



MOAPA VALLEY, GARDEN SPOT IN THE DESERT

Well Watered and Fertile Region Ideal For Truck Farming.—Reclamation Project Is Under Consideration.

Fifty miles northeast of Las Vegas lies the Moapa Valley with its notable background of romance and history.

In 1842, through General Fremont, Kit Carson and their little band of intrepid explorers, the Valley first began to be known to the outside world, though vaguely, as a place of running water, productive lands and troublesome Indians.

In 1847, Captain Jefferson Hunt led a party of 15 or 16 men from Salt Lake to San Bernardino, to secure supplies. They stopped to recuperate in the Valley and were probably the first party of whites to make the trip over this route. They returned in the spring of 1848 from San Bernardino with 150 horses and 300 head of cattle, thereby breaking the California trail through the Valley. About 1855 the first permanent settlement was made in the Valley, these settlers being called home to Utah soon after. Other bands of settlers came in, but these too left, abandoning their homes, farms and growing crops when the officials of Lincoln county, Nevada, to which this section had been annexed by legislative act, attempted to compel the people to pay taxes a second time in Lincoln county after they had already paid their taxes for the year to the Utah authorities.

Following this the Valley was practically deserted for a series of years, but in the latter portion of the century, settlers again began the work of making homes and improving the Valley.

In the early years of the settlement the people raised cotton for their own clothes in addition to their foodstuffs.

When the Los Angeles & Salt Lake railroad built a branch line into the Valley nearly 20 years ago, things took a turn for the better, but there has been no substantial increase in population because of the limited area of land for which water is available.

Cantaloupes, winter vegetables, tomato plants, alfalfa and fruits have been grown with profit. The U. S. Reclamation Service, with Dr. Mead at the head, is now making an investigation of a proposed reclamation project in the upper portion of the Valley which will add greatly to the prosperity of the people. Connected with this project are flood control features necessary to avert the destructive floods such as at times have devastated the fields of the lower Valley.

The towns of the Valley are Moapa, the junction point of the Moapa Valley branch with the main line of the Union Pacific; Logandale, Overton, Kaolin and St. Thomas.

The building of Boulder Dam will change the aspect of the Valley very materially. The town of St. Thomas will be inundated by the filled reservoir the shores of which will be between St. Thomas and Kaolin. The property will of course be purchased and paid for by the government. The new reclamation project, also, will in a measure compensate for the loss by adding some 4,000 acres of new land to the irrigable area.

SUCCESSFUL N. Y. PLAY PRODUCER LOCATES HERE

El Patio, Open Air Theater Result of Decision of William R. Streett to Cast His Lot With Gateway City.

A successful New York play producer who came west for his health, who located for a while in Los Angeles then moved to Las Vegas because he believed the climate would be better for him, and who took a fancy to this growing community, has conceived the idea, and put it into effect, of building and operating an open air theater in Las Vegas.

Elks who are visiting Las Vegas from the East may remember William R. Streett, formerly of the firm Druce and Streett, which showed high class productions in New York for five years.

Streett took a liking to Las Vegas, because of its promise as the result of the Boulder Dam prospects, and for the native merits and promise of its residents, and the progressiveness of her institutions.

And so he decided to remain here and establish himself in the theater business. El Patio, the new open air theater at First and Carson, is the result.

The idea of instituting a theater in Las Vegas has been worked out in conjunction with the organization of the Community Players, a group of local talent, members of which have staged two three-act plays twice each, and which are producing vaudeville and prologues at the present time, in addition to working toward the presentation of "The Family Upstairs," which will be staged at El Patio July 15 and 16.

Streett had in mind the eventual forming of a stock company in Las Vegas as soon as the growth of the community warrants it. For the present, motion pictures, vaudeville and plays are being shown, but these, Streett plans, will gradually be supplanted by the drama and the stock company, according to present plans.

El Patio theater has had an astonishing growth of business since the community warrants it. For it was there that the program was held for the first broadcast from Las Vegas on June 22, when Secretary of the Interior Ray Lyman Wilbur and Dr. Elwood Mead, director of the Bureau of Reclamation, assured the nation that the work on Boulder Dam would go ahead. The theater was packed that night, approximately 1200 being estimated to have been in attendance. This program, arrangements for which were made by George E. Ellis, was staged at El Patio by El Patio at that time he and his theater stood ready to do anything possible for the weal of the community.

Las Vegas Elks are going to be prominent in the trapshoot. There are going to be some "big guns" competing from foreign ports. But, Las Vegas Elks are going to be out to do their share to keep plenty of the trophies here, according to O. J. Potthoff.

The dances to be held at Lorenz's three nights of the convention will be informal, and the Men Public is cordially invited, it has been announced.

Even the grand ball July 4 will be open to everyone, big, little, young or old. Elk or not, the committee has risen to state.

Past and Present Officers of Elko Lodge No. 1472, B. P. O. E., Who Are to Attend Elks Convention in Las Vegas



Top Row—H. P. Hale, first Exalted Ruler, Elks' Lodge No. 1472; M. B. Badt, Esteemed Leading Knight; W. A. Shaw, third Exalted Ruler, No. 1472.

Center Row—H. A. Castle, second Exalted Ruler, No. 1472; E. P. Carville, present Exalted Ruler; H. L. Bryant, Secretary.

Bottom Row—H. L. Bruce, fourth Exalted Ruler; F. L. Middleton, fifth Exalted Ruler.