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LAS VEGAS AGE SOUTHERN NEVADA'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

FOR RELIABLE NEWS OF LAS VEGAS, NEV., GATEWAY TO BOULDER DAM, READ THE AGE

VOLUME TWENTY-FIVE

LAS VEGAS, CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA, TUESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 6, 1929

NUMBER NINETY-THREE

LITTLEFIELD DAM WASHED OUT; FLOOD SWEEPS VIRGIN BASIN

Graf Zep Refueling for Start on Round-World Flight Killer Hunted; Shamrock Jailed

LAD RIDES HORSEBACK LIKE PAUL REVERE, TO SAVE FOLK FROM WATER

Dirigible Set to Start Return Trip Wednesday

Ship Cuts Crossing Time Seventeen Hours; Ground Crew Has Difficulty In Anchoring Giant in Wind.

By LYLE C. WILSON United Press Staff Correspondent NAVAL AIR STATION, Lakehurst, N. J. Aug. 5.—(U.P.)—Refueling the Graf Zeppelin for her round-the-world flight began today...

The Graf brought a mixed burden of passengers, a stowaway, a chimpanzee, a gorilla, one grand piano and 600 canary birds.

Dr. Hugo Eckner, commander, bettered the time of his journey last October by 17 hours and 26 minutes.

Four hundred and twelve grunting sailors tugged at hawsers. A sailor with a green flag trotted behind Lieut. Commander Vincent Clark, in charge of landing operations.

The 13 passengers, including (Continued On Page Six)

Tanker Rams L. A. Dock in Landing

SAN PEDRO, Calif., Aug. 5.—(U.P.)—The tanker Lake Miraflores, bound for San Francisco with a full cargo of oil, ran wild in the channel here today and rammed the naval landing dock at Los Angeles harbor.

Hoover to Speak at Welcome Celebration

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5.—(U.P.)—President Hoover today accepted an invitation to visit Madison, Va., near his Rapidan fishing preserve, on August 17, to participate in a community welcome celebration, the White House announced.

Aimee Plans Holy Land Pilgrimage



When Aimee Semple McPherson, famed evangelist, leads a party of 750 students and followers in a pilgrimage to the Holy Land next March, her greatest dream and most pretentious project will be realized.

Alleged Communist Camp for Children Found in California

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif., Aug. 5.—(U.P.)—With six women and one man held in jail, six other persons were sought today on warrants resulting from an investigation of an alleged communistic camp for children in the mountains near here.

The investigation disclosed that about 40 children, ranging in age from 6 to 13 years, were housed in the camp, which was said to be conducted on the model of a miniature Soviet republic.

It was said that the children were in possession of communistic songs and recited a communistic pledge each morning.

Those held in jail were Isadore Berowitz, Belle Minz, Yezta Stromberg, Emma Schusterman, Sarah Bertowitz, Sarah Cutler and Esther Karpelitz.

The district attorney has issued warrants for William Green, Fred Firestone, Catherine Haushack, Anna Rosenfeld, Rose Spector and Sarah Radkin.

Members of the group were charged with contributing to the delinquency of minors.

Mauretania After Bremen's Record

NEW YORK, Aug. 5.—(U.P.)—The Cunard liner Mauretania, speeding from Cherbourg to New York in what may develop to be an attempt to lower the Bremen's record of 4 days, 17 hours, 42 minutes, is beating all its previous records, Captain S. C. S. McNeil advises the line's offices here today.

Age to Friedrichshafen are: Morris at 4:52 p. m. Saturday, made 680 nautical miles from noon Sunday to this noon, or an average of 27.2 knots. Its best previous day's sailing was January 26, 1911, when it achieved 676 miles.

Cunard officials here claim the Mauretania once made the westward crossing in 4 days, 18 hours, 38 minutes.

Murder Charge For Man Who Shot Whitmer

Party at Whom Bullet Was Aimed Held By Officers As County Is Scoured For Oklahoma Character.

"Horsefly's" name is Williams, and "Shamrock's" is McCaskell, it was learned late last night from District Attorney Harley A. Harmon.

To face a murder charge when he is captured, a certain alleged bootlegger-rambler known as "Horsefly" and "Shorty" and "High Cap" was still the object of search by the police at last reports last night, wanted for the death yesterday morning at 11:15 of Jessie D. Whitmer, whom he shot early Sunday morning in a new liquor and gambling place out the Searchlight road four miles.

Whitmer, who was watchman for the cars parked at the Blue Heaven dance hall nearby, was shot, it is said, as he tried to quiet the brawl. The bullet pierced his lung, and he was delirious when he was taken to the Union Pacific hospital early Sunday morning.

"Horsefly," who is said to have been notorious in Oklahoma as a gambler and bootlegger, before coming to Las Vegas early this year, was the man who was found with the Oklahoman wanted by a bondsman in Oklahoma, whom Police Chief Nash held here until Oklahoma City officers came for him some few weeks ago.

Joe May, night policeman, apprehended him as he was driving toward Las Vegas near Lade's on East Fremont in a Chevrolet coupe with another man and a woman accompanying him.

