

# LAS VEGAS AGE

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THURSDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 7, 1929.

## NEVADA'S POWER RIGHTS.

NEVADA IS tremendously interested in her power rights in the Boulder Dam project. That is the great interest which has animated the state during the past eight or ten years in her fight to bring the project about. All other benefits have been of a secondary and incidental nature as compared to our ability to get power.

Nevada can not compromise on this question. We cannot consent to any arrangement which does not make perfectly clear our right to receive power at the switchboard of the power plant at the government cost.

The memorandum of the Secretary of the Interior as construed by the members of the Nevada delegation at Washington appeared to meet the situation well. It was believed to assure to Nevada the right to take power up to 48 per cent of the whole as and when needed during the life of the major power contracts, upon giving 12 months notice of the amount of power desired from time to time.

According to Secretary Wilbur's present interpretation of his own memorandum, Nevada is only given the right to contract within 12 months after the date of the power contracts.

This, obviously, violates the spirit of the Colorado River Compact upon which the whole Boulder Dam Act is based. With regard to the use of water, the Compact is designed to provide for building the future of the various sections of the Colorado River basin—to protect them against the "hogging" of the benefits by the faster developing regions.

There is not the slightest reason why the same principal should not apply as to power. In fact such principal should and does apply clearly in this case. Nevada is entitled to have her right to development of her natural resources in the future as carefully and fully protected as are the future water rights of Arizona and the states of the upper basin.

Our Senators and Congressmen at Washington are fully advised as to our views as are Secretary Work, Director of Reclamation Mead and the officials of California. Nevada has given her best efforts during the past ten years to bringing about the passage of the Boulder Dam Act. Without her efforts its passage could not have been accomplished.

We wish to make it clear to official Washington that Nevada will not now consent to anything less than fair treatment and full justice in the division of the benefits to be derived from the project.

## WHO SHALL BUY THE JUICE?

SOME CONTROVERSY has arisen as to who should pay for the current to be used in the street lighting system. Heretofore the city has paid for all the electricity used by the street lights.

This seems reasonable and proper. The lights benefit the whole city. The property owners who must pay the cost of installing the ornamental standards in front of their property are doing their full share, it would seem, in thus adding to the beauty of the city. There is a desire expressed by owners of property on other streets to have ornamental lighting standards installed in front of their property.

If the desire of property owners is carried out the ornamental lighting system will be extended over the larger part of the city, and it would seem reasonable that the cost of the lighting current be borne by the city treasury to which all taxpayers contribute.

## LIGHTING CELEBRATION.

THE AGE, since its suggestion that some sort of fitting celebration be staged the evening the new ornamental street lights are turned on, has received quite a number of expressions of approval and several suggestions on the subject.

It is expected that the lighting system will be completed about November 15th. "There is none too much time to arrange a fitting program for the event. The Age suggests that a group of business men get busy and see what can be done.

Such an event as we have had in mind can be inexpensive and at the same time pleasant and full of interest. Also, it may be made an important feature of pre-holiday business.

## NO PAVING PROTESTS.

AT THE meeting held yesterday by the city commissioners for the purpose of hearing protests on the proposed paving of the southern portion of Clark's Las Vegas Townsite, no protestants appeared.

That is a good omen. It means that Las Vegas is going forward unafraid, certain of her future.

The paving project should now proceed with such diligence as is possible. It is one of the essential things in setting our house in order.

# Season for Death Valley Motor Trips Is Now Open

## JAUNT CAN BE MADE IN DAY AND A HALF

### Agas Scout Party Demonstrates Practicability of Seeing Scenic Spot on Week-End; Roads Good.

The Death Valley season is on, full force. The only time to enjoy visiting this masterpiece of grandeur in desolation, the floor of which is three hundred feet below sea-level, is when the summer sun is NOT piling its withering rays into the great basin.

Fascinating because of its sheer desolation and the grim reputation it has acquired by relentlessly taking its toll of lives, Death Valley offers a trip never to be forgotten, and that within easy week-end range of Las Vegas.

A week-end trip to the valley a short time ago by a scouting party from the Age demonstrated the practicability of taking in the valley between Saturday noon and Sunday evening, an overnight stop having been made at Rhyolite, the ghost mining city which was at one time known as the Chicago of the West.

