

# LAS VEGAS AGE

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### A CLEAN SLATE

**T**HE CONVICTION of Asa Keyes and his two cohorts is the last of a series of important criminal trials in California.

The judicial docket of our sister state in which we are so genuinely interested is pretty clean. And it is significant that in each and every prosecution there has been a conviction and a speedy meting out of justice.

California has established a precedent in jury procedure which should call for close scrutiny on the part of every court in the nation. Under the California system there is little chance for intimidation of jurors and in each expensive and long drawn out trial a provision is made by statute for an alternate juror who acts in case a regular venireman is stricken or becomes incompetent.

A criminal jury in California is locked up for the duration of the trial at the discretion of the court. A cordon of bailiffs accompany the jurors to and from their hotels and eating places.

They are not disturbed by outside influence. Newspapers are carefully clipped of all criminal items.

Here is a gentle suggestion to our legislators who are striving to build statutes constructive in their ultimate.

### THAT RIVERSIDE SHERIFF

**T**HE ATTITUDE of Clem Sweeters, Sheriff of Riverside county, California in refusing to deliver to a blood-thirsty mob the body of Gordon Stewart Northcott, convicted and self-confessed slayer of small boys, is worthy of the attention of peace officers throughout the nation.

It is not pleasant to be awakened at midnight and be forced to cope with 300 thrill-crazed minds, armed with as many weapons and to refuse a demand in the face of such threats as are usually flung by gangs of that sort.

The prompt and poised refusal of Sheriff Sweeters to permit a flagrant and barbarous violation of the laws of his county "unless over our dead bodies" is a brave act. It has put Riverside county in the foreground in public opinion. The conviction of Northcott, the arch fiend, redeemed the county from the stigma his crimes blotted into the record.

But the action of this sheriff in dispelling an irate mob of obstructionists who would interfere with an otherwise perfect administration of justice single-handed and unarmed will erase forever in the minds of law abiding citizens a despicable memory of heinous crimes.

### FINAL CHAPTER

**W**HEN THE AGE goes to press next the final page will have been started in the history of the ten-year battle for Boulder Dam. The Santa Fe Conference will be in session with the prospect of an early settlement of all disputes.

The Nevada commissioners, full of enthusiastic optimism and constructive peace plans will wield an important trowel in the masonry of agreement.

In all there is no need for adverse thought on the part of anyone. The Boulder Dam Act is going to be ratified and the end of the month will see appropriations made for the construction work!

### DIRTY STREETS

**"L**AS VEGAS is the dirtiest little city I have seen!" It sort of hurt the pride of this little newspaper when that remark hit our ears. It was a cruel criticism from the lips of a gentleman who meant to be helpful. "What is the reason for it?" was his question.

As a matter of fact there is no reason for it. A broom and a dust pan are surely within the reach of the city's pocketbook. The city jail, now the boarding-house for a number of ne'er-do-wells, could furnish trusty labor to do the job so that the matter of expense can not be advanced as an excuse for filth.

And again is it not better for the city to spend a few dollars a day to protect us from such an indictment as our friend thrust at us deservingly?

Fremont Street IS a disgrace. It ought to be clean. And it ought to be cleaned at once!



**About New York**  
By RICHARD G. MASSOCK  
NEW YORK, Feb. 9.—The granddaughter of the man whose money made the telephone possible has no phone in her apartment. Nor does she want one.

Thomas Sanders, a Harvard, Mass., leather merchant, was Alexander Graham Bell's chief financial backer when Bell was experimenting with an instrument he hoped would transmit speech. Sanders put upward of \$100,000 into the invention, his interest having been aroused while Bell was teaching his deaf son, George Sanders, to speak.

But anyone wishing to communi-

cate with Muriel Draper, who is Thomas Sanders' granddaughter, must do it by mail or messenger, or take a chance on himself being admitted to her home.

**Home Once A Stable**  
Mrs. Draper, erstwhile interior decorator who has turned author, lives over a garage in the Forties that was once a stable. She picked the place for its size, which is approximately that of a barn, painted the rafters and brick walls, built in one corner a bedroom of 12-inch planks, and moved in a motley collection of furniture, most of it antiquated, if not antique.

It might be well to explain here that her venture as a decorator, after her musician-husband, Paul Draper, died, began with a capital of \$35 and ended with debts of well, more than \$3,500.

A cord of wood is stacked in one corner of the studio under a fine old tapestry, opposite a grand piano. It feeds the tiny fireplace before which gathers a group of writers, musicians and Columbia

university professors who talk, sometimes until daylight, about life, the arts, the soul, or lack of it, and other subjects that interest the intellectuals.

**Annoyed By 'Phone**  
But getting back to the telephone, Mrs. Draper found that it interrupted either sleep or work. So if anyone has an urgent message he can deliver it by courier, or in person. Occasionally she finds friends waiting for her on the

stairs. She is thinking of putting chairs on the landing outside her door.

Muriel is a sister-in-law of Ruth Draper, the character monologist, who all alone entertains theater audiences six nights and two afternoons a week. Ruth receives her friend in a more modern apart-

ment farther uptown.

**Desecrated Temple**  
Some music lovers take tradition very, very seriously. An instance was noted at Carnegie Hall during a concert of the Philharmonic-Symphony orchestra.

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