

LAS VEGAS AGE

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STREET PROBLEM

SINCE THE FOUNDING OF LAS VEGAS in May 1905 the problem of improving the streets and keeping them clean has been a constantly growing one. Soon after the townsite was opened for sale the streets were graded and given a surface of oil on the natural soil on all except Fremont, which was graveled before the application of oil. Fremont street remained in passably good condition for about fifteen years, but those streets oiled on the soil and heaped-up dust, as might be expected, soon began to deteriorate and the city street department was and ever since has been confronted by a problem constantly increasing in difficulty.

There was but little money available. As travel increased and the automobile came into its own the demand for expenditures increased. As time went on it became apparent that our attempts at street improvements, were little more than excuses and makeshifts to mollify this or that section of the town.

Street Commissioner Otis J. Smith has struggled with the problem during the past four years. In the face of constant demands for better streets he has had available only about the same amount of street funds as were available in the previous years of the city's life. As more people came there was more traffic, more dust and more rubbish to blow about the streets, and the Commissioner has been trying to meet the public demand as best he could by doling out a little money here and a little there. The result inevitably was satisfactory to none, annoyance to all.

The blame for this condition lies with the public and not with the street commissioner. To provide any substantial street improvements of a permanent nature with the money available was an impossibility. But there has been some general improvement with the lapse of time. Perhaps it would be incongruous to say that the streets are now better than they were; rather, we should say that they are not quite so bad.

The Age has frequently for more than ten years past urged that steps be taken to provide permanent street improvements but there has been an inertia on the part of a portion of the public which the more enterprising element found difficulty in overcoming. Had we started our improvements ten years ago we would now have little cause to criticize our street commissioner.

Just now our first major street improvement job is getting under way. When the streets in the northern half of the townsite are paved with oil-bound gravel, that part at least of the regular street fund which used to go for temporary repairs can be used for street cleaning.

In the meantime, why blame the street commissioner for conditions for which he is not responsible and which are just as distasteful to him as to any other citizen?

OUR BYPATHS

CLARK COUNTY is fortunate in having main highways second to none in the state. In our bi-ways, local highways to our places of scenic beauty, summer resorts and places of scientific interest, we are greatly deficient.

In another column of this issue we publish a letter from a traveler who tried to visit the buried city and was prevented from so doing by an unhappy experience on the road. Every day almost we are compelled to advise visitors asking about the Valley of Fire, the Hidden Forest or the Buried City that the roads are not very good, to put it mildly.

Our many places of interest should be, and would be if the roads were improved, real assets to the community. As it is people who try to visit them too often go away with a grievance.

The county, like the city, has a real problem in making the money available for road purposes meet the requirements of traffic. Nevertheless an effort should be made to link our natural attractions with the main highways by good, easily traveled roads just as soon as possible.

RABID WRITERS

THE STRUGGLE for sensation evidenced by some of the writers who have dropped into Vegas for a glimpse of the coming metropolis is amusing. They drop into a gambling joint and parade through the redlight and proceed to color their writings about Vegas a bright red.

As a matter of fact Las Vegas is no wilder and woollier than Los Angeles, San Francisco or the cities of the east. We have grown into a rather staid and civilized community quite different from that of the early days when the town was mostly saloons and redlight and we had a "man for breakfast" every morning. There is less violence and crime per capita in Las Vegas than in most cities and we have grown into a peaceful civilized state in which home life, churches, schools, fraternal organizations, service clubs and the like, are dominant.

We assert without fear of successful contradiction that there is no city in the west better to live in, more satisfactory for bringing up children, or more quiet and peaceful in its social and civic life, than Las Vegas.

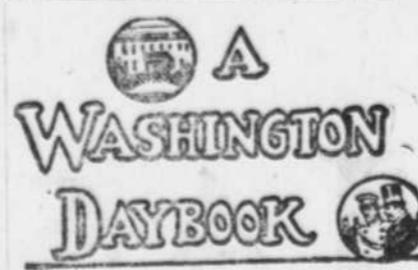
Of course, those who come looking for dirt and sensation, can find our gambling houses, bootleggers and redlight just as they could in their own home town, or just as, possibly, some of us do when we visit other places.

Las Vegas is essentially a quiet, home loving city of law abiding men and women.

Out Our Way



By Williams



By HERBERT C. PLUMMER

WASHINGTON, April 11.—Roosevelt was president when Pat McKenna took up his duties as official doorkeeper to the executive offices of the white house.

That was 26 years ago. He has been at his post ever since, serving under Roosevelt, Taft, Wilson, Harding, Coolidge and now Hoover. His post is within the shadow of the door leading to the president's office and no one sees chief executive without first passing McKenna. Cabinet members, diplomats, members of congress and plain citizens—each is eyed by the veteran doorkeeper before being ushered into the presence of the president.