**315 Mile Trip.** Covering 315 miles in all, and making the trip without undue haste, the party motored, with sleeping-out equipment and plenty of grub, to Rhyolite before dark, spent the night there, with a good long evening of yarning and then plenty of sleep made an early start the next morning and spent the day traveling through the valley, visiting Furnace Creek ranch and Furnace Creek Inn and motoring back home. The party pulled into Las Vegas at 6:30 Sunday evening.

By planning to arrive in Vegas several hours later in the evening, and by driving after dark Saturday evening for a few hours, the trip could easily have been made to cover, without rushing unduly, all the chief points of interest in the valley, including Death Valley Scotty's elaborate new hostelry at the lower (northern) end, and Dantes View, from which the entire valley can be seen.

**Roads Mostly Good.** The roads are, for the most part, excellent as desert roads go, a small percentage of the distance being covered by "slow" road.

First class hotel and dining room service is available at Furnace Creek Inn, which is but 140 miles from this city by way of Death Valley Junction and which is on the east side of the valley at the foot of the Funeral range.

A high class resort to which the Union Pacific railway takes many guests by rail and stage, the Inn has had extensive additions and improvements during the past few months, since the heat of the summer subsided to make work possible, and there are now facilities for accommodating twice as many guests as previously, with other extensive additions still in progress and in prospect, according to Mrs. F. M. Jenifer, who is in direct charge of the resort.

A marvelous view of the valley, with the ranch, green oasis of date palms and other vegetation, in the foreground is had from the Inn. A spring at the foot of the canyon at the mouth of which the Inn and the ranch are situated supplies both with plenty of water, and there is even a swimming pool at each.

With plenty of canteens and water bags the Age party started from Las Vegas at 12:30 on Saturday, passing Mt. Charleston junction, Indian Springs, Furnace Creek Inn junction (which is 75.5 miles from Vegas) and the mining camp of Carrara (112 miles).

Having spent an hour visiting at various places en route, the party reached Beatty at 4:25 p.m., driving the one way road through the hills for four miles back to

## HERE'S LOG OF THE AGE'S SCOUTING TRIP TO RHYOLITE, DEATH VALLEY

### Travelogue Series

This is the second of a series of travelogues to be published from time to time in the Age, the data gathered personally by members of the staff.

Rhyolite, the city of 6,000 which is now virtually deserted.

**Rhyolite Pétroglyphs.** The depot, a permanent stone structure, is still occupied as a sort of hasty, and two shacks are still inhabited. Otherwise the only remaining buildings are several cement and brick structures, all removable parts of which have been taken away, leaving them windowless, doorless and empty, their floors strewn with broken glass and paper scraps yellowed with age.

The old Overbury building, the jail and several other cement structures at night were the ghosts of this ghost city, with jagged parts of other dismantled cement structures adding to the forlorn aspect as the moon shed her light on the trio "camping out" between automobile and campfire on what was formerly one of the streets of the town.

Lumber from old frame buildings, most of which have been dismantled, supplies plenty of dry fuel for the fire, and the hills on either side of the "town," once alive with mining activity, loom dimly in the moonlight and the still of the desert night.

Next morning after a visit to the "Bottle House," a residence the walls of which are composed entirely of bottles set in plaster, the expedition set out across ten miles of valley for the summit of the Funeral range, beyond which lies Death Valley.

A short stop is made for water at Death Valley springs, tiny oases at the outcropping of a dripping spring of crystal pure water near the summit of the barren hills. A wood and tin trough holds about a barrel of the water on reserve, fresh and cool, at this spring three-tenths of a mile off the road.

A lone coyote slinks off up the hillside as the party passes the summit of the range, 137 miles out from Las Vegas.

Then begins the fifteen mile descent to sea level, a long, steep, winding road in climbing which any motor would get up plenty of "heat." An old steam tractor, abandoned uphill, gives mute testimony to the difficulty of the ascent.

Going down, however, is pleasant, and suddenly the party rounds a bluff and the great basin, overhung with haze, bursts into view, towering Panamint loom forbiddingly on the other side, offering a seemingly impenetrable wall.

Between the two ranges lies the floor of the valley, almost flat for a distance, but with fan-shaped slopes from every canyon on either side, growing more and more steep until the rugged rock walls are reached. Great arrows running from the bases of these cliffs down the swooping slopes to the level floor of the valley itself, show how torrents of water have rushed down, following cloudbursts, carving out great seams and washes as they swept everything loose before them.

And down through one of these long sweeps the road descends, what seems at a distance to be a mile away proving to be four or five.

The most sublime of desolation is this big basin. The desert of Vegas valley is beautifully wooded in comparison.

