

LAS VEGAS AGE

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THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 2, 1931.

ON OUR WAY

LAS VEGAS has recovered from her long spell of moping and is again stepping out with vigor. The long delay in getting things started was trying and some of us almost concluded that the tide of events would never turn.

Everything seems to be setting toward prosperity all at once. The varied influences of business and finance are working together to accelerate the motion.

The government is pushing its portion of the work at Boulder City.

The railroad from Boulder City to the dam site is progressing.

The highway from Boulder City to the dam site is being pushed.

Six Companies, Inc., is starting with vigor on the preliminary features of its forty-eight million dollar contract, one of the first things being an additional 21 miles of railroad.

All of which is establishing a gradually increasing payroll which is being felt in every artery of business.

Then in the city we have the certainty of a fine \$750,000 hotel which will start very soon; a new hospital to approximate \$100,000 in cost; and other building projects which are in prospect and which will be carried out just as fast as men and money can do them.

There are many new people in Vegas with money to invest in building or business enterprises. Hotels, apartments and rooming houses are filled and living quarters are hard to obtain.

And just as we are writing this word comes over the wire that another contract has been awarded for Boulder Dam work; that is for building a high pressure water pipe line to Boulder City at a cost of more than \$85,000.

REAL ESTATE MOVING

THE real estate market is showing a constantly increasing activity. Within the last few months more than 40 homes have been built by lot purchasers on one subdivision which but a short time ago was unimproved desert. One \$10,000 deal on Eighth street property was closed yesterday. Offers have been made for Fremont street frontage and deals of various sorts are pending.

All of which is interesting and desirable. But we should guard against fictitious values. Those who wish to sell must price their property at a figure which present conditions justify. If they do not want to sell they should withhold their property from listing until such time as improvements justify the prices they expect to get.

Las Vegas property will increase in value as the city grows, but we should not drive business from us by piling exorbitant prices on property which present conditions do not justify. If we want to see the business district well built, we must give the would-be builders a chance.

Those who can do so will reap the highest rewards in the way of increased values if they improve their property themselves. But no city ever became great on vacant lots.

MARINES A BLESSING

IT is fortunate for the people of the earthquake devastated Managua that the United States Marines were still in Nicaragua.

What the Marines did for revolution ridden Nicaragua during the past five years in the way of establishing stable self government, they will now do for the stricken city.

The Marines are working heroically digging the dead from the ruin, caring for the hundreds of injured and restoring some semblance of order to the destroyed areas.

As a matter of fact the presence of the Marines in Nicaragua has been resented only by a small element of narrow-minded politicians in the United States. The mass of the Nicaragua people have been glad of the help and protection the Marines have furnished against the revolutionary brigands which for long unsettled the condition of the country.

HOW SHOCKING

NEW YORK, Chicago and Los Angeles newspapers are perceptibly shocked at the terrible evils of gambling and divorce in Nevada.

The example Nevada sets to such pure minded and high moralized citizens is terrible. Those New Yorkers who send their women out to Reno to be divorced and who are perfectly at home in the Broadway night clubs can hardly stand the thought of our immorality. And the Wall street stock market operators hold up their hands in holy horror at the very thought of gambling.

The Chicago gangsters and racketeers would turn pale at the thought of the wild and woolly conditions in a Nevada casino. Our audacity would so shock them that they could hardly pull a trigger.

Even Los Angeles with its movie racketeers and its colonies of foreign gigolos waiting for employment can hardly contain themselves when they think of the awful wickedness of Nevada.

But Nevada—she is feeling pretty well, thank you. She is selling the legal soap with which the rich New Yorkers wash their dirty linen. And we have placed gambling, heretofore carried on as unrestrained as the stock market of New York, under some restrictions, which will make

BURKE, LIKE FLEAGLE, CAUGHT BY SMALL TOWN POLICEMEN



Again a nation-wide manhunt has ended in Missouri, with the capture of Fred Burke (left). Less than a year ago Jake Fleagle (right), bank robber and killer, was trapped in the same state. Below are some of Burke's guns.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., April 1.—When a squad of peace officers surrounded a farm house at dawn March 26 to capture Fred Burke, for the second time within a year a nation-wide manhunt ended in Missouri.

"Killer" Burke, notorious criminal, made the same mistake as Jake Fleagle, bank robber and murderer. He thought that in the rural regions of Missouri, far from the scenes of his more lurid and bloody crimes, he would be safe.

He misjudged the vigilance of smalltown officers trained in modern methods of detection and identification, who kept themselves constantly informed on criminals at large and equipped their offices with machine guns and tear gas. He reckoned without such men as Chief E. M. Mathews and B. T. Andrews, fingerprint expert of the St. Joseph, Mo. force, and Sheriff L. C. Hoover of Sullivan county.