Keeper Of Keys
McKenna's job is to see that the president's visitors are presented to him in their order and with the least possible confusion and loss of time. He must also make sure that no one gets into the offices of the chief executive who has no business there.

He will tell you that this is quite a job. Many of the first visitors to the white house have an idea that the door to the president's office swings both ways, and that all they have to do is walk right in. It is McKenna who stops these democratic souls and advises them as to what they must do in order to get within the inner sanctum.

McKenna also holds the keys to the white house proper, insofar as visitors are concerned. To get a glimpse of the president's home one must first have a card signed by the doorkeeper, to be presented at the door of the executive mansion.

During the 26 years he has been doorkeeper, McKenna perhaps has come in contact with as many im-

portant people as any other one person in the world. Also, must he act as the go-between for the thousands who come from everywhere to shake the hand of the president.

It is the latter class that make his job anything but the most pleasant. They are always making some absurd request, and some seem wholly unable to understand why they can't be granted.

Silly Questions

While we were talking to McKenna a visitor rushed up with the request that President Hoover place his signature in an autograph book.

"But the President is not receiving today," the doorkeeper informed her.

The visitor insisted that the signature must be had. There was no way out. McKenna took the book and said he would try and get the President to sign. The visitor could return later in the day and get it. He was shown where the signature was wanted, marked the place, and put it on his desk to await opportunity to slip into the President's office and ask him to write his name.

"I get this every day," he said. "But I am accustomed to it. And after all, it's in the day's job."

McKenna refers to the President as "that feller in there," and he always accompanies his statement with a wave of the hand towards the executive offices.

It is never President Hoover this or that—always "that feller in there."

The old fashioned letter press, a book in which letters are copied by pressure on thin, moistened pages, still is the legally required record for French business offices.

NEVADA LEADS IN MERCURY

LOVELOCK, April 11. (Special)—The Nevada Quicksilver company continues to hold its place as the largest producer of mercury in the United States, although the cre furnished in February and March was of lower grade, due to a mixture of waste from development work.

Production for March was between 250 and 275 flasks.

A Good Place To Eat GREEN MILL

CAFETERIA AND COFFEE SHOP

JOHN VAN RYN, Prop.

Featuring Home Cooked Foods in a Large Variety
219 Fremont St.

VEGAS HAND LAUNDRY

SIXTEENTH & OGDEN ST.
PHONE 338

We Call For and Deliver Work

GATEWAY HOTEL

CORNER MAIN AND STEWART STREETS

Now Open For Business

COMFORTABLE ROOMS

RATES \$1.00 UP

START OF RENO AIR LINE APRIL 15 PROMISED

C. Roy Boggs and Dodge Brothers Given Permits To Run Planes From Las Vegas to Reno; Fare \$60.

CARSON CITY April 11.—From Reno to Las Vegas in four hours by air on regular daily schedule.

This solution to the passenger and mail transportation problem between the two important Nevada cities was offered last night with the announcement that the state Public Service Commission has granted applications for the operation of two lines across the 500-mile gap.

The applications granted were those of C. Roy Boggs of Carrara, Nev. and Dodge Brothers of Fall River, Mass. Several days ago that if his application were granted he would start operation April 15.

It is understood that applications will be made to the Interstate Commerce Commission for permits to continue both lines on to Los Angeles.

Requests for contracts to transport the mail will be requested of the government later, it was reported.

Boggs will operate Lockheed-Vega monoplanes on his line. The passenger rate from Reno to Las Vegas will be \$60. The round-trip will be \$110. The rate from Reno to Tonopah will be \$35 and the same charge will be made from Tonopah to Las Vegas. Round-trip fares between Reno and Tonopah and Tonopah and Las Vegas will be \$65.

Dodge Brothers, it has been announced, will operate Waco planes. No date has yet been given for the start of this service.—Nevada State Journal.

The commission's order, according to the Reno Gazette, states that the company securing the mail contract will be allowed to continue operations while the other company cannot operate.

A petition is being circulated in Las Vegas asking the post office department to establish the air mail route between Reno and Las Vegas.

FLOATING GRANDSTANDS

LONDON, April 11. (P)—Big trans-oceanic liners will be anchored in the Solent, famous stretch of yachting water, to be used as floating grandstands when the Schneider cup airplane races are held September 7. Great Britain now holds the trophy and will defend it against France, Italy and the United States.

FINISH THE JOB

THE TIME to finish the job of street paving is now. Already owners of property in the south half of the townsite are manifesting a desire to have that portion of the streets improved. Lewis street has voiced some desire for improvement by voluntary contribution and private contract, similar to the manner in which Fifth street was handled.

It would be better for all concerned if the whole of the townsite outside of the present district were included in one project; the preliminaries carried out by the commissioners beginning now; and the work ready to proceed before the contract on the present work is finished.