Death Valley's vastness is hardly appreciated from the first view of it. One must drive for an hour through the valley, noting the distances he has covered over the well kept roads along the floor, to comprehend its size. For there are no trees or objects from which to judge distances, with the few exceptions. The Furnace Creek ranch and Furnace Creek Inn are among these exceptions.

Great billowing sand dunes are to be seen down to the north, beyond which the lowest point in the basin is located, and from which the lowest and highest points in the United States can be seen at the same time.

## CHILDREN AND AUTOMOBILES.

WE SEE every day examples of carelessness by drivers and pedestrians, especially children, which fortunately do not result seriously, but which nevertheless, are little short of criminal.

There are two sides to this carelessness. We are apt to throw all the blame for accident when a pedestrian is run down by an automobile, on the driver of the car.

The writer observes many cases where pedestrians are more careless than are drivers. This is especially true with children. Young and heedless, careless of danger, they dart into the streets at unexpected places without looking to see if the way is clear. Many times we notice serious accidents are averted only by the quick action of the drivers of approaching cars.

The Age hopes that parents will not cease to warn their children of the dangers of running into streets full of traffic. Perhaps the warning is not fully heeded, but it will have at least a restraining effect.

Teachers also are in position of assisting in the preservation of the lives of their pupils by occasional lectures on the subject.

Las Vegas has so far been very fortunate in the matter of such regrettable occurrences as we note in other cities every day. Our children are too precious for us to permit them to endanger their own safety, without at least making a serious effort to make them think.

90.0 Las Vegas.  
14.4 Mt. Charleston road branches to left.  
44.4 Indian Springs (elevation 3120)  
85.3 Furnace Creek Inn road, branches to left.  
112.0 Carrara mining camp.  
121.0 Beatty.  
126.0 Rhyolite, the ghost mining city, once a flourishing community of five or six thousand, now with a population of only several individuals.  
127.0 Bullfrog, another ghost mining town.  
136.6 Dantes springs (across the valley from Rhyolite and near the summit of the pass through the Funeral range, an route to Death Valley.)  
138.0 Abandoned steam tractor.  
141.3 Hole in Rock springs (trail leads off road to watering place on right).  
143.0 First view of Death Valley is suddenly obtained as traveler rounds cliff, looking to southwest. (Sand dunes seen from here.)  
152.0 Sea level is reached, on trek down toward bottom of valley (U. S. geological survey stake a hundred feet to right).  
155.0 Mirage appears, as of lake scene, near Furnace Creek ranch, which is 11 miles away.  
156.1 Point 248 feet below sea level. (Grave with no marker, of someone who met death here. Evidence of wooden marker having been there at one time.)  
160.3 Another grave encircled with rocks.  
160.4 Point 282 feet below sea level, shown by geological survey stake.  
160.8 Another grave, with a big wooden headboard, in the first green spot which has been reached thus far in the valley.  
162.0 Trickles of undrinkable alkali water off to left, moving toward center of the valley.  
162.3 Old "Harmony" borax works ruins. First workings of Borax Smith, at site of his original discovery.  
164.3 First human life—group of Indians, living in huts.  
165.3 On hill to left may be seen from this point a small wooden house sheltering a dead grave.  
165.5 Furnace Creek Ranch, with date orchard and huge haystacks.  
168.0 Furnace Creek Inn, greatly enlarged this fall, with new unit almost completed.  
180.7 Ryan, Pacific Borax Company town, perched half way up the mountain side, 15 miles up the Funeral Range from the floor of the valley.  
184.7 Backtracked 4 miles from Ryan to junction of roads, one leading to Ryan, other towards Las Vegas.  
192.4 Summit of Pass.  
203.7 Death Valley Junction, borax company town on Tonopah and Tidewater railway (Narrow gauge railway runs from Death Valley Junction over the pass to Ryan).  
210.2 Kelly's Wells junction.  
220.0 Fairbanks Ranch.  
221.0 Fork of road. Turn left.  
230.3 Main Las Vegas-Beatty highway.  
270.0 Indian Springs again.  
300.7 Mt. Charleston junction again.  
315.1 Railroad crossing to Main street, Las Vegas.

Death Valley Scotty's is also located beyond these dunes, away off down the valley.

But the Age party turned to the south for Furnace Creek, leaving the trip to Scotty's for another time. At 10:40 the party passed the first grave beside the road, marked at once time with a wooden marker, but now the marker is gone and only an oblong of boulders is left to hint of the end of some tragedy in this Valley of Death.