The man and woman were not kept in custody.

"Horsefly" is a small, very individual, blond and unpretentious. "Shamrock" is tall and a brunette. The shooting is said to have taken place around 1 o'clock Sunday morning. "Horsefly" jumped into an automobile and started to leave as soon as he had done the shooting, but the car became stalled in the sand and he took to his heels. He was tracked over the desert for a distance Sunday, until the trail led to the road, and there it was lost. Various reports of his having been seen since have been traced, but no "Horsefly" is to be found.

Whitmer, who was rushed to the shooting, remained delirious, and it was stated early by doctors that he had little chance of recovery, the bullet having entered the center of his chest and pierced one of his lungs.

L. A. Detective Head Quits After 20 Years

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 5.—(U.P.)—Chief of Detectives Herman Cline today retired from the Los Angeles police force after 20 years of continuous service.

Cline gained nation-wide publicity through association with the handling of the William Edward Hickman, Clara Phillips and William Desmond Taylor cases.

Because of the length of his service Cline will receive a pension of \$200 monthly. He retired, he said, to accept an outside position.

Police Inspector Joseph Taylor temporarily is handling the duties of Chief of Detectives.

HEROIC STRUGGLE SAVES BOAT ON THE COLORADO RIVER

With Flesh Torn From Hands and Arms, Murl Emery, River Boatman, Brings Boat and Passengers to Safety

Murl Emery, well known Colorado River boatman, saved his power boat with two passengers from almost certain destruction Saturday afternoon at the cost of painful injuries which will incapacitate him from activity for some time.

The river was running with a flood of about 55,000 second feet, bringing with it quantities of drift wood. Emery, a veteran in Colorado River navigation, who has safely carried thousands of sight seers to the Boulder Dam site, had as passengers that trip two women, tourists from Denver.

They had made the trip down through Black canyon and were approaching the boat landing on the return when a log was caught in the boat's propeller, stopping progress. The boat was swept out into the great whirlpool in the little bay and around again close to the rocks below. Emery, with the rope used for mooring the boat, jumped to the rocks and attempted to bring the boat to shore.

The swirling current seemed about to tear the rope from his grasp. Emery wound the rope about his hands and arms to make a better grip, set his feet against a convenient rock and the struggle between man and the forces of nature began.

The current relentlessly pulled on the heavy boat. Emery, powerful and skilled in his work refused to give. Inch by inch the rope was forced through his hands, cutting away the flesh. Emery knowing that the safety of his passengers depended upon his victory, stood firm.

The rope slipped more and more. Inch by inch—foot by foot it went, tearing the flesh from his hands, wrists and arms. Yet like the hero he is Murl refused to yield.

Then after 60 feet of the cruel rope had gnawed its way through his flesh a fortunate side-current carried the boat close to shore into stiller water. In terrible pain his injuries, Emery helped his passengers ashore and secured his boat.

It was not until Sunday afternoon that Emery was in condition to be brought to Las Vegas, where Dr. Frazier at Hewetson's hospital dressed his injuries.

Yesterday Emery was almost his own self again, but it will be some time before he has entirely recovered from his injuries. But he has regained his humor and his stoic Colorado River philosophy. (Continued On Page Six)

Hughes to Deny Charge of Auto Theft Tomorrow

Contractor Was Half Owner Of Car Alleged Stolen, He Says; Awaits Arrival of Two Sons for Hearing.

Awaiting arrival of two of the sons of Charles E. Hughes, preliminary hearing for the case of the four men was postponed yesterday by Judge Foley to tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

Leslie Hughes, taken into custody in California, was brought to Las Vegas by Deputy Sheriff R. G. McCubrey, and is being held in jail here. J. P. Lewis is attorney for the four defendants.

China Typhoon Sends Cruiser Adrift With 20

HONG KONG, Aug. 5.—(U.P.)—Dispatches today from Hai Fong said a typhoon which struck a large area in China and Indo-China last week had severed a mooring of the French cruiser Staden, which had drifted out to sea. Officials have been unable to find a trace of the vessel since the typhoon. It had more than twenty persons aboard, including four French officials.

The news of the unusual accident was brought to the sheriff's office by Oliver Phillips, superintendent of a mine in the Osdick region. Phillips said he heard the plane but was unable to see it due to the dense clouds. As he listened he heard the motor sputter and an instant later an explosion.

When Phillips saw the plane tumble from the clouds he and a party of miners drove three miles in an automobile and found the wreckage and Cline's body.

Flyer Killed as Plane Explodes Over Desert

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif., Aug. 5.—(U.P.)—Virgil Cline, San Jose, Calif., aviator, was killed near here Sunday when his airplane exploded in mid air as he flew over the Mojave desert.

The news of the unusual accident was brought to the sheriff's office by Oliver Phillips, superintendent of a mine in the Osdick region. Phillips said he heard the plane but was unable to see it due to the dense clouds. As he listened he heard the motor sputter and an instant later an explosion.

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Four French Officials Said Aboard Boat Which Drifted Out to Sea After Moorings Broken.