By acting now it is probable that a better price can be obtained than would be possible at a later date. But the most important consideration is to get the streets improved as soon as possible and thereby allay unpleasant criticism of the city and add to our own comfort and convenience.

Hollywood Sights and Sounds

By ROBBIN COONS

HOLLYWOOD, April 11.—Aloysius is the original "ham actor" of the talkies. (The pun, be it added hastily, is his press agent's, not ours.)

At the age of two months, this healthy young pig makes his movie debut as a pioneer in the new school of animal actors demanded by this modern screen technique which paradoxically has silence for its watchword.

In the good old days of silent pictures, animal actors had to be trained of course, but they could be directed with shouted orders from behind the camera. In the talkie regime the animal trainers must be as tongue-tied under the merciless microphones as the directors, and like them, must transmit orders to their "players" by means of gestures and signs.

So Aloysius has been educated to "enact his part" in "Smiling Irish Eyes" by obeying gestures from Colleen Moore, with whom he appears in several scenes.

Musician To Order

In this Irish romance Miss Moore joins practically all the rest of Hollywood in the talkie field, and she will be heard in several songs. In preparations she has been studying her music like an aspirant to grand opera. Her leading man, James Hall, will sing also, but he has had musical comedy experience. He is called on to play the violin, however, and the fiddling he does for the screen will be the fruit of very recent lessons.

Troubles

A few of the numerous difficulties which arise in talkie-making, as compared with the sound stage, where Al Sandell is directing "Twin Bed," are expressed in the strange new jargon of the films of '29, with more or less intelligible English equivalents:

- "System hum"—noisy recording.
- "Low frequency"—trouble with the "juice."
- "Over cutting"—noises too loud for the wax records.
- "Popping mike"—the microphone itself makes a noise.
- "Galloping motors"—the camera motor skips.
- "Underspeed motors"—cameras out of step with the recording.
- "Aid line bad"—the wire connections go "haywire."
- "Talent breakdown"—the mere actor forgets his lines, or misses his cue, or omits, or makes any of a hundred false steps the tensile silence might provoke in a talkie-nervous human being.
- Any of these, as the director points out, may occur to ruin a scene, or all of them may.

About New York

By RICHARD G. MASSOCK

NEW YORK, April 11.—In the spring a New Yorker's fancy turns to summer sports, and among them swimming. He can hardly wait to give up the town's diversions, grow a little staid with the passage of winter, and play again like the fishes.

In fact, some don't wait. Already they are telephoning the swimming pool architects daily to find out where they can splash with pleasure, and their requests are answered with a list of neighborhood pools.

Throughout the winter the four or more hotel tanks in Manhattan, as well as other indoor pools, are well patronized, especially at night, by persons in search of good clean fun. But spring brings more tender thoughts of the old swimming hole and the pools are crowded with people come to bathe away their nostalgia.

Those who collect statistics may be interested in knowing that there are more than 6,000 swimming pools in the country, including the one that Edsel Ford has installed recently in a club house built by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. at Seal Harbor, Me., where their families go in the summer.

A contractor reports that the east is just now building pools in a big way, the vogue coming from the inland plains. Chicago especially is credited with starting the hotel and apartment pool fashion which has been adopted by New York.

Some of the most elaborate private pools in the country are hereabouts. Walter Teague, president of the Standard Oil company, has one at his estate in East Portchester, Conn. In the same room is a breakfast nook and gymnasium equipment, including bicycles and a mechanical horse.

Bell-Hop Detectives

A suitcase no longer is sure of getting admitted to a metropolitan hotel. So many gypsters have left the inns holding empty bags in lieu of room-rent that bell-boys now give the clerk a sign if the luggage feels suspicious. If the weight or something seems irregular, the boy slowly tips the bag forward. The signal means "skipper baggage" and the clerk usually tells the would-be guest that he must pay in advance, or simply regrets there is no room for him.

Seen And Heard

Joan Lowell, locally famous since publication of her salty story of sea adventure, denies she talks that way.

Mrs. Valbourg Palmer, wife of a scientist, lost her job as personality expert for a chain of restaurants when William Childs was ousted from its control. She was responsible for the individuality of the decorations, including the aprons worn by the waitresses and the color schemes of the foods they served. She is said to have been the one who recommended a change from her nearly nickel and the to the later bronze and stone.

Dorothy Vedder, a portrait painter, is amused by the young New Yorker who are very continental speaking French on the slightest provocation, or no provocation at all, if a third person is present to be impressed. Yes, they are quite

LAW A LA CARTE

KAUNAS, Lithuania, April 11. (P)—This country has no fewer than four legal systems for its 2,000,000 inhabitants. The Russian code holds good in central Lithuania; father south, the Code Napoleon is the rule; Baltic rule governs the north and German law the Memel territory. A unification system is hoped for shortly.