

Rotarians Hear Interesting Talk

(Continued from page 1)

thing makes exciting his cry, adventure and spasmodic prosperity... It does not tend to stabilize the population. That is one of the tragedies of mining. Along comes a mining boom. Mining people come from all over the world—from Alaska and South Africa and Mexico and all over our western area. They are the hearted people in the world. Their money comes easy if at all it goes the same way. They do not value money except in fabulous amounts, and therefore are willing to share their little with anyone in need of help.

All of our picturesque ghost cities have romantic histories. During the Virginia City was at its height. The eyes and ears of the world were focused on it even as they are focused on Las Vegas today.

During the California gold rush of forty-nine and fifty, adventurers passed right by the country that could have made them rich because the excitement was in California. Later they came back. The Comstock lode was discovered in fifty-nine. In 1860 Virginia City is the scene of a regular mining boom. Both the intellectuals and the Al Capones of the world flocked here. People lived in tents and used tin. Flour was forty cents a pound, sugar sixty-two, and eggs were three dollars a dozen, and nobody went hungry. They had a murder for breakfast almost every morning. The first sixty graves were filled by murdered men. There are people buried in the cemeteries of Virginia City than there are people living in the town today.

They had a saying in those days at the Comstock made millions of muckers and muckers of millionaires. Anyway the four original locators of the Comstock died and Mackay, Fair, Flood and Brien accumulated fortunes. There were two mines that produced on an average one and one-half million dollars a month for four years.

Now Virginia City is virtually a ghost city. San Francisco has the face hotel and the Fairmont and the Flood building. Virginia City laments with pride to the building where Mark Twain worked on the Territorial Enterprise and the old register signed by Thomas A. Henson and General Sherman and other great and near great. It has been to the country the Pacific cable and the Postal Telegraph and still has its memories and a whole lot of ghosts. Mining makes romantic history but not permanent prosperity.

The next really hectic mining boom was in Goldfield about 1893. Gold had a longer life but less boom, probably because gold has more glitter than silver. Fifteen thousand people gathered in Goldfield in a very short time. The ones, which were fabulously rich, were operated on a leasing system. Leasing was common. Men began to work underground where a high grade was and mere boys in the hoists. Men dug for gold at was in the ground and women dug for gold that was not in the ground and both found it. As an example of the Goldfield way of doing things, Hawthorne was the only seat of Esmeralda county north the Goldfield boom started. It wouldn't do since most of the work was at Goldfield. So the legislature divided the county. The northern part retained the name Esmeralda with the county seat Goldfield while the northern part called Mineral with Hawthorne as county seat. As just a slight sign of appreciation to the legislature, the Boosters club invited the whole legislature to Goldfield for a three-day celebration. Free eats and free drinks. Night was turned into day and many of those legislators made whoopee as they never had made anything before. Goldfield never did anything by halves. And that is it now? Long rows of vacant houses. Piles of blackened rock and stone as reminders of so disastrous fires. A few loyal people waiting for the time when the town will come back, and that all that is left of the glory that was Goldfield.

Rhyolite is another example of a mining boom. In 1906-7, it was a real booming mining town. Substantial buildings were erected. One of these was a schoolhouse. Of course the district had been bonded to finance this. It was completed and furniture ordered. By the time the furniture arrived, the bubble had burst. Some of those classrooms never were used. Some of the school desks never were unpacked until a

few years ago when the county commissioners of Nye county gave them to other schools. Death Valley Scotty has the school bell and it graces his California castle. Nye county inherited the bonded indebtedness along with the school desks and about six years ago Nye county finished paying for the Rhyolite schoolhouse, part of which never has been used.

It is easy enough to see that mining does not stabilize the population but brings only periodical prosperity. The most hopeful side of Nevada mining is its great variety of minerals. There is record of 32 different minerals being commercially mined in the state. While Nevada is called the silver state, gold production and copper production have exceeded silver production on several occasions.

They say that the mineral resources of Nevada have hardly been scratched. Be that as it may, one resource of Nevada has not even been touched at, and that is the tourist trade. In advertising people think that Lake Tahoe is in California rather than on the line with some of the most attractive spots in Nevada. The post cards all about Lake Tahoe, California, and I should like to see them tell about Lake Tahoe, Nevada. The Tahoe region is one of the summer playgrounds of the world. People who have traveled in Switzerland say that the Swiss lakes are no more beautiful than Tahoe—but they are much more widely advertised.

Pyramid lake, north of Reno named for the perfect pyramids that rise from its surface, is as wonderful as Tahoe but critically different. Its shores are not forested as are those of Tahoe. Some of its islands are the homes of thousands of pelicans. People come all the way from Europe to study the bird life of Pyramid lake and yet we in Nevada hardly know that the lake exists, much less the bird life.