Often Burke has been identified by photograph. Once his picture was picked out by a payroll robbery witness in New Jersey the same day that witnesses of a jewel robbery in California were pointing out his "mug" in a rogues' gallery.

Run to earth at last, the one-time member of the St. Louis gang of "Egan's Rats" was locked up in the very town — St. Joseph — where Jesse James, an early-day believer in the Missouri hinterland as a hideaway, met his fate.

To the south are the Ozark hills where the James gang made its rendezvous; to the north along the river bluff the caves where they

U. S. RELIEF EFFORTS TURN TO MANAGUA

WASHINGTON, April 1.—American relief efforts extended to-night toward the prevention of new horrors permeating areas devastated by earthquake-torn Managua, Nicaragua. Information that the city water system was destroyed caused fear of epidemics and fever. Medical supplies and physicians converged on the city by every available means of transportation with a vanguard expected to arrive by air tonight.

Truck Operator Gets Citation

Charged in two complaints with operating a motor truck within the state of Nevada without the proper Public Service license of this state brought a truck driver into grief

once hid their loot.

Fleagle's apprehension also was brought about by a Missouri peace officer, Sheriff Harry Stephens of Carthage.

A year ago Stephens saw a picture and read a description of Fleagle in a national police publication. That same afternoon he and a deputy were held up on a highway by a lone armed man whom he recognized as the much-wanted bandit.

The information was passed on to police and postal inspectors, a watch was established on all mail coming from the Ozark section around Carthage, and a few months later the vigil was rewarded.

Fleagle walked into a trap, tried to "shoot his way out" and was himself fatally wounded.

MARK BARRON ENTERTAINS YOU IN HIS COLUMN A NEW YORKER AT LARGE

NEW YORK — It must be wonderful to be a newspaperman—you meet so many interesting people. Wherewith comes a raucous rondolet of jeers and hoots from any reporter who hears that old, familiar statement.

Sobit, one does run across some of these charming people during a career of interviewing. Our first interview may not have been printed, but it was our most successful.

Senator J. Hamilton Lewis, pink whiskers and all, had just stepped off a train. This venerable critic, then temporarily without a vehicle, was selling papers and we rushed up with "Would you like a morning paper, senator?" "I would son," he answered, giving us a bill, "you can keep the change." It was a \$5 bill.

Billie Burke, too, is charming to an interviewer. She hasn't that habit of her husband, Flo Ziegfeld, of turning away and forgetting you are here. She is gracious, exceedingly frank, and has no objection to your saying she has been on the stage for a long time.

She said "I was in that play seven years ago. No, it must have been ten years. I've quit keeping account of time."

Confidential

There is nothing of official arrangement to Police Commissioner Mulrooney. He understands and has more confidence in newspapermen than any police head in many years.

He came up from pounding the pavements, himself, and he has few illusions. If he talks at all, he says frankly what he believes. True it is he doesn't talk much.

Jack Dempsey is a favorite with interviewers, and Tex Rickard was just like him. There was utmost informality, and the phrase of both was "Pull off your shoes and make yourself comfortable."

Rickard always prefaced his interview with a story about something that happened to him during his days at Goldfield, Nev.

Tallulah Bankhead is a most unorthodox person for a reporter. Although a movie star, there are no "canned" write-ups for him. In the first place, she won't talk until she has made a personal friend of the writer. Then it becomes a first-to-see-a-see.

Interviewees

These are other things an interviewer notes:

Gene Tunney speaks slowly, preferring to use long words. . . Katharine Cornell will answer questions, but she isn't much for conversation. She likes to have her husband talk for her. . . Mayor Walker always comes forth with a "wise crack," then says he must hurry along.

Cassey Jones, like all aviators, will talk about nothing except flying. . . Texas Guinan talks at full speed, while Rudy Vallee usually says something that gets him in wrong. . . Larry Fay talks convincingly about any subject in the world except the one you wish to query him about. . . David Belasco ages his interviews with all the pains he puts into directing a play.

Faith Bacon gives the most humorous of all interviews, and she is shockingly frank. Oops! . . . Maude Adams forever and ever says "nothing to say." . . . E. H. Barrymore repeats her statements to emphasize them. . . Samuel Vauclain will write out his own statements. . . and Congressman Fidel La Barba shouts as if he were making a political speech.

BECKLEY INSTALLS COOLERS

Will Beckley has installed a General Electric water cooling system in his building at First and Fremont streets, which serves all three floors of the building.

The system is being installed through the agency of H. E. Saviers & Son. The electric cooling unit is located on the third floor and the cold water is conducted to the other floors through insulated pipes to suitable drinking fountains.

