, purchased by the government to insure that it should never again be used as a theater. Moves to convert the dingy old building or replace it with a new one to be used as a special Lincoln museum are now afoot. Smithsonian records show the chair was deposited by the interior department, which received it from the war department. Seeking precedents for returning the relic to the widow, army legal authorities turned at once to an

opinion by Associate Justice McReynolds of the supreme court while he was attorney general in the first Wilson administration. Property of Jefferson Davis, dueling pistols and bullet moulds and other similar arms, seized by Union troops when the president of the vanished Southern Confederacy was arrested, was involved. The opinion found that as there had been no proceedings to acquire legal title to these relics, they remain the property of heirs of the Confederate leader regardless of how long they had remained in possession of the government. On the strength of that, the heirs received the pistols and other equipment by executive order of President Wilson.

That is a sufficient precedent for return of the Lincoln chair to Mrs. Ford, provided no other legal obstacle complicates the matter. It is to clear the road to such action the search of records was undertaken. And if it can be determined that the government merely has exercised a right of might all these years and kept for its own uses a bit of property that rightfully belongs to the widow in New Jersey, it will go to her ultimately, even if Secretary Davis of the war department finds it necessary to take the matter to congress for authority. Ex-Governor James G. Scrugham, editor of the Nevada State Journal, is a visitor in Vegas.

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Thanks to you all for our wonderful Holiday trade which resulted in the sale of practically everything we had. However we will have a complete new stock in a few days and you will be amply rewarded in price and selection for your wait.

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Bible School 9:45

Epworth League 6:30

Morning Worship 11:00

"WHO SAY YE THAT I AM?"

Evening Worship 7:30

"AN OLD STORY IN A NEW WAY"

A Cordial Welcome to Everyone