Along the Humboldt, the Walker and even along Meadow Valley wash are painted canyons that would be heralded to the world if they were in Colorado. Lehman Caves are as wonderful as Mammoth Cave in Kentucky but are known only locally and not very well at that. In our own county there is the Valley of Fire, only half appreciated because it is not advertised. If we want to dig for mummies, there is no need to go to Egypt with the Gyp Cave and the Buried City right at our door. We have plenty of scenic attractions but we are only beginning to tell the world about them.

Hoover dam will give an impetus to tourist travel. Americans who tour America are likely to have less money than those who tour Europe or Egypt, but they have some money and will spend it and they are likely to be interesting people. The interesting people of the world are those who are working, who have to match their wits against other people's wits. As soon as people make their stake and quit struggling, they begin to grow fat physically and mentally.

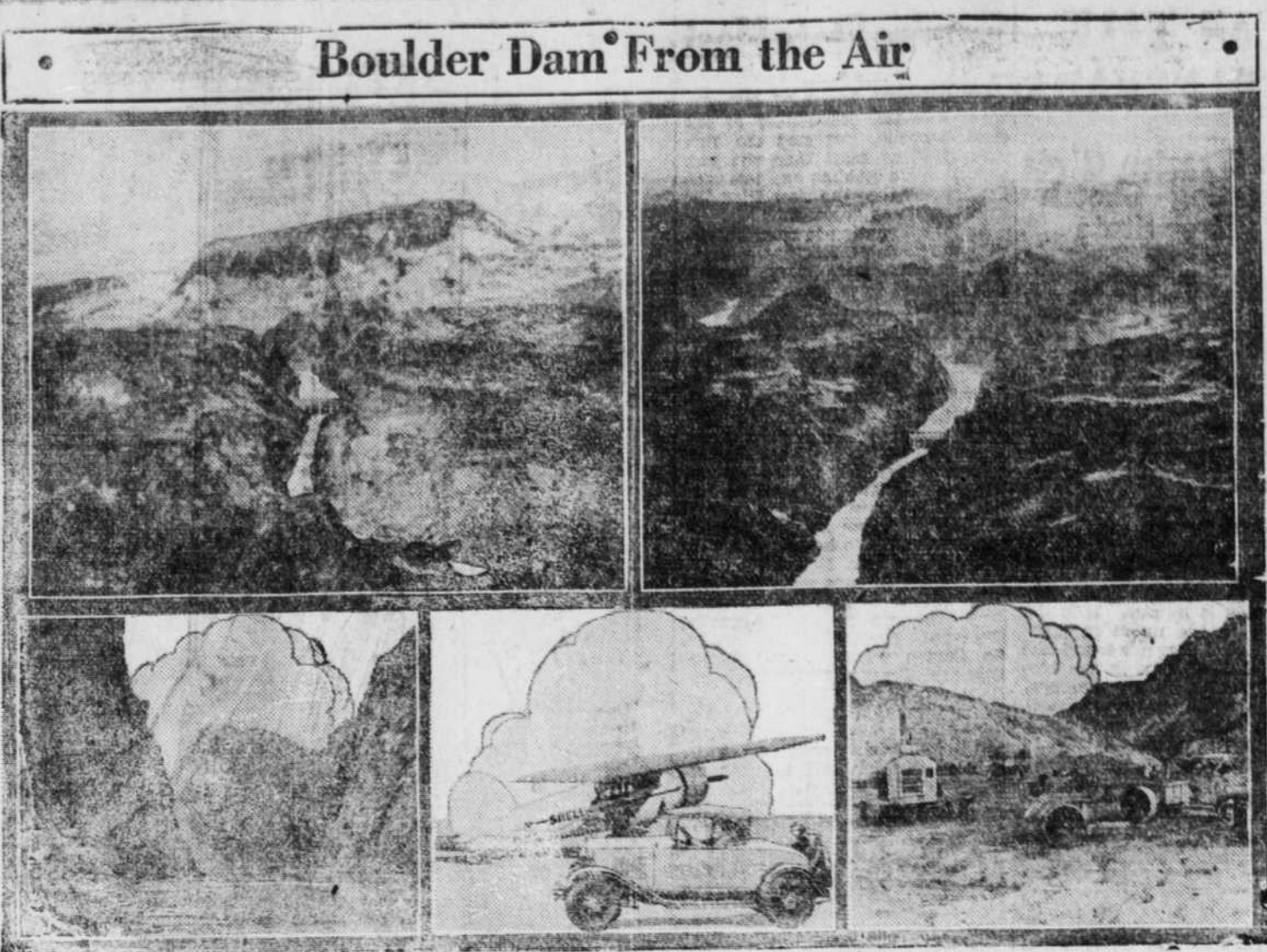
Some of us have lived in Nevada a long time and have discovered that it is a grand old state. Maybe it has to be known for open gambling and commercialized divorce, but at least it can be equally well known for its mineral wealth, for its relics of a civilization long past, for its mountain lakes and painted canyons. We owe it to the state to see that it becomes known for these things. In these resources lies the real permanent prosperity, and its loyal citizens owe that much to the honor of Nevada.