Bullets in the Back Greet Guests At Dinners of Chinese General

SIAM, China, March 30.—Being invited out to dinner to be shot is as sinister as it sounds.

It is exactly what happened to a group of brigand leaders of Shen-si province, of which this city is the capital, when Gen. Yang Hu-Cheng, governor of the region, decided to get rid of them.

Chief among the victims was Gen. Chen Shao-Shan, commander of eight "independent" or brigand armies.

Although his forces were regarded as supporters of the Nanking government because Chen was opposed to Marshal Feng Yu-Hsiang in the 1930 civil war, they existed by banditry and controlled most of western Shensi.

Thinking that he might induce the new governor to see banditry from his viewpoint, Chen gathered several of his subordinate commanders and journeyed 200 miles from his stronghold to this city. The trip was just what Yang had been waiting for.

On the arrival of his visitors Yang invited out to dinner to be shot and invited Chen to dinner. The brigand was shot from behind as he entered the dining room. His officers were rounded up and executed the next day.

Another brigand leader met the same fate a few days later. He was General Yao who combined the incongruous roles of bandit chieftain and curio shop keeper in Siam.

Yao too was invited to the governor's house for dinner and was shot in the back. His curio shop, stocked with loot taken by his bandit gangs, was closed.

Despite the character of these little affairs, General Yang has become popular with the masses. Even the Christian churches hereabouts have had something of a lion of him.

Invitations to his dinners, however, are seldom accepted, for the most honest people fear that the governor may have been misinformed about their characters.

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And we have shortened the divorce time so we won't have to be civil to the frail women from Chicago and New York longer than a few weeks. And we are taking such precautions in the gambling business that the Los Angeles Clara Bows will have to put up real money if they want to play our games.

We may be a terribly immoral state, but we have not yet pulled off a St. Valentine's Day massacre or a triangle movie star murder.

SOME FLIGHT

OF COURSE Las Vegas (Nevada) is grateful for the service that Western Air Express has performed for her the past five years since they first established the Los Angeles-Salt Lake City air mail route.

But we hardly feel flattered when we read in the official bulletin of the company that the planes on the Los Angeles-Salt Lake City route fly by way of Las Vegas "N. M." Perhaps we should just take it out in marveling at the wonderful flights those planes must make (if they follow the bulletined schedule.)

HOOVER DAM PROGRESS

Resume of Present Activities and Those of the Near Future on Greatest Engineering Project of the Age

MAIN CONTRACTS
The principal contract was awarded March 10 at Denver to Six Companies, Inc., of San Francisco, a combination of Utah Construction Company of Ogden, Utah; Henry J. Keiser and W. A. Bechtel, McDonald & Kahn, Morrison-Knudson Company, E. F. Shea Company, and Pacific Bridge Company. Amount of bid \$18,850,998.00.

The contract covers tunnels, penstocks, outlet works, spillways, coffer dams, excavations for main dam, main dam construction, valves and gates, and power houses.

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD—Main line to Boulder City, 22 miles, completed. Cost estimated at \$800,000.

GOVERNMENT RAILROAD—Boulder City to dam site, 8.6 miles under construction by Lewis Construction Company. Contract price \$435,590.50.

GOVERNMENT HIGHWAY—Boulder City to dam site, 10 1/2 miles of 22-foot highway, under construction by R. G. LeTourneau, Inc., subcontractors. Contract price \$329,917.15.

BOULDER CITY—
Excavation for water tanks—Contract let to Butterfield Co., Los Angeles.
Tanks for water system—Contract let to Lacy Manufacturing Company, Los Angeles.
Residences—Bids for first group of 12 three- and four-room cottages were opened at Las Vegas office of the Reclamation Service March 12.
Laying out of final plans for the city—As soon as these are approved, contracts will be let for the streets, sidewalks, curbs, paving, water system, sewer system, pole lines for electricity, etc. Administration buildings, dormitories, garages, etc., to follow as soon as possible.

POWER SUPPLY—Transmission line from Southern California under construction by Southern Sierras Power Company.
Substation—Earl Roche, General Construction Company of Las Vegas, grading site near dam for Southern Sierras Power Company.

COMMUNICATION LINES—
Telephone Lines—Line from Las Vegas to Boulder City was built by Southern Nevada Telephone Company and is now in operation.
Telegraph Lines—Joint Western Union and Union Pacific line to Boulder City now in operation.

ELECTRICAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT—
To be installed by the government and includes turbines, alternators, switchboards and transformers.

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4.50-21 (30x4.50)	\$5.69	5.25-21 (31x5.25)	\$8.57
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