Four miles more another grave is seen, another appearing within a quarter of a mile. Another half mile and the party passes a slightly green spot, with a few mesquite bushes lining the road, a third grave appearing here, with a big weather-beaten wooden headboard.

To the right, at the very center of the valley, appears for some distance an alkali marsh, with standing water which is poisonous, and in which nothing will grow. White deposits of alkali skirt the marsh in places.

A few more miles brings the party opposite the remains of the original "Old Harmony" borax works, built by Borax Smith at the site of his original discovery.

Next, as the green oasis below the mouth of the Furnace Creek canyon is approached, the road passes a spot where a few low Indians live in a shack.

Furnace Creek ranch is indeed an oasis, but the date palm orchard which has been grown there recently, largely as an experiment, has produced dates which are shriveled and somewhat different, though extremely sweet.

Then begins the slight up-grade, on the road to Furnace Creek Inn, perched on a point where the floor of the valley merges into the cliffs. From the Inn a marvelous view out across the valley is to be had.

From the cheering visit with the hosts at the Inn, the party heads up the dusty road that leads up the canyon and through the Funeral range toward Las Vegas.

A side trip of four miles out of the way takes the party up a steep, crooked rocky road to Ryan, a borax company town perched on the side of the cliff fifteen miles up the



## By KIRKE SIMPSON

WASHINGTON—To anyone long familiar with the aspect of the executive offices of the President of the United States, a walk up West Executive avenue today produces a sort of shock.

He discovers that the presidential business headquarters has become a two-story office building over night, so to speak.

The air of rather drowsy activity that still hung about that hub of all American governmental and political business when President Hoover took over has vanished. The place is filled with the clatter of typewriters going at machine-gun speed.

What a far cry all that is from even the change the strenuous President Roosevelt caused to be made in the business methods and equipment of the White House.

It was in his time that the offices of the President and his clerical staff were extracted from the executive mansion itself and installed in the present office structure.

Disagreement Looking back to the official reports of 1902 when this change was made, you find something of a disagreement between President Roosevelt and congress as to the type of office building that should go up.

President Roosevelt was insistent that the White House itself be restored to its original design, which included the wings, and be forever kept that way.

"It is a good thing to preserve such buildings as historic monuments which keep alive our sense of continuity with the nation's past," Roosevelt said in a message to congress forwarding plans for the new office.

The architects described the office as temporary, "leaving congress at its leisure to take up seriously the question of a permanent, adequate and thoroughly dignified office for the chief executive."

The office building was set at the end of the west porch, and the architects insisted that it must not be more than a single story high, else the whole artistic perspective of the mansion would be destroyed.

Congress countered, however, with a stipulation that the office walls should be heavy enough to hold a second story.

In Roosevelt's day the secretarial and clerical staff of the White House numbered about 30 persons. President Hoover's force is perhaps double that, due to the tripling of his personal secretarial.

And faced with the problem of providing two-story office accommodations in a one story building, Mr. Hoover and his advisers hit upon a perfectly simple engineering expedient. They dug the second story down into the ground.

The old-time basement of the office building, where "Kunsel" Stalling and company, chief architect, Mr. Hoover and his private arsenal of shagbuns, rifles and the like, where Dr. Boone of the navy, still White House physician, used to run a clinic and vaccinate newspapermen and other in time of small-pox scares, is now a place of activity.

ART IS DISPLAYED C. H. Mayberry, local artist, has opened an art display in the offices of Miller Brothers, at 102 Second street. The scenes are taken from nature in the Nevada desert and in the vicinity of Beatty. Mr. Mayberry is offering these for sale and may be reached at the Bair Sign company on North Main street.

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**ALPINIST'S SCHEME TO BE FIRED IS TOO GOOD**

POTERVILLE, Cal., Nov. 6 (AP)—Frank Anderson's high anti-titan cost him just \$25 here.

Anderson, a canny "checker," suddenly decided he wanted to climb the 14,501 feet to the top of Mt. Whitney, south of here, the highest point in the United States.

The would-be mountain climber wanted to be discharged from his job, so he wouldn't have to wait until the month's end to get his full pay, so he credited women packers with more work than they did.

Anderson was discharged, as he had schemed, but he also was charged with petty theft. Justice A. M. Lamley fined him \$25.

Anderson gave up the money. He also gave up his mountain-climbing ambitions.

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