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Captain John Macready, world war aviator, flew over Boulder dam in his Shell Oil company plane and had these photographs taken. At the upper left is an upstream view of the damsite with the country behind the dam which will be flooded. The big mesa in the background will be an island in the huge lake to be formed behind the dam. At the right is a view of the mighty Colorado looking down stream from the dam. Below at the left is a closeup of the damsite from the river. Drill holes are being made to test the work. In the lower right is the first sign of activity at the damsite. In the center is the Shell plane that Captain Macready flew and the Chevrolet register used in his tour from Las Vegas, Nevada, to the Colorado river near the damsite.

Father and Son Split in Politics, But Each Leads Opposing Ticket

OMAHA, Neb., March 27. (AP)—The Metcalfe family, successful in politics, refutes the Biblical paragraph which warns of the dire fate awaiting the house divided against itself.

Richard L. Metcalfe, a staunch Democrat, is mayor of Omaha. Theodore, his son and an equally staunch Republican, is [unclear] governor of Nebraska. Differences in political faith do not make for coolness between father and son. No warmer friendship is known here than that between the Omaha mayor and his son. Incidentally, Richard Metcalfe received the largest vote of any candidate running for the city commission at the last election, while Ted's novice in politics, headed the Republican ticket in Nebraska last November. Mayor Metcalfe was governor of the Panama canal zone under President Wilson.

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One of our exchanges says that opinion that what he successfully Mr. Gandhi has successfully bluffed bluffed was the British socialist gov, the British empire. But it is cur, ornament.

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ON THE SIDELINES by BRIAN BELL

Every St. Patrick's day, James J. Corbett thinks of the time 34 years ago when he lost his heavyweight championship to Bob Fitzsimmons at Carson City, Nev.

There's never a St. Patrick's day that my mind doesn't go back to Carson City," said the former champion, now approaching the 65 year mark, but looking and feeling many years younger.

Fitzsimmons whipped me all right, there's no denying that and I give him full credit for doing it. But there's one thing about that fight that always comes to mind. Did you ever map a thing out and do it perfectly and then find it was all wrong?

That's exactly what happened in the 14th round when Fitzsimmons knocked me out. Up to the minute of the knockout, I thought I had him beaten—that the first good right hand punch I could land would drop him and end the bout.

I remember that last round as though it happened yesterday. To me it seemed that Fitz was desperate and was seeking one chance to land his right.

"Thought I Had Him" He appeared so anxious to hit with it that I thought I'd give him the chance. He kept pawing with his left hand and I knew that after shooting that left toward me several times he'd be ready to bring over the right.

I had him timed to perfection. Figured out just how many feints he would make with the left and then throw the right. Sure enough,

just as I had thought, he pawed with his left exactly the number of times I figured and then started the right swing I knew was coming. Through my mind flashed the picture of Fitz missing with that right and leaving his jaw uncovered for the right I had "cocked" for him. I drew back my head to let the right whiz by and as I did so my body was thrown forward a few inches.

The Solar Plexus "And that's where my well laid plans ended. I never could understand how Fitz stopped that right wing he had started, but he did, and then while off balance he threw his left at my exposed body.

"He was a hitting wonder. He could hit from any angle and always hit hard. That left to the body caught me in the pit of the stomach, they called it the Solar Plexus punch from that day on, and it left me helpless on the floor, gasping for breath.

"My mind was clear enough but my legs refused to work. At the count of 'eight' I tried to reach the ropes to help me to my feet, but missed, rolled over and was counted out.

"I couldn't believe I had been knocked out and a second later I was over in Fitz's corner continuing the fight.

"Funny thing about that incident. Fitz had won and didn't see any reason for more fighting. As I closed in on him he hopped from the ring and entered a ring-side box. It was there that Referee Siler raised his hand and proclaimed him the world's champion."

Congressman French of Idaho seems to be opposed to adequate naval preparedness for fear it would promote unfriendly relations with other countries.

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