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Eighty-six Foot Dam Demolished When Torrent Sweeps Down Upon It; Farms Are Deluged, Livestock Swept Away; Structure Cost \$100,000 to \$150,000.

With a roar that warned the inhabitants of the little town of 200 inhabitants seven miles below of their danger, the 86-foot dam in the Virgin River seven miles above Littlefield, Arizona, went out at 12:55 yesterday afternoon, causing widespread damage to the country below, but no loss of life, according to Claude Curran, an employee of the State Highway Department, who brought the news to Las Vegas last evening.

During the short time required for the mad torrent to race its way down the canyon to the open valley where Littlefield is located, the inhabitants had time to flee to higher ground. The poultry, hogs and cattle on the farms, were swept away and water approximately three feet deep swept through the houses. The truck farm and ranch of Joe Reber and those of almost the entire population were covered with silt and practically destroyed.

Mrs. Reber, who was in the vineyard picking grapes with a band of children heard the roar of the dam seven miles above as it gave way. She knew the great danger threatening and succeeded in guiding her charges to safety. The vineyard was totally destroyed by the wall of water which overflowed the river channel and spread its destruction over the adjacent lands.

Sunday night and Monday morning, torrential rains in the Virgin valley in the country between St. George and Cedar City, Utah, sent a large volume of water down the river, filling the uncompleted Littlefield dam to a depth of 76 feet.

The dam, now owned by the Virgin Oil and Land Company, of which Frank A. Gessell of Los Angeles is president, was designed to be 150 feet in height when completed, but had reached the height of 86 feet at the time it went out.

At 11:00 o'clock yesterday forenoon, another cloudburst a few miles above the dam, poured another great volume of water into the mile long reservoir behind the unfinished canyon. The water soon rose the ten feet reaching the top of the dam, then overtopped it.

First a section of the north end of the dam began to go down under the torrent of falling waters then with a noise that was heard for many miles, the entire dam melted away and the 86-foot wall of water began its mad race down the narrow canyon. Just before reaching Littlefield, the canyon opened into a valley. Here the torrent scorning the puny confines of the usual channel, spread over the surrounding country and began to wreck its havoc.

Just how serious the damage to the little town of Littlefield may be is not yet known, but it is believed that all ranches are ruined, the entire country being left buried under a deep bed of silt.

The flood reached Mesquite at 2:48 p.m. making the 22-mile race in 1 hour and 53 minutes. By this time it had spread widely and lost much of its depth. Nevertheless it came with frightful velocity in three waves, the first 1 1/2 feet deep; the second 5 1/2 feet; and the third reached and submerged the Mesquite bridge over the Virgin by nine inches. For 45 minutes the bridge was entirely submerged in the muddy flood, but when the waters subsided (Continued On Page Six)

Repairing of the damage done by washouts Sunday to roads near Las Vegas is being pushed by the State Highway Department and will be completed in a few days, traffic having been delayed very little if any since the actual washouts Sunday afternoon and evening, according to C. C. Boyer, state highway division engineer.

A minimum of delays to traffic in Clark county was felt, none of the washed out places being impassable after the subsiding of the water slightly after midnight. Cars were held up for three or four hours three miles northeast of town on the Arrowhead highway.

Before the rainstorm had reached serious proportions the local office of the highway department had men on the Tonopah road where washouts were likely to occur, and at the point where Las Vegas wash crosses the Salt Lake highway. These are the points where the greatest damage was done, and flags and lanterns were posted as soon as damage was done by the torrents to the extent of making passage of cars impossible or dangerous.

Wash dips will be constructed where the three small wooden bridges were washed out between Las Vegas and Indian Springs. These are now being negotiated by detours. One crew with caterpillar and grader was started from Indian Springs, working the road toward Las Vegas. This crew last night had come three miles and was 17 miles from town. Another crew, being brought from the oiling job near Dry Lake, which is now finished, will be on the job this morning, working toward the other crew, away from town.

Three teams are at work filling in the washed out shoulders of the road at the point, three miles northeast of Las Vegas, where the wash crosses the road. This will be completed shortly, according to Boyer.

Two Killed When Car Takes Plunge

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 5.—(U.P.)—Two men were killed and a third was seriously injured when their automobile plunged from the highway over a 200-foot embankment in San Francisco canyon.

L. F. Fleming and Dean Kaegy were dead when they were pulled from the wreckage and Joseph Russo was so seriously injured that he was unable to give deputy sheriffs any account of the crash.

Chrysler car, which slid off the road and into a yucca and was damaged but slightly, was left at (Continued On Page Six)

Highway Damage From Washouts Repaired Soon

Traffic Moves on All Roads Out of Las Vegas; Wash Dips to Supplant Three Wooden Bridges Which Went Out.

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 5.—(U.P.) The sheriff's office at El Centro was investigating a report that a man had been drowned near Niland. Three Mexicans escaped rushing flood waters near here by abandoning their car.

Southern Pacific trains to Imperial Valley and Union Pacific trains to Nevada were running on time tonight after delays earlier in the day. Many miles of highway were reported impassable.

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